



RULES & REGULATIONS

2023 - 2024

1. DEFINITIONS

In these Competition Regulations, the capitalized terms shall have the following meanings, unless the context specifically indicates otherwise:

1.1	Accreditation Card	Any physical items which are issued by MFA provide the recipient the right to access a Controlled Access Area (or part thereof) where the Controlled Access Area is under the control of the MFA or the LOC.
1.2	Advertising Rights	The right to promote brand and/or corporate names and/or products and/or services at and/or in relation to the Competition by whatever means available, whether existing now or to be developed in the future, whether at the Match Venue or Facility Areas or within the Controlled Access Areas, in association with the Competition Marks and/or the MFA Marks, by Match Venue perimeter signage and other advertising, digital signage and screens, closed circuit television, equipment usage or other methods and through printed matter (including digitally delivered printed matter) such as programmes, posters, letterheads, press releases, newsletters and Tickets, and subject to any MFA regulations, the right to display such advertising on the clothing or footwear worn, or on any equipment used, carried or transported by the MFA Delegation (including for the avoidance of doubt Match Officials), medical and security staff, ball boys, Participating Player escorts, flag bearers and/or

		<p>photographers. The display of the name and/or logo of the bona fide supplier of clothing on the strip of the uniforms of the MFA Delegation (including for the avoidance of doubt Match Officials) are also included. For the avoidance of doubt, advertising on the strip of Participating Players is excluded, other than where it is the trademark of the bona fide manufacturer and is in accordance with MFA regulations. Similarly, branding on any equipment, goods and/or services used in connection with the Competition, save where supplied by the MFA Commercial Rights Partner and/or an Official Licensee</p>
1.3	AFC	The Asian Football Confederation.
1.4	AIFF	The All India Football Federation.
1.5	MFA	Mumbai Football Association
1.6	AIFF CRS	Also known as MFA 'Centralised Registration System'. Is the online player registration system.
1.7	AIFF CMS	Also known as 'Competition Management System'. Is the online competition management and registration system of the MFA.

1.8	MFA Commercial Rights Partner	The entity appointed by the MFA as the sole and exclusive representative of the MFA with regard to the sale of the Commercial Rights (or any part thereof) pursuant to existing agreements and the provision of services in relation thereto.
1.9	MFA Committee	One (1) or more (as the context defines) of the Standing Committees of the MFA as promulgated within the Statutes.
1.10	MFA Constitution	The constitutional document enshrines the roles, duties and responsibilities of MFA vis-a-vis Indian Football.
1.11	MFA Delegation	(i) MFA staff; (ii) Match Officials; (iii) other officials appointed by the MFA; (iv) The MFA's Committee members; and (v) MFA guests.
1.12	MFA Secretariat	Responsible for carrying out administrative work of MFA.
1.13	MFA League Committee	The Committee was formed by the MFA to suggest to the MFA Executive Committee and/or the MFA Disciplinary Committee about decisions on overall organizational matters.
1.14	MFA Marks	All design marks, slogans, designations, names, logos, insignia, emblems or devices (in any application) owned and/or controlled by the MFA (in any language), but excluding the Competition Marks.
1.15	MFA social media platforms	The official website of MFA (footballmfa.com), including without limitation all other domains or official media platforms and channels created and/or owned by the MFA.

1.16	Broadcast Licensee	Any entity, including the Host Broadcaster, which has been granted the Media Rights from the MFA or the MFA Commercial Rights Partner for the Competition.
1.17	Club	The Club which exists within the geographical territory of the MFA and is a duly registered member of an affiliated Football Association of the MFA and has been nominated by such respective Football Association for the Hero 2nd DIVISION LEAGUE 2022-23 and/or is the

		reserve team of an Indian Super League club which shall be eligible to participate in the Competition and may also be referred to as a 'Participating Club'.
1.18	Commercial Rights	Advertising Rights, concession rights, hospitality rights, image rights, Media Rights, Merchandising Rights, Promotional Rights, Sponsorship Rights, and Travel and Tour Rights, granted to MFA Commercial Rights Partner.
1.19	Commencement of Competition	The Competition shall be deemed to have commenced from such date as officially notified by the MFA and shall remain operative till the presentation or closing ceremony as may be scheduled.
1.20	Competition Data	Any and all information related to the Competition, including fixture lists, Image Rights, information and/or statistics about the Participating Clubs and/or Participating Players, information and/or statistics about their participation and/or performance in the Competition, Match analysis, referee decisions, and any other information in relation to the Competition.
1.21	Competition Website	The official website in relation to the Competition operated exclusively by the MFA Secretariat with a dedicated URL registered, owned and maintained by the MFA, at the League's sole expense, for exclusive use by the League.

1.22	Controlled Access Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) any Match Venue; (ii) any Official Training Site; (iii) any official hotel (public areas being excepted), subject to and to the extent agreed in an executed hotel agreement; (iv) any official exclusion zone encircling a Match Venue on any Match Day; (v) any official parking area, accreditation centre, International Broadcast Compound, and/or hospitality area;
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (vi) the venue of any Official Function; (vii) any official MFA fan park; (viii) Facility Areas; and/or (ix) any other location and/or facility designated by the MFA as a Controlled Access Area and to which access is permitted only to those in possession of an Accreditation Card, Ticket, and/or such other officially sanctioned entry permit.
1.23	Digital Media	Any digitalized media (including the MFA Website and/or the Competition Website) created by MFA in relation to the Competition, including but not limited to any mobile website, mobile application (app), online video channel, data product, photo-sharing account, social media account, and any further form of digital media developed herewith.
1.24	Fair Play	The game should be played in an entertaining and positive way, behaviour on and off the field in a sporting manner towards all others involved, be they players, officials or spectators, irrespective of results.

