



SAFF

الاتحاد السعودي لكرة القدم
SAUDI ARABIAN FOOTBALL FEDERATION

Competition & Tournament Regulations

Saudi Arabian Football Federation

2023

Disclaimer: the official and binding language of the Competition & Tournament Regulations is Arabic. This English-language translation is provided as a guide and is for informational purposes only. In the event of any discrepancy between this version and the binding Arabic version, the latter shall prevail.

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Chapter I: Definitions

Article (1): Definitions

The following terms and expressions shall wherever used herein have the meanings set out opposite thereto. A reference to the singular includes the plural and vice versa, unless the context requires otherwise.

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| Kingdom | : Kingdom of Saudi Arabia |
| Ministry | : Ministry of Sports |
| Federation | : Kingdom of Saudi Arabia |
| Board | : Board of Directors of the Saudi Arabian Football Federation (SAFF) |
| FIFA | : Fédération International de Football Association “International Federation of Association Football” (FIFA) |
| Asian Confederation | : Asian Football Confederation (AFC) |
| Statutes | : SAFF Statutes |
| Regulations | : SAFF Competitions Regulations. |
| Committee | : The Competition Committee. |
| Organizing Body | : The Competition Committee or sub-committees in areas or temporary committees in charge of organizing and issuing match tables and monitoring implementation thereof. |
| Club | : A sports establishment or company having an independent legal personality, officially licensed by the Ministry of Sports and approved by Federation. |

- Game** : Football
- Player** : An amateur or professional player registered with any club affiliated to the Federation.
- Administrator and Technician** : Every person included in the official statement of the match as part of the administrative, technical and medical staff of the club team.
- Match List** : A form prepared for registering players and the technical staff.
- Official Card** : A card issued by the Organizing Body and granted to all administrative and technical staff throughout the Competition or tournament to permit them to be present in specific places.
- Sports Season** : The period annually determined by the Federation before the start of the Sports Season for local official competitions. Said period starts with the first official match and ends with the last official match.
- Annual Circular** : The circular annually issued by the Competition Committee prior to or after the Sports Season; stating the Competition table, conditions and instructions.
- Circulars** : Periodical guidelines issued by SAFF to clubs.
- Team** : All national teams affiliated to SAFF.
- League** : A juristic personality that is administratively, financially and organizationally independent and works under the auspices of SAFF.

- Pro League** : Saudi Pro League and Saudi First Pro League organizing and managing the Pro League.
- Force Majeure** : Any unforeseeable emergency and beyond control event that may stop, prevent or suspend any match or competition including without limitation adverse bad weather, floodlights failure, aviation conditions and any other similar circumstances.
- Match Official** : Referee, linesmen, fourth official, video assistant referee (VAR), match commissioner, referee assessor, match coordinator, persons in charge of protection and any other persons appointed by the Federation to assume any match-related responsibility.
- Infield** : The area including the football playground and surrounding seats for technical and administrative staffs and players, track and dressing room corridors.

Chapter II: Formation, Powers & Meetings

Article (2): Committee Formation

- 1- The Committee is formed by a resolution of the Board. The Committee is comprised of Chairman, deputy chairman and three (3) members experienced in the football industry and fields related to game competitions and organization.
- 2- The Board shall appoint the Committee chairman and members. The chairman shall select a deputy thereof from its members.

Article (3): Powers of the Committee

- 1- Organize and manage competitions, official and friendly matches except for Saudi Pro League and First Division League;
- 2- Prepare the schedules for competitions and matches organized thereby;
- 3- Prepare the schedules, places and times of the matches organized thereby;
- 4- Approve results of the matches and competitions organized thereby; and
- 5- Propose introduction of new competitions and tournaments it deems necessary to hold to develop and reinforce the level of the Game

Article (4): Committee Meetings

- 1- The Committee meets periodically and where necessary at the invitation of its chairman or his deputy. The meeting shall be valid if attended by absolute majority of the Committee members including the chairman or his deputy.
- 2- The Committee may invite any persons it may deem appropriate to attend its meetings with a view to assist it in the issues submitted thereto provided that they have no right to vote.
- 3- The Committee resolutions are issued by absolute majority of votes of present members. Where there is a tie; the chairman shall have a casting vote. The Committee resolutions shall be held valid upon issuance thereof.
- 4- All Committee resolutions are final, enforceable and incontestable.

Chapter III: Official and Friendly Competitions, Tournaments and Contests

Article (5): Sports Season

- 1- SAFF determines the start and end of the Season subject to the laws and guidelines issued to this effect.

Article (6): Organization of Local Competitions and Tournaments

- 1- The Competition Committee shall declare the names of teams participating in all competitions based on SAFF determination of the number of teams participating in tournaments and championships of different divisions prior to the start of every season.
- 2- The Federation establishes the rules and conditions of the system of competitions and tournaments organized thereby in terms of management, and how they are held, and issues the regulations and respective penalties thereof. The Federation may introduce any competitions as it may deem

necessary.

