



## Uganda Premier League Rules



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## CHAPTER I ABBREVIATIONS AND DEFINITIONS

### **Article 1** Abbreviations

1.1 As defined in the terms and phrases for FUFA Rules

### **Article 2** Terms and phrases

2.1 As defined in the terms and phrases for FUFA Rules

## CHAPTER II STRUCTURES, INTERPRETATIONS & ROLES

### **Article 3** Structures

3.1 FUFA is the FIFA recognized Member Association mandated to run and oversee all football activities in Uganda.

3.2 FCC is a standing committee of FUFA that is responsible to organize and supervise football competitions. It is the think tank, hands, ears and eyes of the FUFA Executive committee with matters concerning football competitions in Uganda.

3.3 FSLL is the Legal entity owned by the 1<sup>st</sup> Division Clubs as Ordinary Shareholders and FUFA as a Special shareholder with outlined veto rights but without voting rights, trading as UPL.

3.4 UPL Secretariat is the 1<sup>st</sup> Division League management secretariat with roles as specified in these regulations.

### **Article 4** Interpretations

4.1 Unless the context otherwise requires:

- i. Words importing the singular number shall include the plural and vice versa;
- ii. Words importing any particular gender shall include all other genders.
- iii. The headings in these Rules are for convenience only and shall not affect their interpretation.
- iv. These Rules shall remain in force until another set of rules are put in place by the FUFA Executive Committee
- v. The FUFA Executive Committee may from time to time amend and/or clarify these regulations even during the course of the league through communication by circulars signed by both the FUFA President and FUFA CEO or their written delegated authorities

## **LEADING OPINION**

**4.2** The spirit behind these rules and regulations are aimed at the ten golden rules of FIFA Fair Play

**4.3** The Judicial Units shall apply and enforce these rules and regulations upon a report by any party offended and may apply and enforce these rules and regulations upon their own finding of any infringements.

## **FUFA COMPETITIONS RULES (FCR)**

**4.4** The FCR are the supreme competition rules in Uganda

**4.5** These UPL Rules are subject to the FCR except for areas as explicitly stated in these rules

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## **Article 5 Roles**

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### **FUFA**

**5.1** FUFA shall be responsible for;

- i. Drawing and enforcing rules and regulations as provided for in these rules
- ii. Registration and Licensing of UPL Entities
- iii. Undertaking Disciplinary Measures to ensure compliance to FUFA Rules
- iv. Appointing, Assessing, Developing and Disciplining (Where Applicable) Match Officials
- v. Issuance of a football activity calendar for the season

### **FSL**

**5.2** The FSL shall be responsible for;

- i. Ensuring compliance of its shareholders with the requirements of the FLC and the statutes of FSL
- ii. Enforcing proper governance standards of its shareholders in accordance with the FUFA Rules
- iii. Brand Building for its Shareholders
- iv. Commercialization of the Clubs Commercial Properties as assigned by the clubs
- v. Capacity Building of the Human Resource at the Clubs
- vi. Receiving funds from the Rights Holder

### **UPL SECRETARIAT**

**5.3** The UPL Secretariat shall be the TOC and shall be responsible for;

- i. Managing the fixtures and communicating changes in accordance with the FUFA Rules
- ii. Observing and bringing to the attentions of the competent bodies any infringement of FUFA Rules by UPL entities
- iii. Enforcing the television broadcast and sponsorship guidelines.
- iv. Managing the communications of the UPL programmes to the public.
- v. Managing the communications between the RH and the Clubs
- vi. Managing branding at Television Matches as guided by the FUFA Rules.
- vii. Organize meetings related to league business and communicate to clubs for representation.

- viii. Arrange for collection of information required from the clubs for day to day running of league affairs.
- ix. Any club that breach compliance to above shall be fined an amount of money deemed appropriate by the UPL Secretariat.

## CHAPTER III CLUBS

### **Article 6** Registration of Clubs

- 6.1 Registration of clubs for a competition shall be done in a period stipulated by FCC before the league begins. Clubs shall only be considered registered after receiving a Club License from FLC.
- 6.2 Clubs Licensing Regulations (CLR) shall provide the procedure for a club's qualification to participate in the elite League
- 6.3 Club Ownership Regulations shall provide the procedure and guidelines for Club Ownership.

## CHAPTER IV THE LEAGUE

### **Article 7** Naming

- 7.1 This football competition shall be called the AZAM Uganda Premier League accommodating the title sponsorship holders AZAM Pay TV.