1.25	FIFA	The Federation Internationale de Football Association.
1.26	Fixed Media	Any magnetic, electronic or digital storage device or method including without limitation DVD, VHS or CD-ROM.
1.27	Football Association	The controlling body for football within a territory of Mumbai as recognised by the MFA.

1.28	Football Season	Shall mean and include all football activities carried out, starting from the 9th of June of a year till the 31st of May of the following year.
1.29	Force Majeure	Any event affecting the performance or any provision of these Regulations arising from or attributable to acts, events, omissions or accidents which are beyond the reasonable control of a party, and shall include but not be limited to abnormally inclement weather, flood, lightning, storm, fire, explosion, earthquake, structural damage, epidemic or other natural disaster, failure or shortage of power supplies, war, terrorist action, military operations, riot, crowd disorder, strike, lock-outs or other industrial action, or civil commotion.
1.30	IFAB	The International Football Association Board.

1.31	Image Rights	The right to use still and/or moving images and/or representations of images of Participating Clubs and Participating Players participating in the Competition, including, for the avoidance of doubt, images of Participating Officials, Match Officials, and other officials forming part of the Competition.
1.32	Laws of the Game	The laws of association football issued by the IFAB.
1.33	League Table	Records of Matches of the Competition computed in terms of these instant Regulations
1.34	Match	A football match in its entirety (including a replayed and/or deferred football match, extra time and kicks from the penalty mark) which takes place as part of the Competition in accordance with the Match Schedule.

		For the avoidance of doubt, a Match formally commences when the Match Venue is officially opened to spectators and formally concludes when the Match Venue is officially closed to spectators.
1.35	Match Officials	Any individual appointed to officiate a Match in the Competition in the role of referee, assistant referees, fourth official, Referee Assessor and Match Commissioner.
1.36	Match Schedule	The official schedule which sets out, without limitation, the dates and times on which Matches will be played, the Match Venue at which the Matches will be played, and the names of the Participating Clubs.

1.37	Media	Any individual granted a media Accreditation Card by the MFA.
1.38	Official Ball	Refers to the football to be used in the Competition as referred in Article 5.10 of these Regulations.
1.39	Official Licensee	Any entity to which the MFA and/or the MFA Commercial Rights Partner has granted the right to exercise and exploit the Commercial Rights (or any part thereof) in respect of the Competition.
1.40	Official Team Delegation	The delegation comprising of registered players and officials of a Participating Club for the Competition subject to the limits set out in the Competition Regulations.
1.41	Official Training Site	Any site designated by the LOC and approved by the MFA for use by the
		Participating Clubs throughout the duration of the Competition for training purposes.
1.42	Participating Official	Any Official who is registered to participate in the Competition.
1.43	Participating Player	Any male and female player who is registered or in process of being registered to participate in the Competition.

1.44	Proprietary Interests	Without limitation, intellectual property, copyright and analogous rights, trademark rights, moral rights, performing rights, personality rights, and all remedies available under the applicable laws of unfair competition comprised in the Commercial Rights.
1.45	Regulations	These Competition Regulations.

1.46	Venue	Includes without limitation, the Match Venue and structures within the Match Venue premises, Controlled Access Areas, field of play, Official Training Sites, warm up sites, team benches and the technical area.
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For the purposes of these Regulations, and provided the context so permits:

- (a) The singular shall include the plural and vice-versa;
- (b) the masculine gender shall include the feminine and vice-versa;
- (c) reference to natural persons shall include any legal person or corporation;
- (d) references to the MFA shall include its successors and permitted assigns and in relation to the availability of the Commercial Rights, its respective Member Associations, and the MFA Committees;
- (e) reference to the MFA Commercial Rights Partner or Official Licensees shall include where advised by the MFA, its successors, and permitted assigns and, in relation to the exercise and exploitation of the Commercial Rights; and
- (f) all defined terms, unless otherwise stated herein shall bear the same meaning as ascribed in the MFA Statutes, unless the context indicates otherwise.

2. Introduction

- 2.1 The MFA conducts the Competition annually.
- 2.2 Any right associated with the Competition which has not been granted by these Regulations and/or by specific agreement to a participating Club in the Competition shall belong to the MFA.
- 2.3 These Regulations set out the rights, duties, and responsibilities of the MFA, and all the Participating Clubs taking part in the Competition.
- 2.4 These Regulations, shall be binding for all Participating Clubs, their Officials, Participating Players, support staff and supporters and others and involved in the preparation, organisation. That any guidelines and/or circulars and/or codes that has been issued and/or may be issued by MFA in relation to the Competition shall be binding on the Parties.

MFA shall be responsible for appointing Match Officials including but not limited to Match Commissioner, Referees, Referee Assessor for each Match of the Competition.

Any reference to the MFA Constitution and to any of the MFA, AFC and FIFA regulations shall be deemed to refer to such regulations, codes, guidelines, circulars and bylaws as may be applicable and standing at the time of application or such reference.

