



FA CUP 2013/2014
RULES & REGULATIONS

SIERRA LEONE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

FA CUP

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. THE SIERRA LEONE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION CUP (FA CUP)

- 1.1 The SLFA Executive Committee, acting in accordance with its statutory mandate shall appoint an Organizing Committee with exclusive rights to supervise and organize the Football Association (FA) Cup Competition every year.
- 1.2 The Organizing Committee shall be subjected only to the SLFA Executive body regarding the administration and organization of the competition.

2. THE FA CUP

- 2.1 The Organizing Committee shall supervise and organize the FA Cup Competition nationwide involving Second, First and Premier Divisions Football Clubs to determine the Club/s to represent Sierra Leone in the African Football Confederation Inter-Clubs and West African Football Union (WAFU) Competitions of the succeeding year.
- 2.2 The team that emerges as winner shall represent Sierra Leone in the CAF Confederation Cup and runner-up WAFU second slot Club Competition of the following year.
- 2.2. Whereas, due to an established case of force majeure, or other reasons, the FA Cup Winner could not be registered to compete in the CAF Confederation Cup of the following year, the SLFA reserves the right to register the Runner-up of the same competition and the team classified as third in that same competition shall be engaged in the WAFU 2 slot..

3. TROPHIES AND MEDALS

- 3.1 The SLFA shall provide a trophy, "The FA Cup Trophy" and 30 Gold and 30 Silver Medals for winner and runner-up respectively of the competition.
- 3.2 A presentation ceremony shall be held at a place and time to be decided by the Organizing Committee.

4. THE FA CUP TROPHY

- 4.1 The Trophy shall be the property of the SLFA
- 4.2 Any team that shall be presented with the Trophy should undertake to secure and maintain the Trophy while in its custody and shall return it not later than (30) day prior to the start of the following season.

4.3 Should the Trophy be lost, or be destroyed, or be damaged by fire or any other cause whilst under the care or custody of the said winning club, the latter shall refund to the said SLFA the amount of its current insured value, or the cost of thorough repair in addition to any other penalty which they said SLFA may impose, or the replacement value of the Trophy.

4.4 A replica of the Trophy shall be awarded to any team that has won it for 3 (three) consecutive times.

5. MEDALS

5.1 In addition to the Trophy, the SLFA shall present medals to each of the Players, Substitutes, five team officials and the match officials, of the FINAL match i.e. the Winning Team, the Runners-up, and the Referees.

5.2 When a player or a team official taking part in the final match is ordered to leave the field of play for misconduct, the medal to which he may be entitled shall be withheld at the discretion of Organizing Committee of the SLFA.

6. CONTROL OF THE COMPETITION

6.1 The Executive Committee shall delegate the entire control and management of the FA Cup Competition to Organizing Committee.

6.2 The Organizing Committee shall have powers to formulate the Rules and Regulations of the Competition and may amend or add to the Rules as they from time to time, deem necessary or expedient. Such Rules and Regulations shall be ratified by the SLFA Executive Committee.

6.3 Competing Clubs shall be bound by any contract entered into by the Organizing Committee and/or the Executive Committee of the SLFA in relation to the competition and all requirements in this respect shall be separately notified to the clubs from time to time.

6.4 Where any matter is not specifically mentioned in these Rules and Regulations the Organizing Committee shall have the power to take such action and impose penalties as it deem necessary.

7. ELIGIBLE CLUBS

7.1 The FA Cup Competition shall consist of Second, First and Premier Football Clubs duly registered with District, Regional FAs and the SLFA to participate in their Leagues.

8. DATES OF ENTRY/REGISTRATION

8.1 Clubs eligible to participate in the FA Cup shall complete the prescribed Entry Forms (Club Participation Form) and submit the completed Forms to the Secretariat of the SLFA or any authority that the General Secretary may assigned, together with the Entry Fee stipulated by the Organizing Committee no later than two (2) weeks (Fourteen 14 days) prior to the Kick-off of the Competition.

