



# SLFA RULES & REGULATIONS



2026

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## INTRODUCTION BY THE SLFA CHAIRMAN **Elton Camphor**,

Welcome to The SLFA Handbook, the essential guide to the rules and regulations of our league for 2026. The SLFA has the privilege and the responsibility of overseeing football for the SLFA League. We do so in an effective partnership with both the associated clubs and SAFA Johannesburg. We have setup these rules to protect those who participate in the SLFA League, and we want to approach the season with one set of values, which allows the game to be successfully and effectively played in facilities all over the North and South of Johannesburg.

We hope that The Handbook will become an invaluable companion to everyone who is involved in the SLFA League at all levels. We hope that every recipient of the 2026 Handbook, whatever your involvement in the game, will find it a helpful reference book during what we hope will be another exciting season.

### 1. THE SOUTHERN LOCAL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

**Address:** Office 4, Green Hills  
35 Elizabeth Ave  
Linmeyer  
Johannesburg  
South Africa

**Tel:** +27 64 974 6297

**Email:** [info@slfa.co.za](mailto:info@slfa.co.za)

**Website:** [www.slfa.co.za](http://www.slfa.co.za)



## **2. OUR MISSION**

- Develop and to Promote Football at Junior and Senior level amongst Males and Females.
- Promoting and facilitating the development of football through proactive engagement with clubs, coaches and Referees.
- Engaging in a pro-active dialogue with clubs and stakeholders.
- Create collaborative partnerships with Clubs and Officials to better the game.
- Commitment to Sound Governance, Good Administration, Financial Stability, commercially viable and improve Technical Performance of clubs, Coaches, Players & Officials
- Create a mutually beneficial relationship with SAFA, other LFA and all stakeholders in and outside of our management district.
- Contribute to the improvement of football through hosting of events, assisting clubs in hosting events, while aspiring and striving to become a leader and mentor for football in the district.
- Too have league structures from Under 6 to senior level.
- Be an organization emphasizing sportsmanship in a fun and positive atmosphere.
- To grow a membership which embraces all races.

## **3. OUR VISION**

- Our vision is to Find and Nurture Talent by Using Football not only as a sport, but as a foundation for youngsters to learn and develop important life skills.
- Synthesis of OLD and NEW ways of thinking with a dynamic approach to coaching which is clear but flexible
- Too define a Philosophy for Clubs, Coaching and Officiating which considers diversity, inclusion and social demographics.
- Embrace and commit to social commitments which better the lives of players and communities.
- Contribute towards the SAFA mandate to produce talent that can be considered at National level



## 4. THE SLFA LEAGUE

The Southern LFA Football League competition was formed in 2017 to allow clubs and teams to compete in a competitive and structured League, Cup and Plate competitions. Combining expertise, administration and resources we can better support the clubs, players and parents. The SLFA allows the players and coaches to compete against teams in other areas and expose different cultures and experiences across the board.

## 5. THE SLFA LEAGUE RULES & REGULATIONS

These rules have been specifically structure to manage the SLFA League's competitions and have been aligned to SAFA general rules, statutes & disciplinary codes.

## 6. GENERAL RULES

- Corner flags to be in place
- Lines to be clearly marked
- Field size to comply with rules of football
- Nets to be properly secured and in good order
- Change rooms to be made available for visiting teams
- Change rooms to kept in a clean and healthy condition
- Technical area to be allocated and clearly marked
- Both technical areas to be on the same side of the field, teams are to adhere to this
- Only coach, manager, physio and regulated number of substitutes allowed in this area
- No spectators allowed in this area
- No spectators allowed behind or next to the goal posts
- A demarcated area for spectators to be marked.
- ***No alcohol to be allowed ANYWHERE near the field of play.***
- Clubs will allocate an area near their clubhouse for the consumption of alcohol. This area must be clearly marked and signed as follows: "NO ALCOHOL BEYOND THIS AREA".
- No smoking in the technical area.
- NO FRIENDLY MATCHES TO BE PLAYED WTHOUT PERMISSION FROM MC.



## 7. TEAMS AND PLAYER

- All football jerseys or bibs to have clear, visible numbers
- Numbers may not be duplicated
- Socks all the same
- Players Names are not allowed to be printed on the shirts as per the Child Protection Act which states that the child's best interests are of paramount importance in every matter concerning the child. We want to prevent any familiarization a potential criminal (grooming, trafficking, kidnapping etc.) could have with a child
- Shin pads are compulsory
- Substitutes to wear different color tops or bibs when in the technical area
- Players may not wear ANY jewelry on the field of play
- All players, managers and coaches **MUST** be in possession of a valid LFA registration card
- Registration card to have player name, photo, date of birth or ID number
- NO player may take the field of play without a registration card
- **NO LFA CARD! NO PLAY! (Zero Tolerance)** –NO letters allowing players to play are acceptable unless it's on an official SLFA letter
- Team Technical Team is responsible for the players behavior on and off the field of play
- **Girls from U/6 up to and including U/15 are permitted to play one league lower than their registered age group in all SLFA junior competitions, subject to approval by the League and proper registration with SLFA. This type of development approach is commonly used in junior football structures to encourage girls' participation and development pathways**

## 8. TEAM RETURNS AND RESULTS

- Team returns to be completed BEFORE the game commences.
- Teams **MUST** use official team sheets only.
- 2 (two) Copies are to be available – 1 for referee and 1 for opposition
- Team returns must contain players name, player ID card number and jersey number
- Team returns must contain the Coach and Manager name and card number

Team	Max Players	Substitutes
U6 & U7	10 Players	5 Rolling
U8 & U9	12 Players	5 Rolling
U10 – U12	14 Players	5 Rolling
U13 - U15	18 Players	5 Rolling
U17	18 Players	5 Including Goal Keeper
Seniors	18 Players	5 Including Goal Keeper
Ladies	18 Players	5 Rolling
Vets	20 Players	Unlimited Rolling



- Any player not on the team return may not take the field of play
- Team returns must be signed by TEAM OFFICIAL and REFEREE
- Results to be clearly visible
- Club results - to be submitted by the Club Secretary on the attached result sheet and faxed or e-mailed to the LFA.
- Results are to be submitted by no later than noon on the Tuesday after the weekend scheduled matches.
- Team returns to be e-mailed to your respective LFA by End of Business Day Tuesday
- All Ages - Players can wear under garments black or white or same color as shorts/ shirt.

## 9. SET AND MATCH

- Clubs must record all results on PLAY SET AND MATCH within 3 days following any scheduled matches.
- If a result has been recorded (by 1 team and not the opposition) by the end of the 1st Round, this result will be recorded as final.
- Only LFA Administrator are allowed to finalize the results.
- The above-mentioned rules will apply to the 2nd round of schedules.
- EXAMPLE OF LEAGUE FIXTURE                      10 team league = 18 games each
- ROUND 1:    9 games - Games 1 to 9
- ROUND 2:    9 games - Games 10 to 18
- All ROUND 1 scheduled games MUST be PLAYED before (DATE To Be Confirmed) failing which match will be a No Result score
- Round 2 games must be completed before - (DATE To Be Confirmed).

## 10. REFEREES

- Referees are payable before a game.
- Referee fee schedules attached, and should be displayed in a prominent place in the Club House
- Referees MUST be in possession of their Referee Card and Refs Kit.
- **NO LFA CARD - MAY NOT OFFICIATE! NO TRAVELLING FEE!**
- Non – Arrival of an appointed referee – **Visiting team** nominates a referee. If the visiting team declines offer – home team must nominate a referee.
- Referee needs to be at a game **15min** before kick-off to check field and teams.
- Referee are **not** responsible to check Players Cards, this is the responsibility of Team Coaches / Managers.
- If a Ref arrives late (no grace period) he or she cannot officiate the game. Kick-off times need to be adhered to.





