

# St. Kitts-Nevis Football Association

Founded 1932

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## **SKNFA LEAGUES' RULES & REGULATIONS**

### **PREAMBLE**

The SKNFA Leagues are offering a playing environment focused on the highest level of competition to inspire the development of national and international level football players. The Leagues are committed to maintaining excellence in football while instilling the values of sportsmanship and fair play.

The highest level of competition and excellence is maintained by limiting admission to the top echelon of the league. Limited admission provides incentive for players and teams to develop to their highest potential. In addition, maintaining excellence at the top level of the league brings success and notoriety at the national and international level to our teams and players. Enhanced recognition of our teams results in higher-level tournament acceptance and increased number of college opportunities for our players.

The Rules of the SKNFA Leagues were written for the benefit of the league and its players. While this document is intended to be comprehensive and thorough, it should be understood that not all situations, circumstances, and events can be anticipated and, therefore covered precisely. Further, it is recognized that on occasion conflicting rules or statements may inadvertently occur.

Therefore, it shall be the firm policy of the SKNFA in resolving such conflicts to exercise its authority to override and/or amend these rules in keeping with their intent and purpose.

Each person having any responsibility whatsoever for a team either participating in the Leagues or desiring to participate in the Leagues is responsible for reading and knowing these rules.

In the event charges of infraction of these rules are made against a player, parent, team, coach, team manager, and/or team representative, claims by said accused person of ignorance of these rules will not be considered a viable defense to said charges. It is each team's responsibility to see to it that each person having any responsibility for the team receives a copy of these rules and that copies are made available and read by all of the team's officials and players.

The SKNFA Leagues operate as an active playing league within the Federation of St.Kitts-Nevis, and as such, all participants in the Leagues are responsible for knowing and following all the rules of the SKNFA.

# League Format

1. The 2009-2010 SKNFA **PREMIER LEAGUE** shall commence on Sunday 1 November 2009, at 4:00p.m.
  - a. Venue – The New Warner Park.
  - b. Opening Ceremony; All teams are to have at least two (2) uniformed players at the Opening Ceremony.
2. The league shall be conducted in conformity with the rules and regulations of FIFA.

## Premier League:

1. The Premier League shall consist of ten (10) teams namely:
  - a. S.L Horsford St. Pauls United F.C
  - b. Washington Archibald High School F.C
  - c. TDC Newtown Untied F.C
  - d. UDC Garden Hotspurs F.C
  - e. Digicel Village Superstars F.C
  - f. St. Peters F.C
  - g. Coury Snapple Conaree United F.C
  - h. KFC Trinity/Challengers F.C
  - i. Tabernacle F.C
  - j. C.F.B F.C
2. Venue – Matches will be played at venues determined fit by the SKNFA and on days and times as fixtured.

The above mentioned teams shall play in 2 rounds of round robin competition to determine a top four which will then play in another round robin competition to determining the top 2 teams. The top two teams will engage in the **Best of three (3) Finals** to determine the league champion.

## Incentives:

- The team with the most points for each round will be given \$500.00.
- The team with the most points after both rounds will receive \$1000.00.

The prize structure for the Premier Division is as follows:

Winner - \$12,000.00  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place - \$7,500.00  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place - \$4,000.00  
4<sup>th</sup> Place - \$1,500.00

## Relegation:

The bottom two teams in the Premier League at the end of the competition will be relegated to Division I and the top team of Division I will be promoted to the Premier Division.

## Division 1

The 2009-2010 Division I Football League shall commence on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2009. This division shall consist of all other registered teams of the SKNFA. The teams will be placed in two zones:

## ZONE A and ZONE B

The teams shall play in 2 rounds of round robin competition to determine the top 2 teams of each zone. The four teams will engage in a round robin playoff to determine the top two teams. The top two teams will engage in a best of three (3) Finals to determine the league champion.

### **Incentives**

- The teams leading the points standing of the round robin competition but before the playoffs shall receive EC\$500.00 and a trophy.

