

GHANA FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION (GFA)

DIVISION ONE LEAGUE SPECIAL REGULATIONS



30TH DAY OF DECEMBER 2014

DIVISION ONE LEAGUE
SPECIAL REGULATIONS
OF THE
GHANA FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

PREAMBLE

In the exercise of the powers conferred on the Congress of the Ghana Football Association (GFA) as the Supreme and Legislative organ of the Ghana Football Association by Article 23 of the Statutes of the Ghana Football Association, these Special Regulations for the Division One League (hereinafter called “the DOL Special Regulations”) is hereby made.

DIVISION ONE LEAGUE (DOL)

SPECIAL REGULATIONS

PREAMBLE

The document is supplementary to the GFA Statutes, GFA General Regulations, GFA Regulations and GFA Disciplinary Code and is designed to guide the smooth running of the Division One League in view of its size and complexity. Amplification or Reproduction of certain parts of the GFA Statutes, GFA General Regulations, GFA Regulations and GFA Disciplinary Code are provided, where necessary, for the avoidance of doubt.

TITLE

These Rules shall be known as the Division One League (DOL) Special Regulations.

DEFINITIONS AND INTEPRETATIONS

All words and abbreviations used in these Rules shall be deemed to have the same meaning and interpretation as assigned in the Ghana Football Association Statutes and General Regulations unless otherwise explicitly defined or provided herein.

1. ZONES

The Division One League (DOL) shall be opened to a maximum of Forty Eight (48) Clubs divided into three (3) zones of sixteen (16) Clubs each, with the objective of taking quality football to all the ten (10) regions of Ghana. The Executive Committee of the GFA shall have the power to rezone the league where necessary.

1.1 Zone 1 shall comprise of Clubs in Upper East, Upper West, Northern and Brong Ahafo.

1.2 Zone 2 shall comprise of Ashanti, Western and Central Regions.

- 1.3 Zone 3 shall comprise of Greater Accra, Eastern and Volta Regions

2. FORMAT

- 2.1 Each Zone shall play a sixteen (16) Club League on a Home and Away basis divided into first and second round.
- 2.2 The winner of each Zone shall gain automatic promotion to the Premier League.
- 2.3 At the end of the season, the last three Clubs on the completed Premier League table shall automatically be demoted to the Division One League.
- 2.4 The Champions from the Regional Leagues shall gain automatic promotion to the appropriate Zone of the Division One League.
- 2.5 The last two Clubs in each Zone shall be relegated automatically to the Regional League save that in Zone 1 three (3) Clubs shall be relegated subject to the application of 2.6 below.

2.6 There shall be further relegation of the last place Club(s) after the automatic relegation in the event that there is a need to relegate more Clubs from a particular Zone with respect to the Relegation from the Premier League as it affects a particular Zone.

2.7 The Club which has the highest number of points at the end of the league shall be declared the champion. If two or more Clubs obtain the same number of points at the end of the competition, their ranking shall be determined as follows and in the stated order:

- (a) Greater number of points obtained in matches between the Clubs concerned during the competition.
- (b) Goal difference resulting from the match (es) between the Clubs concerned.
- (c) Greater number of goals scored in the match (es) between the Clubs concerned.

(d) Greater number of goals scored away from home in matches between the Clubs concerned.

2.8 In the event there is still a tie after the application of all the above, the GFA/DOLB shall organize a play-off between and/or amongst the Clubs concerned at a neutral ground.

2.9 The rule on determination of the Champion of the League applies to all rankings including relegation.

3. CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION

3.1 Each Club shall pay an affiliation/subscription fee as determined by the GFA, from time to time not later than seven (7) days before the due date for commencement of the League.

3.2 A Club which fails to pay its affiliation/subscription fee before the commencement of the league shall be deemed not to be affiliated to the league and shall not take part in the league.

3.3 Each Club shall pay officiating fees before kick-off. (figure to be determined by GFA/DOLB).

3.4 A Club which fails to pay its officiating fee before kick-off shall be deemed to have forfeited the said match.

3.5 Each Club shall designate an Accra Representative as its primary link with the DOLB and the secretariat and act as the first line agent of communication between the secretariat and the Club. Accordingly, the Accra Representative must regularly check the mails at the (Division One League Board) DOLB and GHALCA Secretariat, and non-receipt of authentically issued communication shall not be accepted as excuse for non-fulfilment of obligations.