### **Article 8** Composition

- 8.1 This shall be the 1<sup>st</sup> Division and composed of the 13 clubs that participated in the outgoing season of the FUFA 1st division and were not relegated plus the 3 clubs that were promoted from the outgoing season of the FUFA 2nd division league.
- 8.2 Participation in the league is subject to Club Licensing.

### **Article 9** Format

- 9.1 This competition shall be played on a league basis as defined in the FCR.

## CHAPTER V PLAYERS

### **Article 10** Status, Transfer and Registration of Players

- 10.1 The Registration of Players for the 1<sup>st</sup> Division shall be managed as stipulated in the FCR
- 10.2 The Status and Transfer of players shall be done in accordance with the FUFA Regulations for the Status and Transfer of Players

## CHAPTER VI COACHES

### **Article 11** Coaches

- 11.1 In accordance of FUFA Coaches Licensing Rules

### **Article 12** Trophy

- 12.1 The club declared the champion shall receive the championship trophy which shall be kept in its safe custody. The Champion Club shall also receive thirty (35) gold Medals.
- 12.2 A club that wins this trophy three (3) consecutive times shall retain it for keeps.
- 12.3 The trophy shall be returned to UPL Secretariat at least four (4) weeks to the end of the season. However, a club failing to return the trophy as herein provided shall be fined a fee to be determined by the UPL Secretariat.
- 12.4 Where a club damages or loses the trophy, it shall be made to pay a fine equivalent to the replacement cost of the trophy at the prevailing market value.
- 12.5 A club shall only be registered for the following season if it has returned or replaced the trophy as specified under this article.
- 12.6 Withdrawal from the league shall not be used as a reason for failure to return the trophy.

### **Article 13** Management

- 13.1 The League shall be managed in accordance with these regulations and relevant FUFA Rules & statutes

### **Article 14** The Ranking of Teams

- 14.1 The final table ranking of clubs in the UPL shall be determined in accordance with the FCR

## CHAPTER VII FIXTURES

### **Article 15** Fixtures management

- 15.1 Fixtures and fixture changes shall be drawn by the UPL Secretariat in accordance with FUFA Calendar and approved by FUFA.
- 15.2 The fixture schedules shall be notified to the clubs by UPL Secretariat at the beginning of first and second rounds of the league. But in any case not later than a month to kick off date.
- 15.3 The UPL Secretariat has power to rearrange any fixture provided such rearrangement is notified to the affected Clubs at least 48 hours in advance other than death circumstances as provided for under FCR.
- 15.4 The UPL Secretariat shall send a fixture to TV RH who shall then revert with proposed TV schedule for approval by the UPL secretariat.
- 15.5 The UPL Secretariat may change the venue of UPL match;
- i. for avoiding likely fixture congestion,
  - ii. in order to ensure fair play
  - iii. for health, safety and security reasons
  - iv. In order to fulfil the RH obligations
  - v. to a neutral ground where in the opinion of UPL Secretariat is deemed necessary

## CHAPTER VIII MATCH ORGANISATION

### **Article 16** Match day events

- 16.1 Clubs shall observe their obligations with RH as stipulated in the deed of adherence.
- 16.2 It shall be obligatory for Match officials, Participating Clubs, Stadium Management and UPL Secretariat to attend pre-match meetings for certain matches selected by the UPL Secretariat. FUFA may attend such meetings. All televised matches must have a pre-match meeting and non-attendance will attract a fine determined by UPL secretariat.
- 16.3 Clubs shall register only FUFA-registered club officials on team sheet and any decisions by the head official shall be representative of the club decision during game time.
- 16.4 It shall be the obligation of the home club to provide a gazetted premium club sitting arrangement for specific matches as may be required by the FUFA, UPL Secretariat, RH, League Sponsors, and Club Sponsors or upon the discretion of the club to consider such a match of that category.
- 16.5 At the discretion of the home club, it shall be its obligation to provide hospitality services to any ticket holders or invited guests that may attend a match.
- 16.6 In event of televised matches, before the final whistle, the match commissioner (in his absence the centre referee), will be informed by the head of production team of the persons to appear for a post-match press conference, interview, or prize award.



- 16.7 After the final whistle, the match official will inform the selected person to appear as required. Any contravention of this provision shall cause disciplinary action to the defaulting person.
- 16.8 In all televised games match kickoff both 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> half the referee will await signal from the floor manager of TV RH.
- 16.9 Use of official match balls is mandatory. The match day referee must ensure physical presence of at least 8 official Match balls before kickoff. And this number of balls under normal circumstances must at all times during play be available for use.