The prize structure for division I is as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> Place - \$3000.00

2<sup>nd</sup> Place - \$2000.00

3<sup>rd</sup> Place - \$1000.00

### **Division 2**

The SKNFA will not organize a Division 2 for the 2009-2010 season

## **Youth Leagues and Female League**

Youth Leagues:

- Under-17 Boys
- Under-15 Boys and Girls
- Under-13 Boys and Girls
- Senior Female League

The participation of the under-17 Boys' league will involve all clubs

The participation of the Under-15 Boys and Girls' Leagues will involve all clubs

The participation of the Under-13 Boys and Girls' Leagues will involve all clubs

## **General Information**

The transfer window for the SKNFA National Senior Football League is as follows:

Period 1– Opens on October 15, 2009: Closes on November 15, 2009, at 5:00pm

Period 2- Opens January 1, 2010: Closes on January 15 2010, at 5:00pm

We urge that you familiarize yourself and all members of your club with the SKNFA new rules and regulations.

Said rules become effective as of 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2009 and shall govern the SKNFA National Football Leagues.

### **Points Standing:**

The points standing will be determined by:

- Points

- Goal Difference (Goals scored minus goals conceded)
- Goals For
- Results from head to head match up (including goals difference in head to head match up)
- Toss of a coin

## **Best of Three Finals**

### Rules and regulations

- (1) Each game shall be played within two (2) 45 minutes halves (90 minutes)
- (2) In the event of a tie at the end of regulations time 2-15 minutes halves will be played. (Golden goal no longer applies).
- (3) If at the end of overtime the game is still tied – Best of 5 Penalty Kick shall apply the first five players to kick on each team to be named by each team.
- (4) If there is still a tie **sudden death penalty kicks** shall be taken by those players who have not taken kicks before, until a winner is determined.

Guidelines for the best of three finals (i.e. team list, passes, IDs etc.) would be communicated subsequent to the start of the Playoffs and Finals.

## **Match Days**

As a general rule the match days for the three (3) divisions are as follows:

- Premier League games shall be played as follows:
  - Saturdays, Sundays and Thursdays but not limited to any other day
- First Division games shall be played on Mondays and Wednesdays
- Youth League matches will be played on Saturdays but not limited to any other day
- Female League matches will be played on days chosen by the Competition Committee

The SKNFA reserves the right to schedule or reschedule any game to any day and time of the week.

## **FA CUP (Knock out Competition)**

All registered teams in the St. Kitts Nevis Football Premier Division and Division I qualify for the 2009 – 2010 F.A Cup (Knock-Out Competition).

The competition shall be played under the following format:

At the end of the registration date for the 2008-2009 Football league, Teams are Ranked, Zoned and Fixtured based on the Final Points standing of the Premier, and Division I 2008-2009 Football Season. Teams entering or re- entering the Division I competition were ranked based on there registration date.

The two finalists from the Premier Division in the 2008/2009 season will represent the top team in each Zone and will benefit from a bye if the Zone their in has an odd number of teams.

All teams shall compete in matches under the following conditions

## PRELIMINARY

- Each match shall have a winner and only the winner shall advance
- Each match shall be of 50 minutes regulation time, i.e., 25 min per half with a 5 minute interval.
- In the event of a tie at the end of regulation, the best of five penalty kicks will apply.
- If at the end of the best of five penalty kicks there is still a tie, **sudden death penalty kicks** shall be taken by those players who have not taken penalty kicks before until a winner is determined.
- If there is still a tie at the end of sudden death penalty kicks, the winner shall be determined by the toss of a coin.

## SEMI-FINALS

- Each match shall have a winner and only the winner shall advance
- Each match shall be 70 minutes regulation time, i.e., 35 min per half with a 10 minute interval.
- In the event of a tie at the end of regulation, the best of five penalty kicks will apply.
- If at the end of the best of five penalty kicks there is still a tie, **sudden death penalty kicks** shall be taken by those players who have not taken penalty kicks before until a winner is determined.
- If there is still a tie at the end of sudden penalty kicks, the winner shall be determined by the toss of a coin.

## FINALS

- The Final match would be 90 minutes regulation time, i.e., 45 min per half with a 15 minute interval.
- In the event of a tie at the end of regulation, the best of five penalty kicks will apply.
- If at the end of the best of five penalty kicks there is still a tie, **sudden death penalty kicks** shall be taken by those players who have not taken penalty kicks before until a winner is determined.
- If there is still a tie at the end of sudden penalty kicks, the winner shall be determined by the toss of a coin.