3. RESPONSIBILITIES

3.1 Mumbai Football Association

- 3.1.1 The MFA shall be responsible for organizing the Competition in accordance with the MFA Constitution and such other MFA regulations as may be applicable.
- 3.1.2 The responsibilities of the MFA shall include, but are not limited to:
 - a) supervising general preparations and deciding on the Competition format, the draws, and the entries to the Competition;
 - b) determining the Match Schedule;

- c) appointing the Match Officials for each Match;
- d) choosing the Official Ball and the stipulated technical material;
- e) reporting cases to the MFA Disciplinary Committee;
- f) dealing with cases of abandoned Matches or cancelled Matches;
- g) dealing with cases of Force Majeure; and
- h) dealing with any other aspect of the Competition that is not the responsibility of any other body of the MFA pursuant to these Regulations or the MFA Constitution or any other MFA regulation or code.

3.1.3 All decisions taken by the MFA Disciplinary Committee in relation to the Competition shall be in compliance with the MFA Disciplinary Code.

3.1.4 PARTICIPATING TEAMS

Referred to MFA Rule Book – introduction 1.3 – Pg 15

4. TECHNICAL REGULATIONS

4.1 At any stage of a Match, if a Participating Club is only able to field fewer than seven (7) Participating Players for any reason (whether or not relating to COVID-19), the Match shall be declared abandoned. The Participating Club shall be held responsible for the Match not taking place and shall be considered to have withdrawn from the relevant Match. The Participating Club which is able to field seven or more than seven (7) Participating Players shall be declared the winner by the score of 3-0, or the score at the time of abandonment, whichever is higher and will be awarded three (3) points.

4.2 Duration of Matches

Mumbai Premier League	90 mins
Mumbai Women's Premier League	90 mins
Mumbai Corporate League	90 mins
Mumbai Super League	90 mins
Mumbai Super Corporate League	90 mins
Mumbai Women's Super League	60 mins
Mumbai First Division League	80 mins
Mumbai First Corporate League	60 mins

Mumbai Second Division League	70 mins
Mumbai Third Division League	50 mins

- 4.2.1 Once the Kick Off time is decided, it can only be changed by the MFA if there are conditions caused by circumstance, which warrant change in the kick-off time. The new Kick Off time shall be immediately informed to the Manager/Captain of both the teams.
- 4.2.2 A Participating Club (through its Participating Players/ Officials) that causes a delay in the commencement of the first period of the Match and/or the second period of the Match may be sanctioned by the MFA Disciplinary Committee in accordance with the MFA Disciplinary Code.

4.3 Abandonment of Matches

- 4.3.1 If the Match is stopped by the Referee before the end of normal time or during any injury time because of any Force Majeure event or any other field/playing condition-related incidents such as, but not limited to, the field not being fit for play, weather conditions or floodlight failure or for any other reason, the following procedures must be followed:

- 4.3.1.1 The Match is automatically suspended for the duration of thirty (30) minutes to allow conditions to improve sufficiently to restart the Match unless the Referee decides that the Match can be resumed earlier. Any on-field decision of the Referee shall be final and non-appealable.;

- 4.3.1.2 Subsequent to the first stoppage, either:

- 4.3.1.2.1 At the discretion of the Referee, another extension of a maximum of thirty (30) minutes may be allowed if in his opinion this extra period of suspension will allow the Match to be resumed;

or

- 4.3.1.2.2 The match is declared abandoned by the Referee;

- 4.3.2 Following the second stoppage of thirty (30) minutes, the Referee must declare the Match as abandoned.

- 4.3.3 In the case of an abandoned Match, the MFA shall decide within 4 hours of the referee decision to abandon the Match whether to order only the part of the Match, which has not been completed to be played, provided this can be done on the next day of the day the Match was abandoned or whether a replay of the entire Match shall be organized and whether the Match result at the time of abandonment would be considered to be valid, taking sporting and organizational considerations into account.

- 4.3.4 For any Match which is abandoned as a result of Force Majeure, the MFA League Committee shall decide on the matter at its sole discretion and take whatever action is deemed necessary.

Any Match which is abandoned, except in cases of Force Majeure as recognized by the MFA League Committee, may lead to the imposition of sanctions by the MFA Disciplinary Committee against the relevant Participating Club or party that has caused the abandonment in accordance with the MFA Disciplinary Code.

- 4.3.5 Should the MFA, determine that an abandoned Match should be rescheduled and completed, the following principles shall apply:
- 4.3.5.1 The match shall recommence with the same score at the minute and seconds at which play was interrupted rather than being replayed in full;
 - 4.3.5.2 The match shall recommence with the same Participating Players on the Field of Play and the same substitutes at the time it was initially abandoned;
 - 4.3.5.3 No additional substitutes may be added to the Player Selection List or Match starting list;
 - 4.3.5.4 Any participating Player sent off during the abandoned Match cannot be replaced;
 - 4.3.5.5 The kick-off time, date and location shall be decided by the MFA with the concerned authorities;
 - 4.3.5.6 Any sanction imposed before the Match was abandoned shall remain valid for the remainder of the recommenced Match; and
 - 4.3.5.7 Any other matters not set out above shall be decided by the MFA in its sole discretion.
- 4.3.6 If a Match is stopped by the Referee before the end of normal playing time as a result of a participating Club being able to only field fewer than seven (7) Participating Players, the Match shall be declared abandoned and the Participating Club which is able to field more than seven (7) Participating Players shall be declared the winner by the score of 3-0, or by the score at the time of abandonment, whichever is higher.
- 4.3.7 No appeal shall be lodged against the decision.