- Players will not have to miss the mandatory 1 game suspension after receiving 4 yellow cards during the season, **However, a record of YELLOW / RED will be retained and the LFA has the right to call the player into a meeting to discuss the card offences record.**
  - 2 yellow cards in same game = **1 game** suspension + **R50** Fine
  - Direct Red = **2 games** suspension + **R100** Fine
  - Violent conduct (red card) = **3 games** suspension and/or DC + **R250** Fine

## 12. MANNERS MAKETH FOOTBALL PLAYERS

- All Clubs, Managers and Coaches must ensure that they, their members, spectators and players uphold a code of ethics.
- **ZERO TOLERANCE** on any RACIAL ABUSE and personal derogatory remarks will be dealt with in the harshest of means
- Racial Abuse is unacceptable and is to be reported as a civil matter at SAPS.
- Offensive language is unacceptable
- Club Officials should make themselves informed as to what is deemed appropriate and inappropriate.
- Hosting Clubs should ensure all courtesies are afforded to visiting teams – location of change rooms – field on which game will be played etc.
- Any Club found guilty of bad behavior will be fined as per the schedule of fines. If this fine is not paid by due date, the SLFA DC will suspend the club from all football. The SLFA MC also reserves the right to lodge any complaint of this nature with the SLFA Prosecutor for review and a possibility of further disciplinary action.

## 13. GAMES

- No scheduled game can be played as a friendly.
- Clubs / Teams may not play any scheduled match as a 6 (six) pointer. (i.e., 2 games = 1 result)
- All League games will be played – any protest must be submitted within 48 hours after the game

## 14. PROTESTS

Use of player on team sheet who is:

- Unregistered – No official LFA card
- Suspended
- Banned



- Allegations of Overage Player
- Players playing under false (assumed) name

#### **LODGING A PROTEST:**

- Must be done prior to match kick off.
- Team sheet must be signed by both clubs and Ref, (Accused Team to sign acknowledgement).
- Full name, jersey and registration number to be recorded on team return
- Reason for objection on team return
- Signed in presence of referee
- Written protest lodged with DC Secretary within 2(two) working days after the said game
- A protest fee of **R1000** (One Thousand Rand) to be paid
- Proof of payment to DC Secretary
- No protest shall be entertained if said provisions are not complied with

#### **15. COMPLAINTS:**

- Club may lodge complaint in writing within 7 (seven) working days of incident.
- No protest which has been heard by DC Committee may become a complaint
- Complaint fee of **R500** (Five Hundred Rand) to be paid
- Complaint must be accompanied by proof of payment
- No complaint entertained against referee/assistant, official decision being final
- Abandonment of a game can only be done under the auspices of a referee.

**Teams must arrive on time to play the match as per scheduled time.**

**All matches will start as per schedule times.**

**NO GRACE PERIOD**

#### **16. RE SCHEDULED GAMES**

- Postponements will **NOT** be allowed.
- A match that is requested to be Re Scheduled must be approved by the SLFA League management committee.
- Clubs / Teams must bring a game forward. Clubs must submit a Reschedule form **14 days** prior to the original scheduled date, the reschedule form must be signed by the requesting club and contain a valid motivation.

Leanne Rigby – [managersouth@slfa.co.za](mailto:managersouth@slfa.co.za)



- Clubs / Teams not fulfilling a fixture due to not bringing it forward or having a postponement request denied; will be fined and could face disciplinary action. Any Club not playing 3 matches in a league without permission will be removed from the League.
- Referee Fees for rescheduled games – brought forward – will be increased by **R100.00** (one hundred rand) to cover the additional travelling costs of the official concerned. (See Schedule of fees)
- Only the SLFA MC will re-schedule the match. Zero Tolerance on any changes. Clubs must be proactive in the communication process.

## 17. CLUB

- The club administrator is in charge of all correspondence (email / letter) to be sent to the SLFA League.
- WHATSAPP between clubs will not be deemed to be official by the SLFA MC.
- Team returns – registration of players – red and yellow cards – rescheduling of games – forwarding queries – forwarding complaints is the duty of the representative Club Administrator
- All correspondence from the club must be on a club letterhead or email.
- No correspondence, and/or telephonic conversations will be entertained from managers, coaches, parents, players or members of the club.
- No verbal communication will be accepted.
- Clubs must ensure that all contact details are updated where necessary

## 18. WITHDRAWAL OF TEAMS FROM LEAGUE COMPETITION

- Teams participating in the LEAGUES may not withdraw from this competition once it has commenced.
- Where club team/s are withdrawn from the league competition (due to player shortage etc. – the lowest rank team of the club in that particular age group must be withdrawn.
- Clubs withdrawing teams from any competition will receive a fine of **R1000.00** (one thousand rand) per team; such fine payable within 7 (seven) days of invoice date.



- Team/s withdrawing from the league (such team will forfeit their league position for the following season) and points will be recorded as follows:

BEFORE / AFTER	ACTION	COMMENT
Before 1st round schedules completed	All points accumulated will be expunged	Team will forfeit league position for following season. Team will be fine <b>R1000.00</b> (one thousand rand)
After 1st round schedules are completed, but not completing 2nd round schedule	The points of the 1st round will remain, providing teams play 3 or more matches in 2nd round. A team playing more than 3 matches the points will stand and all other games opposition get a walkover 2-0.	Team will forfeit league position for following season. Team will be fine <b>R2000.00</b> (one thousand rand)

## 19. TEAMS VISITING CLUBS

- May not enter the premises of the home club with any type of alcohol drink or any sort of equipment to cook food.
- The HOME club has the right to request that the person/s not abiding by the above-mentioned rule vacate the premises immediately.
- If this request is not adhered to, the visiting club concerned could face disciplinary action
- This rule applies to all age groups: Little League / Juniors and Seniors league matches
- A number of clubs have a NO ALCOHOL rule which must be adhered to. Teams / Clubs MAY NOT under any circumstances take alcohol into these facilities. Any club, player, spectator and club official doing so will automatically for fined up to **R5000,00** (five thousand rand)

## 20. ALL CLUBS

- Must ensure that spectators do not come within 2m of the touch line. All clubs must place a perimeter fence or a tape separating the spectators from the field of play.
- The match officials have received a directive to stop a match if spectators are standing on the touchline. Clubs must immediately ensure that this rule is applied. If not adhered to, the match official has the right to abandon the match and the offending club/s will receive an automatic fine as per schedule of fines and may face disciplinary action due to the match being abandoned.
- Spectators must be on the opposite side of the technical team. No one is allowed to stand behind the goalposts.

## 21. PLAYER REGISTRATION



- July 31st of each year: No player may be registered after this date.

## 22. FIELD AND GOAL SIZES

- If the League MC receive any complaint regarding the incorrect size of Goals / Fields in a particular age; the offending club will have to play all their games (for the offending age group) away.
- Management Committee has zero tolerance on incorrect sizing of fields and goals.
- All fields must be free of any dangerous objects, conditions must be suitable for a match to be played. Any field that may have any item that could cause injury will be deemed unplayable.

## 23. CUP & PLATE COMPETITIONS

- Teams, who do not participate in the 1st Round of any Cup or Plate Competition, may not participate in any rounds thereafter.

**CUP/ PLATE:** Teams in each age group will participate in either cup/ plate.

**KNOCK - OUT CUP** competitions. 1<sup>st</sup> round winners will participate in the Cup draw, whilst losers of the 1<sup>st</sup> round will participate in the plate draw. Please refer to cup/plate tied player section.

## 24. SCHEDULE OF FINES

REASON	AMOUNT	COMMENT
RED CARD	R100.00	2 Yellow cards in a game
	R200.00	Direct Red card in a game
FIXTURE NOT FULFILLED	R500.00	U6 – U11 + Possible disciplinary action
	R1000.00	U12 and older + Possible disciplinary action
PROTEST FEE	R1000.00	
APPEAL FEE	R2500.00	
COMPLAINT	R500.00	
DC APPEARANCE FEE	R1200.00	Incl. Mandatory Referee Fee (
WITHDRAWAL OF A TEAM	R1000.00	1 <sup>st</sup> Round Withdrawal
	2000.00	2 <sup>nd</sup> Round Withdrawal
SCORES NOT ON WEBSITE PER TEAM	R 500	Within 3 days after game is played

**BANKING DETAILS:** SLFA MC will invoice clubs / teams accordingly.



## 25. MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR AND CHANGES TO THESE RULES











- Matters not provided for in these Regulations shall be dealt with in terms of the Constitution of the SLFA and/or SAFA Johannesburg Region and where such constitution is silent, the Rules and Regulations of SAFA, CAF and thereafter the Rules and Regulations of FIFA, as the case may be.
- The Management Committee shall be empowered to amend, alter and add to these Rules and Regulations at any time during any one season. Such amendments, alterations and additions to these Rules and Regulations shall be operative with immediate effect.
- The Management Committee shall be empowered to institute and authorise a Commission of Enquiry into any matter which they may in their sole and absolute discretion, deem necessary or advisable.
- Any documentation of whatsoever nature which is required to be served on a club, club official or player of the Association shall be served via the respective LFA on such party at the address and/or telefax and/or electronic mail as supplied to the respective LFA by the club in its annual registration form.