All teams are reminded that the FA – Cup Knock out competition is governed by the SKNFA Rules and Regulations of the 2009 –2010 Football Season.

Be further aware that any player who receives a Red Card in the FA – Cup tournament is not eligible to participate in their club's next F.A Cup match.

The Grand prize for the FA Cup Champions \$3500.00  
The Runner up shall receive \$1000.00

## YOUTH LEAGUES AND FEMALE LEAGUE

All registered clubs/teams will be invited to participate in youth league and female league.  
The above-mentioned teams shall play in a 2 rounds of round robin (home and away) competition to determine the top 4 teams.

The top four teams will engage in a round robin playoff to determine the top two teams.

The top two teams will engage in a best of three (3) Finals to determine the league champion.

| LEAGUE         | BALL SIZE | FIELD SIZE  | GOAL SIZE | STARTING DATE |
|----------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|---------------|
| Under-17 Boys  | 5         | 60x100 yds. | 8'x24'    | 30/1/10       |
| Undr-15 Boys   | 5         | 60x100 yds  | 8'x24'    | 30/1/10       |
| Under-15 Girls | 4         | 50x80 yds   | 7'x21'    | 13/1/10       |
| Under-13 Boys  | 4         | 50x80 yds.  | 7'x21'    | 30/1/10       |
| Under-13 Girls | 4         | 40x70 yds.  | 6'x20'    | 13/1/10       |
| Female         | 5         | 60x100 yds. | 8'x24     | 13/1/10       |

| LEAGUE         | Players  | Half time         | Half time Int. | Substitutions |
|----------------|----------|-------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Under-17 Boys  | 11 v. 11 | 45 mins. Per half | 15 mins.       | 3             |
| Under-15 Boys  | 11 v. 11 | 40 mins. Per half | 15 mins.       | 4             |
| Under-15 Girls | 11 v. 11 | 30 mins. Per half | 10 mins        | 5             |
| Under-13 Boys  | 9 v. 9   | 30 mins. Per half | 10 mins        | 7             |
| Under-13 Girls | 9 v. 9   | 25 mins. Per half | 10 mins        | 9             |
| Female         | 11v. 11  | 45 mins per half  | 15 mins        | 3             |

For further information or any queries please contact the SKNFA secretariat at 466-8502/2998 or email [info@sknfa.com](mailto:info@sknfa.com)

# Rules & Regulations

## Rule 1.

### COMPETITIONS

- a) The Association shall organize separate competition matches amongst the registered clubs in the different divisions:
- Competition I – Premier Division regular season  
Division I regular season – Finals
  - Competition II – FA Cup “Knock-out” competition
  - Competition III-Federation Cup
  - Competition IV-Youth Leagues
  - Competition V-Female League
  - Competition VI-5-A-Side Tournament
  - Competition VIII-Beach Soccer
  - Any other competition sanctioned by the SKNFA
- b) Three points shall be awarded for a win, one point for a draw and no points for a loss.
- c) **(I)** If a team does not report for a match except in cases of **force majeure** recognized by the Organizing Committee of the SKNFA League or if the team refuses to continue to play or leaves the ground before the end of a match, the team shall be considered as having lost the match, and three points shall be awarded to their opponent, as if it were a match won with three goals to none.
- (II)** The guilty team in (I) above shall as a general rule be excluded from further participation in the competitions/league so that none of its matches are deemed valid unless the incidents mentioned occurred at its last match. In addition, the guilty team/club shall pay compensation for any damages or losses incurred by the other team/club and the SKNFA. Furthermore, the guilty team/club may be disqualified from taking part in the next SKNFA league/competition, or any activity organized under the auspices of the SKNFA.
- (III)** If a player or official of any team shall be deemed to have brought the game into disrepute, the player or official of that team shall be brought before the

disciplinary committee of the SKNFA.