5. Team Bench and Technical Area

- 5.1 A maximum of five (5) participating Club's Officials and a maximum of nine (9) substitute Participating Players are permitted to sit on the team bench during a Match, provided they are in possession of the Accreditation Card at all times.
- 5.2 All individuals on the team bench must wear a kit that contrasts with the kit of the Participating Players and the Match Officials present on the Field of Play. This kit must comply with the MFA Equipment Regulations.
- 5.3 Both the Participating Clubs shall be designated as Team "A" or Team "B" for each of their Matches by the MFA or the LOC. Team "A" shall occupy the left-hand side bench as viewed from the 4th Official's bench and Team "B" shall occupy the other side bench.
- 5.4 A suspended Participating Player/Official shall not be allowed in the substitution bench area, the technical area, or in any other place inside the field/perimeter fence and the dressing room or the adjoining area of the dressing rooms or any other Competition area/Controlled Access Area. Such suspended Participating Player/Official shall not be allowed to travel with the Official Team Delegation on the Match Day.

6. Footballs

The footballs for the Competition shall be selected by the MFA. The Official Football of the Competition is NIVIA DOMINATOR 3.0

6.1 Eligibility of Players

- a) Teams must complete all registration formalities before the registration deadline set for the 2023- 24 League season. Entry Forms received after the deadline will not be accepted. This will apply to all the following (but not limited to):
 - Entry fees and forms including required documents
 - Affiliation fees and forms
 - Player's registration fees and required documents
 - Team Official's registration fees and required documents
 - Player's and team official's identity cards
- b) Teams are eligible to register a maximum of thirty (30) players for the season.
- c) A team may register the remaining players only before the PLAYOFF ROUND STARTS
- f) Players and/or team officials without an I-card will not be allowed to participate.

- g) Replacement of lost I-cards will be made by MFA after receiving
- An official request (in writing) from the team
 - signed by both the Team Owner/Manager and the player/team official - Fine of Rs 250/- per card.
- h) It is the responsibility of the teams and their management to check with MFA office personnel or through notices and circulars published in the print, electronic media or MFA website to be updated on date timelines and last dates as applicable.
- i) It is mandatory to have the team's seal/stamp on the registration form.
- j) Teams are responsible for following any changes in team, team official and player registration rules and regulations made by MFA.
- k) Team owners associated with teams in the past who have not cleared fines or dues to MFA, will not be allowed to register new teams or the same team in the new season.

6.1.1 Each Participating Club shall ensure that all its Participating Players:

- a) are duly registered by the Participating Club and its Member Association concerned according to its own rules and those of MFA Regulations for the Status and Transfer of Players (the "RSTP"), these instant Regulations or any other MFA regulations, guidelines, circulars or directives as issued by the MFA, wherever relevant;
- b) are only eligible to play for a Participating Club affiliated with its Football Association concerned;
- c) are duly registered to participate in this Competition in accordance with these instant Regulations.

6.1.2 Individuals who meet the criteria set out here in Article 6.2.1 are eligible to participate in the Competition, subject to the provisions of the MFA Disciplinary Code.

6.1.3 The approval of the registration of a Participating Player by the MFA Secretariat does not automatically provide for the eligibility of the Participating Player. Each Participating Club is responsible for and bears the onus of fielding only eligible Participating Players in a Match. Failure to do so shall lead to the consequences stipulated in the MFA Disciplinary Code. The MFA Secretariat makes all decisions regarding the Participating Players' final registration.

6.1.4 After submitting the lineup, if a player gets replaced due to any reason. The replaced Participating Player(s) shall no longer be eligible to participate in the Match. The Participating Club may still undertake five (5) substitutions during the Match. The Participating Club shall not be entitled to additional substitutes; the number of substitutes shall be reduced accordingly. (AIFF rule is only applicable for the tournaments registered under CMS)

6.1.4 A Participating Player shall be deemed ineligible, without limitation, if:

- a) There is a violation of Article 6;
- b) he participates in a Match contrary to a decision of the MFA Secretariat, Disciplinary Committee, these instant Regulations, or the operation of the MFA Disciplinary Code;
- c) He is fielded despite being suspended (accumulation of yellow & and red cards or as per the decision of the MFA Disciplinary Committee);
- d) The MFA shall determine as to whether any document submitted for any Participating Player during registration is false, falsified and/or forged;
- e) for any other reason, that the MFA deems the Participating Player ineligible to participate at any time.

A Participating Club which gives a walkover without sufficient cause to the satisfaction of the MFA or fields an ineligible Participating Player, anytime during the Competition, shall forfeit the Match and the opponent Participating Club shall be declared the winner of that Match and awarded three (3) points in addition to the award of a three zero (3-0) scoreline win in favour of the opponent Participating Club, or the actual score of the Match, whichever is higher.

6.2 Registration of Players

6.2.1 Throughout the Competition, each Participating Player shall wear the same number allocated during the registration. Jersey number 1 shall be reserved for a goalkeeper under all circumstances.

6.2.2 The MFA Secretariat has a right to ask for further documentation for the clarification of the eligibility of the Officials other than the documentation listed above.

7. Accreditation

7.1.1 The Participating Clubs will issue the media accreditation if and when deemed necessary.

7.1.2 In case any dispute arises out of such issuance of media accreditation by the Participating Club, then such dispute has to be referred to the MFA, whose decision in such instance shall be final and binding on all the parties.

7.1.3 A Post-Match press conference will also be conducted by the home Participating Club after each Match at the Match Venue. Head coaches of the Participating Clubs must attend and participate in such press

conference conducted by the home Participating Club. The Man of the Match is also required to attend such press conference.

