

Regulations of Independence Cup 2023

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DEFINITIONS

The terms in Capital letters used in these Regulations (as hereinafter defined) shall have the following meaning(s):

<i>Accommodation</i>	Hotels or any other locations providing accommodation to guests for the Competition.
<i>Accreditation or Accredited</i>	The giving of authority to a person or a group of persons, involving certification, which allows the accredited person(s) to undertake specified activities within the Controlled Access Areas.
<i>AFC</i>	Asian Football Confederation.
<i>Appeal Committee</i>	The committee responsible for deciding appeals against any of the Disciplinary Committee's decisions.
<i>BCL</i>	Bangladesh Championship League.
<i>BFF</i>	Bangladesh Football Federation.
<i>BFF Committees & Sub Committees</i>	Committees & Sub Committees including the BFF Executive Committee, BFF Professional League Management Committee, Disciplinary Committee, Appeals Committee, Referees Committee, Technical Committee, Finance Committee, Marketing Committee, Competitions Committee and such other committees & Sub Committees of the BFF as advised by BFF from time to time.
<i>BFF Delegation</i>	Any officials appointed by BFF, including but not limited to the Head of Delegation, Head of Administration, General Coordinator, Match Commissioner, Referee Instructor/Assessor, Referee, Assistant Referees, Fourth Official, Media Officer, Security Officer, Medical Officer and Technical Study Group Officer.
<i>BPL</i>	Bangladesh Premier League
<i>BFF Professional League Management Committee</i>	The BFF Professional League Management Committee consisting of a Chairman and required number of members whose duties are to organize and manage Federation Cup, Bangladesh Premier League, Bangladesh Championship League, Independence Cup, Super Cup and Youth Competition on behalf of the BFF including making decisions on any matters related to these Competitions; to arrange the groups, venues and dates for the competitions and matches and delegate, if necessary, the organization of the same to any Member or Committee; to appoint officials for its competitions; to recommend to the Executive Committee amendments or alterations to the Rules, Regulations and Instructions for competition and matches; to submit reports on competitions and matches to the Secretariat.
<i>BFF Headquarters</i>	BFF House, Dhaka, Bangladesh

<i>BFF Logo(s)</i>	The official logo of BFF, and/or such other official logo, which shall be the only marks used by BFF.
<i>BFF Website</i>	www.bff.com.bd
<i>Best Category Ticket</i>	The best tickets available in the best category seats entitling the ticket holder to sit in the sector immediately adjacent to the VIP area whether in or directly opposite Area to the main stand.
<i>Broadcast Affiliates</i>	Any entity, including the Host Broadcaster, which has acquired from BFF directly or from BFF's Marketing Partner any rights in respect of the Broadcast Rights of the Competition.
<i>Broadcast Rights</i>	The right to broadcast the Competition and the right of access to the Stadia to the exclusion of all others, for the purposes of producing a live television and/or radio signal and/or recordings of the Competition in any form of audio and/or audio-visual medium and the right to license the right to exhibit such live signal and/or recordings and/or part thereof by any and all forms of television and/or radio and/or any media now existing or as may be developed in the future, including, all forms of terrestrial, cable and satellite television, IPTV, broadband (fixed and/or wireless), Internet and Interactive Television on a world-wide basis.
<i>Competition</i>	'Independence Cup 2023' which shall include the Matches as set out in the Match Schedule, activities on the field of play (other than matches), opening ceremonies, presentation or closing ceremonies, press conferences or official functions connected therewith.
<i>Competition Data</i>	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 Competitions, match analysis, referee decisions, and any other information in relation to the Competition.
<i>Competition Marks</i>	Any and all current and future competition Trade mark's and/or logos, copyrights and/or designs whether or not registered or applied for and whether registered in part or in whole including any and or present and future names, designations, symbols, logos or identifying music or sounds of BFF or the Competition, the BFF Fair Play name and device mark, the official logo, the Competition Trophy and other artistic and autographic representations in one, two or three dimensional proportions used by or in Association with the Competition.

<i>Competition Website</i>	The official website in relation to a Competition operated exclusively by BFF with a dedicated URL registered, owned and maintained by BFF, at BFF's sole expense, for use exclusively by BFF.
<i>Complimentary Tickets</i>	Tickets which are supplied without charge.
<i>Controlled Access Areas</i>	The locations of the Matches and other events, such as (without limitation) Stadia and their fences and perimeters, the aerial space above the Stadia, and all other locations associated with the Competitions, including the media centers, international broadcast centers, Official Training Sites, designated official hotels (including but not limited to the official hotels for the Participating Club Associations), hospitality and VIP areas and facilities, other areas to which admission is regulated by the accreditation system, and surrounding and adjacent areas to the locations described above.
<i>Commercial Affiliates</i>	Any entity to which BFF directly or indirectly has granted or will grant any aspect of the Commercial Rights in respect of the Competition, including but not limited to Official Sponsors, Official Supporters, Official Licensees and Official Media Partners.
<i>Club Licensing</i>	Refers to the BFF Club Licensing Regulations.
<i>DFA</i>	District Football Association.
<i>Disciplinary Committee</i>	The committee to deal with all disciplinary matters as governed by the BFF Disciplinary Code.
<i>Financial Obligation</i>	Undertaking from the Club to meet its Financial Requirements.
<i>FIFA</i>	The Federation International de Football Association.
<i>Force Majeure</i>	Any event affecting the performance or any provision of this Agreement 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.
<i>Host Broadcaster</i>	The organization appointed by BFF directly or indirectly to ensure and provide the production of the broadcast signals of the Matches and other events of the Competition, and the provision of all related services in accordance with the Broadcast Rights.
<i>IFAB</i>	'International Football Association Board' – the Game of football as regulated by the Laws of the Game.
<i>ITC</i>	International Transfer Certificate.

<i>Levy</i>	The amount of money payable to BFF.
<i>LTC</i>	Local Transfer Certificate.
<i>Match(es)</i>	Each football match(es) in its entirety (including extra time) of the Competition, and including any delayed, deferred Matches and/or replays.
<i>Match Schedule</i>	The published schedule containing details of the Competition (which details shall include but not be limited to the names of the clubs, Venues, Stadia, and details of the Match kick-off times).
<i>Media</i>	All members of the written press, on-line editors, photographers, television news crews and the representatives of the Broadcast Rights Holders entitled to media accreditation as determined by BFF.
<i>Member(s)</i>	Those club teams who are participating in Independence Cup.
<i>Neutral Venue</i>	Where the match is being played as a neutral venue and appointed to assist to organize stage and host the competition.
<i>Official</i>	Office bearers and members of various committees, sub-committees, managers, coaches, trainers, match commissioners, referees, asst. referees, referee assessors, medical officers and staffs of Bangladesh Football Federation and Bangladesh Independence Cup participating clubs.
<i>Official Functions</i>	Any official event organized in connection with the Competitions, including but not limited to press conferences, official dinners or lunches and banquets.
<i>Player Status Committee</i>	The committee to monitor compliance with transfer regulations of players.
<i>Participating Players</i>	Those players registered and participating in the competition and any other players under the authority of BFF during the Competition.
<i>Regulations</i>	Those regulations controlled and published by BFF to be used in connection with the Competition.
<i>Regulations</i>	Those regulations controlled and published by BFF to be used in connection with the Competition.
<i>SAFF</i>	South Asian Football Federation.
<i>Season</i>	Will commence on the first day of the first registration period fixed by BFF and it would continue to the previous day of the first day of the next registration period fixed by BFF. In ideal

situation a consecutive 12-month period fixed by an association during which its official competitions, such as national league championships and national cup competitions, occur.

Sponsorship Rights

An association with the Competition and/or BFF (subject to the special provisions regarding the development of BFF Logo as set out in this Agreement and/or the BFF Guidelines) by any combination of Commercial Rights, including title sponsor of the Competitions or any of them such as “Bangladesh Premier League” sponsored / presented by Company A” and/or such other designation as mutually agreed by the parties.

Stadia

Any stadium at which a Match is played. For the avoidance of doubt, this includes:

- (i) the entire premises (to the extent that a valid Accreditation Card or Ticket is required in order to gain access) of a stadium facility inside the outer stadium perimeter fence and (on Match days and any day on which any official training takes place within the stadium), the aerial space above such stadium premises;
- (ii) parking facilities;
- (iii) VIP and hospitality areas (including any hospitality village);
- (iv) concession areas;
- (v) commercial display areas;
- (vi) buildings;
- (vii) the Field of Play;
- (viii) the Media tribune;
- (ix) any broadcast compound;
- (x) the stadium media center;
- (xi) the press conference room;
- (xii) the mixed zone;
- (xiii) any stands; and
- (xiv) any areas beneath the stand

Team’s Official Delegation

The Participating Club’s Official Delegation will comprise of a maximum of 36 (thirty-six) players (including foreign players) and a maximum of 9 (nine) officials who are named in the Final Registration for the Competition.

