



NATIONAL LEAGUE COMPETITION

RULES & REGULATION 2020

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SCHEDULE A – OFFENCE CODES

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Football Federation Samoa Competition (FFSC) is a competition established by the Football Federation Samoa (FFS) and issues approvals to clubs to participate in the competition.
- 1.2 This Regulation shall be read in conjunction with the Licence Agreement.

2. COMPETITION NAME

- 2.1 The competition shall be called the **'Football Federation Samoa Competition'** (FFSC) and shall be competed for each FFSC season (as defined in 4.) by clubs duly qualified according to these Regulations.
- 2.2 FFS shall have the right to add to or change the competition name to reflect the name of the sponsor if it so desires.

3. ENTRIES FOR THE COMPETITION

- 3.1 FFS shall determine the number of clubs that may compete in the FFS-National League. The decision of FFS as to the composition of the FFS-National League (NL) shall be final and binding.
The current format comprises of Twelve (12) Men's Premier League teams, twenty (20) First Division Men. The Women's league consist of thirteen (13) Women's Premier teams. No club shall have more than one team involved in the Women's League. FFS retains the ability to increase or decrease the number of clubs at its sole discretion.
- 3.2 Entry to, and continued participation, in the FFS-NL shall be determined by FFS having regarded to:
 - 3.2.1 The clubs satisfying criteria established from time to time by FFS on a continuing basis.
 - 3.2.2 The criteria established by FFS shall include, but not be limited to stadium facilities, financial performance and shall otherwise be at the discretion of FFS.
 - 3.2.3 Compliance with the terms and conditions specified within the Licence Agreement.
- 3.3 In the event of any club not wishing to continue in the FFS-NL, or failing to meet the criteria, resulting in their removal from the FFS-NL, then the filling of the consequential vacancy shall be determined by FFS, which may in its sole discretion choose not to fill the vacancy.
- 3.4 In the event of any club not paying the entrance/participation fee in the quantum, manner and time frame (time being of the essence) as directed by FFS, then, without prejudice to any other remedies available to FFS, the club will be subject to an extra \$100.00 WST fine.
- 3.5 If a club does not pay their registration fee before the due date, they will be subjected to a LBD and will be applied to their next match.
- 3.6 FFS has the right to refuse entry to any club/team wishing to participate in any FFS organized competition. The reasons for not granting entry can include but are not limited to clubs/teams past disciplinary and participation records. FFS can also refuse to grant entry if they feel club/teams participation could cause problems with other clubs/teams.
- 3.7 FFS also have the right to reject any club who did not pay their previous registration fees unless these has been settled and confirmed from FFS financial department.

4. COMPETITION FORMAT

- 4.1 The list below consist of the FFS official Senior competitions and or any competitions added by FFS during the Season:
- NL Premier League Men
 - NL Premier League Women
 - NL First Division

The Premier League and First Division

- 4.2 The Premier Men & Women League shall be played over one round followed by the top eight round.
The Executive Committee approved that the Top team on the First round of the Men's Premier will be FFS's representative at the Oceania Champions League Competition in 2020 and the overall winner of the top eight round for this year will represent FFS at Oceania Champions in 2021. FFS at its own discretion may change any decision for all competition in relation to any emergency situation that may arise.
Only the Premier Men team (local) made up of the majority of Samoan citizens are entitled to represent Football Federation Samoa (FFS) to any OFC or FIFA competitions.
- 4.3 The Men's First Division shall be played over one round.
- 4.4 Three points are awarded for a win, one point for a draw, and no points for a defeat.
- 4.5 No extra time shall be played during the Men's Premier, Women's League and Men's First Division in the case of a drawn match between teams.
- 4.6 The number of league points accumulated by each club shall determine the placing of each club in each round. In the event of two or more clubs having equal points, at the conclusion of the Men's and Women's Premier League, and First Division their respective placing on the points table shall be determined by applying the following criteria to the extent necessary to distinguish the respective placing and in the priority in which they are listed:
- (a) Goal differential
 - (b) Number of goals scored – Goal For (GF)
 - (c) Number of goals against – Goal against (GA).
 - (d) The head to head results between the clubs equal on points.
 - (e) The goal difference from the matches played between the clubs equal on points.
 - (f) If, after applying the above criteria, any two or more clubs are still equal, then the club with the superior disciplinary record in this competition (by virtue of having the fewest penalty points accrued during the relevant FFS-NL season pursuant to this 4.5(e) shall be the highest placed club. Penalty points shall be accrued as follows:
 - (i) For each yellow card received, a club will accrue 1 penalty point;
 - (ii) For each red card received, a club will accrue 3 penalty points;
 - (iii) And where an individual player receives 2 yellow cards in the same FFS-NL game, a club will accrue 3 penalty points (the same as for a red card).
 - (g) If, after applying the above criteria the final position of any two team(s) remain equal their final placing will be determined by a toss of a coin under the direction and supervision of FFS. Where there are more than two teams

who are equal having applied the above criteria then the final placing of these teams will be determined by the drawing of lots under the direction and supervision of FFS.

The National League

- 4.7 Extra time shall NOT be played during both rounds in the case of a drawn match between teams.