- 8.2 The completed Forms shall be submitted to the SLFA Secretariat with three (3) passport size photographs of the players (photos not more than six (6) months old) which shall be attached to the Forms. The Secretary of the club seeking to register the player shall endorse the reverse side of each photograph to certify the true likeness of the player.
- 8.3 Clubs registering players shall pay registration processing fees as determined from time to time by the Organizing Committee and, in addition, submit to the SLFA Secretariat the player (s) appropriate insurance certificate and any contract signed between the club and the non-amateur players.
- 8.4 All clubs shall ensure that their total number of registered players does not exceed the number approved by the SLFA in consultation with the clubs from time to time.
- 8.5 In registering players, full names (surname and other names) shall be given. (incomplete names or aliases shall not be accepted)
- 8.6 After registration, any changes in the particulars of players shall be notified to the SLFA Secretariat immediately and not later than fourteen (14) days from the date of the change.
- 8.7 The Organizing Committee shall decide the closing date for the registration of players for the competition.
- 8.8 For the avoidance of doubt, a period of 14 days shall be given by the Organizing Committee for the registration of players prior to the kick-off of the competition every year.
- 8.9 The SLFA Secretariat shall keep Registers and/or Electronic files in which the full name, (aliases prohibited), date of birth and other particulars, of all players for each club shall recorded.
- 8.10 Each participating club shall complete a Players Registration Forms for all its intended players and submitted together with the Club Registration forms at the SLFA's Secretariat or any other place appointed by the General Secretary for that purpose.
- 8.11 Where a club seeks to register a player who has been duly transferred from another club within the SLFA, it shall, in addition to satisfying all the requirements of paragraphs 8.2 to 8.3 of this Regulations, submit to the SLFA Secretariat, before registration, the following:-
- a) A Letter of full clearance from the player's former club with explicit instructions to the effect that "THIS PLAYER "A" HAS BEEN TRANSFERRED BY US, CLUB "C" TO CLUB "Z" and
 - b) A completed SLFA Form "TI" duly signed by all three parties
- 8.12 Where a club seeks to register a New- Player, it shall, in addition to satisfying all the requirements of paragraphs 8.2 – 8.3 of these Regulations,

submit to the Board's Secretariat, before registration, a completed SLFA Form "T2" duly signed by the players and the clubs.

- 8.13 For the purpose of this Article, a new player shall be a player who has never been previously registered for any club and shall include a player promoted from a nursery club to the team of the club registering him.
- 8.14 Where a club seeks to register player loaned from another club, it shall, in addition to satisfying all the requirements of paragraphs 8.2 – 8.3 of this Regulations, submit to the SLFA Secretariat, before registration, a copy of the Loan Agreement duly signed by all the parties.
- 8.15.1 The Registration of a player under contract shall be valid for the duration of his contract and in the case of an amateur player, for two (2) FA Cup Seasons.
- 8.15.2 All documents pertaining of a Non-amateur player shall be lodged with the SLFA Secretariat the start of the Competition.
- 8.16.1 A club which renews or extends the period of a player's contract that has expired or retains an amateur player after two (2) FA Cup Seasons, shall re-register the player in accordance with the appropriate Rules.
- 8.16.2 For the avoidance of doubt, there shall be no re-registration of player(s) my means of validation of card(s)
- 8.17 The SLFA Secretariat shall upon receipt of a duly completed Player's Registration Form, in accordance with the Rules and Regulations, issue a License Card to the player.

9. REGISTRATION OF FOREIGN PLAYERS

- 9.1 Clubs may register a maximum of five (5) foreign players but not more than three (3) can participate in any one match.
- 9.2 A foreign player shall be registered by a Club only after the production of:
- a) His International Transfer Certificate (ITC), where necessary, and
 - b) The necessary Work and Residential Permits issued by the Sierra Leone Immigration Authorities to the SLFA. The number and date of each permit shall be quoted on the player's registration card.
- 9.3 The authenticity of information on a player's License Card shall be the responsibility of the club, and not the SLFA Secretariat.

10. QUALIFIED PLAYERS

- 10.1 All players is (amateurs or non-amateur) who have been duly registered in accordance with these Regulations are qualified to take part in the competition.

- 10.2 A player is qualified or eligible to play if he fulfils one of the following conditions:-
- 10.2.1 He is not registered for any other National Association and is resident in Sierra Leone continuously for a period of three (3) months before registration;
- 10.2.2 Where the player belongs to a Club of another National Association, his Transfer Certificate must be obtained in accordance with the provisions contained in the FIFA Regulations on the Transfer of Players.
- 10.2.3 Such a player should not have been disqualified under the Statutes, Rules and Regulations of the SLFA or any other Association whose rules are in conformity with those of the SLFA

11. UNQUALIFIED PLAYERS

- 11.1 An unqualified player is:-
- a. An unregistered player;
 - b. A player suspended by the SLFA from participating in football competitions indefinitely or for a specific period;
 - c. A player banned from participating in football competitions organized by WAFU, CAF, FIFA or other similar organizations to which the SLFA may be affiliated.
 - d. A player who has registered for more than one club or with any club registered with another National Association/League
- 11.2 An unqualified player shall not take part in any official competition organized by the SLFA.
- 11.3 For the avoidance of doubt, a player shall not be deemed to have been fielded (or took part) in a match unless he actually played in the match.
- 11.4 Without prejudice to the foregoing provisions of this Article, the Organizing Committee shall, in all cases, reserve the right to locate and punish the guilty party/parties.
- 11.5 In the event of the player being the sole guilty party, the result of the match that he played in shall stand as at the close of the match.
- 11.6 A player who is found guilty of entering into Contact with more than one club shall be suspended from participating in matches and competitions organized and/or sponsored by the SLFA for a period of one (1) football season without prejudice to any other measures taken by the Organizing Committee.

12. ORGANISATION OF THE COMPETITION

- 12.1 The FA Cup competition shall be organized in various phases.