4. FOOTBALL SEASON:

4.1 The Division One League Board (DOLB) shall, within the time limit laid down by the Ghana Football Association as the Football Season, determine the length of its own playing calendar.

4.2 The GFA shall have the power to suspend the league temporarily or abridge it.

5. FIXTURES:

5.1 The Fixtures for the Each Zonal League shall be prepared by the Division One League Board (DOLB).

6. WITHDRAWAL OF CLUBS

6.1 It shall be misconduct for a Club to withdraw from the Division One League after the league has commenced without just cause.

6.2 Any Club intending to withdraw from the league must give notice of its intention to do so to the GFA not later than eight (8) days before the commencement of the League. Should a Club fail to comply with this rule the Association shall have the power to compel such offending Club to refund any expenses incurred and take such further action as it may deem fit.

6.3 Without prejudice to any provision in these Regulations, the GFA reserves the right to take appropriate disciplinary action, including expulsion, against any Club which withdraws from the League after it has started without just cause.

6.4 A Club failing to give satisfactory reason for withdrawing from the league without first obtaining

the consent of the GFA, shall not be allowed to enter the league the following season.

6.5 The GFA shall expunge from the competition any points and / or goals build-up in respect of matches played with a Club that withdraws from the league after the league has started.

7.FAILURE TO HONOUR A LEAGUE MATCH

7.1 All Clubs shall be required to honour all League Matches.

7.2 Any Club that fails to honour any match without just cause shall be guilty of an offence punishable by forfeiture. Force majeure shall be considered a just cause.

7.3 Where a Club fails to honour three (3) leagues without just cause it shall be deemed to have withdrawn from the league and the necessary sanctions under withdrawal shall apply.

7.4 For the avoidance of doubt, non-availability or break down of a vehicle for travelling shall not be considered a force majeure.

8. POSTPONEMENT OF MATCHES:

8.1 Request for the postponement of a match (es) shall not be granted by the GFA except on the ground of force majeure or some other sufficient course.

8.2 Where a match is postponed or abandoned on the grounds of bad weather or other sufficient cause, it shall be replayed within 24 hours of the scheduled date, unless the GFA /DOLB determines otherwise.

8.3 Where the GFA/DOLB sanctions the postponement of a match for a Club engaged in an international match outside Ghana, the postponed match shall be played within 72 hours not being earlier than 24 hours after the return of the Club to Ghana or on a date to be determined by the GFA.

8.4 Where a Club has contributed three (3) Players or more to the National Club "A" or 5 or more Players in any combination of the National Club 'A', U-23, U-20 or U-17 the Club may request for postponement of its

match and the postponed match shall be rescheduled by the GFA.

9. VENUE:

9.1 Prior to the commencement of each league season each participating Club shall furnish the GFA/DOLB with the name of its match venue.

9.2 The DOLB shall inspect all such venues and approve such venue before it can be used for a DOL match.

9.3 A Division One League Match Venue shall not be approved unless the venue has metal inner perimeter fencing with height of at least 8 feet (which has been erected to prevent the fans from either attacking the match Officials, the Players or disrupting the game).

9.4 The GFA shall transfer a Club from its home venue to another venue to play its matches where the GFA is satisfied that its home venue has no Metal Inner Perimeter fencing, (to protect the match Officials,

Players etc. and to prevent supporters from invading the field of play).

9.5 The GFA may order the closure of any league centre where the safety of Clubs, match Officials or spectators cannot be guaranteed.

9.6 In all other cases, where it becomes necessary for a Club to play away from its registered home centre, the GFA/DOLB shall have the discretion to decide where any such match (es) shall be played.

9.7 Clubs are responsible for ensuring that their grounds are adequately prepared on match days i.e. their marking, provision of goal nets, corner flags, etc. Only lime shall be used for marking. Charcoal, dust or saw dust or ashes is not acceptable.