Training Sites

Training sites designated by the BFF for use by the Participating teams throughout the duration of the Competition.

Ticketing

All operational measures to provide tickets to all spectators of every Match and for Official Functions of the Competition allowing them to enter the Stadia and for a Venue. Ticketing shall include the management of operation necessary for the production, sale, distribution, delivery and payment of the tickets of the Competition.

Venues

The immediately surrounding area in which the Stadia are located and all the venues of ‘Independence Cup 2023’ will be approved by BFF.

For the purposes of this Regulation 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 persons shall include any legal person or corporation.
- (d) Reference to the BFF Commercial Rights Partner or Commercial Affiliates shall include where advised by the BFF, their successors and permitted assigns;

SECTION 1: REPRESENTATION

1 The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF)

- 1.1 The BFF stages the ‘Independence Cup 2023’ (hereafter the “Competition”) for men’s Bangladesh Premier League club teams of the season 2023-24 and BFF affiliated other football teams (subject to their interest of participation in the competition). In the final stage of the competition’s maximum 14 (fourteen) teams are eligible to participate including participating teams of ‘Bangladesh Premier League 2023-24’, BFF may organize a qualifier round/s, where BFF affiliated other football teams (subject to their interest of participation in the competition) will participate. All the participating 1st tier teams and BFF affiliated other football teams (subject to their interest of participation in the competition) will play at Independence Cup once every year according to BFF’s Calendar.
- 1.2 Any rights associated with the Competition, which has not been granted by these Regulations and/or specific agreements to a Participating team in the Competition belongs to BFF.
- 1.3 The current BFF Statutes, all BFF Regulations, Guidelines, Circulars and Codes are binding for all parties participating and involved in the preparation, and organization of the Competition. Any reference in these Regulations to the BFF Statutes refers to the Statutes valid at the time of entry and to all relevant BFF Regulations, Guidelines, Circulars and Codes.
- 1.4 Participating Teams are not authorized to represent BFF or the Competition without BFF’s prior written approval.
- 1.5 BFF will appoint match officials including Match Commissioner (**See Appendix 4**), Referee Instructor/Assessor, Referees, Media Officer (hereafter the ‘BFF Organizing Team’) for each match of the Competition for the purpose of match organization.
- 1.6 These Regulations govern the rights, duties, and responsibilities of the BFF, Match Officials, the Participating Club’s Players and Participating Officials taking part in the Competition.
- 1.7 At any circumstances and or in the event of any discrepancy between these Regulations BFF/ concerned committee may adopt/ apply any relevant reference which are stated/ not stated in these regulations, on the basis of the various regulations/ guidelines/ circulars/ codes of FIFA, AFC & BFF which are valid at the time of application in terms of making any kind of decision.
- 1.8 All Players and Officials registered for participation in this Competition shall undertake to ensure their presence at the BFF Awards Ceremony if they are nominated for an award. Any player or official failing to do so shall be referred to the BFF Disciplinary Committee.

2 Participating Clubs

- 2.1 The obligations and responsibilities of the Participating Clubs are stipulated in the Participating Team Agreement (PTA) (**See Appendix 2**), its annexes and amendments, the AFC Competitions Operation Manual, the BFF List of Requirements and in these Regulations and other BFF regulations, guidelines and circulars and any other agreements reached between BFF and the Participating teams.
- 2.2 Each teams taking part in the Competition shall ensure, as a condition of its participation in the Competition that every team of its delegation (players and officials) complies with the Participating Team Agreement to be issued by BFF.
- 2.3 The eligible team shall complete the Participating Team Agreement in full and submit it to the BFF Secretariat not later than the entry deadline communicated to the team. If the Participating Team Agreement does not reach the BFF Secretariat by the entry deadline, the participation of the eligible Club will be cancelled.
- 2.4 Participating Team Agreement (filled and signed by authorized official along with official seal) submitted to the BFF Secretariat by email, fax and courier post will be valid and taken into consideration.

3 Security and Safety

- 3.1 BFF is responsible for devising, planning and implementing adequate security and safety for the Competition at every relevant location (covering all Controlled Access Areas) which shall cover for all relevant persons at all times, including but not limited to the following:
 - All participating team's players and official
 - BFF Match Officials
 - Media
 - Commercial Partners
 - Fans and spectators
- 3.2 A detailed and highly relevant security plan shall be issued in the form of a binding declaration on all parties involved and shall include but not limited to the stadium and its vicinity, the training grounds and also hotels of participating club(s) and BFF match officials. This security plan shall be based on the principles outlined in the FIFA & AFC Safety Guidelines.

SECTION 2: TECHNICAL REGULATIONS

4 Matches played in accordance with the Laws of the Game

- 4.1 All Matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game laid down and published by the International Football Association Board (IFAB).
- 4.2 In case of any discrepancy in the interpretation of the Laws of the Game, the English version shall prevail and is authoritative.
- 4.3 In accordance with the Laws of the Game 2023-24 during the match, each team:
- may use a maximum of 5 (five) substitutes.
 - has a maximum of three substitution opportunities*
 - may additionally make substitutions at half-time
- * Where both teams make a substitution at the same time, this will count as a used substitution opportunity for each team. Multiple substitutions (and requests) by a team during the same stoppage in play count as one used substitution opportunity.
- Extra time:**
- If a team has not used the maximum number of substitutes and/or substitution opportunities, any unused substitutes and substitution opportunities may be used in extra time.
 - Whether or not the team has already used the full number of permitted substitutes, each team will have one additional substitution opportunity.
 - Substitutions may also be made in the period between full-time and the start of extra time, and at half-time in extra time – these do not count as used substitution opportunities
- 4.4 If there are fewer than 7 (seven) players on either of the teams, the Match shall be abandoned. In this case, the BFF Professional League Management Committee (and if required the BFF Disciplinary Committee) shall decide on the consequences.
- 4.5 A team must report to the Match Commissioner at least one and a half hour before the start of the match.

5 Duration of Matches

- 5.1 The Qualifier round/s will be played in a Knock-Out format (**as per Art. 5.3**) and in accordance with the match schedule.
- 5.2 In the Group Phase each Match shall last 90 (ninety) minutes, comprising 2 (two) periods of 45 (forty-five) minutes, with an interval of 15 (fifteen) minutes in between from the whistle ending the first period to the whistle starting the second period.
- 5.3 The Knock-Out Phase, in any stage of the competition will be played in accordance with the provisions of these Regulations, extra time is played as a result of a draw at the end of normal playing time, it shall consist of 2 (two) periods of 15 (fifteen) minutes each, with an interval of 5 (five) minutes at the end of normal playing time, but not between the 2 (two) periods of extra time.

If the result is still a draw after the 2 (two) periods of extra time, penalty kicks shall be taken to determine the winner, in accordance with the procedures described in the Laws of the Game.

- 5.4 If, through the fault of a Team, the taking of kicks from the penalty mark cannot be completed, **Art. 19.3** regulations shall apply.
- 5.5 Both teams shall walk to the field together from their dressing rooms at least 2 (two) minutes before the end of interval.
- 5.6 Any participating team that causes a delay in the commencement of the first period of the Match and/or the second period of the Match shall be sanctioned with 3,000/= (three thousand taka only) for per minute delay, BFF Disciplinary Committee may even take further section(s) against the concerned Club(s).

6 Cancellation of Matches

- 6.1 If the Match cannot commence on time due to Force Majeure or any other incidents such as, but not limited to, the field is not fit for play, weather conditions, floodlight failure, etc. the following procedures must be followed:
 - i. The Match must first be delayed for a minimum of 30 (thirty) minutes, unless the Referee decides that the Match can commence earlier, before a decision to reschedule the Match is taken.
 - ii. At the discretion of the Referee, another delay of a maximum of 30 (thirty) minutes shall be allowed if in his opinion this extra period of delay will allow the Match to commence. Otherwise, at the end of this second 30 (thirty) minutes period, the Referee must declare the Match to have been cancelled.
 - iii. In the case of a cancelled Match, the BFF or the BFF Professional League Management Committee of BFF shall decide within 24 (twenty-four) hours of the Referee's decision to cancel the Match whether the Match can be rescheduled, taking sporting and organizational considerations into account, or whether any other action and decision is needed to continue with the Competition. Any disciplinary sanctions resulting from the cancelled Match shall remain in force.
 - iv. Any Match which is cancelled, except in cases of Force Majeure recognized by the BFF Professional League Management Committee, may lead to the imposition of sanctions by the BFF Disciplinary Committee against the relevant party that caused the cancellation in accordance with the relevant regulations.
- 6.2 No appeals may be lodged against decisions stated in **Art. 6.1**.