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## **Article 17** Colours Jerseys and Strips

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- 17.1 All clubs shall appear for League matches in shirts, shorts and stockings that shall have been registered with and approved by the FLC as the design for both the home and away games of the clubs. Any club that contravenes this rule shall be liable to disciplinary action. This provision notwithstanding, the referee shall have a final say as regards the team colours before kick off as provided for in Article 17(5) below.
- 17.2 A set of shirts and shorts used by a player shall be numbered in as prescribed by FCR and/or Club Licensing Rules.
- 17.3 Each club shall register with UPL Secretariat a squad number selected from the sequence prescribed by FCR for each player and it shall be obligatory for the respective player to use only the assigned squad number for the entire season while still with the club. Any club and / or player that contravene this provision shall be liable for disciplinary sanction.
- 17.4 The back of the shirt of each player shall bear the registered popular name and squad number of the player in eligible font, font size and colour in accordance to deed of adherence.
- 17.5 The referee shall validate the sets of uniforms to be used by clubs before kick-off of the match if it conforms to registered specimen set of the club and if it meets the required standards. The referee shall have absolute powers to refuse the set of uniform presented by a club if it does not meet the required standards and this shall be included in the referee's report. The offending club shall be allowed to use any other set acceptable in the opinion of the referee provided it is a registered kit.
- 17.6 The Match Officials shall wear colours that distinguish them from the Strip worn by the two Clubs.
- 17.7 No Club shall participate in a League Match wearing Strip other than its registered home Strip or alternative Strip or a combination of the same.
- 17.8 When playing in League Matches the Players of each participating Club shall wear Strip which is of a sufficient contrast that Match Officials, spectators and television viewers will be able to distinguish clearly between the two teams.
- 17.9 Clubs and players that contravene any provisions of this rule shall be liable to disciplinary action.

## CHAPTER IX JUDICATURE

### **Article 18** Judicature

18.1 UPL disputes, protests, petitions, complaints and appeals shall be administered in accordance with the provisions of FCR

## CHAPTER X FINANCE

### **Article 19** Budget

19.1 The UPL Secretariat shall draw a budget to manage the UPL indicating expenditure and projected income.

19.2 The sources of income to the UPL budget shall include;

- i. Budget Support Contribution by FSSL and/or FUFA.
- ii. Gate collection of UPL matches.
- iii. Fines and petition fees upon infringement of these rules and the Broadcast Compliance Manual.
- iv. Budget Support Contribution by the Clubs.
- v. Sponsorship Funds
- vi. Any other lawful source of income.

19.3 UPL Secretariat shall draw the UPL budget while FSSL and/or FUFA shall approve the budget.

19.4 UPL Secretariat will manage the budget.

### **Article 20** Management of Income

#### **a) Gate Collections**

20.1 All League matches will be organized by the Home Club, Stadium and UPL Secretariat or services of FUFA registered match agents will be hired where part or all responsibilities of the three (3) will be taken care of by the match agent.

#### **b) With services of a Match Agent**

20.2 A contract shall be signed between the match agent as one party with both UPL Secretariat and the Home Club as the other party.

20.3 The contract shall indicate the obligations, rights and privileges of all parties.

20.4 Rules governing operations of FUFA registered match agents shall be outlined in the FUFA Match Agents Regulations.

#### **c) Without services of a Match Agent**

20.5 The tickets for all league matches shall be printed and delivered to stadium by the Home Club.

- 20.6 No spectator shall enter the stadium during game time for any League match unless the person is a holder of a valid and lawfully obtained ticket.
- 20.7 Issuing of an entry ticket shall not in any way be deemed to render the entities, Staff and Officials of UPL Secretariat, FUFA, Match day Clubs or Stadium management and Sponsors liable for any injury, damage or loss caused while in the stadium to a person(s) in respect of whom the ticket was issued.
- 20.8 Members of the match crew will be entitled to free access to the stadium.
- 20.9 Media practitioners upon presentation of accreditation cards shall be entitled to free entrance. Accreditation of the media personnel shall be managed by the home club.
- 20.10 The home club reserves the right to avail free-entry privilege of an individual or an entire category for any duration of the season or for a particular match in an exclusive effort to promote them.
- 20.11 The home Club or FUFA or Stadium management reserve the right of admission and may issue persona non-grata status to an individual, or a category of people. Any person(s) who enters the stadium during game time after being declared persona non grata status shall be considered to have trespassed and shall be sued for trespass.