7.1.4 Each Participating Club is responsible (if applicable) for the translation of its head coach and relevant Participating Players' words in English. Translation in the local language (if applicable) shall be the responsibility of the LOC.

7.1.5 Non-compliance with this instant Article shall result in disciplinary actions being initiated by the MFA which may include a fine of a minimum of INR 5,000 (Rupees Five Thousand)

8. MFA Equipment Regulations

8.1 Each Participating Club must comply with the MFA Equipment Regulations.

8.2 The MFA Equipment Regulations are operational from the arrival of each Official Team Delegation at a Controlled Access Area until the departure of each Official Team Delegation from such areas.

8.3 Jersey Colors, Numbers, Players Equipment

8.3.1 It is compulsory for the numbers on the attire of the Participating Players to range from one (1) to ninety-nine (99).

8.3.2 Participating Players shall wear the same numbers declared in the AIFF CMS and registration booklet, throughout the Competition.

8.3.3 The Participating Clubs must declare their official and reserve colours along with the entry form in AIFF CMS and registration booklet and use these colours for all Matches.

8.3.4 The Participating Clubs are obliged to bring along their first and second colours kits to the Venue.

8.3.5 Any Participating Club found guilty of allowing its Participating Players to play in jerseys with numbers other than those registered, shall be subject to disciplinary action, including fines.

8.3.6 If in the opinion of the Match Commissioner or the Match Referee assessors, the colours of two opposing teams might lead to confusion, or prove unsuitable for television, they shall be changed.

8.3.7 Numbers shall be of one single colour. A border or shadow outline to ensure better legibility may surround them. They shall be free of advertising, design features or other elements.

8.3.8 Participating Players should wear the Logos of the Competition in a manner directed by the MFA.

- 8.3.9 Each Participating Club shall submit to the MFA for its approval one (1) sample of each of the kits to be used by it during the Competition, by a date provided by the MFA prior to the date of Commencement of the Competition.
- 8.3.10 The Match Commissioner, or anyone duly appointed by him or the MFA, shall have the right and duty to check kit items at the Match Venue and are entitled to confiscate and send any unacceptable items to the MFA Headquarters for further inspection after the Match, as they see fit. The same would not be appealable.
- 8.3.11 Mumbai Premier, Super, Corporate and Women's Premier League Teams must have 2 sets of jerseys, shorts and stockings of different colours on the match day.
- 8.3.12 MFA First, Second, Third and Women's Super-Division must have a set of Jersey and 1 set of Bibs.
- 8.3.13 The same numbers must be printed on both the jersey and shorts.
- 8.3.14 80% of the jersey must have a primary colour.
- 8.3.15 Mumbai Premier League, Mumbai Corporate League, Super Corporate League, First Corporate League, MFA First Division Championship, MFA Third Division Championship, Women Super League – All teams must have two different colour sets of stockings on the match day.

8.4 Responsibility

8.4.1 The MFA would decide finally regarding items mentioned in the MFA Equipment Regulations. The MFA declines all responsibility and authority in the event of conflicts arising from these Regulations upon contracts between a Participating Club and its sponsor(s) on account of the advertising provisions of the MFA Equipment Regulations.

8.4.2 Each Member Association and the Participating Clubs agree to hold the MFA harmless from any and all damages which may arise from decisions regarding kits.

9. DISCIPLINARY

9.1 Disciplinary Measures

9.1.1 All disciplinary measures in relation to the Competition shall be undertaken in accordance with the current MFA Statutes, MFA

Disciplinary Code and any relevant MFA guideline, directive or circular as issued by the MFA.

9.1.2 The MFA may introduce new disciplinary rules and sanctions for the duration of the Competition. Such rules may be communicated to the Member Associations prior to Commencement of the Competition.

9.1.3 All Participating Players agree to:

9.1.3.1 respect the spirit of fair play, non-violence, and the authority of the Match Officials;

9.1.3.2 behave accordingly;

9.1.3.3 refrain from indulging in Match fixing or corruption.

9.1.4 The MFA Disciplinary Committee, based on the nature of the breach, violation or contravention or compliant, may either on its own or on the basis of any complaint received, initiate investigations and take measures for any breach, violation or non-performance or otherwise in accordance with MFA Statutes, the MFA Disciplinary Code, any other relevant regulations, guidelines, decisions or the relevant MFA circular(s) or directions otherwise as per law.

9.1.5 The decisions and the report of the Match Referee and/or Match Officials regarding any act, incident or issue on or outside the field of play shall be considered to be final, authoritative and binding and would generally not be open to appeal unless substantive incontrovertible proof of any obvious inaccuracy or error is established by authentic documentations beyond any reasonable doubt.

9.1.6 A breach of any provision of these Competition Regulations may result in sanctions as per the MFA Disciplinary Code.

9.2 Good Conduct

9.2.1 Each Participating Club is directly liable for the improper conduct of any member of its Official Team Delegation; and/or any person affiliated to it and/or carrying out duties on its behalf throughout the Competition.

9.2.2 Any Participating Player or Official reported for without limitation, any indiscipline or unbecoming or unsporting conduct, violence, or overt act of any nature or conduct amounting to misconduct anywhere including but not limited to the Field of Play, the changing rooms, at the Official Training Sites and in the hotels or otherwise reported by the Referee or the Match Commissioner or any Participating Club or any other person shall be dealt with by the MFA Disciplinary Committee in accordance with the applicable Regulations, Code, Guidelines as may be deemed necessary.