10. SAFETY AND SECURITY

10.1 Unless the GFA/DOLB states otherwise, the security detail on each match day rest solely on the home Clubs and it shall be its responsibility to ensure that

the match is played in a safe, secure and sound environment

10.2 Home Clubs are responsible for the safety of match Officials and the visiting Club and Officials.

10.3 Physical attack on match Officials, GFA/DOLB Personnel, opposing Club Players and Officials, spectators and other acts of rowdyism, hooliganism and vandalism, which bring the League and the GFA, into disrepute shall not be entertained.

11. MATCHBALL:

11.1 The Footballs used in Division One League Matches shall conform to the laws of the game and shall be provided by the GFA.

11.2 The GFA may provide footballs for each match, the match commissioner and the Home Club shall ensure that these balls are available at the time of the pre-match conference.

12. PLAYER LICENCE:

12.1 Club Managers or Captains of the Clubs participating in any league match shall always take with them to the football field Player Licence of participating Players issued by the GFA and signed by the Player, Medical Officer and the GFA.

12.2 The Referee, the Assistant Referees and the Captains of the two Clubs shall inspect the Player licences before the commencement of each match.

12.3 A match shall be played even if the Player(s) licence(s) is/are not available for inspection. In such a case a group photograph of the Referee, the Captain of the opposing side and the Player (s) concerned shall be taken and submitted to the GFA Secretariat within three (3) days of the match either by the Match Commissioner or the affected Club (s).

12.3.1 Where the taking of a photograph is not possible, the finger prints or signature of the Player(s) the captain of the opposing Club and the referee shall be taken and attached to the Match Commissioner's Report and submitted to the GFA

Secretariat within 72 hours of the match either by the Match Commissioner or the affected Club(s).

12.3.2 Failure to produce Player(s) licence (s) for inspection before the commencement of the match except where the GFA itself retains the Player(s) licence for a specific purpose shall attract a fine of GH¢125.00

12.3.3 Where the defaulting Club fails to produce the licence of the Player(s) concerned within the stipulated three (3) days, it shall forfeit whatever points it earned from the match unless it is established that the Player(s) is/are unqualified under Article 29 of the General Regulations. The points so deducted shall not be credited to the other Club.

12.3.4 At the inspection of Player(s), licence (s) where there is a protest concerning the regularity of the registration of any Player, the Match Commissioner shall take control

of the Player (s) Licence (s) and submit it / them to the GFA with his Official report. Any Club that fails to submit the card to the Match Commissioner shall be fined GH ₵1000.00

12.4 Responsibility for the truthfulness of information on Player's license lies on the Clubs and not on the GFA.

13. STRIP:

13.1 Each Club shall register with the GFA Official and Reserve strips in distinct colours on forms prescribed by the GFA before the commencement of each season. In addition the Club shall submit to the GFA the exact pictorial replica of the registered strips, showing the front and back. Clubs shall appear in their Official strip in all Official matches.

13.2 In the event of a clash between the visiting Club's Official strip and the home Club's Official strip, the former shall change to its Reserve strip or a combination of its Official and Reserve strips.

13.3 Every visiting Club shall carry in addition to its Official strip, for every away match its reserve strip.

13.4 Where the clash affects the Goalkeeper's strip, and the outfield Players strip the goalkeeper shall change to an alternative strip.

13.5 In the event that the clash of colours is between the two goalkeepers the visiting Club goalkeeper shall change.

13.6 Changing of strips within the season shall not be allowed.

13.7 The DOLB shall publish a register of all Club strips for circulation to all stake holders before the commencement of the League

13.8 The Referees and Assistant Referees shall appear in strips quite distinct from those of the Clubs.

13.9 Any Club which contravenes clause 13.1 to 13.4 of this article shall be liable to a fine of GH¢250.00.

13.10 Any Club delaying the kick-off due to its reluctance to change its strip in the event of clash of strip shall be fined GH¢2,500.00.

13.11 A Club that fails to present a strip other than its registered one at the pre-match meeting shall be liable to a fine not exceeding GH¢750.00.