The Cup Competition

- 4.8 The Cup Competition will consist of all Premier League & First Division Teams. The competition shall consist of a Single Elimination Format.
- 4.9 The cup competition draws to only have seeded teams and Byes in the first round draw. No teams will be seeded after the first round with a new draw conducted by picking out of a hat after each round with the remaining teams in the competition.
- 4.10 In the event of Finals when the score remain tied at the end of time then the result will be determined by kicks from the penalty spot in accordance with the IFAB, Laws of the Game.

Participation with the “Senior” National Teams and Oceania Champions League

- 4.11 In the event that a Club team is representing Samoa at OFC Club Champions League while the Senior National League season is being played FFS has the discretion to have their games re-scheduled. FFS can also make the decision to put the Senior National League on hold during this time.
- 4.12 In the event that Samoa National Team Men or Women’s is representing at FIFA or OFC tournaments, International Fixtures or other International tournaments, FFS has the right to re-schedule club games for affected clubs with players in the National Teams if above five (5) players selected. FFS can also make the decision to reschedule those match accordingly.

5. CUPS & MEDALS

- 5.1 The FFSC Cups & Trophies are the property of FFS. The holders are responsible for the loss of and any damage done to the cups & trophies. The holders shall return the cups & trophies to FFS in good condition within two months prior to the next prize giving.
- 5.2 The Competition Review Committee (CRC) will meet to review the results of the individual awards for the prize winners together with the Competition Manager’s report and records throughout the season.

6. ORGANISATION OF THE COMPETITION

- 6.1 Unless otherwise determined by these regulations, the entire control and management of the competition shall be vested with FFS. FFS shall have the power to do all things necessary to ensure the progress of this competition through all its stages and may take appropriate action to bring about such results. All or any of the powers vested in FFS may be delegated to a nominee.
- 6.2 FFS will appoint a Competitions Manager who must be Neutral and shall be responsible for administration of the FFSC. All references to FFS in this Regulation shall include the Competitions Manager's position.
- 6.3 Each participating club shall, prior to the commencement of each FFSC season, appoint (on a full or part time basis) a Club President / Coach to facilitate communications between the clubs and FFS and to otherwise undertake the duties set out in Schedule D, and shall notify that contact name and details to FFS. Such liaison shall be the sole point of contact between the club and FFS. Should a club fail to so appoint a Club President / Coach prior to the commencement of each FFSC season, or replace a Club President / Coach as soon as practicable and using its best endeavours where necessary on account of the Club President / Coach position being vacated for whatever reason during a FFSC season, then the club will be subject to a fine of \$25

Samoa Tala per week, until a Club President / Coach is appointed, at the sole discretion of FFS.

- 6.4 Any FFSC club may bring a dispute or protest to FFS, not being a playing related matter to be dealt with pursuant to clause 9, who shall make a decision and advise that decision to the party or parties concerned. Any decision of FFS may be subject to appeal according to FFS Competition Rules & Regulations. In the event of an appeal being lodged, such appeal must be made within seven (15) days of receiving notification of the decision. Accompanying the appeal must be an appeal fee of \$100.00 tala according to Section D, Art 6 in the Disciplinary Code.
- 6.5 Any communications with any sponsor of the FFSC must be made by FFS only, and no club shall contact the FFSC sponsors directly, unless prior approval has been given by FFS. FFS shall have the right to decline any request if it is believed that the same would prejudice any present or future sponsorship arrangement.

7. PLAYING OF FIXTURES

- 7.1 FFS shall publish a detailed fixture list for the ensuing season. All matches shall be played on the dates and times agreed and confirmed by FFS and the clubs, and shall not be varied without the prior written approval of FFS.
- 7.2 If any club wishes to change any match scheduled, they must advise both the opposing club and FFS in writing at least 3 days prior to the scheduled game, setting out in full their reasons for requiring the change. Funerals may be a reason for changing a fixture. However, Wedding, Birthday, club location and unavailability of players due to employment will not be accepted as a valid reason for cancelling a fixture. In the event of both clubs agreeing to a change of time, FFS shall take that into account when giving its decision. Any additional cost incurred in changing previously agreed kick-off times or dates should be borne by the club making the request.
- 7.3 In the event of a match being postponed at late notice due to aborted travel arrangements or adverse weather, it shall be the responsibility of the two clubs concerned to immediately confer with a view to playing the match at the earliest possible time, unless otherwise authorised by FFS.
Clubs must take all reasonable steps to arrive at a match on time. A match can start up to 10 minutes after the scheduled kick off time, provided that the team are present at the fields.
- 7.4 In the event of a match being postponed due to the scheduling of any OFC Champions League match the two clubs concerned agree to play the match at the earliest possible time as agreed by both clubs and FFS.
- 7.5 Once a team has 2 forfeits, a report MUST be submitted to Competition Review Committee. The committee will decide whether to remove the team from the competition or give them a second chance and later submitted to Executive Committee for approval. Once the CRC Committee approves the removal of a team, ALL teams' accumulated points will be deducted.
- 7.6 The completed team sheet must be handed to the referee no later than 1 hour (60mins) before the scheduled kick off time. The starting eleven may be adjusted in case of an injury during the warm up, up to ten (10min) before the kick off. Unlisted player(s) will not be eligible to play. The team which will be found guilty will forfeit the match and an additional fine of \$300.00.
- 7.7 Only three (3) players are allowed to transfer from the Premier division to the First division during the season. This will also apply to the First division for any three promoted players. The transfer will be done only two (2) times in a season and FFS must be informed for player transfer prior to the match. The match will be defaulted if a player found playing without notification.
- 7.8 FFS will provide a set of substitution boards that the referees will be responsible to maintain for all matches.