## 26. COMMUNICATION PROTOCOL

- Clubs can only communicate with the SLFA managers via their club Administrators or secretaries via email.
- All formal club correspondence needs to be on a club letterhead and signed by the club chairperson.
- Formal correspondence includes Complaints, Protests, Appeals or anything else which needs to be addressed at an executive level.
- No WhatsApp or phone calls will be regarded as formal communication
- SLFA Email addresses: [managersouth@sfa.co.za](mailto:managersouth@sfa.co.za)
- Club are not allowed to compete in the GDL without permission from the LFA and JFA Johannesburg
- A player can move up to the next age group only within the same league level they previously played in. For example, a U9 Super League player can join a U10 Super League team, but not a DIV1 or DIV2 team.
- In a club with two teams in the same league, they can exchange up to 2 players, but those players must stay in their new team for at least 2 weeks.
- All Club teams can only play under one name and not two different names. If there are two different names then there must be Two clubs registered.
- Clubs to note that Club Shabbos teams U 6 to U10 play all their matches on Sundays



LEAGUE RULES & REGULATIONS 2024

	Under 6 & 7	Under 8 & 9	Under 10	Under 11	Under 12	Under 13	Under 14 / 15	Under 17 / Ladies/ Vets	Seniors
 Time	40 min (2 x 20 min) 5 min break	50 min (2 x 25 min) 5 min break	50 min (2 x 25 min) 5 min break	60 min (2 x 30 min) 5 min break	60 min (2 x 30 min) 5 min break	60 min (2 x 30 min) 5 min break	70 min (2 x 35 min) 5 min break	80 min (2 x 40 min) 5 min break	90 min (2 x 45 min) 5 min break
 Ball Size	3	4	4	4	4	5	5	5	5
 Goal Size	1.8m x 2.5m	1.8m x 4m	2m x 6m	2m x 6m	2m x 6m	2.4m x 7.3m	2.4m x 7.3m	2.4m x 7.3m	2.4m x 7.3m
 Players	5 v 5 (Max 10 Players)	7 v 7 (Max 12 Players)	9 v 9 (Max 14 Players)	9 v 9 (Max 14 Players)	9 v 9 (Max 14 Players)	11 v 11	11 v 11	11 v 11	11 v 11
 Offside	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
 Field Size	40m x 25m	60m x 45m (Goal area 9.15m)	70m x 50m (Goal area 9.15m)	70m x 50m (Goal area 9.15m)	70m x 50m (Goal area 9.15m)	Full Field	Full Field	Full Field	Full Field (min 90x50)
 Substitutes	5 Rolling Substitutes	5 Rolling Substitutes	5 Rolling Substitutes	5 Rolling Substitutes	5 Rolling Substitutes	5 Rolling Substitutes	5 Rolling Substitutes	5 Substitutes Incl. GK	5 Substitutes Incl. GK
 Kick or Throw in	Kick-In	Throw-In	Throw-In	Throw-In	Throw-In	Throw-In	Throw-In	Throw-In	Throw-In
 Penalties	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
 Outfield Coaching	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
 Additional Rules	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Full contact – opponents to be 2m away</li> <li>* Kick – opponents to be 2m away</li> <li>* Penalty – 9m from goal line</li> <li>* Substitutes can run the pitch as without interference</li> <li>* No contact with the feet of opponents</li> <li>* No players allowed to touch the ball in the goal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Kick-off – opponents to be 4m away</li> <li>* Free kick – opponents to be 5m away</li> <li>* Penalty – 9m from goal line</li> <li>* Substitutes can run the pitch as without interference</li> <li>* No contact with the feet of opponents</li> <li>* No players allowed to touch the ball in the goal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Kick-off – opponents to be 4m away</li> <li>* Free kick – opponents to be 5m away</li> <li>* Penalty – 9m from goal line</li> <li>* Substitutes can run the pitch as without interference</li> <li>* No contact with the feet of opponents</li> <li>* No players allowed to touch the ball in the goal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Kick-off – opponents to be 4m away</li> <li>* Free kick – opponents to be 5m away</li> <li>* Penalty – 9m from goal line</li> <li>* Substitutes can run the pitch as without interference</li> <li>* No contact with the feet of opponents</li> <li>* No players allowed to touch the ball in the goal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Kick-off – opponents to be 4m away</li> <li>* Free kick – opponents to be 5m away</li> <li>* Penalty – 9m from goal line</li> <li>* Substitutes can run the pitch as without interference</li> <li>* No contact with the feet of opponents</li> <li>* No players allowed to touch the ball in the goal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Kick-off – opponents to be 4m away</li> <li>* Free kick – opponents to be 5m away</li> <li>* Penalty – 9m from goal line</li> <li>* Substitutes can run the pitch as without interference</li> <li>* No contact with the feet of opponents</li> <li>* No players allowed to touch the ball in the goal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Kick-off – opponents to be 4m away</li> <li>* Free kick – opponents to be 5m away</li> <li>* Penalty – 9m from goal line</li> <li>* Substitutes can run the pitch as without interference</li> <li>* No contact with the feet of opponents</li> <li>* No players allowed to touch the ball in the goal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Kick-off – opponents to be 4m away</li> <li>* Free kick – opponents to be 5m away</li> <li>* Penalty – 9m from goal line</li> <li>* Substitutes can run the pitch as without interference</li> <li>* No contact with the feet of opponents</li> <li>* No players allowed to touch the ball in the goal</li> </ul>	

There will be no postponement of any match. However, should a team have a valid reason to reschedule, match may be brought forward.



## **27. DISCIPLINARY CODE**

### **1. OVERVIEW**

This Disciplinary Code describes infringements of the rules and regulations of the SLFA (referred to as The SLFA), who regulates the organization and function of the Disciplinary Committee's responsible for taking decisions, the procedures to be followed and determines the sanctions to be applied.

This Disciplinary Code applies to every match and competition organized by the SLFA. Beyond this scope, it also applies if a match official is harmed and, more generally, if the statutory objectives of the SLFA are breached.

This Disciplinary Code is aligned to the SAFA Regulations Disciplinary Code, as the SLFA are obliged to adopt and adapt the SAFA provisions made in their Disciplinary Code, for the purpose of harmonizing disciplinary measures.

### **2. COVERAGE**

The following are subject to this code:

All SLFA Members which include;

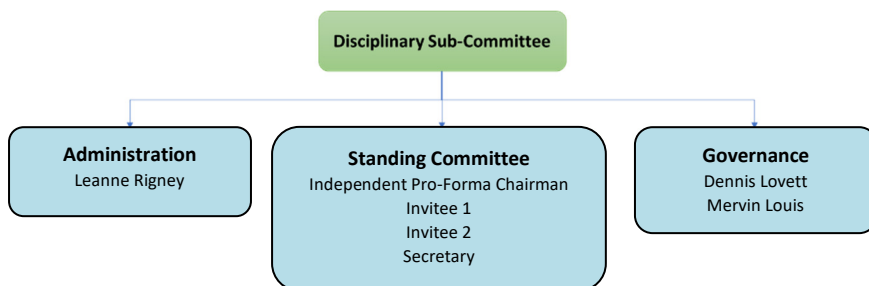
- Clubs
- Officials
- Players
- Match officials
- Parents & Family
- Spectators

The Disciplinary code will govern all SLFA Cup, Plate, Tournament, Festival and Friendly games.

### 3. DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

A formal and independent Disciplinary Committee has been formed to manage disciplinary issues for 2026. The DC is elected by the SLFA executive.

Disciplinary Committee Structure



### 4. ROLE & RESPONSIBILITY

1. Alignment and Updating of the SLFA constitution/s
2. Drafting of summons and charge sheet
3. Arranging DC hearings (Date, Time, Venue)
4. Manage the administration of the hearings
5. Officiate and provide impartial judgements & sanctions
6. Draft and distribute minutes of hearing
7. Draft & maintain a schedule of offences.
8. Records of cautions, expulsions and match suspensions to be stored in a centralised SLFA Database.
9. The Disciplinary Committee secretary confirms the outcome and ruling of a disciplinary hearing in writing to the Player and/or Club concerned.
10. This communication serves only as confirmation. Sanctions (cautions, expulsions, automatic match suspensions) have an immediate effect on subsequent matches even if the letter of confirmation reaches the Player, Club, Official or persons concerned later.