9.3 Cautions and Expulsions

- 9.3.1 All matters relating to cautions and/or expulsions, including the carrying forward of cautions between stages of the Competition, shall be undertaken in accordance with the MFA Disciplinary Code except where expressly set out below.
- 9.3.2 A Participating Player and/or Team Official who receives two (2) cautions (yellow cards) in two (2) different Matches shall automatically be suspended from participating in the Match following the Match in which he received the second caution unless already serving a suspension, in which case the pending suspension will get carried forward to the next Match (on the basis of receiving two (2) cautions as mentioned above). Moreover, an accumulation of further two (2) cautions (a total of 4, 6, 8 and so on... cautions through the League Matches) by a Participating Player and/or Team Official shall result in another (one) 1 Match suspension for the Participating Player and/or the Team Official. The principle mentioned above regarding a previously pending suspension getting served on priority will be applicable in all situations.
- 9.3.3 Cautions will not be carried forward from one stage to the other of the Competition. However, suspensions resulting out of Expulsions (Red Card) and/or accumulation of Cautions (as per Article 12.3.2 of this regulations), will be carried forward from one stage to the other of the Competition.
- 9.3.4 A Participating Player and/or Official who received a red card during the Competition shall automatically be suspended from the Match following the Match in which he received the red card. In addition, based on the gravity of the offence, the MFA Disciplinary Committee may extend the suspension and impose further additional sanctions as per the Disciplinary Code. If the Participating Player and/or Official received the red card in his Participating Club's last Match in the Competition, the suspension for the red card will be carried forward as indicated in the MFA Disciplinary Code.
- 9.3.5 A suspended Participating Player and Official shall not be allowed on the substitution bench, technical area and Dressing Room area and shall not travel with the Official Team Delegation to the Match Venue itself.
- 9.3.6 Each Participating Club shall bear the responsibility of monitoring the cautions and/or suspensions received by its Participating Players and Officials and to ensure that all Participating Players and Officials registered and/or fielded during the Competition are eligible to play. The same can be monitored via the AIFF CMS.

9.4 Protest

9.4.1 Subject to the following provisions, protests are objections of any kind to occurrences that have a direct effect on Matches organized in the Competition (which may include without limitation the state and marking of the Field of Play, accessories, Match equipment, eligibility of Participating Players, Match Venue installations and footballs) and any matters related to breach of these Regulations.

9.4.2 Unless otherwise stipulated, to be considered valid, protests shall be:

9.4.2.1 submitted in writing on the Protest Form to the MFA Match Commissioner/Venue In-Charge within two (2) hours of the end of the Match in question;

9.4.2.2 followed up with a full written report, including a copy of the original protest, sent to the MFA Secretariat by email at secretary@footballmfa.com,

9.4.2.3 accompanied by a non-refundable fee of INR 5,000/- submitted within twenty-four (24) hours from the end of the Match.

9.4.3 Protests against any incidents that occur during the course of a Match shall be made to the Match Referee by the Participating Club's captain immediately after the disputed incident and before the play has been resumed. The protests shall be confirmed in writing to the MFA Match Commissioner by the manager of the Club's Official Team Delegation no later than two (2) hours after the Match.

9.4.4 No protests shall lie against the Referee's on field decisions and regarding facts connected with play. Such decisions are final and cannot be appealed unless in cases of obvious errors, as per the Disciplinary Code.

9.4.5 If any of the formal conditions of a protest as set out in these Regulations are not met, such protest shall be disregarded. Following the completion of the final Match of the Competition, all protests shall be disregarded.

10.1 MFA League Committee

10.1.1 MFA League Committee shall be responsible for holding and organize the Competition and deal with and/or arrive at all decision-making processes

and issues mentioned hereunder or otherwise so provided in these Regulations, unless otherwise expressly excluded.

10.1.2 MFA shall draw the fixtures (Match Schedule); and decide the televised and non-televised venues in consultation with the Broadcasting Sponsors/Partners.

10.1.3 Except as expressly provided, the MFA League Committee shall recommend actions on matters arising out of any disputes concerning the Participating Clubs, Officials and Participating Players or the Match Commissioner or Match Officials should any of them fail to comply with these Regulations or any other rules and regulations of the MFA or of any decisions or directives given by the MFA.

10.1.4 Save as expressly provided in these Regulations, the MFA League Committee may convene meetings with Participating Club's representatives to sort out any issues between Participating Clubs, and/or between Participating Clubs and Participating Players or any other disputes concerning the organization of the Competition.

10.1.1 MFA League Committee shall provide due and necessary clarifications or explanations in the event of any doubt regarding the interpretation of these Regulations or any other related matters and its decision shall be final and binding.

10.1.2 The MFA League Committee shall constitute various sub committees, which may be required, for the smooth conduct of the Competition.

10.1.3 The MFA League Committee shall coordinate the work of various Committees or agencies involved in the organization of the Competition.

10.1.4 The MFA League Committee shall be at liberty to add, alter, modify or change any part of these Regulations whenever necessary.

10.2 Disciplinary Committee

10.2.1 Save as have been expressly provided in these Regulations, the MFA Disciplinary Committee shall deal with all disciplinary matters related to the Competition in accordance with the provisions of the MFA Disciplinary Code.

10.2.2 In its decisions the Disciplinary Committee shall rely upon, amongst others, the MFA Disciplinary Code and these Regulations.