7.9 MANIPULATION OF COMPETITION

FIXED MATCHES

Any kind of match fixing will be referred to Disciplinary Committee. Teams that will be reported to have engaged in match fixing will be investigated. All official documents and evident must be submitted to FFS which will referred to the Disciplinary Committee for their final decision. Sanctions regarding match fixing will be determined by the DC. The Committee may decide to refer the matter to the Ministry of Police for further investigation. A minimum fine of \$5,000.00 is imposed for such action for both teams.

Floodlight Matches

- 7.10 A fixture may be played wholly or partially under floodlights subject to the floodlight installation having been approved by FFS.

Security

- 7.11 FFS and Clubs shall be responsible for taking all practicable measures to ensure:
- (i) That all facilities and equipment comply with the Occupational Safety and Health regulations. Certificates of compliance as required must be current;
 - (ii) That a dedicated security and Police officer is operating for all games. This person is to be clearly identifiable and in contact with FFS management at all times;
 - (iii) The orderly behaviour of the crowd and safety of the match officials, players and officials of the participating teams and all spectators;
- 7.12 A club will be subject to fine not exceeding \$500.00 Samoa Tala, with additional fines for property damage for each breach under clause 7-8, 7.9 – 7.10, at the sole discretion of FFS.

(i) The availability of club officials and where appropriate, security or police personnel.

- 7.13 All clubs will be held responsible for the behaviour of their spectators, at all playing venues. A club must forthwith give notice in writing to FFS Competitions Manager of any unruly behaviour of their spectators before sending to Judiciary for further Decision.
- 7.14 All clubs are responsible for any damage caused by their team members to any property of the FFS. Any damage caused by the club members will result in the clubs having to pay for the damage.
- 7.15 Each club must make every effort to ensure that the Disciplinary Code of FFS is communicated and made available to its staff, players, coaches, volunteers and spectators.
- 7.16 Spectators who have no relation to a club/player that causes damage or stirs up trouble or fight will be sanctioned under the law.

Cancellations

- 7.17 Where weather conditions preceding a fixture raise doubts as to whether play shall take place, the Referee or Referee's liaison officer (for the purposes of 7.15 to 7.17, being the fourth official where available) and the two team club Presidents / Coaches shall meet at the ground to consider whether the ground is fit for play. Before any decision is made as to whether the match should be cancelled, the Club President / Coaches shall discuss the situation with the FFS Competitions Manager.
- 7.18 This meeting and discussion shall be held in sufficient time to enable both teams travelling on the day of the match to be notified prior to their departure for the match in question, of any cancellation. If the Referee and Competitions Manager decides that play can take place in 30minutes until no further rain falls, then they shall further decide whether to add another 30minutes and if not they have to rescheduled that specific match.
- 7.19 If there is doubt as to whether or not a fixture is to be played because of uncertainty about weather conditions, the Referee, RDO and Competitions Manager shall

immediately notify FFS following the ground inspection and the two Club Presidents / Coaches shall be advised.

- 7.20 If the two teams have been notified that a match is to be played provided no further rain falls, then all reasonable efforts shall be made to ensure that the match proceeds, provided that the Referee and Match Officials nominated for the match, following discussions with the FFS Competitions Manager as contemplated under clause 7.15, shall have sole discretion as to whether or not it shall be played.
- 7.21 If for any reason the Referee cannot make or does not attend the ground, and if there is doubt about whether the ground is fit to play, then both Club Presidents / Coaches in conjunction with the RDO and the FFS Competitions Manager shall be responsible for advising FFS on the condition of the ground as well as notifying the respective clubs.

8. PLAYER REGISTRATION & TRANSFERS

Registration - Team Squads

- 8.1 In each FFSC season, each club shall name a squad consisting of a maximum of twenty two (22) players ("Club Registered Players"). A club must provide a team registration of players two weeks before the start of the competition. **The first registration period opens on the 13th Jul – 8th Aug 2020 and the second on the 14th Sept – 25th Sept 2020.**

Clubs may add new players to the list during the competition if they did not reach 22 players on their list provided therefore, these players are not register to another club unless it's done during the Transfer period and all transfer requirements have been satisfied.

8.2. COMET SYTEM

Comet system is approved to generate all competitions starting from Youth to Senior League competitions. Players not registered will not be allowed to play in any FFS competitions. If a club fields an unregistered player on field of play, the competition manager has the authority to remove that player from the field. Every club is responsible for player registration for each category and all documents (hard copies/e-copies) must be submitted to FFS for confirmation within fourteen (14) days before the start of competition. All team list and team registration must be submitted to FFS before the due date prior to the competition. Any fraud documents submitted will be reported to Executive Committee for further decision. Such decision will also affect match results. All Clubs are encouraged to submit all certified documents in order to satisfy all functions of comet system. Any club that does not abide and enter any false document will be sanctioned accordingly.

Registration

8.3. Club Players must be registered with the club for which they are to play prior to playing for that club. Any team which fielded unregistered players will have the result of their matches defaulted.

- 1.1 All players must be registered before the due date of registration prior to the competition for every season and must provide relevant documents to FFS before he/she can play.
- 1.2 In all cases, the players' registration and team list must be lodged to FFS before any competitions.