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## **Article 21** Ticket prices

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- 21.1 The ticket prices shall be determined by the home club(s).
- 21.2 Where two matches are to be played in the same venue on the same day, a meeting involving stakeholders will be organized to agree on the modalities of sharing the revenue. In event of disagreement, the UPL Secretariat shall decide on the modus operandi and the percentage shares of each party.

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## **Article 22** Entitlement and Sharing

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### **a) With Match Agent**

- 22.1 When a match agent works for a percentage, his fees shall be considered an operational expense of the match and after deduction of operational expenses, the revenue collected from sale of match tickets shall be shared as follows;

UPL Secretariat	15%
FUFA	05%
Home Club	80%

- 22.2 When a match agent pays a fee for all, the revenue collected from sale of the match shall be as follows;

UPL Secretariat	15%
FUFA	05%
Home Club	80%

## **b) Without Match Agent**

22.3 Total deductions from the gross ticket sales shall include the operational costs.

22.4 For purposes of this provision, operational costs shall be defined to include:

- i) Security
- ii) Stadium hire (if applicable)
- iii) Ticketing
- iv) Labour
- v) Marketing costs
- vi) Hospitality

22.5 The net value thereafter shall be shared as follows

Home Club	80.0%
UPL Secretariat	15.0%
FUFA	05.0%

22.6 The Home team shall make a declaration in a prescribed form to be issued by UPL Secretariat. This declaration shall be made within 24hours from the date the match is played.

22.7 In the event that the club does not declare as provided for in 22(6) above, the UPL Secretariat shall estimate an amount payable by the club.

22.8 False, vague & misleading declarations if proven shall attract sanctions including but not limited to fines, suspension and bans.

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### **Article 23 Fines and Petitions**

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23.1 The fees shall be as indicated in the circulars and/or as established in these rules and shall be paid to UPL Secretariat and a receipt issued to the paying entity.

23.2 The fines paid in violation of these Rules are income to the UPL Secretariat

23.3 The fines paid in violation of other FUFA Rules are income to FUFA

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### **Article 24 Budget support**

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24.1 The fees shall be as indicated in the circulars and/or as established in these rules and shall be paid to UPL Secretariat and a receipt issued to the paying entity

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### **Article 25 Media and Commercial rights**

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25.1 Shall be administered in accordance with FCR & FUFA Statutes

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**Article 26 Management of Expenditure**

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26.1 The expenditure by the UPL Secretariat shall be as outlined in the budget.

26.2 Any club that is dismissed or demoted from the Azam Premier League as a disciplinary action or on the club's own decision to be dissolved shall not be entitled to receive league revenue. For avoidance of doubt, clubs demoted because of their final positions in the final table standing shall receive their entitled prize and or sponsorship money.

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**Article 27 Power to Deduct**

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27.1 If any Club or Relegated Club ("the debtor Club") fails to make any payment due to any creditor of the description set out in (2) below, upon being reasonably satisfied to that effect, the UPL Secretariat shall be empowered to deduct the amount in instalments or wholesomely of any such payment from any funds that the debtor club is entitled and immediately pays the same to the creditor to which the amount is due.

27.2 The creditors to which Article 27 applies are:

- i. CECAFA, CAF & FIFA and any other parties owed by participation in international competitions
- ii. Another Club in the Uganda Premier League or Lower League
- iii. FUFA
- iv. FCC
- v. FUFA Regional Associations
- vi. FUFA District Football Association
- vii. any Associated Undertaking or Subsidiary Undertaking of the Club
- viii. Individuals or companies proven to have provided football related services and/or goods to a club

## CHAPTER XI DECLARATION

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**Article 28 Declaration**

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28.1 With the approval of FUFA, UPL Secretariat shall have powers to make Bye-laws deemed necessary to ensure the smooth running of the league.

### **MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR**

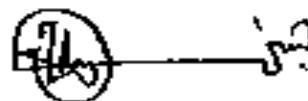
28.2 All matters not provided for in these Rules shall be decided by FCC or appropriately FUFA Executive Committee in line with the FUFA Constitution, CAF/FIFA Statutes.

**DECLARATION**

28.3 By signing, FUFA declares that these are the amended rules and regulations that shall be used for the 2017/18 Azam Uganda Premier League. These regulations shall remain in force until amended.



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Magogo Moses  
**President**



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Edgar Watson Ssuubi  
**Chief Executive Officer**

**Federation of Uganda Football Associations-FUFA**