- 3- The Federation grants titles and awards for these competitions and tournaments; and supervises and controls all football activities held all over the Kingdom according to the respective laws, regulations and resolutions.
- 4- The Organizing Body organizes local competitions and tournaments all over the Kingdom.
- 5- The Organizing Body sets the tables of the competitions and tournaments it organizes and supervises and may amend said tables where it deems this necessary
- 6- The clubs shall participate in all official competitions and tournaments for all divisions they are registered there-in; and carry out the guidelines issued by the Federation and sub- committees in the regions and governorates. Where clubs fail to participate in any tournament or competition; the matter shall be referred to the Organ-izing Body to take proper actions.
- 7- The Organizing Body may hold any match without au-dience on a neutral territory or prevent holding a match on any playground for safety and security grounds, lack of approved playgrounds in the host team city or any other force majeure events that require the same and it may also take proper actions as it may deem appropri-ate.
- 8- Where matches cannot be held or completed due to force majeure events and this does not conflict with the laws and regulations regulating the game in the King-dom; the Organizing Body may delay the match or re-sume it in the following day. Should an official match be held on the playground; the Organizing Body shall then set the time it deems appropriate for the match.

Article (7): Classification

1- Sports clubs affiliated to the Federation are classified into five divisions according to the technical level:

1-1 Professional League Teams;

1-2 First division teams;

1-3 Second division teams;

1-4 Third division teams; and

1-5 Fourth division teams;

2- Sports clubs affiliated to the Federation are classified into five divisions according to age category:

2-1 First division teams

2-2 U-19 division teams

2-3 Junior U-17 division teams

2-4 U-15 division teams

2-5 U-13 division teams

Article (8): Organization of International Competitions, Tournaments and Contests

The Federation organizes official and friendly competitions, tournaments and contests according to the regional, Arab, continental, international or Olympic obligations as follows:

- 1- Regional: These competitions are organized during their specific occasions according to their regulations and laws that do not conflict with the International Federation regulations and laws.
- 2- Arab: These competitions are organized and controlled by the Arab Federation according to their regulations and laws that do not conflict with the International Federation regulations and laws.
- 3- Continental: These competitions are organized by the Regional Federation according to their regulations and laws that do not conflict with the International Federation regulations and laws.
- 4- International: These competitions are organized and controlled by the International Federation according to its regulations and laws.

Article (9): Collective Tournaments

The collective tournaments are held within or outside the Kingdom and organized and controlled by civil, regional, Arab, continental or international federations or competent authorities.

Article (10): Conditions of Tournaments

- 1- All tournaments are organized by competent authorities or clubs are held within the Kingdom subject to the consent of the Federation.
- 2- To obtain the Federation consent; the Organizing Body shall submit the following information:
 - 2-1 Name of tournament;
 - 2-2 Objective;

- 2-3 Venue;
- 2-4 Duration;
- 2-5 Approved budget;
- 2-6 Participating teams;
- 2-7 Match format, conditions and guidelines;
- 2-8 Name of playgrounds for matches and training;
- 2-9 Source of finance (financial resources); and
- 2-10 Accommodation

3- A work team shall be delegated by the Committee to supervise the Tournament.

Article (11): Friendly Matches

- 1- Local friendly matches: A friendly match held between two clubs affiliated to the Federation whether the match is held within or outside the Kingdom.
- 2- International friendly matches: A friendly match held between two clubs from two countries affiliated to the International Federation whether the match is held within or outside the Kingdom.

Article (12): Friendly Matches Conditions

- 1- Internal matches (with local teams):
 - 1-1 The written consent of the Federation or sub-committee shall be obtained at least three (3) days prior to the match date.
 - 1-2 The sub-committee, on which playground the match is played, shall comply

with the guidelines of the Federation and competent authorities in connection with this match by requesting the appointment of approved referees and a match commissioner. The host club shall pay all relevant financial costs.

2- International matches (with foreign teams):

2-1 An application for international matches held within or outside the Kingdom shall be made to the Federation 21 days in advance according to the conditions of the regional federation for foreign matches and the Federation shall take proper actions for obtaining the necessary approvals.

2-2 The club is permitted to engage some players from another team in friendly matches, subject to the consent of the Federation and the other club.

Chapter IV: Match Management

Article (13): Match Duration

1- The duration of matches of the first division, youth, juniors and U-15 is ninety (90) minutes on two equal halves.

2- The duration of U-13 teams is sixty (60) minutes on two equal halves.

Article (14): Administrative Procedures of Official Matches

1- The administrative official of the team shall provide the Match Commissioner with a list of the names of (20) team players (including 9 substitutes), unless the number of substitute list in the competition is increased by a circular stating the player division, jersey number and official card issued by the Organizing Body.

2- The administrative and technical staff accompanying the team shall be registered according to the respective nature of their work.

3- Non-Saudi players shall be registered in the match list according to the number and conditions set forth in the Professional Regulations and status of players

and their transfer in the Federation.