Registration - Youth Players Requirements

- 1.3 A Youth player is eligible to play in the Men's and Women's National League and Cup Competition provided if they meet the minimum age requirement set at the beginning of each season. For the 2020 Season a player must be born **on or before** the following dates:
- Boys 31st January 2006
 - Girls 31st January 2006

A Youth player is eligible to play in both men's and women's divisions (Premier & First Division), subject to it not being on the same match day. That is, these players are able to move within these divisions as long as it's not done on the same day and Must be within the same club the player is registered. FFS has the authority to remove any young unregistered player from the field in terms of Health and Safety.

Registration - Guest Players

8.5b Notwithstanding anything to the contrary under 8, the term Guest Player is defined as a non-registered overseas player. These guests are only here for a short period of time (1week – 4weeks) visit in our country and they are willing to play for any club. These players must be registered before playing in a match. However, for the purposes of the FFS-NL competition, clubs may have no more than two (2) Guest Players recorded on the team card in the same match.

8.5c Foreign Players

These players are not Samoan Nationality. There will be only three (3) foreign players eligible to play for each specific club. FFS will be notified first in relation to registration before entering the FOP as well as an official Transfer process on TMS. Any team who will not comply loose by default.

Universities and Mission schools with foreigners who are willing to compete and represent their school team in the competition must be registered and follow the FFS official registration process. FFS at its discretion can remove any unregistered player or team from the competition. Any foreign player will be screen on Comet system for foreign registration before any competition.

Transfers

- 8.6. Changes can be made to a club's named squad under 8.1 during the transfer period. There will be two transfer periods for 2020 season. The first transfer window will be on the 31st August – 11th September 2020 and the second period on the 25th Jan – 28th Feb 2021.

For any transfer to be deemed complete and approved the following must be completed in full:

1. Signature Releasing Club President
2. Signature Engaging Club President
3. Signature of Player
4. Payment of transfer fee \$100 WST
5. FFS Competition Manager and or CEO approval / signature

If a transfer is being disputed, FFS will require the player in question to sign the transfer documents in the presence of the FFS Competition Manager.

8.7 Players playing in the Youth Competitions (born in 2002, 2003) will be required to follow the transfer process but not have to pay a transfer fee.

8.8 The process for transfers as mentioned in 8.6 shall be determined by the FFS and be distributed to all clubs.

8.9 The FFS Chief Executive Officer will have the final decision over any disputed transfers.

8.10 If a club fields a NON-TRANSFERRED player in the competition the result of the game will be void and a default win (3-0) will be awarded to the opposition. In the case of dispute, FFS has discretion to determine appropriate results.

8.11 Pull out/withdrawn teams from the competition will automatically incur a fine of \$300.00 which must be paid in full before the next season. Premier teams will be demoted to first division for next season. First division teams withdrawn will be referred Competition Review Committee for final decision.

9. DISCIPLINARY MATTERS

- 9.1. FFS shall be responsible for all disciplinary matters relating to players competing in the FFSC under FFS Regulation 7.

Disciplinary Committee

- 9.2. A Disciplinary Committee shall be established to hear and determine, in respect of matters arising during the playing of a game, any charge made against any member club, player, coach, manager, official or any other person for any breach of the "Laws of the Game", or any provisions of the Regulations of the SNL, and if the charge is found proved, impose an appropriate sanction.

- 9.3. The appointment and function of the Disciplinary Committee shall be determined by FFS Rules under section 3.2.1 and 3.2.2

- 9.4. The president of the affected club will be informed of match official report for any response in a form of a letter within 2 days (48hrs) before submission to Disciplinary Committee.
- 9.5. Clubs may appeal decisions to the Disciplinary Committee of FFS according to Disciplinary code.

Fines & Suspensions

Yellow Cards

9.6. Schedule of Suspensions

The Schedule of Suspensions imposed in respect of each caution in Premier League & First Division (yellow card) received by players from the referee subject to FIFA Laws of the game, be:

- | | | |
|-----|--|---------|
| (a) | Five yellow cards (5) during a season | One (1) |
| (b) | Seven yellow cards (7) during a season | One (1) |
| (c) | Nine yellow cards (9) during a season | One (1) |
- 9.7. In addition to the penalties outlined in paragraph 9.5 above, where any player accrues nine (9) yellow cards or more during a season, FFS may require the player and his club to attend a meeting of the Disciplinary Committee to determine if any additional penalty should be imposed against the player or his club.

Red Cards

- 9.8. All send-off (red cards) issued shall incur an automatic one match suspension.
- 9.9. In addition to the penalties outlined in paragraph 9.7 above, FFS may require the player and his club to attend a meeting of the Disciplinary Committee to determine if any additional penalty should be imposed against the player and/or his Club.