- 12.2 There shall be a preliminary, first, second, third, quarter- finals, semi- finals and final rounds of the competition. Apart from the Final match, or in a case of force majeure recognized by the Organizing Committee, all matches in these rounds shall be played on a Home and Away Basis.
- 12.3 To decide the winners of each qualifier, the following order shall be followed:
- (a) Highest number of points collected from the two matches
 - (b) Better goal difference collected from the two matches
 - (c) More away goals scored than the opposing team
 - (d) Winner of a Penalty shoot out
- 12.4 There shall be 3 (Three) points for winner, 1(One) point for a draw and zero (0) for lose

13. FA CUP FIXTURES

- 13.1 The FA Cup fixtures shall be drawn and published by the Organizing Committee and it shall be deemed responsible for any amendment or alteration thereto.
- 13.2 For the preliminary stages, the Organizing Committee may delegate this function to Districts and Regional FAs under its supervision.

14. WITHDRAWAL OF CLUB(S) FROM THE COMPETITION/MATCHES

- 14.1 Any club intending to withdraw from the Competition must give notice of its intention to do so to the SLFA Secretariat not later than eight (8) days before the commencement of the competition.
- 14.2 A club withdrawing before the commencement of the competition shall be liable to a fine of Five Hundred Thousand Leones (Le 500,000). A compensation to be determined by the Organizing Committee may also be imposed.
- 14.3 Withdrawals which are notified less than eight (8) days before the commencement of the competition shall entail a fine of Five Hundred Thousand Leones (Le 500,000) as well as suspension from the next season's competition. A compensation to be determined by the Organizing Committee may also be imposed.
- 14.4 Withdrawal which are notified after the Competition has started but before the affected club has played its first match shall entail a fine of One Million Leones

15. VENUES

- 15.1 All matches shall take place on the assigned venue of the Home/Host Club either in Freetown or in a Provincial Town depending on the participating Clubs.

- 15.2 Each venue shall have an enclosed ground where entrance tickets are sold to spectators
- 15.3 A club not having an enclosed ground where entrance tickets are sold shall obtain the consent of the Organizing Committee to use an alternative ground.
- 15.4 Clubs shall not play on a neutral ground without the consent of the Organizing Committee.
- 15.5 In the case of a replay match, the Organizing Committee shall approve the venue.
- 15.6 The Organizing Committee shall have the power to order any match to be played on an alternative ground if it is deemed necessary.
- 15.7 The Organizing Committee shall have the powers to rebrand the venue(s) of the match with billboards or any form of advertisements of the sponsor(s) in consultation with the SLFA Executive Committee

16. DIMENSION OF FIELD OF PLAY AND GROUND FACILITIES

- 16.1 The dimensions of the field of play for all matches shall be in accordance with the FIFA Laws of the Game as follow:-
- 16.2 **LENGTH:** Maximum 120 yards (110 metres)
Minimum 110 yards (100 metres)
- 16.3 **BREADTH:** Maximum 80 yards (75 metres)
Minimum 70 yards (64 metres)
- 16.4 Goal nets must be used in all matches, and the field of play properly marked and provided with the correct appurtenances.
- 16.5 The playing area must be enclosed by a permanently fixed barrier, except those areas and spaces excluded from spectator viewing.
- 16.6 Adequate entrances and exits must be provided to guarantee the security and safety of players, officials and spectators.

17. PLAYING CONDITION OF THE GROUND

- 17.1 Each club must take every precaution to keep its grounds in good playing condition and, if necessary, the club may appeal to the Organizing Committee to detail a team of experts to ascertain the suitability of the venue of any of the Competition matches.
- 17.2 Subject to this rule, Referees shall have power to decide as to the fitness of the ground in all matches and must report at the grounds where the match is to be played at least one and half hours before the time of kick-off.
- 17.3 During the rainy-season (heavy rains), the Referee shall visit the grounds two (2) hours before the time of kick-off. If necessary, the home club may require

the Referee to visit the grounds two (2) hours or more before the time of kick-off, any time during the season.

18. CLUB COLOURS, KIT NUMBERING AND MODIFICATION OF TEAM LIST

- 18.1 Each team must wear the colours registered by its club. The colours (i.e. shirt, shorts, and socks) and their arrangement must be shown on the standard entry form (Club Participating Form) and must be communicated by the SLFA Secretariat to all the participating Clubs before the start of the Competition.
- 18.2 When, in the opinion of the referees, the official and duly registered colours of two (2) opposing teams are similar, the visiting team must change their colours.
- 18.3 If the match is played on a neutral venue, a draw shall be made to determine the team having to change its colours.
- 18.4 Every team must have a spare outfit, other than their original registered colours, available.
- 18.5 Players shirts shall be clearly numbered 1-30 on the back, in accordance with the team list to the Referee before any match and no change of numbers will be permitted during the match, except in the case of goalkeepers.
- 18.6 Every Club may, at its own discretion, modify the formation of its team, between one match and another, even in case of matches to be replayed, provided that only the players appearing on the list submitted in accordance with the stipulations of Rule 8 are used.
- 18.7 Competing Clubs shall carry the logo or any form of publicity of the sponsor(s) on their jerseys on the orders of the Organizing Committee. Defaulting Club(s) shall face sanctions to be prescribed by the Organizing Committee.
- 18.8 In the event of a conflict of interest, the decision of the Organizing Committee shall take precedent