- 4- The above match list set forth in Clause (1) and Player Cards shall be handed over to the Match Commissioner after being approved and signed by the administrative official of the team ninety (90) minutes prior to kick-off. This list shall be final.
- 5- The players and coaches' cards issued by the Organizing Body shall be verified by the Match Commissioner and a referee to ascertain of the identity and numbers of players and compare the same with the match list.
- 6- The Match Commissioner shall keep cards of all players recorded in the match list including those who are not present on the playground up until kick-off.
- 7- Players who have been recorded but are not present on the playground shall be removed from the match list and marked as absent. The cards shall be handed over to the administrative official of the team at the time the kick-off whistle is blown.
- 8- No name may be added to or replaced in the match list after it has been delivered to the Match Commissioner. If an essential player of the 11-player list gets injured during warm- up; he shall be replaced with a substitute without being counted as a replacement provided that the injured player is finally removed from the match list and no replacement is added thereto.
- 9- The match referee is responsible for administrative procedures where the Match Commissioner is absent and he may entrust any assistants he deems fit to carry out said duty.
- 10- A player who is not recorded in the match list or does not hold a player card for the sports season in which the match is held may not participate.
- 11- Where the team cards are not fully provided on grounds of force majeure events; the match shall be held provided that:
 - 11-1 The Match Commissioner and the fourth official shall check the

identities of the players participating in the match through their national ID cards for Saudi players or passports for Non-Saudi players.

11-2 The fingerprints of junior players, not holding national ID cards, shall be obtained and they shall be photographed along with the referee before the match to ascertain their identities during investigations in case any objection is made in connection therewith.

11-3 The matter is referred to the Organizing Body to take proper decisions on either case above.

Article (15): Technical Procedures in Official Matches

1- Only match officials, security officers, paramedics and photographers holding official cards approved by the Organizing Body are permitted to be present infield in addition to the players appearing in the match list, and a maximum of (10) persons of the technical, medical and administrative staff of the team, including the following:

1-1 Team Manager or Team Administrator;

1-2 Technical Manager;

1-3 Physician; and

1-4 Physiotherapist.

The presence of the club's president, all members of the board of directors, the executive director and the general supervisors of the administrative sections of football teams, in any capacity whatsoever, is prohibited from sitting on the bench in all grades and in all categories. Prohibited person are fully banned from having access to the football playground prior to, during half time interval and after the end of the match.

2- The Match Commissioner shall send any extra number away from substitute

benches before or during the match. The Match Commissioner shall further verify their appearance and remove the names of those who fail to appear from the name registration statement.

- 3- Reserve players and officials registered in the match start list shall wear a sports uniform different from the colors worn by the players of the team and match officials as specified in the approved match card.
- 4- The club may not register a player who is not entitled to participate in the match in the list of the match within the names of the substitute players.
- 5- Players on the bench are subject to instructions of the referee, whether they participate in the match or not, including administrators and technicians.
- 6- The football playground shall be watered and the lawn mowed where necessary with the same being approved by the Match Commissioner in accordance with the system approved by the International Federation.
- 7- The host team substitute bench shall be to the left of the grand platform.
- 8- The visiting team audience shall occupy 30% of stands and the home team audience shall occupy 70%, unless the teams agree otherwise.

Article (16): Technical Area

- 1- The technical area shall extend to one meter from each side of the substitute benches area and extend to one meter before the touchline.
- 2- Only one person of the administrative and technical staff may give technical directives during the match within the specific technical area of the playground and shall immediately return to his bench after giving said directives.
- 3- The team doctor and physiotherapist may access the football playground when play is stopped where the Referee so permits.

Chapter V: Computation of Results

Article (17): Determination of Positions

- 1- In all local competitions and tournaments of all divisions held based on the league or group format; teams gain three points for a win, one point for a draw and no points for losses.
- 2- Teams are ranked downwardly according to the total points obtained by each club in the tournament matches.
- 3- Where two or more teams have scored the same number of points in any local tournaments for all divisions held based on the league or group format; the final positions at the end of the tournament shall be determined according to the following top-down order:
 - 3-1 The club that has acquired the highest number of points from the match (matches) held between the clubs equal in points;
 - 3-2 The club scoring the highest difference (goals for minus goals against) in the match (matches) held between the clubs equal in points (with the exclusion of the away goal rule);
 - 3-3 The club scoring the highest number of goals in the match (matches) held between the clubs equal in points (with the exclusion of the away goal rule);
 - 3-4 Where the tie remains between two or more teams following the application of Clauses (3- 1) through (3-3) of this Article; provisions of Clauses (3-1) through (3-3) shall be re- applied for matches played by the teams equal in points;
 - 3-5 The team that has the highest goal difference (goals for minus goals against) in all Competition;
 - 3-6 The team scoring the highest number of goals in all tournaments.

3-7 Where the two teams equal in the number of points play the last match; the match shall go to extra time as a new match (with the exclusion of the rule of the away goal rule). In the event of a draw in extra time; both teams shall resort to penalty kicks.

3-8 The club with fewer score as a result of receiving yellow and red cards by its players in the tournament matches (The red card is assigned three (3) points and the yellow card one (1) point).

3-9 If the tie remains as set forth in Clauses from (3-1) through to (3-8) of this Article and the teams equal in number of points are (more than two) or (two teams not playing together on the playground); a play-off match (matches) shall be held between teams equal in points. The Organizing Body shall determine the mechanism, time and place where said match (matches) are held.