- d) The Competitions & Tournaments Committee for the SKNFA League shall take whatever action is deemed necessary in cases of **force majeure**.
- e) The actual dates for respective matches will be determined by the Competitions & Tournaments Committee and ratified by the Management Committee after a draw has been made.
- f) Postponement of a match may be made by a mutual agreement among the teams concerned and with the consent of the General Secretary of the Association. The General Secretary may on behalf of the Association postpone a match after giving reasonable notice to all teams concerned. The General Secretary shall give a minimum of forty-eight (48) hours notice in writing of all fixtured **and refixtured matches**.
- g) To have a match refixtured, clubs/teams shall submit a written request to the General Secretary seventy-two (72) hours before the original match date.
- h) All competitions shall be gender exclusive unless otherwise directed by the Management of the SKNFA.

## **Rule 2.**

### **SUBSCRIPTIONS**

Each club shall be required to pay an annual subscription fee of \$25.00 on or before the prescribed time and date set for the commencement of the league by the Management Committee of the SKNFA.

## **Rule 3.**

### **REGISTRATION/PARTICIPATION FEES & PROCESS**

Each club may enter one or more teams into the League Competitions organized by the Association provided that the Clubs pay the subscription fee, participation fee and players' participation fee for each team entering into the competition.

#### **a. Registration Process**

- I. Each team must submit to the FA Secretariat or Competition Committee a **FULLY** completed Club Registration Form. Form to be collected from Secretariat
- II. Each player must complete a Player Registration Form
- III. Each Player must submit a passport size photo with the Player Registration Form
- IV. No Player will be allowed to participate unless the above conditions are met.

#### **b. Registration Fee**

- I. Each Club shall be required to pay an annual subscription fee of \$25.00 on or before the prescribed time and date for the commencement of the league by the Executive Committee of the SKNFA.
- II. Each Club participating team will have to pay a participation fee as per division:
  - 1. Premier Division – EC\$900.00

- 2. Division 1 – EC\$500.00
- 3. Youth and Female Division – EC\$200.00

**c. Player Insurance Policy/Fees**

- I The insurance policy will not be made mandatory for this season. However, all clubs are encouraged to cover their players. The SKNFA will not bare nor share any responsibility for injured players.  
The Insurance fee of \$80.00 per player covers an eight (8) month period (duration of the 2009/2010 League) and can be paid in two installments. First payment should be made on or before 30<sup>th</sup> October, and the second by the 29<sup>th</sup> January, 2010.
- II Players seeking transfer from one Club/Team to another Club/Team must pay an EC\$50.00 administration fee to the FA Secretariat and submit a fully completed Transfer Form to be provided by the FA.
- III. Coaches and Team Officials transferring from one club/team to must pay EC\$50.00 to FA Secretariat and submit a fully completed Transfer Form to be provided by the FA.

**Rule 4.**

**TROPHIES AND AWARDS**

- a) The Association shall be responsible for providing cups/trophies to be competed for annually. Cups/Trophies and Awards to be competed for are as follows: -

|             |   |                       |                      |
|-------------|---|-----------------------|----------------------|
| All Leagues | - | Winner-               | Trophy and 23 Medals |
|             | - | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place | - “ “                |
|             | - | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Place | - 23 Medals          |

- b) Special & Individual Awards
  - a. League MVP
  - b. Player with most goals
  - c. Best Defender
  - d. Best Midfielder
  - e. Best Goalkeeper
  - f. Youngest Player
  - g. Player of the month
  - h. Player of the game Certificate
  - i. Coach of the Year
  - j. Referee of the Year
  - k. Team with largest Community Support
  - l. Club Community Service Award
  - m. Most Successful Club Youth Academy

The presentation of awards/trophies shall be done at an awards banquet that will be scheduled by the Competitions Committee.

## **Rule 5.**

### **CLUBS**

- a. A club may register one or more teams for participation in the league competitions organized by the Association. No club is allowed to have more than one (1) team in any division.
- b. All Premier Clubs are encouraged to have the following teams:
  - a) **Under-17 Boys Team**
  - b) **Under-15 Boys and Girls Team**
  - c) **Under-13 Boys and Girls Team**
  - d) **Senior Women Team**
- c. All Division 1 Clubs are encouraged to have the following teams:
  - i. Under-15 Boys and Girls
  - ii. Under-13 Boys and Girls

## **Rule 6.**

### **TEAMS**

- a) Only teams whose clubs are affiliated to the Association shall participate in the League competition.
- b) All teams gaining admittance to the league competition shall be registered in the 1<sup>st</sup> Division except otherwise decided by the FA at a meeting of the SKNFA.
- c) All teams **MUST** submit a **COMPLETE** Registration form inclusive of all players, officials and contacts of the club.
- d) Every playing member of a team must be registered with the Association. No player will be allowed to play for a team unless he is registered.
- e) A team is allowed three changes during a match. Additionally the names of players, reserves and team officials must be submitted to the referee before the start of play.