11. To ensure that the relevant records are complete, all Clubs and Referees shall inform the SLFA administrators of all sanctions that have been pronounced during their own games and disciplinary hearings, and are likely to be carried over to a SLFA
12. competition or future competitions organised by the SLFA.

## **5. DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE PROCEDURES**

1. The Executive Committee, shall have the power to appoint a pro-forma prosecutor to present the charge to the relevant Disciplinary Committee and to call evidence and make submissions in support of the charge on behalf of the Association, in particular to prosecute all acts of misconduct/offenses at the instance of the Association, or pursuant to any protest or complaint referred by the league manager or his representative, to the Disciplinary Committee.
2. All parties involved in a disciplinary matter shall be summoned by the Association and informed of the time and place of the hearing by midday of the third working day prior to the hearing, and shall be entitled to be personally present at the hearing at their own costs.
3. In the case where a party has been charged with committing an act of misconduct/offence, such summons shall set out concisely the charge(s) preferred against such party.
4. All parties acknowledge that no summonses in respect of a hearing before the Disciplinary Committee may be regarded as exculpable and in the event of such summons shall be emend orally at the hearing by the Association representative, this the matter to immediately proceed.
5. Should any party have been properly summoned, but fails to be present at the hearing, the relevant Disciplinary Committee shall have the right to continue with the hearing in the absence of such party and have the power to summarily suspend such party until such party appears before it.
6. No party summoned or called as a witness to appear before the Disciplinary Committee shall be entitled to legal representation or other assistance (other than that of a translator), unless, In the case of a team being summoned, the representative is a registered official or player of the club concerned;
7. In the case of a player or official being summoned or called as a witness, the representative is a registered official or player of the club with whom such player or official is registered; and such person has been so registered with the club for a period of at least 6 (six) months.
8. No other party, other than a party summoned or called as a witness to appear before the Disciplinary Committee, or any SAFA official, shall be entitled to attend a hearing of the Disciplinary Committee.



9. The Association or the Disciplinary Committee may, at any stage, subpoena any person or body bound by the Constitution and the SLFA Rules and Regulations, to give evidence or produce any book, paper or document in a hearing before the Disciplinary Committee.
10. The Association shall furthermore issue a subpoena, at the request of a party summoned by SLFA, provided a sum of money to cover the costs thereby entailed is deposited with the Association prior to the issue of such a subpoena.
11. A witness subpoenaed to attend a hearing of the Disciplinary Committee, who fails to attend or remain in attendance at such a hearing until excused by the Disciplinary Committee, shall be guilty of an offence.
12. If any witness present at a hearing is required to give evidence at such a hearing, and refuses to answer any question put to him, or refuses or fails to produce any book, paper or document required to be produced by him, the Disciplinary Committee may in a summary manner, enquire into such refusal or failure, and unless the person refusing or failing has a valid excuse for his refusal or failure, shall sentence such a person to a fine of not more than **R3 000,00** (Three Thousand Rand) over and above any other sentence it deems appropriate and provided for in the Constitution and these Rules and Regulations.

## 6. HEARING PROCESS & PROCEDURE

1. The authority to institute and conduct a prosecution before a Disciplinary Committee in respect of any act of misconduct/offence pursuant to a complaint or at the instance of the Executive Committee shall vest in the SLFA.
2. The onus of proving the charge shall lie with the SLFA, which must prove the charge on a balance of probabilities.
3. The pro-forma prosecutor conducting a prosecution may:
  - a. Before the accused pleads to a charge, withdraw that charge, in which event the accused shall not be entitled to a verdict of acquittal in respect of that charge;
  - b. At any time after an accused has pleaded to a charge, but before conviction, stop the prosecution in respect of that charge, in which event the Disciplinary Committee hearing the matter shall acquit the accused in respect of that charge.
4. The pro-forma prosecutor shall read out the summons addressed to the accused and the accused shall then be asked by the Chairperson of the Disciplinary Committee to plead "guilty" or "not guilty" to the charge(s). A plea by the accused that it/(s) he has already been convicted or acquitted of the offence with which it/(s) he is being charged may be pleaded together with a plea of "not guilty".
5. Where the accused pleads "guilty" to the charge/s, the Disciplinary Committee shall, if satisfied that the accused is guilty of the offence to which it/he has pleaded "guilty", convict the accused on the plea of "guilt". Nothing in this Rule shall prevent the pro-forma



- prosecutor from presenting evidence on any aspect of the charge, for the purposes of determining an appropriate sentence.
6. Where the accused pleads "not guilty", the Disciplinary Committee may, in its discretion, ask the accused whether he/she wishes to make a statement indicating the basis of its/his/her defence.
  7. Where the accused does not make a statement or does so, and it is not clear from the statement to what extent the accused denies or admits the issues raised by the plea, the Disciplinary Committee may question the accused in order to establish which allegations in the charge are in dispute.
  8. The Disciplinary Committee may in its discretion, put any question to the accused to clarify any matter raised, and shall enquire from the accused whether an allegation which is not placed in issue by the plea of "not guilty" may be recorded as an admission by the accused of that allegation, and if the accused so consents, such admission shall be recorded and shall be sufficient proof of such fact.
  9. There shall, if applicable, read out the reports of the various match officials. The fact contained in the match officials' reports are presumed to be accurate. However, proof of inaccuracy of the contents of these reports may be provided. The accused shall be asked if he admits allegations in the report. If the accused admits the reports, the pro-forma prosecutor shall at his discretion, decide whether he wishes to call the said match officials to amplify or qualify their reports. If the accused disputes the allegations in the report(s), the pro-forma prosecutor shall call the match officials to give evidence.
  10. The accused shall be afforded the right to ask to be allowed to question a match official giving evidence on behalf of the Association, provided such questions are relevant to the matters at issue. At any time, the Disciplinary members may question officials giving on behalf of the Association.
  11. The pro-forma prosecutor may then call other witnesses in support of the charge(s). The accused shall have the right to ask/ questions of such other witnesses as he/she has had to ask questions the match officials. The members of the Disciplinary Committee may also question such other witnesses.
  12. At the conclusion of such evidence the pro-forma prosecutor's case may be closed.
  13. The accused may then give evidence on its/his/her own behalf and in such event its/she/ he may be questioned by the pro-forma prosecutor and the Disciplinary Committee.
  14. The accused may then call witnesses to who questions may be put by the accused, in which event the pro-forma prosecutor and the Disciplinary Committee members may question them.
  15. At the conclusion of such evidence, the accused's case shall be closed.
  16. The Disciplinary Committee may, if it deems desirable, or on request by the Association or the accused, allow further evidence to be led by either the pro forma prosecutor or the accused, or by both, after their cases are already closed.



17. Save where otherwise provided for in the Constitution, Rules and Regulations, documentary evidence shall be admitted in terms of the "hearsay" evidence rule, below, unless the author thereof is present or the contents are not in dispute.
18. "Hearsay" evidence shall not be allowed, and all extraneous matters in the evidence shall be ruled "out of order", save that television and video recordings may be used by any party to the proceedings (although this evidence shall not have effect on any decision of fact taken by the match officials).
19. No evidence on any previous misconduct of the accused shall be admitted, unless the accused shall have put his character in issue.
20. After the conclusion of the evidence called or produced by the accused, the pro-forma prosecutor and the accused in turn may make closing submissions. The pro-forma prosecutor may rely on any question, which the accused has raised in his address.
21. Upon the conclusion of the case, the Disciplinary Committee shall deliberate.
22. Once a decision has been reached, the parties shall be recalled and the Chairperson of the Disciplinary Committee shall announce the verdict.
23. If the accused is found "not guilty", the session will be declared closed.
24. If the accused is found "guilty", or the accused has pleaded "guilty", the pro forma prosecutor shall be entitled to make presentations regarding a suitable sentence to be imposed and the accused shall be entitled to address the Disciplinary Committee in mitigation of sentence.
25. Thereupon, the Disciplinary Committee shall deliberate upon the sentence to be imposed.
26. Once a decision has been reached, the parties shall be recalled and the Chairperson of the Disciplinary Committee shall announce the sentence.
27. Save where the hearing took place pursuant to a complaint, the Disciplinary Committee shall have the power to sentence the accused to the following sentences or combinations of sentences:
  - a. Suspend the person or team from all or any specific football activities, either permanently or for a stated period of time or number of matches;
  - b. Impose a monetary fine on the person or team concerned an amount not exceeding **R10, 000, 00** (Ten Thousand Rand);
  - c. Censure the person or team concerned;
  - d. Order a person or team to pay all expenses of and incidental to the consideration of the matter;
  - e. Order a match to be replayed on such conditions as it may determine, or award a match to a team;
  - f. Impose a fine of a stated number of league points;
  - g. Close a ground for a stated period;
  - h. Recommend to the Executive Committee the expulsion or suspension of a team from the League for any period. In this case, all results involving the