4- If two or more teams are equal in points in any local tournaments of all divisions held based on the league or group format; the positions during the tournament and till the pre- final round thereof shall be determined according to the following descending order:

4-1 Highest goal difference (goals for minus goals against) in the whole tournament;

4-2 Team scoring the highest number of goals in the whole tournament; and

4-3 Best placed team in the tournament for the last sports season.

5- Where there is a tie during the original time in knockout tournaments held in floodlit stadiums; the match shall go to extra time as follows:

5-1 Thirty (30) minutes on two equal halves except for Un-13 clubs in the

Kingdom where the extra time is twenty (20) minutes on two equal halves.

5-2 Where the tie remains after the end of the extra time; both teams shall directly resort to penalty kicks from the penalty mark according to the directives of the International Federation and the Main Referee Committee.

6- Where there is a tie during the original time in knockout tournaments held in unlit stadiums; both teams shall directly resort to penalty kicks from the penalty mark according to the directives of the International Federation and the Main Referee Committee.

7- In two-legged tie format; the following shall apply:

7-1 The team scoring the highest points in both matches shall go to the next round.

7-2 In the event of a tie in the number of points; the goal difference (goals for minus goals against) shall be considered.

7-3 If the tie is not broken; both teams shall go to extra time on the basis of two equal halves of thirty (30) minutes with the exclusion of the away goal rule for all tournaments except for U-13 clubs in the Kingdom where the extra time is twenty (20) minutes.

7-4 Where the tie remains; both teams shall resort to penalty shootout (from the penalty mark) to decide the result according to the directives of the International Federation and the Main Referee Committee.

8- Where two or more teams have the same points for determining the first position in any tournament held in the regions; kindly refer to Clause (3) of this

Article provided that where only two teams are engaged; Clause (7) of this Article shall then apply.

- 9- Where a team, in two-legged tie tournament format, has failed to complete the match for any reason except for abstaining from playing the official matches set forth in the Disciplinary Regulations of the Federation; it shall then be held to have lost both matches.
- 10- There is no advantage to score away goals in all tournaments and competitions.

Article (18): Match Suspension

- 1- In the event where the Referee decides to suspend the match before the end of the original time or during an extra time half due to a force majeure; the following procedures apply:
 - 1-1 The match shall be suspended for thirty (30) minutes to allow conditions to improve sufficiently to restart the match, unless the Referee decides that the match can be resumed earlier.
 - 1-2 The Referee may at his discretion stop the match for another thirty (30) minutes if he sees that the additional suspension period is not sufficient to restart the match otherwise he shall, upon the lapse of the thirty-minute suspension, declare that the match cannot be completed.
 - 1-3 If the match has not been completed, the Organizing Body shall take a decision within two (2) hours of the Referee's decision not to resume the match.
 - 1-4 No appeals may be filed against the decisions set out in this Article and they shall be held final.
- 2- In the event of resumption of the match after suspension due to a force majeure event or any other ground following start thereof, the match shall be

resumed based on the same result at the time of suspension and no new full match is played. The following rules shall be considered to resume the match:

2-1 The match shall be resumed with the same main and substitute players in the field at the time of match suspension.

2-2 No new substitute players may be added to the team official list.

2-3 Each team is entitled to the replacements it could have made prior to suspension of the match.

2-4 Players sent off during the match may not be replaced.

2-5 All penalties imposed prior to suspension of the match shall apply to the remaining time thereof.

2-6 The match kick-off date, time (the following day) and venue shall be set by a resolution from the Organizing Body.

2-7 Any other issues necessitating more resolutions shall be handled by the Organizing Body.

Article (19): Match Cancellation

If it is not possible to start the match on time as a result of a force majeure event; the following actions shall be taken:

- 1 The match start shall be suspended for at least thirty (30) minutes unless the Referee decides to resume the match earlier before a decision is made to reschedule the time of the match.
- 2 The match start shall be suspended for a maximum of thirty (30) minutes if the Referee sees that such delay time will permit start of match otherwise the Referee shall at the end of the second thirty-minute delay period declare the match cancelled.
- 3- In the event of cancellation, the Organizing Body shall, within two (2) hours from Referee's decision, decide whether to reschedule the match time taking all sports or organizational considerations into account or to take any other

procedure or action concerning the continuity of the tournament.

- 4- No appeals may be made against the above decisions of this Article and these decisions shall be held final and binding.

Chapter VI: Organization of Competitions and Tournaments

Article (20): Saudi League Fourth Division

- 1- All teams of the Saudi League Fourth Division take part in this Competition. The championship matches are held in (two stages).
- 2- The first stage (preliminary qualifiers):

The teams of the clubs participating in the League are distributed to only one group or more according to Annex No. (1). The matches of each group are held in a full league system (back and forth) to determine the teams of the clubs qualified for the second stage according to the mechanism adopted before the tournament scope. Kindly see the determination of positions in Chapter V, paragraph 3 of Article 17 of these regulations.