19. DURATION OF MATCHES

- 19.1 The duration of each match shall be 90 minutes playing time (i.e. two periods of 45 minutes each) with half time interval of 15 minutes after the first 45 minutes.
- 19.2 The referee shall allow for time wasted or lost through accidents or other causes. The Referee is the sole judge of allowance of time whether lost through accidents or other causes and his decision on this matter is not subject to appeal.

- 19.3 The half-time interval shall not exceed fifteen (15) minutes.
- 19.4 Both competing teams shall enter the field of play, together, five (5) minutes prior to the kick-off time, of each half period of play along with the Match Officials.
- 19.5 At the end of each half of play, the match officials shall ensure that all the players retire to their respective dressing rooms before leaving the field of play.

20. KICK-OFF

- 20.1 All FA Cup Matches shall kick-off between 1:00pm (13:00hrs) and 8:00 pm (20:00hrs).
- 20.2 Competing teams of each match shall report to the Match Officials, at the place reserved for teams' inspection during the Pre-Match Meeting, one hour before the kick-off time.
- 20.3 A team that reports late shall be cautioned by the Referee and shall be liable to a fine of One Hundred Thousand Leones (Le 100,000), payable on or before the club's next match.
- 20.4 The Players (field and substitutes), Team Officials of each of the competing teams, whose names are registered on the Team Sheets, and the Match Officials shall proceed, in an orderly form, preceded by the Match Officials, from the inspection/dressing room to the playing area. The Referee, the Assistant Referees and the twenty two (22) competing players (or the field players not less than seven (7) from each team) shall then proceed directly onto the pitch (field of play) for the commencement of the game while the Match Commissioner, the fourth (4th) officials, the substitute players and the Team Officials proceed to their reserved seats.
- 20.5 In order to avoid any conflict related to the location of the Team Officials/Substitutes Bench, the allocated positions of each team shall be assigned as follows:- TEAM A (HOME TEAM) – Left side of fourth (4th) official's desk.
- TEAM B (VISITING TEAM) – Right side of fourth (4th) official's desk.
- 20.6 No unauthorized person should be accommodated by any of the participating clubs within the Technical Area and/on the Technical Bench.

- 20.7 Fine to be determined by the Organizing Committee but not less than One Hundred Thousand Leone (Le 100,000) shall be imposed on any Club that may violate the provisions of Rule 20.5 – 6

21. PRE-MATCH/TECHNICAL/CONSULTATIVE MEETING

- 21.1.1 On the eve of the match or the morning of the day of the match, the Match Commissioner shall convene a Pre-Match (Technical/Consultative) Meeting to be attended by the officials of both competing teams, Security Officer, Medial Officer and the designated referees for the match.
- 21.1.2 Officials of the teams must include a Leader of delegation, the Secretary of the team, and the Team Manager/Team Coach.
- 21.2 This will be a consultative meeting aimed at underlining and clarifying the main points of the rules governing the Competition and ensuring the fulfillment of all the conditions necessary for the conduct of the match. No minutes will be taken of this consultative meeting.
- 21.3 Any protest presented by a team at this consultative meeting will be noted by the Match Commissioner in his Report.
- 21.4 Any protest relating to issues, discussed/resolved or those that should have been resolved at the pre-match Meeting, presented by a competing team not represented at the said meeting will not be taken into consideration by the Match Commissioner.
- 21.5 A Club that fails to appear and/or be represented at the Pre-Match Meeting scheduled for its match, without reasonable cause, shall be liable to a fine of Fifty Thousand Leones (Le 50,000)

22. TEAM (S) FAILING TO APPEAR FOR A MATCH

- 22.1 If a team(s) fails to appear on the pitch for a scheduled match thirty (30) minutes after the designated kick-off time, the Referee shall declare the end of the match and submit a Report to the Board.
- 22.2 Where both teams fail to appear, the match shall be deemed to have been played with neither side earning any point. In addition, both teams shall be eliminated from the competition for good and the Organizing Committee reserves the right to take further action against the teams.

23. POSTPONEMENT OF MATCHES

- 23.1 Without prejudice to the authority of the Organizing Committee to postpone matches, request for the postponement of a match shall only be replayed

within twenty-four (24) hours of the scheduled date, unless the Committee decides otherwise.

23.2 Where a match is postponed or abandoned due to bad weather or other sufficient cause, it shall be replayed within twenty-four (24) hours of the scheduled date, unless the Organizing Committee decides otherwise.