- expelled team will be expunged from the League as if the team had never played any matches;
- i. The barring of the offending party from entering the Competition in the following season;
  - j. Rule that a score in a match that was abandoned by the referee be declared the result of the match;
  - k. Take any other action as specifically provided for in these Rules and Regulations;
  - l. Take any other disciplinary action, as the Disciplinary Committee may deem reasonable and appropriate in the particular circumstances of the matter in question.
28. The Club or an accused party charged with committing an act of misconduct/offence shall have the right to appeal against any decision of the Disciplinary Committee. No other party shall have the right to appeal against any decision of the Disciplinary Committee. The appeal by the League or the accused party shall be lodged in terms of the Constitution and the Rules of the Association. Appeal has to be lodged within **72 Hours** of receiving the outcome of a DC hearing.

## 7. ACTS OF MISCONDUCTS/OFFENCES

Without derogating from the generality of what constitutes an act of misconduct/offence, the following are specifically declared to be acts of misconduct/offences on the part of a player, official, supporters, spectators or any servant or duly authorized (express or implied) representative of a club, or anyone associated with the club as the case may be.

### **RULE 1 - Fails to provide adequate security at Venue:**

1. It shall be presumed, unless the contrary is proved, that a club has failed to provide adequate security at its venue where the spectators at such venue, irrespective of their affiliation, committed acts, or were responsible for conduct that is considered improper behaviour.
2. It shall not be a defence to the previously mentioned charge that a larger crowd than anticipated attended or attempted to attend the game.



**RULE 2** - Its players, officials, servants or duly authorized (express or implied) representatives or supporters directly or indirectly interrupt, obstruct or disturb the normal proceedings of a game before, during or after the match; **THIS IS SAME AS RULE AS RULE 11 AND 12.**

**RULE 3** - Its players, officials, servants or duly authorized (expressed or implied) representatives, for any corrupt, dishonest or unlawful purpose in connection with a game played under the auspices of the League, or in connection with the affairs of the League, give, offer or promise, whether directly or indirectly, any inducement, reward or bribe of whatsoever nature, to anybody whatsoever;

**RULE 4** - Its players, officials, servants or duly authorized (express or implied) representatives accept any inducement, reward or bribe.

**RULE 5** - It fails to comply with or contravenes any provision of these Rules and Regulations, the relevant SAFA Constitution and Rules, the CAF Statutes and the FIFA Statutes, and as well as the Laws of the Game;

1. Should the provisions of these Rules and Regulations be in conflict with the Statutes of various bodies above, then the provisions of the SAFA Constitution shall apply;

**RULE 6** - It fields an unregistered, suspended, banned, fraudulently or improperly registered, or in any other way disqualified or prohibited person;

**RULE 7** - It fails to fulfil a fixture for which a date and a venue have been fixed by the League.

**RULE 8** - It fails to comply with any lawful order or instruction made by the Disciplinary Committee, an official of Association, and/or match officials.



**RULE 9** - It fails to comply with or contravenes any order, resolution or code of conduct made or passed by the Competitions Committee;

**RULE 10** - It knowingly furnishes incorrect information of whatsoever nature to the Association;

**RULE 11** - Its players, officials, servants or duly authorized (express or implied) representatives or supporters commit an offence in terms of CHARGE 12 hereunder;

1. In this regard when an offence in terms of the provisions of the Constitution and these Rules and Regulations has been committed, whether by the performance of any act or by the failure to perform of any act, by a player, official, servant or duly authorized (express or implied) representative of a
2. team, such offence shall be deemed to have been committed (and with the same intent, if any) by such a team, and such a team shall be convicted of the same offence jointly the with player, official, servant or duly authorized (express or implied) representative of such a team, and such team shall also be liable to punishment therefore;

**RULE 12** - Its supporters misbehave in any manner whatsoever, inside or outside a ground before, during or after a match, no matter on which ground the match is played. Without derogating from the generality of what constitutes misbehaviour on the part of supporters, the following are specifically declared acts of misbehaviour:

1. Invasion or attempted invasion of the field of play, save for reasons of crowd safety;
2. Causing the abandonment or attempting to cause the abandonment of a match;
3. Throwing or attempting to throw missiles, bottles and other objects, whether potentially harmful or dangerous or not, on to the pitch, or at any person;
4. Fireworks and rockets being let off;
5. Acts of violence or attempted acts of violence against anyone at the game;
6. Failing to conduct themselves in an orderly fashion;
7. Insulting or assaulting players, team officials, match officials or any other person present at the game;
8. Maliciously damaging or attempting to damage any property at the ground;
9. Other acts of unsporting behaviour;



**RULE 13** - notwithstanding any provision of these Rules and Regulations, where a team charged with any offence in terms of CHARGE 2, or any other offence relating to the misbehaviour of spectators, such a team shall be guilty of such an offence, if The League shows that there was misbehaviour on the part of any spectators at the ground, unless such team satisfies the Disciplinary Committee that the misbehaving spectators were not its supporters;

**RULE 14** - It fails to protect match officials against acts or attempted acts of violence or any other form of abuse before, during or after a match;

**RULE 15** - Its players refuse to continue a match or abandon the field of play without permission by the referee, or cause the abandonment of a match;

**RULE 16** - Its officials cause the abandonment of a match;

**RULE 17** - It fails to immediately report any act of alleged misconduct, within its knowledge, to the Association;

**RULE 18** - It fails to immediately report all decisions of suspensions of its officials or players where the period of suspension is six (6) months or longer, to the league manager within fourteen (14) days of the said suspension. In this regard all other teams shall be advised by the Association of the said suspension, within fourteen (14) days of the said notification having been received by the league manager. No person suspended in terms of this Rule shall have his sentence reduced or remitted without consent of The Association.

**RULE 19** - It incites, permits or assists any person or body in the contravention of the Laws of the Game, the Constitution and these Rules and Regulations, the SAFA Constitution Johannesburg and Rules of the SLFA, SAFA the CAF Statutes and the FIFA Statutes, as well as the Laws of the Game;



**RULE 20** - It, inclusive of its officials, players, servants or duly authorized (express or implied) representatives, or supporters commits any act or makes any statement, either orally or in writing, or has been responsible for conduct which is considered ungentlemanly, insulting or improper behaviour, or likely to bring the game, sponsors, any member, the SLFA League, Competitions, SAFA, CAF or FIFA into disrepute;

**RULE 21** - It fails to attend a relevant SLFA Disciplinary Committee hearing to which it was summoned or subpoenaed;

**RULE 22** - Its officials, players, servants or duly authorized (express or implied) representatives' assault, threaten, intimidate, coerce, interfere, mislead or insult a match official, player, official of The SLFA, public, or any other person, before, during or after any match.

**RULE 23** - On the part of a player, official, servant or duly authorized (express or implied) representative of a team, official of the club, members of any subcommittee as the case may be, who:

1. Directly or indirectly interrupts, obstructs or disturbs the normal proceedings of a game, before, during or after the match;
2. For any corrupt, dishonest or unlawful purpose in connection with a game played under the auspices of the SLFA, or in connection with the affairs of the SLFA, gives, offers or promises, whether directly or indirectly, any inducement, reward or bribe of whatsoever nature, to anybody whomsoever;
3. Accepts any inducement, reward or bribe referred to in point 2 above;
4. Fails to comply with or contravenes any provision of the Constitution, and these Rules and Regulations, the relevant SLFA Constitution and Rules of SAFA, CAF and the FIFA Statutes, as well as the Laws of the Game;
5. Fails to comply with any lawful order or instruction made by the Disciplinary Committee and/or match officials;
6. Fails to comply with or contravenes any order, resolution or code of conduct passed by the Competitions Board;
7. Fails to attend a Disciplinary Committee hearing to which (s)he was summoned or subpoenaed;
8. Knowingly furnishes incorrect information, of whatsoever nature, to the SLFA;
9. Assaults, threatens, intimidates, coerces, interferes, misleads or insults a match official, player, official of the SLFA, public, or any other person, before, during or after any match;



10. Engages in any conduct causing a situation dangerous to the public safety, before, during or after a match;
11. Fails to protect match officials against acts or attempted acts of violence or any other form of abuse before, during or after a match;
12. Fails to immediately report any act of alleged misconduct within its/his/her knowledge, to the Association;
13. Permits or assists any person or body in the contravention of the Laws of the game, the Constitution and these Rules and Regulation, SLFA Constitution and these Rules and Regulations, the SAFA & CAF Statutes and the FIFA Statutes;
14. Uses obscene or other objectionable language in connection with the affairs of the SLFA;
15. Commits any act or makes any statement, either orally or in writing, or has been responsible for conduct which is considered ungentlemanly, insulting or improper behaviour, or likely to bring the game, sponsors, any member, the SLFA, SAFA, CAF or FIFA into disrepute.