7 Abandonment of Matches

- 7.1 If the Match is stopped by the Referee before the end of normal time or during any extra time because of any Force Majeure or any other incidents such as, but not limited to, the field is not fit for play, weather conditions, floodlight failure, etc. the following procedures must be followed:
- i. The Match is automatically suspended for the duration of 30 (thirty) minutes to allow conditions to improve sufficiently to restart the Match, unless the referee decides that the Match can be resumed earlier.
 - ii. At the discretion of the Referee, another suspension of a maximum of 30 (thirty) minutes shall be allowed if in his opinion this extra period of suspension will allow the Match to be resumed. Otherwise, at the end of this second 30 (thirty) minutes period, the Referee must declare the Match to have been abandoned.
 - iii. In the case a match is abandoned as a result of force majeure for any reason after it has already kicked off, the match shall recommence with the same score at the minute at which play was interrupted rather than being replayed in full.

The following principles shall apply to the recommencement of the match:

- the match shall recommence with the same players on the pitch and substitutes available as when the match was initially abandoned;
- no additional substitutes may be added to the 'Match Starting List';
- the teams can make only the number of substitutions to which they were still entitled when the match was abandoned;
- players sent off during the abandoned match cannot be replaced;
- any sanctions imposed before the match was abandoned remain valid for the remainder of the match;
- the kick-off time, date (foreseen for the following day) and location shall be decided by the BFF or the BFF Professional League Management Committee;
- Any matters requiring further decision shall be treated by the BFF or the BFF Professional League Management Committee;

- 7.2 No appeals may be lodged against decisions stated in **Art. 7.1**.

8 Refusal to Play

If it is not possible to start the match in time or to continue after the start due to the refusal of either one or both participating teams, the referee at his discretion waiting up to 15 (fifteen) minutes shall declare the match abandoned. The Disciplinary Committee of BFF based on the report of the Referee and Match Commissioner shall take action against the club/clubs concerned as per the BFF Disciplinary Code

9 Stadiums (Stadia)

9.1 The Stadium for the matches in the Competition shall be:

BFF or the BFF Professional League Management Committee will decide the venue(s).

9.2 BFF will ensure no Matches and/or other activities are held at the Stadium(s) nominated for the Matches at least 3(three) days prior to the Competition, unless written permission has been given by the BFF. Unless specified or directed by BFF otherwise, the Stadia shall be made available for use for the Competition as of 7 (seven) working days prior to the first Match of the Competition until 1 (one) day after the last Match of the Competition.

10 Team Bench and Technical Area

10.1 Only 7 (seven) officials and 12 (twelve) substitute players, from the registered 9 (nine) officials and 36 (thirty-six) players, are allowed to sit on the substitute bench. Registration and Presence of the following 2 (two) officials on each match day are mandatory:

- i. Team Manager
- ii. Head Coach

10.2 Along with the presence of 2 (two) above mentioned officials BFF recommend a team Doctor in the team bench.

10.3 Apart from the 2 (two) officials above, the participating teams may register up to 7 (seven) more officials out of the following officials:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| i. Head of Delegation/Team Leader | viii. Equipment Manager |
| ii. Assistant Manager | ix. Security Officer |
| iii. Assistant Coach | x. Fitness Coach /Trainer |
| iv. Goalkeeper Coach | xi. Doctor |
| v. Media Officer | xii. Technical Director |
| vi. Interpreter | xiii. Physiotherapist |
| vii. Video Analyst | xiv. Masseur |

10.4 The names of all the officials and players and their function must be listed on the match starting list. To register an official, concerned team has to submit the official registration form along with the relevant documents (i.e. qualification certificate/coaching license, photo, etc.) of the concerned official within the stipulated deadline declared by BFF. BFF reserves the right to reject any team's official's registration should the concerned team/ team official would not be able to fulfill necessary requirements.

10.5 All officials and players on the team bench must wear their accreditation card at all times. The accreditation cards shall always be available for inspection prior to the start of the match. Failure to carry the accreditation card at stadium will result the official/ player concerned being fined minimum BDT 5,000 (five thousand taka only).

10.6 All persons on the bench must wear kits that are contrasting with the kit of the players and referees on the pitch. These kits must comply with the AFC Equipment Regulations.

11 Warming Up

11.1 The Participating Clubs shall be entitled to warm up on the field of play before the Match if the weather permits.

11.2 During actual play, a maximum of 6 (six) players from each team may warm up at the same time but without a ball (except for the goalkeeper), behind the goal closest to their substitutes' bench or in a space determined by the Match Commissioner (i.e. warm up may be arranged next to each team bench) The players may be assisted by 2 (two) officials from the team bench.

12 Footballs

The balls chosen for the competition shall conform with the Laws of the Game and meet the requirements and bear one of the marks of the FIFA Quality Program for Footballs:



- FIFA Basic*,
- FIFA Quality or
- FIFA Quality Pro.

*FIFA Basic is replacing the International Match Standard (IMS). Footballs and playing surfaces tested to this previous standard remain eligible for use until their certification expires.

13 Match Schedule

13.1 All matches are played according to the BFF Calendar which shall be approved by the BFF Professional League Management Committee.

13.2 The matches of the team /teams participating in the AFC and FIFA matches during the progress of the Competition shall be re-scheduled by the BFF Professional League Management Committee of BFF with the approval of Bangladesh Football Federation. Players as will be required to participate in the national football team shall be governed by FIFA regulations (**See Appendix 3**).

13.3 No fixture can be postponed except by the BFF Professional League Management Committee or on the day of the fixture by the referee, as defined in **Law 5** of the Laws of the Game.

- 13.4 Any club which fails to fulfill a scheduled fixture shall be deemed to have forfeited that fixture by the score line of 3 (three) goals to 0 (zero) and shall be liable to further sanctions to be determined by the BFF or the BFF Professional League Management Committee.
- 13.5 The BFF Professional League Management Committee has the authority to reschedule postponed matches. All teams shall fulfill fixtures (postponed) at the time rescheduled by the BFF Professional League Management Committee. Clubs shall be informed about the rescheduled match at least 1 (one) day before the match.
- 13.6 All Matches shall be played according to the dates, stadium and kick off times as set by the BFF or the BFF Professional League Management Committee. Clubs shall be informed the match schedule at least 1 (one) day before the match.

14 Referees and Match Commissioner

- 14.1 BFF or BFF Referees Committee shall appoint a referee, 2 (two) assistant referees and a fourth official to every match in the 'Independence Cup 2023'. BFF or BFF Referees Committee has the sole and complete authority in this regard.
- 14.2 The referees shall be appointed from a panel of referees who have attended the Advanced Referees Course and have passed the full FIFA Fitness Test conducted by the Referees Committee of BFF prior to the commencement of the Football Season of Bangladesh shall be nominated to this panel. Protest against the allotment of the match officials by any participating club of the 'Independence Cup 2023' is not allowed in any way.
- 14.3 Every referee (and where necessary the assistant referees and fourth official) shall submit a written report (**See Appendix 4**) to BFF within 12 (twelve) noon of the following day of each 'Independence Cup 2023' match, notwithstanding the fact that the following day may be a Friday, a Saturday or a public holiday. All cases of misconduct of players, officials or spectators must also be reported. This report shall contain all relevant details of the match including goals, scorers, substitutions, cautions, expulsions and incidents, both on the field of play, in the stadium and in the dressing room area.
- 14.4 BFF may appoint a Referee Assessor to each 'Independence Cup 2023' match to assess the performance of the referee, assistant referee and fourth official. The Referee Assessor shall make an official report to BFF (**See Appendix 5**). These assessments shall be used by BFF to determine referee appointments. Match Commissioner will be entitled to carry out the responsibilities of the Referee Assessor, if required.
- 14.5 BFF shall pay each referee, assistant referees and fourth official match fees. If a match is postponed, after the arrival of the referee and his assistants at the venue, a payment of 50% (fifty Percent) of the match fees shall be made.
- 14.6 BFF shall appoint 1 (one) Match Commissioner for every match of Independence Cup.

15 Competition System

15.1 The Competition shall consist of the following stages:

Qualifier Stage: BFF may organize a qualifier round/s. The Qualifier round/s will be played in a Knock-Out format (as per Art. 5.3) or Round-Robin League format which will be decided by the BFF or the BFF Professional League Management Committee and in accordance with the match schedule.

Group Phase: Total 14 (fourteen) teams in 4 (four) groups shall be eligible to participate in the Group Phase of the 'Independence Cup 2023' in the venue(s) fixed by the BFF. Teams of each group shall play round robin league matches amongst themselves.