23.3 The SLFA Organizing Committee shall determine the postponement of the match for a club engaged in an approved international match.

23.4 The Committee shall re-scheduled the postponed match.

24. FORFEITURE OF MATCHES

24.1 Offences committed by teams to warrant the forfeiture of a match:

- a) Team walks off the field of play
- b) Team refuses to continue play
- c) Team positions itself in such a way as to render the progress of the match impossible
- d) Player(s), a supporter(s), or an official(s) of a team initiates an act responsible for the abrupt end of a match
- e) A team arriving, late, thereby causing a late kick-off of the match, without reasonable cause, and renders the duration of the match to fall short of the scheduled period of play.
- f) A team that commits a fraud on the identity of a player or which allows a suspended or non qualified player to take part in a match.
- g) A team that fails to report for or fails to honour a match without just cause
- h) A team involves in a match, the results of which are found to be pre-determined or fixed

24.2 In respect of the offences cited in Rule 24 (a) to (f) no matter what the scores shall be at the time of the offence or at the end of the match, the offending team shall be considered as having lost the match, and accordingly three (3) points and three (3) goals shall be awarded in favour of the other team, unless the team is leading by a margin of more than three (3) goals at the time of the offence or when the match comes to an end, in which case, the scores shall be maintained.

- 24.3 In respect of an offence related to Rule 24 (g) the offending team shall be considered as having lost the match and accordingly three (3) points and three (3) goals shall be awarded in favour of the other team. The Organizing Committee reserves the right to apply further sanction(s)
- 24.4 In respect of an offence related to Rule 24 (h) the match shall be declared null and void and at least three (3) points shall be deducted from the accumulated points of the offending club(s).
- 24.5 Where each of the two (2) clubs commits an offence that is punishable by the forfeiture of the match, the match shall be considered as having been played, but with neither side being awarded or gained any point, no matter what the score shall be at the end of the match.

25. PROTESTS, APPEALS, RIGHTS

25.1 PROTEST CONCERNING THE QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

The protest regarding the qualifying of players shall:-

- a) be preceded by a nominal protest to be entered on the Match Form, before the match, by the captain of the protesting team and captain of the opposing team will be required to note the protest by countersignature;
- b) be later on confirmed by a letter (registered mail or by hand delivery) direct to the General Secretary of the SLFA not later than seven (7) days from the date of the match;
- c) be accompanied by a fee of One Hundred Thousand Leones (Le 100,000);
- d) A copy of protest should be served on the other club. Failure to do so shall attract a fine to be determined by the Organizing Committee.

26. ALL OTHER PROTESTS

- 26.1 All other protests shall be communicated directly to the General Secretary within twenty-four (24) hours from the end of the match concerned.
- 26.2 It must be accompanied by a fee of One Hundred Thousand Leones (Le 100,000)
- 26.3 Copies of the protest should be served on the offending club. Failure to do so shall attract a fine to be determined by the organizing committee.
- 26.4 A protest not accompanied by the appropriate protest fee shall not be considered.

26.5 The decisions taken by the referee on the ground during the match on matters of fact shall not be subject protests.

27. APPEALS

An appeal may be lodged to the Appeal Committee of SLFA against the decision of the Disciplinary Committee of SLFA or the Organizing Committee but not against those stipulated as final.

27.1 The rights of the appeal are fixed at Three Hundred Thousand Leones (Le 300,000), to be satisfied at the time of filing the appeal.

27.2 The appeal, in writing, must reach the General Secretary directly by hand or by Registered mail not later than twenty-four (24) hours after the decision of the appropriate Committee has been communicated in writing to the Club(s), officials(s), or player(s) concerned.

27.3 The appeal shall have no delaying effect except in Financial matters and fines

27.4 The decision of the Appeal Committee in any matter shall be final

28. FRAUD

28.1 If in the three (3) months following every match played within the frame work of this competition, the Organizing Committee is informed, no matter what the source may be, that a fraud infringing the sporting morality of the game was committed by either of the teams, an enquiry shall be conducted immediately.

28.2 In cause assertion is proven, the following measures shall be taken:

a) if the fraud had been committed in the First Round of the competition and if it is discovered before the start of the following Round i.e. the Second Round, the guilty team shall be withdrawn from the competition and shall be suspended from all SLFA organized and/or sponsored competitions for two (2) years.

b) If the fraud is discovered after the start of the following round i.e. the Second Round of the Competition, the guilty team shall be withdrawn from the league and will be suspended from all SLFA organized and/or sponsored Competitions for a period of three (3) years.

c) If the fraud has been committed during the final stages of the competition and the trophy has been awarded to the guilty club, the

trophy shall be recalled/withdrawn and will be awarded to Runner-up. The guilty team shall be suspended for three (3) years from all SLFA organized and/or sponsored competitions.

- d) If it established that the Regional/Area Association to which the team in question belongs has participated in the fraud by helping the guilty club, this Association shall be suspended from all SLFA organized and/or sponsored competitions for a period of not less than one (1) football season.
- e) The result of a team infringing Rules 28.2 (a) to 28.2 (d) above shall be declared null and void.