**RULE 24** - On the part of any player, where (s) he refuses to continue a match, or abandons the field of play without permission by the referee, or causes the abandonment of a match.

**RULE 25** - On the part of an official, where the said official causes the abandonment of a match.

**RULE 26** - Any team or person who has been found guilty of committing an offence by the Disciplinary Committee shall be liable to such penalties or combination of penalties as the Disciplinary Committee may impose in terms of the Constitution and these Rules and the Regulations.

**RULE 27** - Any club, player, official, servant or duly authorized (express or implied) representative of a team, member of the Competitions Board or of a subcommittee who:

1. Attempts to commit any offence in terms of the Constitution and these Rules and the Regulations shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable, on conviction, to the same penalties as are competent for a contravention of the Constitution or Rules;



2. Is convicted of any criminal offence in relation to all matters and questions relating to football in the Republic of South Africa, shall be deemed to have committed an offence in terms of the Constitution and these Rules and Regulations and, after a hearing, shall be liable to such penalties as the Disciplinary Committee may impose. In this regard, in any disciplinary hearing, a certified copy of the judgment of the convicting court shall be proof of such conviction.

**RULE 28** - Officials, players, servants, or duly authorized (express or implied) representatives of a team may attend matches under the auspices of the Association, only on condition that they observe the Constitution, Rules and the Regulations and Laws of the Game.

**RULE 29** - Where any statement made by an official, player of a team which is considered ungentlemanly or improper and/or is likely to bring the Association, its sponsors, or any other member into disrepute, is reported in the press or media, the league manager shall notify the said official or player of the said reported statement and enquire from the said player or official whether (s)he denies or admits having made the said statement, to which the said person shall reply within 5 (five) days of receiving the said notification.

1. Where such a person admits the said statement, disciplinary action may be taken by the Association.
2. Where such a person denies having made the said statement, the said person shall:
  - a. Furnish the League with an affidavit, denying having made that statement within 5 (five) days of receiving notification from the league manager or his representative, and
  - b. Publicly deny and refute such statement at a press conference called by the Association on a date stipulated by the Association.
  - c. Where such a person fails to reply to the notification by the league manager (or his representative), or having denied making the statement, fails to comply with point 1 above, the said statement shall be irrefutably presumed to have been made by such person, and correctly reported by a 3<sup>rd</sup> party, and the Association may institute disciplinary action against the person concerned.



## 8. CONDITIONS FOR SANCTIONS

### Culpability

1. Unless otherwise specified, infringements are punishable regardless of whether they have been committed deliberately or negligently. Acts amounting to attempt are also punishable.
2. In the case of acts amounting to attempt, the DC committee may reduce the sanction envisaged for the actual infringement accordingly. It will determine the extent of the mitigation as it sees fit; it shall not go below the general lower limit of the fine
3. Anyone who intentionally takes part in committing an infringement, either as instigator or accomplice, is also punishable. The DC will take account of the degree of guilt of the party involved and may reduce the sanction accordingly. It shall not go below the general lower limit of the fine.

### Various Sanctions

1. Clubs and Persons are punishable by the following sanctions:
  - Warning
  - Reprimand
  - Fine
  - Expulsion
  - Match suspension
  - SLFA League Expulsion
  - SLFA Expulsion
2. Other sanctions might be imposed:
  - Playing a match without spectators
  - Playing a match on neutral ground
  - Annulment of the result of a match
  - Exclusion from a competition
  - Defeat by forfeit
  - Deduction of point
  - Demotion to a lower division.



## *Caution*

1. A caution (yellow card) is a warning from the referee to a player during a match to sanction unsporting behaviour of a less serious nature.
2. Two cautions received during the same match incur an expulsion (indirect red card) and, consequently, automatic suspension from the next match and a fine. The two cautions that incurred the red card are rescinded.
3. If an abandoned match is to be replayed, any caution issued during that match shall be annulled. If the match is not to be replayed, the cautions received by the team responsible for causing the match to be abandoned are upheld; if both teams are responsible, all of the cautions are upheld.
4. If a player is guilty of serious unsporting behaviour as defined in Law 12 of the Laws of the Game and is sent off (direct red card), any other caution he has previously received in the same match is upheld. A direct red card is an automatic two game suspension from all SLFA competition games (League & Cup/Plate) and a fine.

## *Expulsion*

1. An expulsion (Sending off) is the order given by the referee to someone to leave the field of play and its surroundings, including the substitutes' bench, during a match. The person who has been sent off may be allowed into the stands unless he is serving a venue ban.
2. Expulsion takes the form of a red card for Players and Coaches. The red card is regarded as direct if it sanctions serious unsporting behaviour as defined by Law 12 of the Laws of the Game; it is regarded as indirect if it is the result of an accumulation of two yellow cards.
3. An official who has been sent off may give instructions to the person replacing him on the substitutes' bench. He shall, however, ensure that he does not disturb the spectators or disrupt the flow of play.
4. An expulsion automatically incurs suspension from the subsequent match, and two additional matches, even if imposed in a match that is later abandoned and/or annulled. The Disciplinary Committee may extend the duration of the suspension.

## *Match suspension*

1. A suspension from a match is a ban on taking part in a future match or competition and on attending it in the area immediately surrounding the field of play.



2. The suspension is imposed in terms of matches, days or months. Unless otherwise specified, it may not exceed twenty-four matches or twenty-four months.
3. If the suspension is to be served in terms of matches, only those matches actually played count towards execution of the suspension. If a match is abandoned, cancelled or forfeited, suspension is only considered to have been served if the team to which the suspended player belongs is not responsible for the facts that led to the abandonment, cancellation or forfeit of the match.
4. If a suspension is combined with a fine, the suspension may be prolonged until the fine has been paid in full.

### *Forfeit*

1. Teams sanctioned with a forfeit are considered to have lost the match by 2-0.
2. If the goal difference at the end of the match in question is greater than 2-0, the result on the pitch is upheld.

### *Fines*

1. A fine is issued in South African Rands (R). It shall be paid in the same currency.
2. The fine shall not be less than **R1000**, and not more than **R 20,000**.
3. The DC imposes the fine and decides the terms and time limits for payment.
4. Clubs are jointly liable for fines imposed on their players and officials. The fact that a natural person has left a club or Member does not cancel out joint liability.

### **Determining the sanction**

1. The DC pronouncing the sanction decides the scope and duration of it.
2. Sanctions may be limited to a geographical area or to one or more specific categories of match or competition.
3. Unless otherwise specified, the duration of a sanction is always defined.
4. The DC shall take account of all relevant factors in the case and the degree of the offender's guilt when imposing the sanction.

### **Repeated infringements**

1. Unless otherwise specified, the DC may increase the sanction to be pronounced as deemed appropriate if an infringement has been repeated.
2. These provisions are subject to the special rules governing repeated rule violations.



## Concurrent infringements

1. If several fines are pronounced against someone as a result of one or more infringements, the DC bases the fine on the most serious offence committed and, depending on the circumstances, may increase the sanction by up to fifty per cent of the maximum sanction specified for that offence.
2. The same applies if a person incurs several time sanctions of a similar type (two or more match suspensions, two or more bans etc.) as the result of one or several infringements.
3. The DC that determines the fine is not obliged to adhere to the general upper limit of the fine.

## Limitation period

1. Infringements committed during a match may no longer be prosecuted after the lapse of the current season.
2. Prosecution for corruption is not subject to a limitation period.