*Only seven (7) reserves and five (5) officials shall be allowed on the bench whilst the game is in progress. The referee may at any time for due reason, request any player or team official to leave the vicinity of the field of play and the technical area.*

- f) Teams must play in their registered colours unless otherwise directed by the Association.
- g) Any team playing an unregistered player or one who is not properly transferred will forfeit the match or matches concerned and 3 points awarded to the opponents as if it were a match won with 3 goals to none.
- h) Any team playing a player who is under suspension will forfeit that match or matches concerned and the 3 points awarded to the opponents, as if it were a match won with 3 goals to none.
- i) All teams must register a coach. The coach must have the SKNFA D License. If coach does not possess the D License must complete the D License within six months after registered date.
- j) Where dressing rooms are provided, all teams shall return to their respective dressing

rooms twenty (20) minutes before the scheduled kick-off time for inspection. The team manager is responsible for ensuring that this deadline is observed. Failure of the team to observe this deadline would lead to the matter being referred to the Disciplinary Committee.

## **Rule 7.**

### **PLAYERS/COACHES/OFFICIALS**

#### **1. PLAYERS**

- a) All players must be registered members of teams and shall be given a registration number by the Association.
- b) For a player to move from one club to another he must make application on a form provided and designated by the National Association.
- c) A player may transfer from one club to another only during the periods as designated by the SKNFA.
- d) Transfers and Registrations of new players who were not registered with the Association at the beginning of the season must be lodged with the Secretary at least 48 hours before participating in a match.
- e) Any player seeking transfer is not allowed to play in any match until the transfer process has been completed i.e. approved or denied transfer certificate
- f) All players participating in the SKNFA Leagues are eligible for National Team Representation. Once players are selected to represent the country players must attend national team training. Players' reason for not participating in the National Team training must be approved and accepted by the Association. Players who do not have an acceptable reason for not attending National Team Training will be suspended from SKNFA Leagues' participation and will be reported to Disciplinary Committee for further disciplinary actions.
- g) Players are not allowed to participate in any other league that is NOT approved or sanctioned by the SKNFA. Players must receive a written approval from the SKNFA to participate in Leagues not approved or sanctioned by the SKNFA. Players who do not receive the approval to play in Leagues and/or Tournament not approved or sanctioned by the SKNFA will be suspended from the SKNFA Leagues participation and will be reported to the Disciplinary Committee for further disciplinary actions.
- h) Any player who has been refused a transfer by any club may appeal to the Players Status Committee to have the matter resolved.
- i) A registered player can only play for one team and in one division (Except National U-16 and U-18). Players will not be allowed to play in different divisions. Teams that play players who are already playing in another division will be fined and reported to the Disciplinary Committee for further disciplinary actions.
- j) A player must be 16 years and older to play in the Premier League and 15 years and older to play in the Division I. Any team who plays an under aged player will forfeit the match.
- k) National U-18 and U-16 players selected to play with the National select youth teams in the Division I are eligible to play in the Premier Division as well.

#### **2. COACHES**

- a) All coaches must be registered members of teams and shall be given a registration number by the Association
- b) For a coach to move from club to another he must make an application on a form provided and designated by the Association

- c) A coach may transfer from one club to another at any time
- d) Transfers and Registration of new coaches who were not registered with the Association at the beginning of the season must be lodged with the Secretariat at least 48 hours before participating in the match.
- e) Any coach seeking transfer is not allowed to coach in match until the transfer process has been completed i.e. approved or denied transfer certificate
- f) All coaches must have the SKNFA D License and must attend the SKNFA annual Coaching Refreshers Course to be scheduled by the Association.
- g) After every match each coach must submit a match report within 24 hours after the game to the Secretariat. Match Report Form to be provided and designated by the Association.
- h) Any coach who has been refused a transfer by any club may appeal to the Disciplinary Committee to have the matter resolved.