And

Knock-Out Phase: Champion team and Runners-Up team of each group shall participate in the Quarter-Final of the Independence Cup. The winners of Quarter-Final matches shall participate in the Semi-Final match and then Final and the details will be finalized by the BFF Professional League Management Committee.

15.2 BFF Professional League Management Committee will form groups and/or sub-groups for the Competition by drawing lots whilst taking sports, geographic and economic factors into consideration, as far as possible.

16 Technical Rules for the Competition

16.1 The winning team in a match shall be awarded 3 (three) points with the losing team receiving no point. If the match ends in a draw, each team shall receive 1 (one) point. The number of goals scored and conceded by each team shall also be recorded.

16.2 1 (one) point for a draw and 0 (zero) point for a loss (in league system).

16.3 In the league system the ranking in each group is determined as follows:

16.3.1 Greater number of points obtained in all group matches;

16.3.2 If 2 (two) or more Teams are equal on the basis of the above criterion, their place shall be determined as follows:

i) Greater number of points obtained in the group matches between the Teams concerned;

ii) Goal difference resulting from the group matches between the Teams concerned;

iii) Greater number of goals scored in the group match (es) between the Teams concerned;

iv) Goal difference in all the group matches;

v) Greater number of goals scored in all the group matches;

vi) Kicks from the penalty mark if only 2 (two) Teams are involved and they are both on the field of play;

vii) Fewer score calculated according to the number of yellow and red cards received in the group matches (See Appendix 1);

viii) Drawing of lots.

16.4 All the matches of ‘Independence Cup 2023’ shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game laid down and published by the International Football Association Board. Bangladesh Football Federation reserves the right to exclude any club from each edition of the Independence Cup under any of the following situation:

16.4.1 If any club is found to have breached contract with the players, coaches and any other appointed officials.

16.4.2 If any club found to be in the fault of violation of any regulation of the Independence Cup.

16.4.3 If any club is found to have violated the direction and instruction provided by BFF.

16.4.4 If any club is found giving walk-over in any match.

SECTION 3: ENTRIES FOR COMPETITION

17 Eligible Teams

Men's Bangladesh Premier League teams of the season 2023-24 and BFF affiliated other football teams (subject to their interest of participation in the competition). In the final stage of the competition's maximum 14 (fourteen) teams are eligible to participate including participating teams of 'Bangladesh Premier League 2023-24', BFF may organize a qualifier round/s, where BFF affiliated other football teams (subject to their interest of participation in the competition) will participate. All the participating Bangladesh Premier League and BFF affiliated other football teams (subject to their interest of participation in the competition) will play at Independence Cup.

18 Duties and Obligations

On entering the Competition, the Clubs shall automatically undertake:

- 18.1 Each club selected to participate in the 'Independence Cup 2023' shall pay an entry fee of BDT 20,000.00 (Twenty thousand taka only) to BFF. The amount of such entry fee shall be determined annually by BFF or BFF Professional League Management Committee. The entry fee must be deposited to BFF as per the instruction of BFF.
- 18.2 To accept that all the administrative, disciplinary and refereeing matters connected with the Competition shall be settled by BFF in compliance with these Regulations or the decisions of relevant BFF Committee(s):
 - 18.2.1 To field their strongest team throughout the Competition;
 - 18.2.2 To observe the principles of Fair Play;
 - 18.2.3 To be responsible for the behavior of their players, officials, Teams, supporters and any person carrying out duties on their behalf throughout the Competition;
 - 18.2.4 To accept all the arrangements made by the BFF;
- 18.3 To attend and participate in all official activities and events such as Team Manager's Meeting, Press Conferences, Club Licensing Seminar/ Workshop, FIFA/ AFC Seminar/ Workshop, TMS Seminar/ Workshop, Conferences other Media and Marketing activities and any other official functions in connection with the ongoing and or upcoming Competitions organized by BFF in accordance with guidelines and /or instructions in circulars issued by BFF. Failure to attend and or participate in such official activities and events the Clubs being fined BDT 50,000 (fifty thousand taka only).
- 18.4 Each Team Manager shall be responsible for coordinating all matters involving the relevant Participating Team with the BFF. The Team Manager shall ensure participation of the relevant Participating Players and Participating Officials in all Official Functions related to Matches in the Competition.
- 18.5 To accept the use and/or sub-license by BFF of any of the records, names and images of the Club (including its mark), players and officials, including any

still and moving representation thereof, which must appear or be generated in connection with the Participation of the Participating Clubs and its Players and Officials in the Competition.

- 18.6 It is the solely the responsibility of the concerned club to obtain its foreign player's and official's work permits as soon as the concerned foreign player(s) and official(s) started working with respective club(s). BFF encourages concerned teams to be fielded a player in the competitions with work permit. BFF shall not be responsible in any way should a player participate in the competitions without work permit.
- 18.7 The concerned team shall ensure that all the contracted players and officials deposit their personal income tax to the government tax authority.
- 18.8 Any foreign player(s) who came for trial shall depart Bangladesh at the soonest should the player(s) were not selected for the team and it is the sole responsibility of the concerned club to ensure the same.
- 18.9 Without valid visa foreign player(s)/official(s) is not eligible to take part in a match or competitions. It is the sole responsibility of the concerned club to field foreign player and official having valid visa, the breach of which will be referred to BFF Disciplinary Committee.
- 18.10 No change of kit colors is permitted during a season. But any special circumstances recognized by BFF may be considered with prior approval of BFF/BFF Professional League Management Committee. The BFF shall decide on the kit color (jersey, shorts, and socks) to be worn for each Match on the basis of the equipment information submitted by each Participating Team prior to the Competition. In principle, each Participating Team shall wear its official colors for both outfield players and goalkeepers. In case of any clash between the colors of the Participating Teams and/or the Match Officials, the following order of priority shall be applied by the BFF to allocate the match colors.
 - 18.10.1 Outfield players of Team A;
 - 18.10.2 Outfield players of Team B;
 - 18.10.3 Goalkeepers of Team A;
 - 18.10.4 Goalkeepers of Team B; and
 - 18.10.5 Match Officials.
 - 18.10.6 If the above order of priority does not produce a clear color contrast, the allocation shall continue step by step in reverse order (starting from 18.10.5 to 18.10.1) until an acceptable color contrast is confirmed.
 - 18.10.7 If necessary, Participating Teams may be required to wear a combination of their official and reserve colors.
 - 18.10.8 The colors shall be decided by the BFF/ Match Commissioner/ Referee Assessor communicate with concerned.
 - 18.10.9 Regardless of the above, Participating Teams shall ensure to bring both sets of kits (both official and reserve) for all Participating Players for each Match, including the extra goalkeeper shirts without names and numbers (for special circumstances in which an outfield player must take the position of a goalkeeper during a Match).

- 18.11 Participating Clubs shall not use, nor authorize the use of any Jersey, symbol, emblem, logo; mark or designation which, in BFF's opinion, is similar to, or is a derivation or imitation, or copyright and intellectual property rights belongs to others.
- 18.12 Throughout the Competition and for each match to which he is registered, each player shall wear the same number allocated to him on the BFF Official Registration Form for Players from 1 ~ 99 submitted to BFF during the registration. The same player may not use different shirt numbers in different matches.

19 Withdrawal, penalty for failing to play and replacement

- 19.1 Participating Clubs shall play in all of their matches in the Competition.
- 19.2 Participating Clubs who will withdraw prior to, or are excluded from playing in the Competition, may be replaced by another Club. BFF Committee(s) concerned shall make the relevant decision, including a change in the Competition system and the Technical Rules for the Competition, if necessary.
- 19.3 If a Participating Club withdraws after entering the Competition, except in cases of Force Majeure recognized by the BFF Professional League Management Committee, or if it refuses to continue to play or leaves the stadium before the end of the Match, or if the club fails to register minimum 22 (twenty-two) players the Participating team shall:
 - 19.3.1 Be considered to have withdrawn from the Competition;
 - 19.3.2 Be required to pay compensation for any and all damages or losses suffered by the other Participating Clubs, the BFF and BFF's Commercial and TV partner(s). The amount of compensation will be determined by the BFF or the BFF Professional League Management Committee;
 - 19.3.3 Be disqualified from taking part in the next edition of the Competition;
 - 19.3.4 Be referred to the BFF Disciplinary Committee for additional sanctions and fines depending on the gravity of the situation, then to BFF Executive Committee for final decision;
 - 19.3.5 Return to the BFF any financial stipends that had been paid to them by BFF throughout the Competition or forfeit the right to the same;
 - 19.3.6 BFF Executive Committee may extend the suspension depending on the gravity of the situation and/or damages.