13.12 A Club that fails to present its duly registered strip pre-match meeting shall be liable to a fine of GH¢750,000.

13.13 The Player's number must be displayed on the back of each shirt. The number must be between 25 (twenty-five) centimeters in height, clearly legible and positioned in the centre of the back of the shirt. Additionally, the number must be entirely visible when the Player's shirt is tucked in to the shorts. The Player's number must also appear on the front of the shorts, positioned on either leg. The number must be between 10 (ten) centimeters and 15 (fifteen) centimeters in height and clearly legible

13.14 A Club that fails to comply with the dimensions stated in Clause 7 above shall be fined GH¢1000.00

14. MATCH OFFICIALS:

14.1 The GFA shall be responsible for appointing Referee, Assistant Referees and a Match Commissioner for each match.

14.2 A qualified Referee, other than the officiating Referee and Assistants, shall be appointed in each match as fourth referee.

14.3 In the absence of the appointed Match Commissioner, the referee shall act as the Match Commissioner.

14.4 Where the Referee and/or one or both of the Assistant Referees do not show up, the Regional Football Association shall arrange for alternative Officials from the GFA-approved list. Such Officials shall be appointed from outside the home Club's base.

14.5 Where it is not possible to appoint such alternative Officials on the match day, the match shall be postponed and played the next day.

15. MATCH FORMALITIES

15.1 A Pre-Match Technical meeting involving the Match Commissioner, Referees, Stakeholders and Representatives of the Clubs shall be held on each match day.

15.2 The Pre Match Technical meeting shall be held at the venue of the match but where there is no place available for such meeting at the match venue the pre match meeting shall be held at a place of choice of the Home Club provided however that the home Club shall furnish the DOLB with the location of the venue before the commencement of the league.

15.3 The pre match technical meeting shall start at 10.00 and end at 11.00 a.m. For the avoidance of doubt any Club that reports after 10.00 shall be considered late. A Club shall be deemed to be absent if it reports later than 11.00 a.m. when the meeting has ended.

15.4 A Club that reports late for a pre match technical meeting shall be liable to a fine of GH¢50.00

15.5 A Club that fails to attend pre-match technical meeting without reasonable excuse shall be liable to a fine of One Hundred and Twenty-five Ghana Cedis (GH¢125.00)

16. ARTICLE 23 – KICK-OFF:

Unless otherwise directed by the GFA:

16.1 Matches of the Division One Clubs shall kick-off at times to be decided by the Division One League Board

16.2 Clubs shall report to the Match Officials in the dressing rooms or such places as may be determined by the Match Officials at least Sixty (60) minutes before kick-off time.

16.3 The match day countdown shall be as follows:

16.3.1 arrival of the Commissioner and
Media Officer - 1hr:30 mins.

16.3.2 arrival of the Referees/Assistant
Referees and Clubs meet up with
Media officer to co-ordinate release
of line up forms - 1 hr.

16.3.3	line-up forms to be handed out to Clubs	-	55mins.
16.3.4	collection for completed line-up forms	-	45 mins.
16.3.5	Club's warm-up on the pitch-		40-20 mins.
16.3.6	final inspection of the pitch	-	18 mins.
16.3.7	welcome announcement of the Club line up by the loudspeaker announcer	-	15 mins.
16.3.8	Clubs wait at the tunnel ready to come unto the pitch	-	10 mins.
16.3.9	check on Players' equipment	-	10 mins.
16.3.10	entrance of the Clubs onto the pitch	-	8 mins.
16.3.11	Club photographs	-	5 mins.
16.3.12	toss of coin	-	2 mins.
16.3.13	kick off	-	0

16.4 Without prejudice to the authority of the Association to invoke any of the disciplinary measures provided under these regulations against the offending Club(s).

16.5 A referee shall declare the end of a match if one or both Clubs fail to appear on the pitch after 30 minutes of kick-off time.

16.6 Where both Clubs fail to appear, the match shall be deemed to have been played with neither side earning any point. In addition, both Clubs shall lose 3 points from their accumulated points and liable to pay a further fine of GH¢75.00

16.7 Clubs that report late, but before 3.30 p.m. shall be fined GH¢250.00.

16.8 The substitute Players accompanied by not more than seven (7) Officials of each Club, whose names shall be registered on the match sheet, shall come out of the dressing rooms and proceed to their respective sitting places on the Bench. Any extra personnel on a Club's bench shall be removed and the offending Club shall pay a fine of GH¢125.00 respectively.