### **3. TEAM OFFICIALS**

- a. All Team Officials must be registered members of teams and shall be given a registration number by the Association
- b. For a Team Official to move from club to another he must make an application on a form provided and designated by the Association
- c. A Team Official may transfer from one club to another at any time
- d. Transfers and Registration of new Team Officials who were not registered with the Association at the beginning of the season must be lodged with the Secretariat at least 48 hours before participating in the match.
- e. Any Team Official seeking transfer is not allowed to administer in match until the transfer process has been completed i.e. approved or denied transfer certificate
- f. All Team Officials must attend the SKNFA annual Club Development Seminar to be scheduled by the Association.
- i) Any team official who has been refused a transfer by any club may appeal to the Disciplinary Committee to have the matter resolved.

## **Rule 8.**

### **REFEREES AND ASSISTANT REFEREES**

- a) After each match the referees shall complete a report on the match, and forward it to the Secretary of the Association, within twenty-four (24) hours after the conclusion of the match. The report shall contain as much detail as possible about all occurrences before during and after the match, such as:-
  - (i) Detailed result.
  - (ii) Misconduct of players leading to caution or expulsion.
  - (iii) Unsporting behaviour of players, officials and supporters.
  - (iv) Any other incidents.
- b) The referees, assistant referees and fourth officials if required to do so, shall attend any meeting held by the Disciplinary Committee, only to assist the Committee with any point of his report that is not understood.
- c) The referees, assistant referees and fourth officials will be evaluated on a continual basis by the Referees Committee.

## **Rule 9.**

### **LAWS OF THE GAME**

The matches shall be played in conformity with the laws of the game promulgated by Federation International de Football Association, (F.I.F.A.).

## **Rule 10.**

### **GENERAL**

- a) Players and Officials may be required for media interviews before or after games. Failure to co-operate may be deemed to be a breach of these rules and regulations.
- b) A player who receives a **red card or two yellow cards in a match** shall be automatically suspended for the next match of the same competition in which his team is fixtured to play. He may also be summoned by the disciplinary committee, which can impose further sanctions.
- c) A player who receives a yellow card in two consecutive matches shall be automatically suspended for the next match of the same competition in which his team is fixtured to play. He may also be summoned by the disciplinary committee, which can impose further sanctions.
- d) Upon receiving a report from a referee that he or she has cautioned a player (i.e., a yellow card) for violation of the laws of the game, the General Secretary shall send an acknowledgement to the referee and send to the secretary of the club for which the player was playing at the time written notification that the caution has been administered and recorded.
- e) Upon receiving a report from a referee that he or she has dismissed a player from the field of play for misconduct the General Secretary shall send an acknowledgement to the referee and send to the secretary of the player's club a letter informing of the player's automatic one game suspension and any further disciplinary action.
- f) Upon receiving the said documentation (of rule 10.d), the club secretary must convey the documents to the player concerned. It is the duty of the club secretary and the player to acknowledge receipt of the notification within seven (7) days of the date stated on it.
- g) Any team official expelled from the bench during a match shall be automatically suspended for that team's next match of the said competition. The said official may be summoned by the Disciplinary Committee for further sanctioning.  
Any official expelled from the bench for the second time in the competition, shall be automatically suspended for that team's next two consecutive matches of the said competition. The said official may be summoned by the Disciplinary Committee for further sanctioning.
- h) Any player or team/club official who physically assaults or verbally abuses a match official will be fined and suspended, please see Rule 19 for guidance. The said individual may also be summoned by the disciplinary committee, which can impose further sanctions.

- i) Players warming up in the area of their benches must wear a colour which is different to that of their team participating on the field. Players must be properly dressed when on the pitch during game time.
- j) All clubs and affiliated Associations shall play or administer football in conformity with these rules. Infringement of these rules shall be subject to Disciplinary Committee sanctions.
- k) All participants shall act at all times in the best interest of the game and shall not act in any manner which is improper or brings the game into disrepute.

### **Rule 11.**

#### **NO SHOW FOR FIXTURED MATCH**

Any team that fails to show up for a fixtured match without reasonable cause as determined by the Competitions Committee shall lose the match by default.