Serving of Suspensions

- 9.10. The FFSC is defined as a tournament under FFS Regulation 7. As such, all disciplinary matters are confined to the FFSC.
- 9.11. At the conclusion of the FFSC, all single cautions are cleared.
- 9.12. Any outstanding suspension at the conclusion of the FFSC is carried over to be served in the following FFSC season, unless the player's suspension has been imposed by a judicial process over and above the automatic sanctions under FFS Regulation 7.
- 9.13. Under no circumstance may any suspended player, coach or official occupy a position, in any capacity, in or in the vicinity of the player's entrance, substitute's bench, Technical Area or playing arena. Any breach of this clause will result in the suspended player, coach or official receiving a further one (1) match suspension, at the sole discretion of FFS.
- 9.14. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary under 9, any player serving a suspension incurred during the Premier League and First Division shall have that suspension carried through to any other FFS competitions, including the Cup Competition. Cup Competition suspensions can be served carried through to other FFS Competitions. The Same ruling applied to all Youth Competitions.
- 9.15. Any spectator (s) who involved in physical assault will be sanctions according to the Disciplinary Code and will be ban from every FFS Premises.
- 9.16. Any player who physically assault a match official will be banned for life. An additional fine of \$500.00 should be paid within 30 days from the received date of DC decision. Every club are responsible to pay all fines on the given days. It will also applied to any management who physically assault an official. Any verbal assault to any match official will be reported to Disciplinary Committee for further action.
- 9.17. Protest – Clubs who wish to make a protest against the opposing team must submit a formal written protest to the Competition Manager within 48hrs (2days) from the date of the match. All protest submitted afterwards will be voided. The protesting club must provide all evidence to support their protest with a fee of \$50.00 which will be refunded if the case is confirmed. The investigation will be carried out before the final decision.

10. LAWS OF THE GAME

- 10.2. All matches shall be played in accordance with FIFA Laws of the Game.
- 10.3. The minimum number of players a club team must have to play in any FFSC match is seven (7) for all 11-a-side games. Minimum 5 for all 7 A side games. Minimum four (4) for all 5 a-side games. If a club team during any FFSC match is reduced, for whatever reason, to less than seven (7) players, the referee shall abandon the relevant match, subject to the provisions of the Laws of the Game.
- 10.4. FFS will provide special regulations for 5 a side, 7 a side and Samoa Cup to govern these additional competitions.

11. DURATION OF MATCHES, EXTRA TIME, DETERMINING THE WINNER BY PENALTY KICK

- 11.2. Each match shall last
 - 90 minutes (Men and Women's Premier)
 - 80 minutes for the (Men First Division)

With a 10 minute interval break in between for the Senior Teams.

- 11.3. There will be no extra time for Cup Competition Elimination matches where the result is a draw at the end of normal playing time.
- 11.4. If the scores are still level at the end of full time, penalty kicks shall be taken to determine the winner, in accordance with the procedure laid down by the International Football Association Board.
- 11.5. FFS reserves the right to reduce the number of minutes played in the extra time to accommodate changes like Daylight Savings, and running of the Competition.
- 11.6. There will be a minimum two (2) minutes cooling brake within each half due the high temperature and the Competition Manager and RDO will finalized that break accordingly.

12. PLAYING AREAS

12.2. Ground Maintenance

- 12.2.1. The FFS is required to have the playing surfaces of their grounds maintained in a satisfactory condition.
- 12.2.2. In the event of inclement weather, clubs shall be obliged to ensure all reasonable steps are taken to ensure that scheduled fixtures proceed.

12.3. Ground Markings

- 12.3.1. The FFS is to ensure that their grounds are clearly marked in accordance with the "Laws of the Game".
- 12.3.2. All lines shall be marked in white non-toxic paint and shall be no less than four (4) inches and no more than five (5) inches in width.
- 12.3.3. In the event of inclement weather, FFS shall be obliged to re-mark all or portions of the ground, at the request of the Referee

12.4. Unauthorised Ground Markings

- 12.4.1. No unauthorised ground markings shall appear on any FFS grounds.

12.5. Technical Area

- 12.5.1. In compliance with the provisions of the "Laws of the Games", a Technical Area shall be marked out in front of the seated area for substitutes and technical staff. Such "Technical Area" shall be located one meter either side of the substitute's bench, to one meter from the touchline.
- 12.5.2. The number of persons permitted to occupy the Technical Area is covered by Clause 13.2.1.

13. SUBSTITUTION RULES

13.2. Number of Substitutes

- 13.1.1 Up to a maximum of **seven (7) players** may be listed as substitutes on the Team Sheet.
- 13.1.2 Up to a maximum of **five (5) players (substitutes)** may be replaced at any time during the match for Premier Men, up until the conclusion of normal playing time or extra time, if played.
- 13.1.3 Any replacement players used must be one of the seven (7) listed on the Team Sheet as per 13.1.1 above.
- 13.1.4 The names of the substitutes must be listed on the Team Sheet when presented to the referee prior to the match. Unlisted substitute may not take part in the match.
- 13.1.5 There will be seven (7) substitutes for Premier Women and First Division Men during the competition.

13.3. Substitutes Bench

- 13.3.1. A maximum of Ten (10) persons are entitled to sit on the bench during a fixture, being comprised of no more than Seven (7) substitutes and no more than three (3) team officials. All occupants of the technical area must wear different coloured tops to those worn by the club team they are associated with, bibs are a preference.

13.4. Substitution Boards

- 13.4.1. FFS will provide a set of substitution boards that the referees will be responsible to maintain for all matches.