- 3- The second stage (final rounds):

3-1 Thirty Two (32) teams shall qualify for the final stage from the teams of clubs qualified from the first stage (preliminary qualifiers) at the level of regions and governorates according to the mechanism approved by the Federation before the start of the tournament. A draw is held to determine the matches and stadiums of this stage in each of the roles (4- 8- 16 - 32 - final).

3-3 The matches of the rounds (8-16-32) shall be held in a knockout manner of two times to determine the teams qualified for the next round. In the event of a tie (see the positions in Chapter V, paragraph 7 of Article 17 of these

regulations).

3-4 The matches of the round of four and the final are held in a knockout manner from one time and in the event of a tie (see the positions in Chapter V, paragraph 5 of Article 17 of these regulations).

3-5 The third-place finisher is determined based on the best result in the last four matches.

Article (21): U-19 and U-17 League (Premier Division)

- 1- These two tournaments will be attended by teams of the U-19 and U-17 Premier Division clubs.
- 2- The matches of the two championships are held in a full league manner (Two-legged tie).
- 3- The team with the most points gets the league championship.
- 4- In the event of a tie in points between two or more teams (kindly see the Positions in Chapter V, paragraph 3 of Article 17 of these Regulations).

Article (22): U-19 and U-17 League (First Division)

- 1- These two tournaments will be attended by teams of the U-19 and U-17 First Division clubs.
- 2- The matches of the two championships are held in a full league manner (back and forth).
- 3- The team with the most points gets the league championship.
- 4- In the event of a tie in points between two or more teams (kindly see the Positions in Chapter V, paragraph 3 of Article 17 of these Regulations).

Article (23): Saudi U-19 and U-17 League (Second Division)

1- The teams of other clubs that do not participate in the Premier and First Divisions are the (Second Division).The tournament is held at the level of regions and governorates in two stages.

2- The first stage (preliminary qualifiers):

2-1 The teams of the clubs participating in the (League) are distributed to only one or more groups according to Annex No. (1). The matches of one group are held in a full league system (Two-legged tie) and one or more teams from each group qualify for the round (32) according to the approved mechanism (kindly see the positions in Chapter V, paragraph 3 of Article 17 of these regulations).

3- The second stage (final rounds):

3-1 Thirty Two (32) teams) from the teams of clubs qualified from the first stage (preliminary qualifiers) at the level of regions and governorates shall qualify for the final stage according to the mechanism approved by the Federation before the start of the tournament. The draw is held to determine the matches and stadiums of this stage in each of the rounds (4 - 8 - 16 - 32 - final).

3-2 The matches of the rounds (8-16-32-quarter-finals) shall be held in a knockout manner of two times to determine the teams qualified for the next round. In the event of a tie (kindly see the positions in Chapter V, paragraph 7 of Article 17 of these Regulations).

3-3 The semi-final and final matches shall be held in a knockout manner of one time and in the event of a tie (kindly see the positions in Chapter V, paragraph 5 of Article 17 of these Regulations).

Article (24): U-15 and U-13 League (Premier Division)

- 1- These two tournaments will be attended by teams of the U-15 and U-13 Premier Division clubs.
- 2- The matches of the two championships are held in a full league manner (Two-legged tie).
- 3- The team with the most points gets the league championship.
- 4- In the event of a tie in points between two or more teams (kindly see the Positions in Chapter V, paragraph 3 of Article 17 of these Regulations).

Article (25): Saudi U-15 League (First Division)

- 1- The other teams who did not take part in the Premier Division are First Division. The championship matches are held on areas and governorates levels in (two stages).
- 2- The first stage (preliminary qualifiers):
 - 2-1 The teams of the clubs participating in the League are distributed to only one group or more according to Annex No. (1). The matches of each group are held in a full league system (Two-legged tie) to determine the teams of the clubs qualified for the second stage according to the mechanism adopted before the tournament scope. Kindly see the determination of positions in Chapter V, paragraph 3 of Article 17 of these regulations.

3- The second stage (final rounds):

3-1 Thirty Two (32) teams shall qualify for the final stage from the teams of clubs qualified from the first stage (preliminary qualifiers) at the level of regions and governorates according to the mechanism approved by the Federation before the start of the tournament. A draw is held to determine the matches and stadiums of this stage in each of the roles (4- 8- 16 - 32 - final).

3-2 The matches of the rounds (8-16-32) shall be held in a knockout manner of two times to determine the teams qualified for the next round. In the event of a tie (kindly see the positions in Chapter V, paragraph 7 of Article 17 of these regulations).

3-3 The matches of the semi-finals and final round are held in a knockout manner from one time. In the event of a tie (kindly see the positions in Chapter V, paragraph 7 of Article 17 of these regulations).

3-4 The third-place finisher is determined based on the best result in the last four matches.

Article (26): Other Competitions and Tournaments

Other competitions and tournaments organized by the Federation for different age stages are held according to the conditions established by the Federation.

Article (27): Promotion and Relegation

1- Upon conclusion of the tournament matches of the full round robin league format for all divisions and age categories; the lowest placed teams of each division and age category are relegated to the directly lower division or category. Likewise, the first position teams of each division and age category

are promoted to the immediately higher division or age category according to the number set forth in the guidelines of each tournament as set out in Annex (2).