10.2.3 The decisions of the Disciplinary Committee shall be based, inter alia, on the written reports of the Referee, the Match commissioner and the referee's assessor. The Committee may also, if deemed necessary, refer to and rely upon any other evidence, like television and video recordings, reports and others by whatever name called.

10.2.4 Appeal may be lodged with the Appeals Committee of the MFA/ or any Committee duly constituted by the MFA, against any decision of the Disciplinary Committee. The procedure followed by the Appeal Committee shall be in accordance with those provided in the applicable MFA regulations.

11.1 Intellectual Property

11.1.1 The MFA is the exclusive owner of all intellectual property rights connected with the Competition, including any current or future rights of the Competition's name, logos, brands, medals and trophies. Any use of the aforementioned rights requires the prior written consent of the MFA Secretariat, and must always conform to the instructions and guidelines on correct usage as issued by the MFA from time to time.

11.2 Decisions

11.2.1 All decisions made in accordance with these Regulations, except where expressly identified otherwise, are final and binding and not appealable.

11.2.2 The MFA reserves the right to make amendments to any part of these Regulations for any reason whatsoever from time to time.

12 CODE OF CONDUCT

12.1 Code of Conduct

12.1.1 By agreeing to take part in the Competition, the Participating Clubs' Official Team Delegation members agree to abide by the following code of conduct.

- a) Be punctual on all occasion including but not limited to field of play, press meets, meetings, Match day countdown etc.;
- b) Respect the decision of the MFA;
- c) Respect the Laws of the Game, the Referee, Match Commissioner and their decisions;
- d) Display and promote high standards of exemplary behaviour;
- e) Promote Fair Play;
- f) Always respect Match Officials' decisions;
- g) Never engage or participate in public criticism of the Match Officials;
- h) Never indulge in offensive, insulting or abusive language or behaviour;

- i) Never engage in any brawl, bullying, intimidation, and physical or verbal assault, abusing language or harassment;
- j) Speak to teammates, officials of own team and opponent team with respect;
- k) Win or lose with dignity;
- l) No Participating Player/Official of a Participating Club shall make any adverse comment anytime against opponent Club or the MFA or any of its officials;
- m) No Participating Player/Official shall make any adverse comment anytime against the host Football Association or LOC;
- n) No player/official of a Participating Club shall make any adverse comment anytime against MFA/the Competition;

Any Participating Player or Official who insults someone in any way by using offensive gestures or language or who violates the principles of fair play or whose behaviour is found to be unsporting in any other way or uses violence or threat to pressure any Match Official into taking certain action or to hinder him from acting as per free will, shall be sanctioned with severe punishment in accordance with the MFA Disciplinary Code.

11.1.1 The herein mentioned code of conduct is not an exhaustive list, but indicative only.

11.1.2 Further additional actions applicable to a defaulting Participating Club and/or Participating Players and/or Officials apart from possible Match suspension as per MFA Disciplinary Code, are provided in Annexure-4 below.

12.2 Card details:

- a) A Team Official who receives two cautions (2 Yellow Cards) in two (2) separate matches shall automatically be suspended from participating in the Match following the Match in which he received the second caution (2nd Yellow Card).
- b) A Player who receives two cautions (2 Yellow Cards) in two (2) separate matches shall automatically be suspended from participating in the Match following the Match in which he received the second caution (2nd Yellow Card).

- c) A suspended Player and/or Team Official shall not be allowed in the Technical Area or enter the field of play before, during or after the match.
- d) The Head Coach is responsible for the conduct of their Teams. In the absence of a Head Coach due to suspension or any other reason, he shall designate this responsibility to another Team Official. The same should be indicated on the Team Sheet.
- e) An expulsion (Red Card) also automatically results in a suspension from the subsequent match, even if imposed in a Match that is later abandoned and/or annulled. The duration of the suspension may be extended depending on the cause (Reason stated in the Referee's Report) of the expulsion.
- f) Carrying over of Match Cautions and Suspensions
 - i. Cautions received during one season of the Tournament are not carried over to another season.
 - ii. Match suspensions issued to a Player or Team Official shall not be carried over from one season to another; unless specified as such by the TDC.

12.3 Team Officials:

A team can register total of 10 team officials in the tournament. A total of 5 officials will be allowed to sit on the dugout during the match time.

1. Mumbai Premier League – Head Coach must have a B License
2. Mumbai Super League – Head Coach must have a D License
3. Women's Premier League – Head Coach must have a C License
4. Women's Super League – Head Coach must have a C License
5. MFA First, Second, Third and Women's Super League – Head Coach must have D License
6. Assistant coach must have D License to sit in the dugout.
7. Licensed physiotherapists are allowed for the teams.

Following officials will be allowed during the match time: a.

Head Coach

- b. Assistant Coach
- c. Team Manager
- d. Assistant Manager or Goal Keeping Coach
- e. Physiotherapist

Note: If there is no Head or Assistant Coach on the match day, then any other official cannot stand and guide the team from the technical area.

12.4 Ranking determination:

The Group Stage ranking table shall be determined in the order given below:

In the League matches, three (3) points shall be awarded for a win, one (1) point for a draw and (0) no points for a defeat.

- a) Greater number of points obtained in all matches shall be considered of the highest rank.
- b) If two (2) or more Participating Teams are equal on points, the following criteria are applied to determine the ranking (in descending order):
 - i) Head-to-head result obtained in the match between the Teams concerned (If only two teams are there)
 - ii) Goal difference in all the matches
 - iii) Higher number of goals scored in all the matches
 - iv) Lesser number of goals conceded in all matches
 - v) Drawing of lots

Notwithstanding anything contained herein, MFA reserves the right to change/modify the rules and format of the Tournament at their sole discretion any time before and/or during the Tournament, if it deems it necessary.