## Commencement of the limitation period

The limitation period runs as follows:

1. From the day on which the perpetrator committed the infringement;
2. If the infringement is recurrent, from the day on which the most recent infringement was committed;
3. If the infringement lasted a certain period, from the day on which it ended.
4. From the day the DC is held and the sanction is decided.
5. The limitation period is interrupted if the Disciplinary Committee commences proceedings before it has expired.
6. The limitation period for sanctions is five years.

## 9. INFRINGEMENTS OF THE LAWS OF THE GAME

### Minor infringements



A player or spectator is cautioned if he commits any of the following offences (12 Laws of the Game):

1. Unsporting behaviour
2. Dissent by word or action
3. Persistent infringement of the Laws of the Game
4. Delaying the restart of play
5. Failure to retreat the required distance when play is restarted with a corner kick, free kick or throw-in
6. Entering or re-entering the field of play without the referee's permission
7. Deliberately leaving the field of play without the referee's permission.

## **Serious infringements**

A player person sent off if he commits any of the following offences (12 of the Laws of the Game):

1. Serious foul play
2. Violent conduct
3. Spitting at an opponent or any other person;
4. Denying the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball (this does not apply to a goalkeeper within his own penalty area)
5. Denying an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards the player's goal by an offence punishable by a free kick or a penalty kick;
6. Using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures
7. Receiving a second caution in the same match
8. Disorderliness at matches and competitions

## **Misconduct against opponents or persons other than match officials**

1. Including the automatic suspension incurred, any recipient of a direct red card shall be suspended as follows:
  - a. one match for denying the opposing team a clear goal-scoring opportunity (particularly by deliberately handling the ball)
  - b. At least one match for serious foul play (particularly in the case of excessive or brute force)
  - c. At least one match for unsporting conduct towards an opponent or a person other than a match official



- d. At least 6 months two matches for assaulting (elbowing, punching, kicking etc.) an opponent or a person other than a match official
- e. At least six matches for spitting at an opponent or a person other than a match official.
- f. A fine may also be imposed in all cases.
- g. The right is reserved to punish an offence in accordance with the SLFA Disciplinary Code.

## Misconduct against match officials

1. Including the automatic suspension, the overall suspension imposed on any person receiving a direct red card shall be for:
  - a. At least four matches for unsporting conduct towards a match official
  - b. At least 12 months for assaulting (elbowing, punching, kicking etc.) a match official
  - c. At least 6 months for spitting at a match official.
  - d. A mandatory fine will also be imposed in all cases.
  - e. The right is reserved to punish an infringement in accordance with the SLFA disciplinary code of conduct

## Brawls

1. Involvement in a brawl is sanctioned with a suspension for at least six matches
2. Anyone who has tried merely to prevent a fight, shield others or separate those involved in a brawl is not subject to punishment.
3. Unidentified aggressors, if it is not possible to identify the perpetrator(s), the DC will sanction the club to which the aggressors belong.

## Team Misconduct

1. Disciplinary measures may be imposed on Members and clubs where a team fails to conduct itself properly. In particular:



- a. A fine may be imposed where the referee sanctions at least five members of the same team during a match (caution or expulsion);
- b. A fine of at least **R5,000** may be imposed where several players or officials from the same team threaten or harass match officials or other persons. Further sanctions may be imposed in the case of serious offences.

## Inciting Hatred and Violence

1. A player or official who publicly incites others to hatred or violence will be sanctioned with match suspension for no less than twelve months and with a minimum fine of **R 5,000**. In serious cases, the minimum fine will be **R 10,000**.

## Ineligibility

1. If a player takes part in an official match despite being ineligible, his team will be sanctioned by forfeiting the match and the club will pay a fine of **R 1,500 – R5,000**.

## Abandonment

1. If a team refuses to play a match or to continue playing one which it has begun, it will be sanctioned with a fine of **R 2,000 – R 5,000** and will, in principle, forfeit the match
2. In serious cases, the team will also be disqualified from the competition in progress.

## Offensive Behaviour and Fair Play

1. Anyone who insults someone in any way, especially by using offensive gestures or language, or who violates the principles of fair play or whose behaviour is unsporting in any other way may be subject to sanctions in accordance with the SLFA Disciplinary Code and fined or summoned to appear before a disciplinary hearing.

## Discrimination

1. Anyone who offends the dignity of a person or group of persons through contemptuous, discriminatory or denigrator words or actions concerning race, colour, language, religion or origin shall be suspended for at least five matches. Furthermore, a fine of at least



**R 5,000** shall be imposed. If the perpetrator is an official, the fine shall be at least **R 5,000**.

2. Where several persons (officials and/or players) from the same club or association simultaneously breach par. 1 or there are other aggravating circumstances, the team concerned may be deducted three points for a first offence and six points for a second offence; a further offence may result in demotion to a lower division. In the case of matches in which no points are awarded, the team may be disqualified from the competition.
3. Where supporters of a team breach par. 1 at a match, a fine of at least **R 2,000** shall be imposed on the club concerned regardless of the question of culpable conduct or culpable oversight.
4. Serious offences may be punished with additional sanctions, in particular an order to play a match behind closed doors, the forfeit of a match, a points deduction or disqualification from the competition.
5. Spectators who breach par. 1 of this article shall receive a ban from all SLFA grounds for at least two years.

## Infringements of personal freedom

### *Threats*

1. Anyone who intimidates a match official with serious threats will be sanctioned with a fine of at least **R 2,000** and 3 match suspension.

### *Coercion*

1. Anyone who uses violence or threats to pressure a match official into taking certain action or to hinder him in any other way from acting freely will be sanctioned with a fine of at least **R 3,000** and a match suspension.

### *Forgery and falsification*

1. Anyone who, in football-related activities, forges a document or falsifies an authentic document or uses a forged or falsified document to deceive in legal relations will be sanctioned with a suspension of at least **six matches** and a mandatory fine of **R 2,000**



2. If the perpetrator is an official, the DC will pronounce a ban on taking part in any football-related activity for a period of at least **twelve months** and a minimum fine of **R 5,000**.

### *Corruption*

1. Anyone who offers, promises or grants an unjustified advantage to a match official, a player or an official on behalf of himself or a third party in an attempt to incite it or him to violate the regulations of the SLFA will be sanctioned:
  - with a fine of at least **R 5,000**,
  - with a ban on taking part in any football-related activity, and
  - with a ban on entering any venue.
2. Passive corruption (soliciting, being promised or accepting an unjustified advantage) will be sanctioned in the same manner.
3. In serious cases and in the case of repetition, sanction 1 may be pronounced for life.

### *Failure to respect decisions*

1. Anyone who fails to pay the SLFA the sanctioned fine amount in full or part, will be fined an additional **R 2,000** for failing to comply with a decision.
2. (Only for clubs:) will be warned and notified that, in the case of default or failure to comply with a decision within the period stipulated, Games will be forfeited, points will be deducted or demotion to a lower division ordered.
3. If points are deducted, they shall be proportionate to the amount owed.
4. A ban on any football-related activity may also be imposed against person/s or clubs.
5. Any appeal against a decision passed in accordance with this article shall immediately be lodged with the SLFA Appeal Board.

## 10. RESPONSIBILITIES OF CLUBS AND MEMBERS

### *Organisation of matches*

Home Clubs shall:



1. Assess the degree of risk posed by matches and notify the SLFA of those that are especially high-risk.
2. Comply with and implement existing safety rules, and take every safety precaution demanded by circumstances before, during and after the match and if incidents occur.
3. Ensure the safety of match officials, players and officials of the visiting team during their stay.
4. Keep local authorities informed and collaborate with them actively and effectively (especially during festival and tournaments when Venue capacity, Traffic disruptions and large crowds are expected).
5. Ensure that law and order are maintained at venue and immediate surroundings and that matches are organised properly.

### *Failure to comply*

1. Any Member that fails to fulfil its obligations in accordance with the above 5 points shall be fined **R 2,000**.
2. In the case of a serious infringement, additional sanctions may be imposed, such as a venue ban, playing at neutral grounds with or without spectators.
3. The right is reserved to pronounce certain sanctions for safety reasons, even if no infringement has been committed.

### *Liability for spectator conduct*

1. The home team is liable for improper conduct among spectators, regardless of the question of culpable conduct or culpable oversight, and, depending on the situation, may be fined up to **R 5,000**. Further sanctions may be imposed in the case of serious disturbances.
2. The visiting team is liable for improper conduct among its own group of spectators, regardless of the question of culpable conduct or culpable oversight, and, depending on the situation, may be fined up to **R 5,000**. Further sanctions may be imposed in the case of serious disturbances. Supporters occupying the away section are regarded as the visiting association's supporters, unless proven to the contrary.
3. Improper conduct includes violence towards persons or objects, letting off incendiary devices, throwing missiles, displaying insulting or political slogans in any form, uttering insulting words or sounds, or invading the pitch.
4. The liability described in par. 1 and 2 also includes matches played on neutral ground, especially during final competitions.