- 2- Teams are relegated and promoted as of the beginning of the next season.
- 3- Where any promoted club is not eligible to participate; the club directly next to it in order shall be promoted.
- 4- If any club is not eligible to participate in its division after the end of the League and before start of the next league, the higher placed relegated club shall participate.
- 5- Should the Organizing Body recognize any increase in the number of any tournament clubs, it shall issue a decision of the application mechanism and validity date thereof.

Article (28): External Participations

- 1- The Federation shall set out the standards and mechanism of club participation in external tournaments.
- 2- Where participation in external competitions and tournaments other than those provided for herein is introduced; the Federation shall select the participating clubs.
- 3- Clubs not participating in regional, Arab, Asian or international tournaments may host any official tournament provided that the dates does not conflict with the Federation official activities and its laws so permit.

Chapter VII: Trophies for Competitions and Tournaments

Article (29): Trophies for Tournaments

- 1- SAFF shall award the first position teams the tournament cup or shield in addition to medals and financial awards.
- 2- SAFF shall hand over the tournament cup and medals during the coronation ceremony of the final match.
- 3- The Committee may determine the date for coronation of the champion of any leagues where the tournament is decided earlier before conclusion thereof.
- 4- The financial awards for the remaining positions shall be approved according to the order set forth in Annex (3).

Article (30): Trophies for Saudi League Fourth Division

| Trophy | First Position | Second Position | Third Position |
|---------------|---|--------------------|--------------------|
| Shield | Saudi League Fourth Division Shield | - | - |
| Medals | (50) Gold Medals | (40) Silver Medals | (40) Bronze Medals |

Article (31): Trophies for U-19 and U-17 League

| Trophy | First Position | Second Position | Third Position |
|---------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Cup | Cup (according to Classification) | - | - |
| Medals | (50) Gold Medals | (40) Silver Medals | (40) Bronze Medals |

Article (32): Trophies for U-19 and U-17 League (First Division)

| Trophy | First Position | Second Position | Third Position |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Cup | Cup (according to Classification) | - | - |
| Medals | (50) Gold Medals | (40) Silver Medals | (40) Bronze Medals |

Article (33): Trophies for Saudi Clubs U-19 and U-17 (Second Division)

| Trophy | First Position | Second Position |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Cup | Cup (according to Classification) | - |
| Medals | (35) Gold Medals | (35) Silver Medals |

Article (34): Trophies for U-15 and U-13 League (Premier Division)

| Trophy | First Position | Second Position | Third Position |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Cup | Cup (according to Classification) | - | - |
| Medals | (35) Gold Medals | (35) Silver Medals | (35) Bronze Medals |

Article (35): Trophies for the Finals in the Saudi Clubs U-15 (First Division)

| Trophy | First Position | Second Position |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Cup | Cup (according to Classification) | - |
| Medals | (35) Gold Medals | (35) Silver Medals |

Chapter VIII: Players

Article (36): Players' Affairs

- 1- Ages and numbers of players, KSA-born and foreign players, participating in the competitions and tournaments of each division shall be determined according to the regulation, players' status and registration regulations
- 2- Players of a lower division may participate in any higher division competitions and tournaments according to the conditions established by the Federation and the Organizing Body and subject to the special conditions of professional tournaments.
- 3- The player may participate in any official match provided that the Professionalism and Status and Transfer of Players Committee approved his registration subject to the club's full compliance with the provisions of the Regulations on Professionalism and Status and Transfer of Players, Disciplinary Regulations where there is an ongoing sanctions issued against the player and the regulations of SAFF, AFC and FIFA.
- 4- A player may participate in a lower division where his age so permits according to the conditions established by the Federation and the Organizing Body.
- 5- In the event that the team is unable to provide a list of players that includes (16) sixteen players as a minimum in the Saudi fourth division clubs and (14) players in the championships of the age groups in all stages of the tournaments, the team is considered ineligible to play the match. The team shall be liable for all legal and disciplinary consequences in accordance with the regulations of the Federation.
- 6- Each team shall have a minimum of seven (7) players during the match.
- 7- During official matches, each team may only replace five players throughout

the match, including a sixth replacement during the extra time according to IFAB Laws of the Game.

Substitutes whose names are recorded in the match registration statement prior to the start of the match are so eligible except for tournaments for which a circular has been issued otherwise. The replaced player may not play again in the same match.

- 8- Any number of players may be replaced during friendly matches as both Parties may agree provided that the referee is notified of such agreement prior to the match. Where the referee is not notified of or the parties fail to agree in this connection; each team may only replace six players.

Article (37): Players' Kit

- 1- Each club shall provide the Federation, before the start of the competition and within the period specified, with one sample of all kits of players and goalkeepers for approval.
- 2- Each club shall leave free space in the left sleeve of the jersey to place the competition logo or the federation logo.
- 3- Jerseys shall be numbered on the back from (1 to 99) including goalkeepers. The number on the shorts shall be identical to the number on the jersey.
- 4- Each club shall bring the main kit, reserve and third kit for both players and goalkeepers in all matches of the competition.
- 5- The Federation, in coordination with the clubs and the referees committee, shall determine the colors of the kits worn by each team in each match of the competition, and the following provisions shall apply:

- 4-1 The host team has priority in wearing its main kit, and this priority does not

include the goalkeeper kit, and the referee has the right to request a replacement of the host team's goalkeeper kit if he deems it necessary.