28.3 The cases not mentioned in this Section shall be decided upon by SLFA and or the Organizing Committee.

29. PLAYER(S) SANCTIONS

29.1 Without prejudice to the powers of the SLFA Disciplinary Committee, a player cautioned by a referee shall be warned in writing by the SLFA Secretariat for the first and the second offences. He shall be suspended from taking part in one match for any other subsequent offence.

29.2 In accordance with conditions contained in these Rules and Regulations, one match means a match in either the Premier League or FA Cup Competition.

29.3 For the avoidance of doubt, a caution (yellow card) received in the two competitions shall be counted as though both cautions (yellow cards) were received in one competition. It is therefore imperative that a player who received three (3) cautions (yellow cards) either in one competition or both the Premier League, Leagues sanctioned by SLFA and the FA Cup shall be liable to suffer a suspension of one (1) match.

29.4 A player who receives three (3) consecutive cautions (yellow card) shall be automatically suspended from playing the subsequent match either in the Premier League, Leagues sanctioned by the SLFA or the FA Cup Competition.

29.5 A player who receives, during the same match, two (2) cautions (yellow cards) shall incur an expulsion (indirect red card) and, consequently, automatic suspension from the next match. The two (2) cautions (yellow cards) that incurred the red card are rescinded.

- 29.6 If the same player accumulates, later or in the same competition, two (2) more cautions (yellow cards) in two different matches, then the player will be suspended for two (2) subsequent matches.
- 29.7 At the end of the League, the cautions (yellow card) which do not lead to a suspension shall be cancelled
- 29.8 If an abandoned match is to be played, any caution (yellow card) issued during that match shall be upheld. If the match is not to be replayed, the cautions (yellow cards) 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.
- 29.9 The SLFA Disciplinary Committee reserves the right to extend the duration of this automatic suspension.
- 29.10 If a player is guilty of serious unsporting behaviour as defined in law 12 of the Laws of the Game and is sent off (Shown a direct Red Card), any other caution (shown the yellow card) he has previously received in the same match is upheld.
- 29.11 An expulsion (Direct red card) automatically incurs suspension from the subsequent match, even if imposed in a match that is later abandoned and/or cancelled. In addition, a fine of at least Fifty Thousand Leones (Le 50,000) shall be imposed.

30. LAWS OF THE GAME

- 30.1 All matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game in force at the time of the Competition and as laid down by the International Football Association Board of FIFA (FIFA – IFAB)
- 30.2 In the case of any discrepancy in the interpretation of the Laws of the Game, the SLFA Referees Committee shall provide the acceptable interpretation.

31. MATCH OFFICIALS

- 31.1 Match Officials refer to Referees, Assistant Referees (including a fourth official) and a Match Commissioner.
- 31.2 Match Officials designated for the FA Cup competition must be on the most recent list of the Sierra Leone Football Association match officials (SLFAMOS) established by the SLFA Referees Committee

- 31.3 (a) The Referees Assistant Referees and Fourth Officials, for each match; will be appointed by the SLFA Referees Committee
- (b) The Organizing Committee shall designate the Match Commissioners.
- 31.4 The decisions of the SLFA Referees Committee on the appointment of Referees and Assistance Referees are final and not subject to appeal
- 31.5 If the Referee or one of the Assistant Referees is prevented from carrying out his duties, such Referee or assistant Referees shall be replaced by the Fourth official.
- 31.5.1 After each match, the Referee shall complete and sign the Official SLFA match Report Forms. He shall send this report (by hand delivery) to the SLFA Secretariat within Forty-Eight (48) hours of the end of the match.
- 31.5.2 The Referees and the Match Commissioners must send to the SLFA Secretariat, within Forty Eight (48) hours following the match, their report on the special SLFA Form accompanied by the list of the main and substitute players, and the team officials as they appear on the match form. They must mention the protests, if any.
- 31.6 On the Report Form, the Referee shall note all occurrences, such as misconduct of players leading to caution (Yellow Card) or expulsion (Red Card), unsporting behavior by supporters and/or officials or any other person acting on behalf of a club at the match and any other incident happening before, during and after the match in as much details as possible.

32. SPECIAL PROVISIONS

32.1 Financial Provisions

All participating teams shall cover the travel expenses of all its delegation

32.2 An agreement shall be made between the concerned Clubs in each match for the distribution of the receipts and other expenses. Notwithstanding any such Agreement the following dues shall be paid from the sale of tickets (gate takings) to:

- a) The SLFA – 10% (Ten Percent) of Gross receipts
- b) District FA – 5% (Five Percent) of Gross receipts
- c) Regional FA-5% (Five percent) of Gross receipts
- d) Host Club- 80% (Eighty Percent) of Gross receipts

- 32.3 The Organizing Committee shall pay the following expenses:
- a) The expenses of travel, board and feeding, and match fees of the designated match officials
- 32.3.1 The Host club shall ensure that the percentages due to SLFA and the District and Regional FAs on the match receipts reach their respective Secretariats a delay of 48 hours following the date of the match. Defaulting clubs shall have to pay a fine of Thirty Thousand Leones (Le 30,000) per day for each day of delay.
- 32.3.2 If in fourteen (14) days after the delay stipulated for in Rule 32.4 above, the percentage does not reach the FAs mentioned above, the defaulting club shall be eliminated from the competition pending further sanctions to be imposed by the Organizing Committee.
- 32.3.3 The host club shall ensure that all organizational expenses of a match are attended to, security at the match inclusive.