In addition, the defaulting team shall incur a fine of EC\$500.00 such amount to be paid to the office of the Football Association forty-eight (48) hours before the team plays its next fixtured match. Failure to comply with this requirement will result in an automatic forfeiture of the up-coming match or matches.

“Reasonable cause” shall be defined to mean acts of God, accidents, or failure of requisite equipment which makes its impractical or impossible for the team to show up for the match.

In such an event, the team should file a “Request for Re-fixturing” stating clearly the basis for its request. The request shall be examined by the Leagues Competition Committee, which shall render a final judgment on the matter.

### **Rule 12.**

#### **FIXTURES**

At the start of each football season, The Association will issue a set of fixtures for each division. Accordingly, member clubs should design their foreign and local engagements around the said fixtures.

### **Rule 13.**

#### **START TIME FOR EACH MATCH**

The Fixtures issued by The Association will indicate the start time for each match. Each Referee assigned to a match shall take every reasonable step to start a match on time, but if unable to do so, shall advise each team manager of the new start time before the expiry of the original start time but no later than ten (10) minutes thereafter. A Referee can allow up to fifteen (15) minutes past the greater of the assigned start time or the revised start time to commence a match. Therefore, he should take the required steps to call the match.

Notwithstanding the above time period, in the case of unforeseen circumstances, the referee in his or her own deliberative discretion shall set the start time of the match.

Participating teams must be assembled and ready for inspection in their respective dressing rooms twenty (20) minutes before game time.

Any team, which fails to have the requisite numbers required to play a match, will lose the said match by default.

#### **Rule 14.**

#### **MATCH LOST BY DEFAULT**

A team that loses a match by default will not be awarded points or goals while the opposing team shall be awarded three points as if it were a match won with three (3) goals. The losing team will incur a fine of EC\$150.00 and reported to the Disciplinary Committee for further action

#### **Rule 15.**

#### **ACTS PREJUDICIAL TO THE INTEREST OF THE GAME**

A team that engages in any of the following acts will be, prima facie, deemed to have committed acts prejudicial to the interest of the game and shall be summoned to appear before the Disciplinary Committee where automatic, appropriate and or additional sanctions will be issued.

- appearing for a match and failing to take the field of play
- failing to complete a match when instructed to do so by the Referee
- using abusive language or causing physical injury to match officials
- failing to submit match cards to match officials
- repeated acts of defiance or un-cooperation with respect to the conduct of matches.

#### **Rule 16.**

#### **DISPUTES, PROTESTS and APPEALS**

Where clubs intend to lodge a protest over incident(s)/circumstance(s) that occur before or during the game, the following procedure must be followed to lodge protests or appeals:

- a. ALL protests MUST be lodged in writing with the secretariat of the SKNFA within forty eight (48) hours of the end of the match.
- b. Any club can lodge any protest, appeal for any dispute, incident, circumstance that occur before and during the game.

Appeals of any decision of the SKNFA or its standing committees must be submitted within seven (7) days and shall be accompanied by a cash payment of two hundred dollars (\$200.00). Lodging an appeal does not defer a decision taken.

***No team/club shall take the Management Committee of the FA to a Court of Law. Should any team/club do so said team/club shall be subjected to suspension and fine up to \$5000.00. Further the FA shall report the matter to the FIFA General Secretary and Legal Department.***

## **Rule 17.**

### **DOPING CONTROL**

- (a) Doping is forbidden
- (b) Doping is the use of and/or distribution of a substance or a composition of substances as promulgated by FIFA in The Doping Control Regulations Schedule I.
- (c) The SKNFA reserves the right to carry out random doping tests before and during any competition as deemed necessary.
- (d) If the SKNFA suspects a coach, referee, and team official of Doping the SKNFA reserves the right to carry out doping tests on suspected person.
- (e) Tests may be carried out at any or all of the matches in any competition.
- (f) All players in clubs/teams, including reserves shall be subject to doping control.
- (g) Any player, referee, coach, team officials or club/team which:
  - (1) Refuses to submit to a drug test;
  - (2) Falsifies the result of a test or attempts to do so;
  - (3) Is found guilty of intentionally or unintentionally taking drugs;

will be fined EC\$1000.00 and suspended for one year from all football activities sanctioned by the SKNFA and also referred to the disciplinary committee for further actions.