## 11. OTHER OBLIGATIONS

### *Unlawfully influencing match results*

1. Anyone who conspires to influence the result of a match in a manner contrary to sporting ethics shall be sanctioned with a match suspension or a ban on taking part in any football-related activity as well as a fine of at least **R 5,000**. In serious cases, a lifetime ban on taking part in any football-related activity shall be imposed.
2. In the case of a player or official unlawfully influencing the result of a match in accordance with par. 1, the club or Member to which the player or official belongs may be fined **R 5,000**.
3. Serious offences may be sanctioned with exclusion from a competition, demotion to a lower division, a points deduction.

## 12. REFEREE

During matches, disciplinary decisions are taken by the referee.

**Referee's decisions are final.**

## 13. DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE AUTHORITY

The SLFA Disciplinary Committee is authorised to sanction any breach of SLFA Rules and Regulations which does not come under the jurisdiction of another body

## 14. SPECIFIC JURISDICTION

1. The Disciplinary Committee is responsible for:
2. Sanctioning serious infringements which have escaped the match officials' attention.
3. Rectifying obvious errors in the referee's disciplinary decisions.
4. Extending the duration of a match suspension incurred automatically by an expulsion
5. Pronouncing additional sanctions, such as a fine.

## 15. JURISDICTION OF THE CHAIRMAN RULING ALONE

The chairman of the Disciplinary Committee may take the following decisions alone:



1. Suspend a person for up to three matches or for up to two months
2. Pronounce a fine of up to **R 5,000**
3. Rule on a request to extend a sanction
4. Settle disputes arising from objections to members of the Disciplinary Committee
5. Pronounce, alter and annul provisional measures
6. Whenever the Disciplinary Committee meets on such occasions as a final competition, the chairman may decide that the decisions mentioned above are taken by the committee.

## 16. APPEAL COMMITTEE

1. The Appeal Committee is responsible for deciding appeals against any of the Disciplinary Committee's decisions.
2. The chairman of the Appeal Committee may take the following decisions alone:
3. Decide on an appeal against a decision to extend a sanction
4. Resolve disputes arising from objections to members of the Appeal Committee
5. Rule on appeals against provisional decisions passed by the chairman of the Disciplinary Committee Pronounce, alter and annul provisional measures
6. Whenever the Appeal Committee meets on such occasions as a final competition, the chairman may decide that the decisions be taken by the committee.
7. Appeal to be lodged withing **72 hours** after receiving a DC outcome.
8. Appeal fee to be paid in advance and Proof of Payment to accompany the Appeal request.

## 17. VARIOUS TYPES OF PROOF

1. Any type of proof may be produced.
2. Proof that violates human dignity or obviously does not serve to establish relevant facts shall be rejected.

The following are, in particular, admissible:

- Reports from referees
- Report from assistant referees
- Any Club or Official's report
- Declarations from the parties and witnesses
- Material evidence
- Expert opinions
- Audio or Video recordings.



## 18. EVALUATION OF PROOF

1. The DC will have absolute discretion regarding proof.
2. The DC may, in particular, take account of the parties' attitudes during proceedings, especially the manner in which they cooperate with the DC.
3. The DC decide on the basis of their personal convictions.
4. Match officials' reports and facts contained in match officials' reports are presumed to be accurate.
5. Proof of the inaccuracy of the contents of these reports may be provided.
6. If there is any discrepancy in the reports from the various match officials and there are no means of resolving the different versions of the facts, the referee's report is considered authoritative regarding incidents that occurred on the field of play.
7. Any SLFA committee member's report is also considered authoritative regarding incidents that took place outside the field of play.

## 19. NOTIFICATION OF DECISIONS

1. All of the parties are notified of the decisions.
2. Decisions and other documents intended for players, clubs and officials are addressed to the Member concerned on condition that it forwards the documents to the parties concerned.
3. In the event that the documents were not also or solely sent to the party concerned, these documents are considered to have been communicated properly to the ultimate addressee four days after communication of the documents to the Club.
4. The DC may rectify any mistakes in calculation or any other obvious errors at any time.

## 20. COSTS AND EXPENSES

1. A **R1200** DC fee is payable before the DC commences.
2. Failure to pay the fee before the DC commences will result in the parties being excused, and the DC will proceed without them with the sanctions enforceable.
3. Clubs and People summoned to appear before the DC do so at their own expense.

## 21. DELIBERATIONS

1. The Disciplinary Committee deliberates behind closed doors.



2. If any oral statements have been heard, they will immediately be followed by deliberations. Deliberations are conducted without interruption, unless there are exceptional circumstances.
3. The DC chairman decides in which order the various questions will be submitted for deliberation.
4. The members present express their opinions in the order set out by the chairman, who always speaks last.

## **22. CONCLUSION OF THE HEARING**

1. Without prejudice the DC decision contains:
  - The composition of the committee
  - The names of the parties
  - A summary of the facts
  - The grounds of the decision
  - The provisions on which the decision was based
  - The terms of the decision
  - Notice of the channels for appeal.
  - The decisions are signed by the committee secretary.

## **23. DECISIONS WITHOUT GROUNDS**

1. The DC may decide not to communicate the grounds of a decision and instead communicate only the terms of the decision. At the same time, the parties shall be informed that they have ten days from receipt of the terms of the decision to request, in writing, the grounds of the decision, and that failure to do so will result in enforcement of the decision.
2. If a party requests the grounds of a decision, the motivated decision will be communicated to the parties in full, written form. The 72 hour time limit to lodge an appeal, where applicable, begins upon receipt of this motivated decision.



3. If the parties do not request the grounds of a decision, a short explanation of the decision shall be recorded in the case files.
4. The rules governing the Disciplinary Committee apply in the same way whenever the chairman decides alone.

## 24. APPEAL COMMITTEE

1. An appeal may be lodged to the Appeal Committee against any decision passed by the Disciplinary Committee, unless the sanction pronounced is:
  - a warning
  - a reprimand
  - a suspension for less than three matches or of up to two months
  - a fine of **R 5,000** imposed on a Player or a Club.
  - Decisions passed in compliance with the standard fines and sanctions schedule.

### *a. Eligibility to appeal*

1. Anyone who has been a party to the proceedings before the first instance and has a legally protected interest justifying amendment or cancellation of the decision may lodge an appeal with the Appeal Committee.
2. Clubs may appeal against decisions sanctioning their players, officials or members. They shall have the written agreement of the person concerned
3. Any party intending to appeal must inform the SLFA Appeal Committee of its intention to do so in writing within three days (72 hours) of notification of the decision.
4. Reasons for the appeal must then be given in writing within a further time limit of seven days, this seven-day period begins after the first deadline of three days has expired.
5. If this requirement has not been complied with, the appeal is not admitted.

### *b. Grounds for appeal*

1. The appellant may object to inaccurate representation of the facts and/ or wrong application of the law.
2. The appellant shall lodge his intent to appeal on an official letter head, signed by the Chairman, and emailed to the SLFA manager within 72 hours of receiving the DC ruling.
3. The appellant then has 10 (Ten) days to provide the reasons for the Appeal, again on the Club's letterhead, signed by the club's Chairman and accompanied by the Appeal fee Proof of Payment.



4. The petition shall include the claim as well as the reasons and means of proof and be signed by the appellant or his representative.
5. Anyone wishing to lodge an appeal shall transfer an appeal fee of **R 5,000** to the SLFA before expiry of the time limit of 7 (Seven) days to formalise the appeal.
6. If this requirement has not been complied with, the appeal is not admitted.
7. This amount will be reimbursed to the appellant if he wins the case.
8. If the appeal is considered to be improper, costs and expenses shall be paid in addition to the deposit.
9. The appeal does not have a suspense effect except with regard to orders to pay a sum of money.
10. The right is reserved for an appeal to be made to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS)

*Disclaimer: Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in this handbook, The SLFA cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions. We ask for your assistance in advising The SLFA of any discrepancies that you may discover.*

*The SLFA reserves the right to amend the content of this handbook from time to time, or as deemed necessary.*





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