13.5. Substitution Procedures

- 13.5.1. Teams wishing to make a substitution shall complete the FFS Substitution Slip, and pass to the Fourth Official. The shirt number of the player to be replaced shall be written in the OFF boxed area, and the shirt number of the player listed as a substitute in the ON boxed area.
- 13.5.2. A substitute may only enter the field of play,
 - (a) After the player being replaced has left the field, and
 - (b) After he receives a signal from the referee.
 - (c) At the half way line and during a stoppage in the match.
- 13.5.3. The substitution is complete when the substitute enters the field of play, from that moment, the substitute becomes a player and the player replaced ceases to be a player.
- 13.5.4. A player who has been replaced may take no further part in the match.
- 13.5.5. All substitutes are subject to the authority & jurisdiction of the referee, whether called upon to play or not.
- 13.5.6. Substitutes may warm-up during the game subject to the dimensions of the ground but may not use a ball. A goalkeeper is permitted to use a ball to warm-up. Substitutes when warming up may be accompanied by one official from the Technical Area. Substitutes **MUST** warm up behind the goal area when the match is played
- 13.5.7. Failure to adhere to substitution rules as set in 13.1.2 shall result in a default to the offending team.

14. MATCH BALLS

14.2. Official Supplier

- 14.2.1. Only FFS football brands, as determined and supplied by FFS from time to time, will be used in FFSC fixtures.

- 14.2.2. The FFS shall ensure that at least two (2) match balls in a good, clean condition are made available to the referee no later than forty five (45) minutes prior to the schedule kick-off time.
- 14.2.3. Clubs should ensure that only the footballs referred to under 16.1.1 are used in all promotional, news or team photographs, and television interviews.

15. BALL PERSONS

- 15.2. Every club must have at least two (2) ball boys and FFS will assist these kids for refreshments and certificates at the end of the season.
- 15.3. Ball persons shall be suitably attired in a clearly identifiable uniform or bibs.
- 15.4. Balls shall be placed on the ground next to the ball person or held still in their hands.

16. SPONSORS GROUND SIGNAGE

- 16.2. It is the responsibility of the FFS to ensure that all FFS sponsors ground signage is prominently displayed to obtain maximum television exposure.

17. PLAYING STRIPS

17.2. Club Colours

All franchise clubs will wear their registered "1st CHOICE" playing strip, in all competition matches or any matches played at a neutral ground, unless otherwise directed by FFS. If a club wishes to play in a different set of uniforms than from their first choice FFS needs to be informed.

17.2.1. First Choice Strip

Shall be used in all matches designated as "HOME" matches, and all other matches where there is no clash of colours with the "HOME" team.

17.2.2. Alternative Strip

Shall be sufficiently contrasting to the first choice strip. (Alternate strips that do not comply with this requirement will be **rejected**.)

17.3. Clash of Colours

- 17.3.1. Where the strips of the two competing clubs are alike or similar, a club shall change to an alternative strip that does not contain any of the basic-colours of and is approved by the referee and FFS.

(NB) On most occasions it may only be necessary for teams to change their shirts. However, on others they may also be required to change shorts and/or socks.

- 17.3.2. In the event of any match being played at a neutral venue or in this case the J.S. Blatter Football Complex, Tuanaimato, it will be the responsibility of FFS to ensure that there will be no clash of colours and to determine which team is to change, if necessary.

- 17.3.3. If, in the opinion of FFS, a clash of colours will occur to the detriment of the game, they may direct either or both clubs to change or vary their strip. If the two teams are unable to change their strips, FFS will provide bibs to a team to wear during the match.

- 17.3.4. FFS to provide bibs for the team in terms the same colour of uniform and the Fourth official to collect the bibs after the match.

17.4. Shirt Numbers

- 17.4.1. The player's number must be displayed on the back of shirt.
- 17.4.2. The number must be between 25cm and 35cm in height, clearly legible and positioned in the centre back of the shirt.
- 17.4.3. The width of the numbers two (2) to nine (9) shall be not less than 14 cms. Number one (1) shall be not less than 4 cms in width.
- 17.4.4. The thickness of the elements of all numbers shall be not less than 4cms.
- 17.4.5. The gap between the numbers shall not be less than 3 cms and greater than 6 cms.
- 17.4.6. The numbers must be one solid colour only in complete contrast to basic colours of the shirts. For better legibility they may be surrounded by a

border or shadow outline. They may not contain any advertising, design features or other elements.

17.5. Goalkeepers

Jerseys

- 17.5.1. Must in all cases, worn a jersey with a number, not allowed to wear singlet or any other casual wear and be clearly distinguishable from the colours of the shirts worn by all other players and officials.
- 17.5.2. Shall not contain any of the basic colours of either team.
- 17.5.3. Shall be submitted to FFS for approval in conjunction with first choice and alternate playing strips.
- 17.5.4. Shall not display sponsors advertising different from other players shirts in the team.
- 17.5.5. All clubs shall provide a minimum of two (2) alternate goalkeepers' strips. The colours or combination of colours of the jerseys should not contain any of the basic colours of the other goalkeepers' jersey.
- 17.5.6. When a goalkeeper plays as an on-field player they will need to wear a jersey containing the same number. Also goalkeepers will than need to change their soaks and shorts.

Shorts & Socks

- 17.4.6 The Goalkeeper shall wear shorts and socks in accordance with FIFA regulations and the laws of the game.
- 17.4.7 A goalkeeper may, at the discretion of the referee, wear tracksuit trousers provided the colour of such tracksuit does not conflict with the provisions of this article.

17.6. Shirt and Shorts Advertising

- 17.6.1. Players' shirts and shorts must only carry FFS approved advertising, since FFS has the rights to all shirt advertising.
- 17.6.2. The clubs are permitted to print their club logo on the jerseys in the form of a badge, which must be as follows:
 - (a) Club Badge (Logo) - One example of the franchise club emblem having an area not exceeding 100 sq. cm.
 - (b) Makers Trademark - One example of the trademark or name of the manufacturer of such clothing, having an area of not more than 20 sq. cm.