12.4.1 Withdrawal, penalty for failing to play and replacement

- a) If a Participating Team withdraws after entering and after playing one or more matches at the group league stage, MFA will not replace it. MFA shall invalidate all matches played by the said team and be demoted/relegated from the tournament with an additional penalty of 10,000. The team coming last in the group will also get relegated after the tournament.
- b) If any participating team gives 3 walkovers back-to-back in the tournament, the said team will be deemed as a defaulter team/ invalid team and will be immediately relegated with a penalty decided by MFA Disciplinary Committee.
- c) If a participating team is giving a walkover will be fined 5000 per match in the group stage, with the exception of force majeure then the disciplinary committee shall decide.
- d) Teams giving walkovers during the playoff will be fined 10000 per match.
- e) The bottom team of each group will relegate to lower division.
- f) The bottom two teams of Mumbai Premier League will relegate to Mumbai Super League.

13. Disciplinary Rule

- a) In case there is a conflict or disconnect in application of the letter of the document while delivering judgement/decision, it can always be referred to higher parent bodies or case reference to similar judgement which can become leading guidance point. This is anyways at the discretion of the MFA Disciplinary Committee, finally concluded by MFA committee.
- b) Where the decisions taken will be shared by MFA disciplinary committee to the MFA committee with recommendation for action / next steps, it is the final decision of MFA committee in enforcing the same, 'as is where is' or by amendment with due diligence as deemed necessary.
- c) Stake holders are requested not to share text, pictures, videos and neither make individual phone calls to MFA Disciplinary committee members, by virtue of fact that the committee is disclosed and that you might know a few or all the disciplinary committee members. Such data

cannot and will not be considered in any matter, unless specifically there is a discussion during the proceedings, in which such matter/info is requested, against which it can be submitted.

- d) There is a 'complaint format' and a separate 'protest format'. Both are different and the understanding will be that, (a) Complaint to be treated as feedback and will not require any fee and will not be replied to the stake holder raising the complaint and (b) Protest has to be submitted within specified timelines and with a protest fee. Protest will be 'replied to' and protest fee refunded if protest upheld or no refund in case the protest is dismissed. In case after filing the protest, if the protest submission timeline is over, after which if request is made to withdraw the protest, the protest fee will not be refunded.
- e) A player/team official or any stakeholder serving suspension due to Red card / Disciplinary sanction / Sanction by competent authority MFA or any of its parent bodies will not enter the following areas during any competitive match organized under the auspices of MFA which includes as detailed below but not limited to :-
 - I. Competitions area and if not defined then immediate vicinity of organizing committee room, both teams dressing rooms, Match Officials room II. The Field of PlayThe time span defined for the above restriction is true and valid from 1 hour before kick off time of the first match of that day to 1 hour post end of last match of that day and true and applicable to all venues at which MFA is conducting football matches based on the respective first and last match timings at those venues.
- f) Any authorized person by MFA or its parent bodies is allowed to video shoot using suitable means as deemed fit and authorized by MFA and no one can stop such a video/audio/picture recording or still photography. (Due care and caution will be taken not to violate personal privacy when players are changing their attire inside dressing room). Especially for inappropriate behaviour of stake holders, on and off the Field of Play the video shooting done by authorized person will be used as evidence with due diligence by the respective competent authorities engaged/appointed by MFA. Any act of violation or stopping or interfering and not allowing videography/photography by authorized person, will be treated as, "purposeful intent to obstruct in collection of rightful evidence of facts" and the perpetrator will be duly sanctioned.
- g) For specific rules and regulation laid down by MFA for that particular league or tournament or any other event organized by MFA, the said written rule will super seed the rules of any parent body of MFA because these will be of MFA considering these are applicable only for MFA organised event, based on the operating requirements of all stakeholders at MFA level. (Example – One person is allowed to play multiple roles in different capacity as Team Official, representing more than one team in the same season but in different Leagues/Tournament).
- h) Team officials, following the match officials right upto the dressing room after the match and challenging their decisions and arguing - 1 match suspension and increases if repeated in same season.
- i) Same above point (1) but using abusive language as well. Minimum 2 match suspension and increases if repeated in same season.
- j) Abusing MFA appointed local organising co-ordinator or the venue incharge - team official will get minimum suspension for 5 days with a minimum fine of Rs. 3000.
- k) Writing a protest to MFA for a match and simultaneously writing to WIFA and AIFF without consent from MFA and without giving opportunity for MFA to respond - Warning will

be issued to erring team/ team official and advised to refrain escalations to parent bodies without giving MFA a fair opportunity to respond/revert. This is not responsible behaviour.

l) Any official, Owing to multiple roles being played in other leagues, gets a Red card in one league then he/she cannot participate for 5 days with immediate effect in any other MFA organized league/tournament in any capacity and this sanction is over and above the previous mentioned sanctions, where rules for red card in that league will prevail.

m) If a team official wants match records of any match from MFA, there has to be a written letter to be given to MFA and if found justified, the same will be discussed with relevant committee as per case and only after that, information will be shared.

14. Foreign Player Rule:

As per the AIFF notice, team cannot register a foreign player in the Men's & Women's League of Mumbai Football Association.