- (h) *Any official who intentionally or unintentionally abets or incites such an infringement to be committed will be referred to the disciplinary committee.*
- (i) For infringements of the doping control regulations as stipulated by FIFA in Schedule I of The Doping Control Regulations, the SKNFA is empowered to apply all sanctions contained in the FIFA list of disciplinary measures.

## **Rule 18**

### **OTHER REGISTRATION, TRANSFERS AND LOANS**

- a. The league will be played under the FIFA Regulations for the status and transfer of players.
- b. Players may only be registered to play with a National Association during one the registration period as laid down by the National Association, with a LIMIT of one transfer of registration per player in the same season in a period of twelve (12) months.
- c. The registration period for the season will be:

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| a. | Period 1: 15 <sup>th</sup> October - 15 <sup>th</sup> November 2009 |
| b. | Period 2: 1 <sup>st</sup> – 15 <sup>th</sup> January 2010           |

- d. National Associations can only register players coming from another Association subsequent to the receipt of a certificate of transfer of registration from that of the other Association, referred to as The International Registration Transfer Certificate (ITC).

## **Rule 19**

### **Fines and Suspensions**

- a. Teams/clubs who fail to meet for deadline for payment of registration fee and participation fee will have to pay an additional EC\$50.00 for late registration.
- b. Teams/clubs will be fined EC\$150.00 for appearing for a match and failing to take the field of play. Payment to be paid to Secretariat within 48 hours
- c. Teams/clubs will be fined EC\$ 150.00 for failing to complete a match when instructed to do so by the Referee. Payment to be paid to Secretariat within 48 hours

## **Rule 20**

### Communication

- a. The following are the methods of communication the Competition Committee will use to inform clubs and players, coaches, referees and teams' officials:
  - i. Emails and/or website
  - ii. Faxes
  - iii. Letters
- b. Each club must submit three active email addresses and /or a website address, a fax number, and physical address when completing registration forms.
- c. The primary means of communication will be through emails and/or website address
- d. All players, coaches, referees, and team officials are to register his/her email address with the SKNFA
- e. Clubs and other persons who need a hard copy of any document can call the Secretariat to get a copy

## **Rule 21**

ANY AFFILIATED PLAYER, CLUB, LEAGUE OR OFFICIAL WHO FAILS TO COMPLY WITH ANY OF THE ABOVE RULES, SHALL BE LIABLE TO DISCIPLINARY ACTION BY THE SKNFA

## **Rule 22**

Any matters not provided for in these rules shall be decided by the management committee of the SKNFA as per the Constitution.

## **Rule 23**

**THE CONDITIONS FOR THE USE OF WARNER PARK FOOTBALL STADIUM FACILITY WILL BE SUBJECT TO THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS ESTABLISHED BY THE MINISTRY OF SPORTS TOURISM AND CULTURE. AS SUCH MEMBER CLUBS WILL BE REQUIRED TO ADHERE TO THE SAID TERMS AND CONDITIONS.**

**POWERS OF MANAGEMENT**

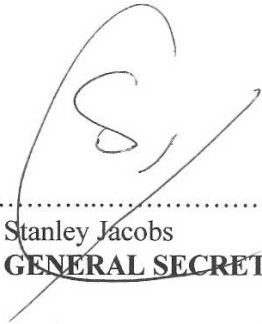
The Management Committee shall be the sole authority for the interpretation of the league format and the rules and regulations.

**These rules rescind and or replace any rules previously issued by the Management Committee of the SKNFA.**

THESE RULES WERE RATIFIED BY THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF THE ST. KITTS AND NEVIS FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION ON FRIDAY OCTOBER 30<sup>TH</sup> 2009 AND SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE ON 1<sup>ST</sup> DAY OF NOVEMBER 2009.

For and on behalf of the Management Committee of the SKNFA

  
.....  
Anthony L. Johnson  
**PRESIDENT**

  
.....  
Stanley Jacobs  
**GENERAL SECRETARY**

AFFILIATES: LIFA, CFU, CONCACAF, FIFA