16.9 The Referee, the Assistant Referees and the 4th Referee, shall escort the 22 competing Players whose names appear as starters on the team sheet directly on to the pitch for the commencement of the game while the Match Commissioner retires to his table. Any player who refuses to be escorted shall be liable to a fine of GH¢ 100.00

16.10 It shall be misconduct for a Club, Player or Club Official to use an unauthorized entrance to get to the stadium or playing field. It is also misconduct when the home Club prevents the away Club from using the approved entrance into the stadium. A Club, Player or Official who contravenes this clause shall pay a fine of GH¢250.00. A repetition of this offence during a league season shall attract a fine of GH¢1000.00.

16.11 The sprinkling of water, powder or other concoctions in liquid or solid form in or around the field of play, including the dressing room on a match day, is forbidden and shall be punishable by a fine of GH¢250.00.

17. DURATION OF MATCHES:

17.1 Each match shall last 90 minutes, two (2) periods of 45 minutes each with an interval of not more than 15 minutes. The Referee shall allow for time wasted or lost through accident or other sufficient cause.

17.2 The Referee is the sole judge of time including time lost through accident or other sufficient cause and his decision on this matter is not subject to protest or appeal.

17.3 At the end of the first half, the referee and the assistant referees shall follow all the Players off the field.

18. PROTESTS, APPEALS AND REVIEWS:

18.1 Protests in respect of any league matches shall be forwarded in writing direct to the General Secretary of the GFA not later than three (3) days from the end of the match concerned, except for protest in respect of an unqualified Player where the protest can be filed within 7 days from the end of the match._Such protest shall be accompanied by a protest fee of GH

¢125.00. Any protest not accompanied by the appropriate protest fee shall not be entertained.

18.2 All protests shall be filed on appropriate forms to be purchased at the offices of the Ghana Football Association, Regional Football Association and District Football Association.

18.3 A Club dissatisfied with the decision of the Disciplinary Committee may appeal to the Appeals Committee paying an appeals fee of GH¢200.00. The fee shall be paid at the time of filing the appeal.

18.4 The decision of the Appeals Committee in any matter shall be final provided that the Appeals Committee shall have power to review its own decision either suo moto or on application by an aggrieved Club, Official or Player.

18.5 The Fee for a Review Application is GH¢500.00.

19. OTHERS

19.1 The DOLB shall have the power to effect all punishments which are of a pecuniary nature in the Regulations. The Division One League shall base its

decisions on Match Reports and other records available at the Secretariat.

19.2 Any Club dissatisfied with such decision of the DOLB may appeal such decision to the Appeals Committee.

19.3 The Articles of the GFA Statutes, Regulation, General Regulations and Disciplinary Code and any other regulation of the GFA which are of a general nature or application including but not limited to the Player Licence, Status of Players, Registration of Players Protests, Appeals Misconduct, Offences Forfeiture of Matches shall apply to the Division One League mutatis mutandis.

20. TIME

For the purpose of computation of time in these Regulations, Saturdays, Sundays and Public holidays shall not be counted.

21. FINANCIAL GUIDELINES

21.1 The net gate proceeds will be disbursed as follows:

Home Club	-	70%
GFA / DOLB	-	20%
NSC	-	5%

Stadium maintenance or rehabilitation	-	5%
Total		100%

21.2 NOTE: At centres where the playing grounds are not owned by the NSC, the NSC's 5% share of gate proceeds shall be paid to the Club or the owner of the playing field.

22. VIDEO FILMING

22.1 Clubs may film matches in which they are involved, provided it is cleared by the DOLB on payment of the appropriate fee. Video films shall be used for Club's education purposes. They are prohibited from being used for commercial purposes, without GFA's approval.

22.2 It is an offence to prevent or seek to prevent a person, authorised by the GFA or DOLB, from filming a match.

22.3 A club or club Official, Player (s) or supporter (s) of a club who prevents the video coverage of a match by accredited GFA Officials shall be liable to a fine not below GH ₵750.00

23. REPEAL

The General and Special Regulations for Division One League (DOL) approved on 20th July, 2006 GFA Ordinary Congress is hereby repealed.

24. ADOPTION AND ENFORCEMENT

The GFA Congress adopted this Division One League Special Regulations on 30th day of December, 2014 and came to force on the 30th day of December, 2014.