The BFF Professional League Management Committee shall take whatever action it deems necessary in cases of Force Majeure.

SECTION 4: TEAM'S OFFICIAL DELEGATION: OFFICIALS & PLAYERS

20 Size of Delegation Attending Matches

- 20.1 Each Participating club is entitled to register a maximum of 36 (thirty-six) players (as per **Art. 21-24**) where club may register up to 6 (six) foreign Players and a minimum of 3 (three) goalkeepers in their registration without any condition. In case more than 3 (three) foreign Players are registered, then at least 1 (one) of these foreign Players must hold the nationality of an AFC affiliated Member Association. Also, Each Participating club is entitled to register a maximum of 9 (nine) officials (as per **Art. 21-24**). Among registered players and officials, a maximum of 23 (twenty-three) players and a maximum of 7 (seven) officials of each team will receive full access to the official Competition areas including the field of play and other Controlled Accessed Areas in every match day.
- 20.2 Teams other than the 'Bangladesh Premier League' cannot register players outside of the concerned team's territory or employees outside of the concerned force team as well as they cannot register any foreign player.

21 Eligibility of players

- 21.1 A player is eligible to play in the Competition provided he fulfills all the following conditions:
- 21.1.1 He is duly registered with the BFF by the Participating teams according to the provisions of these Regulations. Each player's registration on behalf of his concerned club is only valid until the end of the football season, the date of which is defined under the definition of Season but each player's registration on behalf of his concerned team other than the 'Bangladesh Premier League' team is only valid until the end of this competition. Where a player is contracted by a club for a longer period, the player must be registered at the start of each season.
- 21.1.2 A Player cannot be registered if his age is less than 16 (sixteen) years at the last date of the registration periods declared by BFF.
- 21.2 A player is deemed ineligible if:
- 21.2.1 There is a violation of **Art. 21.1**;
- 21.2.2 He is fielded despite being served a suspension;
- 21.2.3 BFF finds that a document(s) submitted during registration is/are false.
- 21.2.4 Player registered outside of the concerned team's territory or is not an employee of the concerned force team.
- 21.3 In the event there is a dispute pertaining to the status of a player, the case will be referred to BFF Player Status Committee.

22 Registration of Players

- 22.1 Participating Clubs can register no less than 22 (twenty-two) players and up to a maximum 36 (thirty-six) players [including a maximum of 6 (six) foreign players as per **Art. 20**] for the Competition. BFF shall provide a registration card (affixing photograph) for each player eligible to play. Teams other than the ‘Bangladesh Premier League’ cannot register players outside of the concerned team’s territory or employees outside of the concerned force team as well as they cannot register any foreign player.
- 22.2 Start List to identify the starting 11 (eleven) and up to twelve (12) substitutes players for each Match during the Competition. In the Starting 11 (eleven), a maximum of 4 (four) foreign players may include [therein at least 1 (one) foreign player must be from the AFC affiliated member associations].
- 22.3 Each club must submit a final player list with the supporting documents in accordance with **Art. 22.4** By the deadline announced by BFF.
- 22.4 Documentations for the registration of players are, but not limited to, the following:
- Official Registration form (mandatory) for Players;
 - Passport-size colored photo 4 (four) copies (taken within 3 (three) months prior to the submission of the registration);
 - Copy of valid NID [mandatory for local players who are above 18 (eighteen) years old];
 - Proof of employment [mandatory for players to be register with the concerned force team];
 - Proof of student ID [mandatory for players to be registered with the BFF affiliated concerned educational institution];
 - Copy of passport for foreign players containing full name and number, date of birth, date of issue, date of expiry and nationality (group passport will not be accepted);
 - Copy of visa for foreign player(s) (containing the visa’s date of issue and expiry.
 - Copy of Passport/Birth Certificate for the local player(s) less than 18 (eighteen) years of age;
 - Copy of properly filled ‘Parental Consent Form’ for the player(s) less than 18 (eighteen) years of age (**Appendix 9**);
 - Signed ‘Code of Conduct’.
- 22.5 BFF reserves the right to request for additional documents than those stipulated in **Art. 22.4** above.
- 22.6 If a Participating Club fails to register a minimum of 22 (twenty-two) players, the team will be considered to have withdrawn in accordance with **Art. 19.3**).
- 22.7 Before the expiry of existing contract with the club, the transfer of a local player’s registration from one club to another must be in writing on the official transfer form (hereinafter known as the ‘Local Transfer Certificate’ or ‘LTC’). This form is attached as **Appendix 8**. In such cases, BFF shall not re-register a player with a new club unless the registration form is accompanied by a valid LTC. The LTC shall be issued by the player’s former club. Such transfer of a local player’s registration can only occur during any Registration Window specified by BFF. A player who is registered in ‘Bangladesh Premier League

2022-23' and 'Bangladesh Championship 2022-23' will be considered as free player from the commencement day of the first registration window for the season 2023-24 unless the player(s) has a long-term contract with the respective club.

- 22.8 Throughout every Stage of the competition each player shall wear the same number allocated to him on the BFF Official Registration Form for Players submitted to BFF during the registration window. Jersey number 1 shall be reserved for the Goalkeeper.
- 22.9 Participating Club must register a minimum of 3 (three) goalkeepers in their Registration for the players without any condition.
- 22.10 Each column in the BFF Official Registration Form for the Players must be completed with correct information.
- 22.11 Players with missing documentations will not be eligible for registration. All eligible players will be issued with official eligibility cards (Accreditation Card). Should the card have been misplaced, the teams shall be required to pay BDT 1,000.00 (One thousand taka only) as the production fee for every card lost, to replace it.
- 22.12 In case any Participating Club found guilty of violating **Art. 22.7**, the sanction will be pronounced in accordance with BFF Disciplinary Code.
- 22.13 Should the BFF Secretariat not receive the 'FINAL LIST of PLAYERS' with all required document by the deadline announced by BFF, the Participating Club shall be automatically disqualified from the Competition and be considered to have withdrawn in accordance with **Art. 19.3**.
- 22.14 Player Registration shall be completed within the deadline announced by BFF. Each participating club shall submit to BFF the list of a maximum of 6 (six) foreign players (as per **Art. 20**) to be registered with BFF within the deadline determined by the Professional League Management Committee of BFF. The transfer and registration of foreign players shall be governed by electronic International Transfer Certificate (ITC) through the application of web-based FIFA Transfer Matching System (TMS). The registration of players must be on the official registration form attached to these rules.
- 22.15 It is responsibility of the clubs to ensure that all the supporting documents in accordance with **Art. 22** are sent in good time and reach BFF Secretariat in Dhaka before the deadline announced by BFF. Proof of submission is not proof of receipt.
- 22.16 To register Players serving in Bangladesh Army, Bangladesh Navy and Bangladesh Air Force for the Independence Cup, the concerned club must submit the clearance letter issued by the authority of the concerned forces to BFF.
- 22.17 Player/s registered with a club for the AFC Club Competitions need to be released by the concerned force/ forces team (Bangladesh Army, Bangladesh Navy, and Bangladesh Air Force) in favor of the club participating in AFC Club Competitions at least 3 (three) days prior to the concerned match of the competitions.

23 Match Starting List

- 23.1 Participating Clubs must mark the team captain & goalkeepers on the 'Player Selection List'. On match days, each club shall provide a team sheet, consisting of 'Officials on the Bench' list with the names of 7 (seven) officials (including team boy or masseur) who shall be entitled to sit on the bench and 'Player Selection List' with the names of 11 (eleven) players who will start the Match and other 12 (twelve) players who are designated as substitutes to the BFF Match Commissioner at least 75 (seventy-five) minutes before the kick-off of the Match. Each Participating Club may only select up to 4 (four) foreign Players in the Player Selection List. In case more than 3 (three) foreign Players are selected in the Player Selection List, then at least 1 (one) of these foreign Players must hold the nationality of an AFC affiliated member associations. Each Participating Clubs shall identify at least two (2) players as goalkeepers on its 'Player Selection List'. The official Independence Cup team sheet (**See Appendix 6**) must be used for this purpose.
- 23.2 After the 'Match Starting List' has been completed and signed by both teams and returned to the BFF Match Commissioner, and if the Match has not yet kicked-off, the following instructions apply:
- 23.2.1 If any of the 11 (eleven) players listed on the Match Starting List selected to start the Match are not able to start the Match for any reason, they may be replaced by any of the substitutes listed on the Match Starting List. During the Match, 5 (five) players may still be replaced;
- 23.2.2 The replaced players shall no longer be eligible to participate in the match.

24 Registration of Officials

For the registration of Club Officials for the Competition, club must submit a final list of officials with the supporting documents in accordance with **Art. 24.1** by the deadline announced by BFF.