18. TECHNICAL AREA

- 18.2. FFS shall provide adequate seating for each person authorised to be in the Technical Area at each game during the FFSC season.
- 18.3. The occupants of the Technical Area shall be identified to the fourth (4th) official prior to the commencement of the match.
- 18.4. Only one person at a time has the authority to convey technical instructions and that person must return to their position immediately after giving any instructions.
- 18.5. The coach and other officials must remain within the confines of the Technical Area except in special circumstances, for example, a physiotherapist or doctor entering the field of play with the referee's permission to treat an injured player.
- 18.6. The coach and other occupants of the Technical Area must conduct themselves at all times, with particular regards to foul and abusive language, in a responsible manner.
- 18.7. Referees shall police the Technical Area and forthwith give notice in writing to the FFS Competitions Manager of any breach under this clause 18. Any person found to have breached this clause 18 shall be liable to a fined at the sole discretion of FFS.

19. REFEREES, ASSISTANT REFEREES, AND FOURTH OFFICIALS

- 19.2. FFS shall make appointments for all FFSC fixtures.
- 19.3. An approved fee for referees and other match officials shall be met by FFS.
- 19.4. Each Referee shall upon the conclusion of each match, forward to FFS a Referees Report on the prescribed form. These should arrive to the FFS office NO LATER THAN 24 HOURS AFTER THE GAME HAS BEEN PLAYED.

Should a match official fail to furnish any required report within the prescribed time limit then the following will apply:

- (i) On the first occasion the official shall forfeit the match fee to FFS, and be given a warning by FFS.
 - (ii) On the second occasion the official shall forfeit the match fee and be suspended from refereeing any SNL matches for two playing days.
 - (iii) On the third occasion the official shall forfeit the match fee, and be suspended from the SNL referees panel for the balance of the season, for such period as shall be determined by the chairperson of the Referees Committee, in conjunction with FFS.
- 19.5. Each Referee shall attend the ground at least one hour before the scheduled kick-off time and shall wait one half-hour after the scheduled kick-off time, before abandoning the game for any reason.
 - 19.6. The Referee's in conjunction with the Competitions Manager's decision shall be the final as to the condition of the ground for play.
 - 19.7. The decision of the referees regarding facts connected with play including whether or not a goal is scored and the result of the match is final.
The Referee may only change a decision on realising that it is correct or at his discretion, on the advice of the assistant referees or the fourth official provided that play has not restarted or the match hasn't been terminated.
 - 19.8. FFS to provide transportation for referees.

20. RESULTS

- 20.2. FFS must be informed of the half time results before the end of the half time break. This includes any goals, goal scorers, and any sending offs.
- 20.3. FFS must be informed of the Full time results within 15 minutes of the final whistle blowing. These results must include goals, goal scorers, and any sending offs.
- 20.4. Each club shall hand in correctly completed team list to the Referee prior to kick-off time.

21. FULL STRENGTH CLUBS

- 21.2. Each club shall play its full strength team in all fixtures, unless some satisfactory reason is given to FFS. Failure to do so will constitute an offence against this Regulation.

22. NON-COMPLIANCE

- 22.2. Unless otherwise specified, if a club is in breach of this Regulation, and/or any part of the Licence Agreement, the following procedure will be undertaken to remedy the breach:
 - 22.2.1. In the first instance of a breach, FFS shall notify the club in writing of the breach and the club will be given a reasonable period of time to rectify the breach. It is the club's responsibility to undertake remedial action within the timeframe set & to keep FFS informed of progress, including any possible delays due to circumstances beyond its control.
 - 22.2.2. If the breach is not rectified within the timeframe prescribed, FFS shall issue a second written notice to the club, outlining the breach and a timeframe for rectification, and imposing a fine. The level of fine will be determined on

a case-by-case basis, depending upon the particular matters of the breach. It is the club's responsibility to undertake remedial action within the timeframe set & to keep FFS informed of progress, including any possible delays due to circumstances beyond its control;

- 22.2.3. If the breach is not remedied within the prescribed timeframe after the issuance of the second notice of breach, the club will be deemed to be in default of its licence, and FFS is entitled to withdraw the club's licence to participate in the FFSC upon 10 days written notice to the club.

23. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

- 23.2. For the purposes of this clause, "Intellectual Property " shall mean the intellectual property of FFS in the FFSC including but not limited to all copyright, trademarks, design rights and all rights whether created before or after the date of the Licence Agreement and whether registered or unregistered, the format of the FFSC, the Licence Agreement and rules and regulations of the SNL, the name and logo of the FFSC, all broadcasting, media and production and reproduction rights of any games in the FFSC in any form whatsoever, all operational information and all promotional and advertising material in relation to the FFSC and all internet and website based information on the FFSC including competitions.
- 23.3. A club shall ensure that the ownership by FFS of the Intellectual Property is protected at all times and that any breach of it or unauthorised or unlicensed use of it is reported to FFS promptly.
- Any unauthorised or unlicensed use of the Intellectual Property by a club or any such unauthorised or unlicensed use permitted by a club shall be deemed a breach of these regulations and enforceable under the non-compliance provisions of these regulations.