4-2 The visiting team has the right to wear the main kit, unless it is similar to the main kit of the host team.

4-3 In the event of similarity between the kits of the two teams, the final decision shall be to the referee regarding the kit of each team.

4-4 The penalties stipulated in the disciplinary and ethical regulations shall be applied in the event that any club is unable to provide the appropriate kit to play the match based on the referee's decision.

6- After his first official participation, the player is obligated to use the same jersey number in all matches of the competition throughout the season with the same club. He has the right to change the number in the event that he moves to another club.

7- In the event that the player leaves the club by transfer, loan or any other reason, the player's number at the club after his official participation remains vacant and is not used by any other player until the end of the season.

Chapter: IX Reports of Match Officials

Article (38): Report Submission

Match officials shall submit a copy of match reports immediately after the end of the match to the following bodies:

- 1- A copy to the Committee;
- 2- A copy to the Referee Committee at the Federation;
- 3- A copy to the Disciplinary Committee at the Federation; and

4- A copy to the respective administrative staff of both contesting teams.

Article (39): Supplementary Reports

Where the report of match officials indicates that there is a supplementary report; it shall be sent within a maximum of twenty-four (24) hours.

Article (40): Technical Errors

1- If the Referee Assessor sees that the referee commits a technical error in application of the law which has substantially affected the match outcome; the Assessor shall submit the grounds of this case in a detailed report to the Referee Committee within the time limit set forth in Article (39) above.

1-1 If the Referee Committee sees that the referee has actually committed a technical error in application of the law which has directly affected the match outcome; it shall then submit a relevant report to the Organizing Body.

1-2 The Referee Committee's decision whether or not to present the case to the Organizing Body shall be final and incontestable.

2- Where a team has made an objection before the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee concerning the technical error set out in the Referee Assessor's report; it shall then dismiss the objection and refer the file immediately to the Organizing Body.

3- The Organizing Body may, based on the Referee Committee's report, decide to:

3-1 Cancel the match outcome and replay it in full;

3-2 Replay the match as of the time of the technical error; and

3-3 Approve the match outcome.

4- The decision of the Organizing Body shall be final and incontestable.

Chapter X: General Provisions

Article (41): Scope of Validity

These Regulations shall apply to all clubs, players, administrative and technical staffs and else in all official and friendly matches or else. The Federation may exclude some provisions hereoffor some matches according to specific procedures.

Article (42): Submission of Complaints

The club may file any complaint to the Federation or the sub-committee at the region in the regions in connection with the offenses irrelevant to the match outcome. The Federation or sub-committee at the region shall then consider said complaint and take proper actions according to the provisions of these Regulations. The Committee decisions shall be final and incontestable.

Article (43): Medical Examination

All clubs shall conduct the periodical medical examination for all its players before the start of or during each sports season and keep the results of said medical examination in the player'sfile held with the club and provide the SAFF Medical Committee with a copy of said results. Clubs shall be held accountable for delay in or failure to perform said examination or for any injuries resulting from lack of examination.

Article (44): Determination of Venues and Times of Competitions and Tournaments

The Federation shall set out the venues and times of competitions, tournaments,

official or friendly matches with local and foreign teams and national selections together with the final round matches of tournaments and national selections unless there is a specific provision regulating the same in the other regulations of the relevant federations (AFC or FIFA); otherwise sub-committees shall have exclusive jurisdiction.

Article (45): Preparation of Playgrounds

All duly prepared playgrounds shall be at the disposal of the Federation to organize competitions and tournaments thereon and the Federation may select the most playground. The sub-committees at regions shall be responsible for checking the conformity of the legal playground prior to the start of the match; seek to secure discipline and organization; and ensure availability of means of safety, security and medical ambulance.

Article (46): Club Responsibility for Playground Safety

If the region does not have a sub-committee; the clubs on which territory the matches are held shall assume the duties set out in Article (45); and ascertain of the playground safety and all other organizational issues at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the match kick-off.

Article (47): No Competitions or Tournaments

The Federation may not hold any competition or tournament approved hereunder for the grounds it may deem necessary and consistent with the public good.

Article (48): Clubs and Players Compliance

Clubs and players shall comply with the Federation's directives concerning the outer appearance of players and the manner by which they express their

excitement when they score goals.

Article (49): Interpretation of the Regulations

The Competition Committee is the authority having the exclusive jurisdiction to interpret these Regulations and may at its discretion take proper actions in the cases and circumstances where these Regulations are silent.