- 24.1 Documentation for the registration of Officials is, but not limited to, the following:
- Official Registration form for Officials;
 - Passport-size colored photo 2 Copies (taken within 3 months prior to the submission of the registration);
 - Copy of valid NID [mandatory for local officials who are above 18 (eighteen) years old].
 - Copy of passport for foreign officials containing full name and number, date of birth, date of issue, date of expiry and nationality (group passport will not be accepted);
 - Copy of visa for foreign official(s) (containing the visa's date of issue and expiry.
 - Copy of Passport/Birth Certificate for the official(s) less than 18 (eighteen) years of age;

- Certificate/Qualifications based on his/her function:
 - Head Coach, Technical Director, Assistant Coach, Goalkeeper Coach and Fitness Coach/ Trainer: Individual's coaching certificate or coaching license according to BFF Club Licensing Regulations;
 - Doctor: Medical Qualification.
 - Physiotherapist: Chartered Physiotherapy Qualification.
- 24.2 BFF has the right to ask further documentations for the clarification of the eligibility of the officials other than documentations listed in the **Art. 24.1**.
- 24.3 The Participating Clubs can nominate a maximum of 9 (nine) officials for the registration from which a maximum of 7 (seven) officials are allowed to sit in the substitute bench.
- 24.4 Officials with missing documentations will not be eligible for registration. All eligible Officials will be issued with Accreditation card. Should the card have been misplaced, the clubs shall be required to pay BDT 1,000.00 (One thousand taka only) as the production fee for every card lost, to replace it.
- 24.5 It is responsibility of the clubs to ensure that all the supporting documents in accordance with **Art. 24** are sent in good time and reach BFF Secretariat in Dhaka before the deadline announced by BFF. Proof of submission is not proof of receipt.

SECTION 5: MEDIA

25 General Requirements

The Participating Clubs are encouraged to link the BFF website (www.bff.com.bd) to its own website respectively upon entry to the Competition.

26 Media

Where required, the BFF will be responsible for the production of media bibs for photographers, TV and ENG crews under supervision by AFC.

27 Media Access Areas

- 27.1 No representatives of the written press or radio journalists are allowed on the field of play or the area between the boundaries of the field and the spectators.
- 27.2 Only those photographers who have the approval from BFF Media Wing, TV cameramen of the Host Broadcaster and the main visiting broadcaster and the personnel required to operate the electronic television cameras of the Host Broadcaster are allowed in the area between the boundaries of the field of play and the spectators, where they will carry out their work in the specific locations assigned to them.
- 27.3 The team dressing-rooms are strictly off limits to representatives of the Media before, during and after the Match.
- 27.4 Bangladesh Football Federation shall ensure the Host Broadcaster and all Broadcast Affiliates have free access to the Stadia from 2 (two) days prior to match day until 1 (one) day after the Match, in order to access the technical issues of each and to assemble and construct the relevant infrastructure required for the execution of the Broadcast Rights.
- 27.5 The BFF is responsible for ensuring that Broadcast Rights are protected and that no broadcaster and/or video or ENG camera crews are allowed access to the stadium without the prior written permission of BFF.

28 Training Session

All Training Sessions must be opened to the Media. Should the Participating Clubs wish to close its Training Session to the Media, it shall open for at least the first 15 (fifteen) minutes of the training.

29 Press Conferences

- 29.1 The Participating Clubs must attend the pre-match press conference, if any, to be conducted under the supervision of BFF Media Officer.
- 29.2 The Head Coach of each Participating Clubs is obliged to attend and participate in the Pre-Match/Tournament Press Conference to be held at least 1 (one) day before the Match.
- 29.3 Both teams are obliged to ensure attendance of their Head Coach at Post-Match Press Conference after each match. The losing team will seat for the Post-

Match Press Conference first and in case of draw situation the 'Team-A' will seat for the press conference first.

- 29.4 Interpretation of the coaches and players' language into Bengali during the interview with media and at the press conferences is the responsibility of each participating team.
- 29.5 Non-compliance with clauses **Art. 29.1, 29.2 and 29.3** above will result in disciplinary action which may include a fine of a minimum of BDT 10,000 (Ten thousand taka only) and the Head Coach may be subject to a ban from the dressing room and/or the substitutes' bench.

30 Mixed Zone

Players and Officials of the Participating Clubs shall enter the Mixed Zone on their way from the team dressing room to the team bus after the Match.

31 Interviews

- 31.1 If requested by BFF, the Participating Clubs should have their Head Coach and 1 (one) player available for the day before each Match and/or on the Match Day for an interview of up to 10 (ten) minutes, to be recorded by the main TV rights-holding or by BFF's official website (www.bff.com.bd).
- 31.2 Players and Officials of Participating Clubs are not permitted to give interviews during the Match on the field of play or in its immediate vicinity. However, the BFF Media Officer may designate an area between the substitutes' benches and dressing rooms in which "flash" interviews for the Host Television Broadcaster only can take place at the end of the Match. Players and Officials violating this Article will be subject to disciplinary measures.
- 31.3 If requested by BFF for the 'flash' interviews, the Head Coach and at least 1 (one) key player from both Participating Clubs must be available for at least the Host Broadcaster and the TV rights-holding broadcaster.
- 31.4 All interview locations should be assigned by BFF Media Officer.

SECTION 6: EQUIPMENT/KIT

32 Equipment Regulations

Each Participating Club is responsible for compliance with the AFC Equipment Regulations (as in www.the-afc.com) and any further applicable laws, regulations, guidelines and decisions issued by the BFF in relation to any Equipment.

- 32.1 The wearing of any Kit on the Field of Play remains subject foremost to the authority of the referee as defined in the Laws of the Game.
- 32.2 Any Kit that does not comply with these Regulations is strictly prohibited.
- 32.3 By no later than the deadlines stipulated by BFF, each Participating Club taking part in 'Independence Cup 2023' must submit a Complete Sample Set of Official and Reserve Jersey to BFF. All samples must display a player number and player name.
- 32.4 Both the Official Kit and Reserve Kit shall be taken to every Match of the relevant Competition.
- 32.5 The colors of the Official Kit must be noticeably different from and contrasting to the colors of the Reserve Kit. Teams are requested to mix the Official Kit and Reserve Kit for Matches in order to create a visible contrast with the other team and must comply with any such instruction from a Match Official.
- 32.6 The Equipment Regulations are in force from the time the Participating Club's Official Delegation arrive at a Controlled Access Areas until the time the Team's Official Delegation depart from such areas.

33 Numbers and Identifications



- 33.1 A number must appear on the back (centered) of all shirts used as Playing Equipment. The number must be between 25 cm (twenty-five centimeters) and 35 cm (thirty-five centimeters) in height, clearly legible and positioned in the center back of the shirt. The stroke width of the number must be between 3 cm (three centimeters) and 5 cm (five centimeters). The number must be entirely visible when the shirt is tucked into the shorts.
- 33.2 The number must also be displayed on the front of each shirt in any position at chest level. The number must be between 10 cm (ten centimeters) and 15 cm (fifteen centimeters) in height, clearly legible and be the same color as the number on the back of the shirt.
- 33.3 The number must also appear on the front of the shorts positioned on either leg. The number must be between 10 cm (ten centimeters) and 15 cm (fifteen centimeters) in height and clearly legible.
- 33.4 Based on the principle of light and dark contrast of used colors and irrespective of the prevailing conditions, such as weather and light, the color used for any number appearing on Playing Equipment must be clearly legible and distinguishable from a distance for all Participating Players, Match Officials, spectators and media from the colors used for the Playing Equipment. This distinction may be achieved by displaying the numbers on a single-colored patch. The number may be surrounded by a border or shadow outline. A 'number zone' must be created on the back of the shirt unless, at the discretion of the BFF, it is decided that the number appearing is clearly legible and distinguishable from a distance by all Participating Players, the Match Officials, spectators and media, from the colors used for the Equipment. A 'number zone' may be created on the front of the shirt.
- 33.5 The numbers may be sewn on or affixed to the kit item by heat transfer. The numbers may not be attached with Velcro or other temporary means.
- 33.6 All types of identification may be printed, embroidered or sewn on as a badge and shall be attached permanently to the Playing Equipment. No types of identification may be attached with Velcro or other temporary means.
- 33.7 All types of identification must not interfere with other elements of the Playing Equipment identifying the Participating Player and must not obstruct the clear distinction of the Participating Players and the opposing team.