24. MISCELLANEOUS

- 24.2. Matters not provided for in these regulations and cases of force majeure shall be decided by FFS. All decisions shall be final.
- 24.3. No person is entitled to bring the FFSC, FFS, the game or any related issue into disrepute. In particular, Coaches and Club Players, Club Members, Club Supporters and Club Sponsors are not entitled to communicate negative comments to the media and social media such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, aimed at any official, which results in such disrepute. Any person or club who breaches this clause will be liable to a fine up to \$500 Samoa Tala per breach, at the sole discretion of FFS.
- 24.4. Any issues that a club wishes to address with regards to the Rules and Regulations must be addressed to FFS in writing. The letter must also be written in a professional manner signed by the president of the club. Unsigned letter will be rejected. This must be done within 48 hours (2 days) after the match.
- 24.5. Portable Bluetooth Speakers are NOT allowed in the FFS Compound especially during matches. They can distract running of the games and may cause differences between referees and clubs. FFS has the right to remove and penalise anyone who will be caught and will be referred to the related club. Clubs or individuals that continue to violate this rule may be removed from the Complex or subject to further action with the Disciplinary Committee.
- 24.6. For 2020 National League, FFS will not assist any club in terms of Transportation until further notice from the Executive Committee.
- 24.7. All clubs are required to provide the following to FFS office;

1. Club official Management & club logo (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer)
 2. Club Bank Account. (no personal account)
 3. Team list. (all documents, Birth certificate copy/Passport, passport photo)
 4. Club Licensing. (MCIL)
 5. Club Constitution
- 24.8. Anyone (player & spectator) who physically assaults an FFS staff who assist the competition will be banned from any competitions and ALL FFS Premises and a fine \$500.00. The offense will be reported to the FFS Disciplinary Committee for further action.
- 24.9. When a match official abandon a match due to a physical assault by a player, the win will be automatically given to the other team. All match official reports will be handed to Disciplinary committee for further action according to FFS Offence Code.
- 24.10. Clubs are not permitted to have more than one team in a senior division. An exception will be made for the Youth Division.
- 24.11. Any updated standings as of the day/date of an emergency that may arise such as government state of emergency (SOE) and natural disaster will determine the final rankings. The number of match played (MP) will determined the final standings therefore, all match played should be the same on the competition match table. The Executive Committee at its discretion will decide whether to continue the competition.
- 24.12. Any individual, supporter or spectators who caused any fight will be banned from any FFS compound at any time. The official report will be given to Disciplinary Committee and Executive Committee for the final decision. Every club is responsible for any incident occurred in FFS compound.

25. **ALCOHOL, DRUGS, SMOKING POLICY**

- 25.2. Clubs are reminded that **NO Alcohol and Drugs** are permitted into any FFS competition venues and any person under the influence of alcohol can be asked and removed from the ground. Any person under the influence of alcohol belonging to a club can result in a penalty or fine of \$500.00 for the club including a ban at the discretion of FFS. Spectators found guilty of coursing any incident outside the field will be ban from any Football Compound with a fine of \$500.00. History of such club will be reviewed in order to finalise the decision by the Executive Committee.
- 25.3. Smoking is **NOT** permitted at any time around FFS fields of play therefore; smokers are advised to follow allocated areas behind the fields.

RELEGATION

- 25.4. At the completion of the 2020 FFSC Season, the bottom two (2) teams from the Premier Men Division will drop down to First Division and the top two (2) teams from First Division Men (exception being clubs that have a team in the Premier Division) will be promoted to Premier Men 2021. FFS will determine the venue, date, and time of the match.

SCHEDULE B – OFFENCE CODES

Cautionable offences **(YELLOW CARD)**

A player is cautioned if guilty of:

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

A substitute or substituted player is cautioned if guilty of:

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

Cautions for unsporting behavior

There are different circumstances when a player must be cautioned for unsporting behavior including if a player:

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

Celebration of a goal

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

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

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

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

Delaying the restart of play

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

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

Sending-off offences (RED CARD)

A player, substitute or substituted player who commits any of the following offences is sent off:

- denying the opposing team, a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by a handball offence (except a goalkeeper within their penalty area)
- denying a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent whose overall movement is towards the offender's goal by an offence punishable by a free kick (unless as outlined below)
- serious foul play
- biting or spitting at someone
- violent conduct
- using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures
- receiving a second caution in the same match
- entering the referees' room before/during/after with excessive manner

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

Denying a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity

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

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

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

The following must be considered:

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

Serious foul play

A tackle or challenge that endangers the safety of an opponent or uses excessive force or brutality must be sanctioned as serious foul play.

Any player who lunges at an opponent in challenging for the ball from the front, from the side or from behind using one or both legs, with excessive force or endangers the safety of an opponent is guilty of serious foul play.

Violent conduct

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

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

Team officials

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

Warning

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

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

Caution (YELLOW CARD)

Caution offences include (but are not limited to):

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

Sending-off (RED CARD)

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

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

- using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures
- using unauthorized electronic or communication equipment and/or behaving in an inappropriate manner as the result of using electronic or communication equipment
- violent conduct

SCHEDULE D – CLUB MANAGER / COACH DUTIES

At least two (2) Club Officials MUST attend every club meetings.

A Club President / Coach is responsible for being the contact person between the registered club and FFS. The main duty of the Club President / Coach is to pass on any information and communication from FFS to the club members and team.

The Club President / Coach will be reachable by the following.

1. Land Line Number
2. Mobile Phone Number
3. E-mail address
4. Formal Letter