Article (50): Approval and Validity of the Regulations

- 1- These Regulations shall repeal the Competitions and Tournaments Regulations approved by the Board at its Meeting No. (Q/5) dated 17.12.1440 A.H corresponding to 18/08/2019 A.D.
- 2- These Regulations were amended and approved by the Board by virtue of its Resolution No(Q/....) dated1445 A.H corresponding to 2023 A.D. These Regulations shall come into effect as of the date it is circulated and posted on the Federation websites.

Disclaimer:

the official and binding language of the Competition & Tournament Regulations is Arabic. This English-language translation is provided as a guide and is for informational purposes only. In the event of any discrepancy between this version and the binding Arabic version, the latter shall prevail.

Annexes

Annex No (1)

Distribution of the Teams Participating in the Eliminations of the Saudi League Fourth Division and the Age categories (Areas League - First Division):

| No. of Office Clubs | Tournament Format |
|----------------------------|--|
| Two (2) or less | Participation with the nearest office having a maximum of five (5) Clubs. |
| (3-7) | Two-legged league format (Points) |
| (8-14) | Two groups of two-legged format. A match shall then be held between the two first place teams in both groups to determine the champion and the runner-up. A match shall be played between both second place teams to determine the third and fourth positions. |
| (15-19) | Three groups of two-legged format (points) followed by a semifinal between the champions in the three groups and the best second place teams in the three groups. A final shall then be played and another match to determine the third and fourth positions. |
| (20) or more | Four two-legged format groups (points) followed by a semi-final between the champions in the four groups. |

Annex No (2):
Promotion and Relegation for the Sports Season 2023- 2024 A.D

| Position | Competition | Number of Teams | Promotion | Relegation |
|----------|---|-----------------|------------------------|------------|
| 1 | Saudi Pro League | 18 | - | 3 |
| 2 | Saudi First Division Pro League | 18 | 3 | 3 |
| 3 | Second Division League | 32 | 3 | 4 |
| 4 | Third Division League | 32 | 4 | 4 |
| 5 | Kingdom Fourth Division Championship | Areas | 4 | - |
| 6 | U-19 Division League (Premier) | 18 | - | 3 |
| 7 | U-17 Division League (Premier) | 18 | - | 3 |
| 8 | U-19 Division League (First Division) | 14 | 3 | 2 |
| 9 | U-17 Division League (First Division) | 14 | 3 | 2 |
| 10 | Kingdom Championship U-19 (Second Division) | Areas | 6 | - |
| 11 | Kingdom Championship U-17 (Second Division) | Areas | 6 | - |
| 12 | U-15 Division League (Premier) | 16 | - | 2 |
| 13 | U-13 Division League (Premier) | 10 | - | - |
| 14 | Kingdom Championship U-15 (First Division) | Areas | 4 (Premier) 16 (First) | - |

Annex No. 3

Trophies for All Competitions in the Sports Season of 2023/2024:

| Competitions | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------|---------------------|--------------|
| S N | Fourth Division | Youth Premier | Junior Premier | Youth First Division | Junior First Division | Youth Second Division | Junior Second Division | U-15 Premier | U-15 First Division | U-13 Premier |
| 1 | 300,000 | 200,000 | 200,000 | 145,000 | 145,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 200,000 | 100,000 | 200,000 |
| 2 | 200,000 | 180,000 | 180,000 | 125,000 | 125,000 | 80,000 | 80,000 | 180,000 | 80,000 | 180,000 |
| 3 | 100,000 | 178,000 | 178,000 | 123,000 | 123,000 | 75,000 | 7,5,000 | 176,000 | 75,000 | 175,000 |
| 4 | 90,000 | 176,000 | 176,000 | 121,000 | 121,000 | 70,000 | 70,000 | 172,000 | 70,000 | 170,000 |
| 5 | 65,000 | 174,000 | 174,000 | 119,000 | 119,000 | 65,000 | 65,000 | 168,000 | 65,000 | 165,000 |
| 6 | 65,000 | 172,000 | 172,000 | 117,000 | 117,000 | 65,000 | 65,000 | 164,000 | 65,000 | 160,000 |
| 7 | 65,000 | 170,000 | L 70,000 | 115,000 | 115,000 | 65,000 | 65,000 | 160,000 | 65,000 | 155,000 |
| 8 | 65,000 | 168,000 | 168,000 | 113,000 | 113,000 | | | 156,000 | | 150,000 |
| 9 | | 166,000 | 166,000 | 111,000 | 111,000 | | | 152,000 | | 145,000 |
| 10 | | 164,000 | 164,000 | 109,000 | 109,000 | | | 148,000 | | 140,000 |
| 11 | | 162,000 | 162,000 | 107,000 | 107,000 | | | 144,000 | | |
| 12 | | 160,000 | 160,000 | 105,000 | 105,000 | | | 140,000 | | |
| 13 | | 158,000 | 158,000 | 103,000 | 103,000 | | | 136,000 | | |
| 14 | | 156,000 | 156,000 | 101,000 | 101,000 | | | 132,000 | | |
| 15 | | 154,000 | 154,000 | | | | | 128,000 | | |
| 16 | | 152,000 | 152,000 | | | | | 124,000 | | |
| 17 | | 150,000 | 150,000 | | | | | | | |
| 18 | | 148,000 | 148,000 | | | | | | | |