34 Player Names

- 34.1 Participating Players must be identified by their surname or popular name on the back of the shirt.
- 34.2 Participating Player names may appear on the back of a shirt used as Playing Equipment for all Matches in the Competitions organized by BFF.
- 34.3 In the event that a Participating Player name appears on the back of a shirt:
 - 34.3.1 The name must be positioned above the number on the back of the shirt;
 - 34.3.2 The letters shall be between 5cm (five centimeters) and 7.5cm (seven and a half centimeters) in height and must be separated from the number by at least 4 cm (four centimeters). They may be in upper

and/or lower case. For better legibility, they may be surrounded by a border or shadow outline. In the case of striped shirts, the name must be either affixed to a neutral-colored patch or surrounded by a border or shadow outline;



34.3.3 The letters must be the same color as that of the number on the back of the shirt. They may not contain any Manufacturer Identification, advertising, design features or other elements.

34.3.4 The name must be clearly distinguishable from the color of the shirt. It must contrast (light on dark or vice versa) with the color of the shirt.

35 Sleeve Patches

Each Participating Club shall allow space on the sleeves of the player's uniform available (or such other part of the player uniform as BFF may determine) to affix to the relevant Match identifier in a form, manner and position to be determined by BFF as below:

- Independence Cup sleeve patch on the right;
- BFF Logo sleeve patch on the left.

36 Sponsor Advertising

36.1 In the competition organized by BFF the Participating Clubs may engage in Sponsor Advertising preferably on the front of the shirt forming part of its Playing Equipment. No sponsor advertising is allowed on shorts and/or socks.

36.2 The total area used must not exceed 200 cm² (two hundred square centimeters) on the front.

36.3 The advertising surface may be placed on the front of the shirt either:

36.3.1 Horizontally, across the chest; or

36.3.2 Vertically, on the Right or Left, or in the center of the torso.

- 36.4 The height of the letters must not exceed 10 cm (ten centimeters). Participating Clubs may choose, at their own discretion, the script and color of then lettering. No Manufacturer Identification, Decorative Element, or other elements may be incorporated.
- 36.5 The following categories of Sponsor Advertising are prohibited in all Competitions organized by BFF:
 - 36.5.1 Tobacco;
 - 36.5.2 Gambling;
 - 36.5.3 Sponsor Advertising containing slogans of a political, religious or racial nature; or
 - 36.5.4 Sponsor advertising for causes that offend common decency.
- 36.6 Any bans or restrictions deriving from the legislation of Bangladesh or territory in which any Match is taking place shall also apply.

37 Responsibility

- 37.1 Bangladesh Football Federation makes all final decisions regarding the approval of all Equipment.
- 37.2 BFF declines all responsibility and authority in the event of conflicts arising from contracts between a Member Association or Participating Club and their sponsor(s) on account of these Regulations. BFF shall not be liable for any losses, fees, damages, or any costs whatsoever which may arise as a result of, or in connection with, the requirements contained in these Regulations. Member Associations and Participating Clubs agree to indemnify the BFF from any and all damages which may arise from decisions regarding Equipment.

SECTION 7: TICKETING

38 Policy

- 38.1 The entire ticketing system regulating ticket design, pricing policy, procedures and implementation shall be approved by BFF.
- 38.2 All tickets shall incorporate only those Logos and Marks of the Competition and the official Commercial Affiliates and Broadcast Affiliates as requested and/or agreed by BFF as parts of the ticket design.

39 Complimentary Tickets

BFF shall make available 50 (fifty) complimentary tickets in the gallery areas for each participating clubs of the particular match. BFF is entitled to include the provision of complimentary tickets in sponsorship and commercial contracts made on behalf of the Independence Cup.

SECTION 8: MEDICAL AND DOPING CONTROL

Bangladesh Football Federation will follow the regulations of local governments and recommendations / guidelines by FIFA, AFC and WHO as health is of prime importance.

40 Medical Personnel

BFF shall provide, at its own cost, the following medical personnel on match day at the Stadium where the match is organized:

On-Pitch Medical Services:

- 1 (one) on pitch Medical Officer trained in Emergency Medicine.
- 8 (eight) trained stricture bearers in good physical condition.

41 Anti-Doping

41.1 Doping is prohibited. BFF shall inform the Participating Club by means of a circular of the doping control procedure. List of prohibited substances/ methods can be downloaded from the AFC or WADA website (www.wada-ama.org).

41.2 The BFF shall be responsible for the approval of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) accredited laboratory which will carry out the analysis of samples.

41.3 In doping-related matters, the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations apply in full. In the event of any discrepancy between the national regulations and the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations, the provisions set out in the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations shall prevail. The BFF Disciplinary Code and all relevant FIFA and AFC directives will as well apply to this Competition. The FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations can be downloaded from the following links:

<https://digitalhub.fifa.com/m/ed5f1ae5d0d28f62/original/brfeg8c6j9wpm8gykakh-pdf.pdf>

<https://resources.fifa.com/image/upload/1724-revision-of-the-fifa-anti-doping-regulations.pdf?cloudid=fiurwplbdov861cgsbdi>

SECTION 9: DISCIPLINARY LAWS AND PROCEDURES

42 Disciplinary Measures and Appeals

- 42.1 Disciplinary measures and appeals are dealt with in compliance with the current BFF Statutes, BFF Disciplinary Code and the relevant BFF circular(s).
- 42.2 BFF may initiate investigations should it suspect and/or is aware of any violations of the Laws of the Game and contravention of its Statutes, Rules, Regulations, Instructions and decisions by the Clubs, Officials and Players.
- 42.3 BFF may impose the disciplinary measures for any violations of the Laws of the Game and contravention of its Statutes, Rules, Regulations, Instructions and decisions by the Clubs, Officials and Players.
- 42.4 A club must not pay or offer any fee or remuneration to a referee or assistant referee nor shall it provide him with any gifts or incentives. Breach of this rule shall result in the offending club's expulsion from the 'Independence Cup 2023' and it and its officials, coaches and players shall be liable to further sanctions to be determined by the BFF Professional League Management Committee. Referees are obliged to bring any such approach to the immediate attention of BFF. Failure of a referee to report any such approach shall lead to his omission from the 'Independence Cup 2023' panel of referees and to other disciplinary sanctions as appropriate.
- 42.5 Any referee who accepts any payment, inducement or gift from any Club at any time shall be expelled from the 'Independence Cup 2023' panel of referees and be liable to further sanctions to be determined by BFF or BFF Professional League Management Committee.
- 42.6 Any club which plays an unregistered (or ineligible) player or players in a match shall be deducted 3 (three) points from its point table for each match in which this occurs and shall be deemed to have forfeited the league fixture by the score line of 3 (three) goals to 0 (zero). However, result will stand for the winning team if the match score is more than 3 (three) goals.
- 42.7 No club, its officials, coaches, players or supporters may approach a referee and attempt to influence him in refereeing a match. If any club, its officials, coaches, players or supporters are guilty of making such an approach, the club shall be punished and it and its officials, coaches, players or supporters shall be liable to further sanctions to be determined by BFF or BFF Professional League Management Committee.

43 Players and Officials Cautioned or Dismissed from the field of play

- 43.1 All the participating clubs of the 'Independence Cup 2023' shall honor the ethos of football and be committed to participate in the spirit of fair play.
- 43.2 BFF's appointed Match Commissioner shall oversee the spirit of fair play at each 'Independence Cup 2023' match. The Match Commissioner shall make a report to BFF (**See Appendix 7**).
- 43.3 Any matters brought to the attention of the Disciplinary Committee of BFF by referees, match commissioners, referee assessors or BFF Professional League Management Committee, the Disciplinary Committee shall have the authority to impose the sanctions or take other actions it deems appropriate as per the BFF Disciplinary Code.

- 43.4 Any player, club, official or referee or any concerned who is affected by a decision passed by the Disciplinary Committee and has an interest justifying amendment or cancellation of such decision must inform BFF of its intention to do so in writing within 3 (three) days of notification of the decision. Reasons for the appeal shall then be given in writing within a further time limit of 7 (seven) days, commencing upon the expiry of the first-time limit of 3 (three) days.
- Anyone wishing to lodge an appeal shall transfer an appeal fee of BDT 10,000 (ten thousand taka only) to BFF's bank account before expiry of the time limit for submitting the reasons for appeal.
 - If this requirement has not been complied with, the appeal is not admissible.
 - This amount will be reimbursed to the appellant if he wins the case. Costs and expenses are payable by the party who loses the case.
 - If the appeal is considered to be improper, costs and expenses shall be paid in addition to the deposit.
- 43.5 An appeal may be lodged to the Appeal Committee of BFF against any decision passed by the Disciplinary Committee of BFF, unless the sanction pronounced is:
- a warning;
 - a reprimand;
 - a suspension for less than 3 (three) matches or of up to 2 (two) months;
 - a fine of less than BDT 50,000 (fifty thousand taka only) imposed on an association or a club or of less than BDT 25,000 (twenty-five thousand taka only) in other cases.
- BFF Appeal Committee shall take further decision as per the BFF Disciplinary Code.
- 43.6 Each Participating Club is responsible for monitoring the cautions and/or suspensions received by its affiliated players and officials and for ensuring the eligibility of all of its affiliated players and officials. As well, BFF shall maintain a record of yellow and red cards awarded against each player and official. The non-receipt or failure to receive notification from the BFF regarding any caution or suspension shall not be a defense or justification for the fielding of an ineligible player or the participation of an ineligible official.
- 43.6.1 A player/official who is sent-off (receives a red card) during a match (either a straight red card or two yellow cards) shall automatically be suspended for the next match. If the offence for which the red card is issued is of a serious nature, the BFF Disciplinary Committee can increase the period of suspension.
- 43.6.2 A player/official who receives 2 (two) cautions (yellow cards) during the Group Stage or Knock-out Stage shall automatically be suspended from the next match.
- 43.6.3 Single yellow card received in the qualifier round/s will not be carried forward to the Group Stage.
- 43.6.4 Single yellow card received in the Group Stage will not be carried forward to the Knock-out Stage.