33 DISCIPLINARY PROVISIONS

- 33.1 The legal bodies of SLFA are:
- a) Disciplinary Committee
 - b) Appeals Committee
- 33.2 The decision making powers of certain committees of SLFA i.e. Organizing Committee and Referees Committee shall remain unaffected.
- 33.3 Forfeiture of Awards
- a) The person(s) required to return an award shall return all the benefits received, in particular sums of money and symbolic objects (medals, trophy etc.)
 - b) The money received shall always be returned in full.

34.1 OFFENCES BY CLUB OFFICIALS AND PLAYERS

A Club Officials or a member of a club who interferes with the progress of a match and/or incites players against other players and/or match officials or against the decisions of the match officials and/or encourages an unhealthy demonstration in whatever form commits an offence. He shall be liable to

disciplinary sanctions to be determined by the SLFA Disciplinary Committee.

34.2 The sprinkling of any form of liquid, powder or other concoctions in liquid or solid form in the field of play is forbidden and shall be punished by a fine to be determined by the SLFA Disciplinary Committee.

34.3 Clubs shall be held responsible for the misconduct of their supporters before, during and after a match.

34.4 Misconduct towards match officials away from the field of play, where that misconduct can be related or traced to a match, shall be dealt with as if it has been committed on the field of play.

34.5 The Person who has been sent off may be allowed into the stands, unless he is serving a stadium ban.

35 **MATCH SUSPENSION**

35.1 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 fields of play.

35.2 If a suspension is combined with a fine, the suspension may be prolonged until the fine has been paid in full

36 **BAN FROM DRESSING ROOMS AND/OR TECHNICAL AREA**

A ban from dressing rooms and/or Technical Area of the stadium deprives the someone of the right to enter any of the team's Match Officials' dressing rooms and/or the area immediately surrounding the field of play, and in particular to sit on the substitutes' bench nor to stay or being in the Technical Area.

37 **MISCONDUCT AGAINST PLAYERS OR PERSONS OTHER THAN MATCH OFFICIALS**

37.1 Including the automatic incurred, as mentioned in these Rules and Regulations, the overall suspension imposed on any player receiving a Direct Red Cards shall be for

- a) At least one (1) match for denying the opposing team a clear goal scoring opportunity (particularly by deliberately handling the ball) and in addition pay a fine of Fifty Thousand Leones (Le 50,000)

- b) At least two (2) matches for serious foul play (particularly in the case of the use of excessive or brute force) and shall in addition pay a fine of One Hundred Thousand Leones (Le 100,000)
 - c) At least two (2) matches for unsporting conduct towards an opponent or a person other than a match official and in addition pay a fine of One Hundred Thousand Leones (Le 100,000)
- 37.2 The right is reserved to punish an infringement in accordance with Rule 37.3
- 37.3 The Disciplinary Committee is responsible for:
- a) Sanctioning serious infringements which have escaped the Match Official's attention.
 - b) Rectifying obvious errors in the Referee's disciplinary decisions;
 - c) Extending the duration of a match suspension incurred automatically by an expulsion;
 - d) Pronouncing additional sanctions, such as a fine.

38 MISCONDUCT AGAINST MATCH OFFICIALS

- 38.1 Including the automatic suspension incurred, as mentioned in these Rules and Regulations, the overall suspension imposed on any person receiving a Direct Red Card shall be for:
- a) At least four (4) matches for unsporting conduct towards a match official and in addition pay a fine of Two Hundred Thousand Leones (Le 200,000)
 - b) At least six (6) months for assaulting (elbowing, punching, kicking etc.) a match official and in addition pay a fine of Three Hundred Thousand Leones (Le 300,000)
 - c) At least twelve (12) months for spitting at a match official and in addition pay a fine of One Million Leones (Le 1,000,000)
- 38.2 The right is reserved to punish an infringement in accordance with Rule 37.3 above.

39 BRAWL

- 39.1 Involvement in a brawl is sanctioned with a suspension for at least six (6) matches;

- 39.2 Anyone who has tried merely to prevent a fight, shield others or separate those involved in a brawl is not subject to punishment.

40 UNIDENTIFIED AGGRESSORS

If it is not possible to identify the perpetrator(s) of an offence, the SLFA Disciplinary Committee shall sanction the club or Association to which the aggressor(s) belong.