- 43.6.5 If the player/official receives second caution during the Team's last match in the qualifier round/s, the suspension will be carried forward to the Group Stage if qualification has been obtained.
- 43.6.6 If the player/official receives second caution during the Team's last match in the Group Stage, the suspension will be carried forward to the Knock-out Stage if qualification has been obtained.
- 43.6.7 Any player and/or official who receives a red card or sent-off during the Competition shall remain suspended from further play until his/her case has been decided by the BFF Disciplinary Committee. A suspended official shall not be permitted to communicate with or contact any person involved in the match by any means whatsoever for the duration of a match.
- 43.6.8 If any club coach, player, or official is indulged in criticizing the BFF official, BFF, BFF Professional League Management Committee, Bangladesh Premier League, Independence Cup, a match commissioner, referee, referee's assistant or a fourth official in public through media will tantamount to an offence followed by a sanction with minimum fine of BDT 50,000 (fifty thousand taka only). Even BFF Disciplinary Committee can take other actions it deems appropriate as per the BFF Disciplinary Code.
- 43.6.9 BFF may impose any sanction it deems appropriate in response to incidents brought to its attention by the Match Commissioner and/or Referee.

44 Indiscipline or Violent Conduct by players and/or officials

- 44.1 Any player or official reported for indiscipline or violent conduct anywhere in the stadium including but not limited to the field of play, the changing rooms, at the Training Sites and in the hotels shall be dealt with by the relevant BFF Committees in accordance with these Regulations, the BFF Statues and Disciplinary Code.
- 44.2 All players or club officers are completely forbidden to do any kind of communication through mobile phone or by any electronic communication device or destructive items during the running of the game.
- 44.3 If the above-mentioned **Art. 44.2** is violated, the concerned club officer and player shall be subject to disciplinary sanction. BFF Disciplinary Committee shall ask for explanation for the breach of this regulation and may impose a Stadium Ban for maximum of 3 (three) matches of the official or player concerned. Depending on the gravity of the offence the Professional League Management Committee of BFF or BFF Disciplinary Committee shall have the authority to impose any further sanctions or take other actions it deems appropriate.

45 Fixed Match

The following measures and penalty will be followed by the BFF Professional League Management Committee for any fixed or got-up match:

- 45.1 A special high-power committee will be formed to identify the got-up match/matches. This committee can take necessary help from the law enforcement/intelligence agency.
- 45.2 BFF will make, as far as possible, the videography of all the matches.
- 45.3 The result and points of the identified got-up matches will be forfeited/nullified and all points will be deducted from the already earned points of the teams concerned.
- 45.4 Punishment, monetary and match suspension/stadium ban shall be taken against the club, club official or player who is found to have been liable for any fixed match/matches. In addition, the concerned committee may refer the case to the BFF Disciplinary Committee for other actions it deems appropriate as per the BFF Disciplinary Code.
- 45.5 BFF shall follow the Action Plan of FIFA & AFC to combat Match Manipulation and as well as shall uphold the Recommendations and Regulations of FIFA & AFC concerning Fixed Match.
- 45.6 The decision of the BFF Professional League Management Committee concerning got-up match is final and binding.

46 Protest

- 46.1 Subject to the following provisions, protests are objections of any kind to occurrences that have a direct effect on Matches organized in the Competition (state and marking of the pitch, accessory, match equipment, eligibility of players, stadium installations, footballs, etc.) and any matters related to the breach of these Regulations.
- 46.2 Unless otherwise stipulated in this article, protests shall first be submitted in writing to the BFF Match Commissioner within 2 (two) hours of the Match by the team concerned and followed up immediately with a full written report, including a copy of the original protest, to be sent in writing to the BFF Secretariat accompanied by a fee of BDT 20,000 (twenty thousand taka only). The protest shall be addressed to the Chairman of the BFF Professional League Management Committee and the protest be disposed off within 48 (forty-eight) hours. The protest fee shall not be refunded if the protest is rejected. The plaintiff club shall confirm the protest by registered letter, to be sent to the BFF Secretariat no later than 2 (two) days after the Match in question.
- 46.3 Protests against any incidents that occur during the course of a Match shall be made to the referee by the team captain immediately after the disputed incident and before play has been resumed. The protests shall be confirmed in writing to the BFF Match Commissioner by the head of the team delegation no later than 2 (two) hours after the Match.
- 46.4 No protests may be made against the Referee's decisions regarding facts connected with play, such decisions being final.

- 46.5 If an unfounded or irresponsible protest is lodged, the Disciplinary Committee may impose a fine and the protest fee of BDT 20,000 (twenty thousand taka only) will be forfeited.
- 46.6 Once the Competition has ended, any protests described in this article shall be disregarded

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Arbitration

- 47.1 Pursuant to BFF Statutes, clubs are forbidden from taking disputes to a civil court but may only submit them to the appropriate body of BFF in accordance with the applicable procedure.
- 47.2 Furthermore, any disputes involving BFF, Clubs, confederations, leagues, teams, players, officials and licensed agents in connection with the Competition shall be promptly settled by negotiation.
- 47.3 If no solution can be reached, or a formal appeal is envisaged, the issue shall be exclusively resolved under the auspices of the arbitration chamber set forth in the BFF Statutes, namely the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) with headquarters in Lausanne. The Code of Sports-related Arbitration of the CAS and all the relevant CAS Regulations shall apply. The language of arbitration is English.

SECTION 10: ADMINISTRATION

48 Awards

- 48.1 Champion and Runners-Up team shall be awarded the Championship and Runners-Up trophy and medals respectively. Besides this, Fair Play trophy will be awarded to the well-disciplined team of the tournament. In respect of the Fair Play trophy, FIFA / AFC policies shall be followed. Moreover, trophy/crest/gift will be rewarded to the 'Most Valuable Player', the 'Highest Goal Scorer' of the competition and 'Man of the Match' in 2 (two) Semi-Finals and the Final Match.
- 48.2 BFF shall provide monetary prizes to the Champions and Runners-up teams of the tournament. BFF shall declare the prize money during the tournament.

49 Prize Presentation Ceremony

- 49.1 A prize presentation ceremony will be held immediately after the Final match of the Competition.
- 49.2 The teams and individuals that qualify to receive the Awards, Trophy and Medals are required to attend the prize presentation ceremony. Teams may be represented by the Team's Official Delegation subject to BFF's prior approval.

50 Special Provisions

- 50.1 Any disputes arising from the application of these Regulations shall be settled by the jurisdiction of BFF and, if subsequently necessary and BFF's decision is not final, by the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne, Switzerland.
- 50.2 The BFF Professional League Management Committee shall issue any instructions necessitated by special circumstances which might arise in the commencement of the Competition. These instructions shall form an integral part of these Regulations.

51 Matters not provided for

Matters not provided for in these Regulations and cases of Force Majeure shall be decided by the BFF Professional League Management Committee, whose decisions are final.



Kazi Md. Salahuddin
President &

Chairman Professional League Management Committee
Bangladesh Football Federation



Emran Hossain Tushar
Acting General Secretary
Bangladesh Football Federation

APPENDIX 1: Determining the Ranking in a group using Fair Play criteria

As provided for in **Art. 16.3.2 vii** of this Competition Regulation, the “Fewer score calculated according to the number of yellow and red cards received in the group Matches” will be calculated as follows:

Each team will receive points for receiving red and yellow cards as indicated below:

- i. Each yellow card (1 point);
- ii. Each red card as a consequence of two yellow cards (3 points);
- iii. Each direct red card (3 points);
- iv. Each yellow card followed by a direct red card (4 points).

The team receiving the least number of points will be ranked the highest.