41 TEAM MISCONDUCT

- 41.1 The following constitute misconduct by a team and are sanctioned by a minimum fine of One Hundred Fifty Thousand Leones (Le 150,000)
- a) When at least four (4) players are cautioned (shown the yellow card) during one (1) match;
 - b) When at least three players are sent off (shown the red card) during one (1) match;
 - c) When several players together make threats or show force (cf Rule 50 against a match official

42 INCITING HATRED AND VIOLENCE

- 42.1 A player or team official who publicly incites others to hatred or violence will be sanctioned with match suspension for no less than twelve (12) months and with a minimum fine of Five Hundred Thousand Leones (Le 500,000)
- 42.2 In serious cases, in particular when the infringement is committed using the mass media (such as the press, radio or television) or if it takes place on a match day in or around a stadium, the minimum fine will be One Million Leones (Le 1,000,000)

43 PROVOKING THE GENERAL PUBLIC

Anyone who provokes the general public during a match will be suspended for two (2) matches and sanctioned with a minimum of One Hundred Thousand Leones (Le 100,000)

44 INELIGIBILITY OF A PLAYER

If a player takes part in an official match despite being ineligible, his team will be sanctioned by forfeiting the match (cf Rule 24) and paying a minimum fine of Sixty Thousand Leones (Le 60,000)

45 FAILURE TO PLAY AND ABANDONMENT

- 45.1 If a team refuses to play a match or to continue playing one which has begun, it will be sanctioned with a minimum fine of One Hundred Thousand Leones (Le 100,000) and will, in principle, forfeit the match (cf Rule 24).
- 45.2 In serious cases the team will also be disqualified from the competition in progress.

46 OFFENSIVE BEHAVIOUR

- 46.1 Anyone who insults someone in anyway, especially by using offensive gestures or languages, will be sanctioned with a match suspension.
- 46.2 If the perpetrator is a player, he will be suspended from at least two (2) matches and in addition pay a minimum fine of One Hundred Thousand Leones (Le 100,000)

A ban as well as a fine on performing any football related activity (administrative, sports or any other) may also be pronounced.

- 46.3 If the perpetrator is an official, he will be suspended from at least four (4) matches and in addition pay a minimum fine of Two Hundred Thousand Leones (Le 200,000). A ban as well as a fine on performing any football related activity (administrative, sports etc. or nay other) may also be pronounced.

47 RACISM

- 47.1 Anyone who publicly disparages, discriminate against or denigrates someone in a defamatory manner on account of race, colour, language, religion or ethnic origin, or perpetrates any other racist and/or contemptuous act, will be subject to match suspension for at least five (5) matches.

Furthermore, a Stadium ban and a fine of at least Two Hundred Thousand Leones (Le 200,000) will be imposed on the perpetrator, if a player.

- 47.2 If the perpetrator is an official, he will be subject to a March suspension for at least ten (10) matches. Furthermore, a Stadium ban and a fine of at least Three Hundred Thousand Leones (Le 300,000) will be imposed.
- 47.3 If spectators display banners bearing racist slogans, or are guilty of any other racist and/or contemptuous behavior at a mach, the appropriate body will impose a sanction of at least Three Hundred Thousand Leones (Le 300,000) on the club that the spectators concerned support and force it to play its next official match without spectators. If the spectator cannot be

identified as supporters of one or the other club, the host club will be sanctioned accordingly.

47.4 Any spectator who is guilty of any of the offences specified under Rules 47.1, 47.2, 47.3 above will be banned from entering any Stadium for at least two (2) years.

47.5 If any player, or club official or spectator perpetrates any kind of racist or contemptuous act as described in Rules 49.2 and/or 49.3 above, three (3) points will automatically be deducted from the team concerned, if identified, after the first offence. In the case of a second offence, the team will be relegated.

47.6 Sanctions imposed on the basis of this Rule may be reduced or even disregarded if the player, team, or club concerned can prove that it was not or was only minimally responsible for the offences in question or if other major reasons justify it, particularly if the offences were provoked intentionally to cause a player, team, or club to be the procedure for accepting mitigating circumstances.

48 INTIMIDATION/THREAT

48.1 Anyone who intimidates a match official with serious threats will be sanctioned with a fine of at least Thirty Thousand Leones (Le 30,000) and a match suspension.

48.2 Anyone who uses violence or threats to pressurize 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 Thirty Thousand Leones (Le 30,000) and a match suspension.

49 DOPING

Doping is strictly prohibited. The use of doping substances shall be severely punished and the Organizing Committee shall have the right to carry out anti-doping control test at any time before, during, recess, and after the match in accordance with the conditions prescribed in the SLFA Disciplinary Code.

50 GENERAL

Matter not provided under these Rules shall be decided by the Organizing Committee.

51 ADOPTION AND ENFORCEMENT

51.1 The Executive Committee of SLFA ratified and adopted these Rules in accordance with the SLFA Constitution

51.2 The Rules come into force immediately