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# **SKNFA 2024 GENERAL RULES & REGULATIONS**

# St. Kitts-Nevis Football Association

Founded 1932

President: Atiba Harris  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: Shawn White  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Cuthbert Caines  
General Secretary: Techell McLean  
Tel #: 1-869-466-8502  
Fax #: 1-869-465-9033

**E-mail:** [info@sknfa.com](mailto:info@sknfa.com)

**Web Site:** <http://www.sknfa.com>



P O Box 465  
Basseterre  
St Kitts  
West Indies

## **SKNFA 2024 RULES & REGULATIONS** **PREAMBLE**

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

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

The Rules of the SKNFA Leagues were written for the benefit of the league and its players. While this document is intended to be comprehensive and thorough, it should be understood that not all situations, circumstances, and events can be anticipated and therefore covered precisely. Further, it is recognized that on occasion conflicting rules or statements may inadvertently occur. Therefore, it shall be the firm policy of the SKNFA in resolving such conflicts to exercise its authority to override and/or amend these rules in keeping with their intent and purpose.

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

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

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

## **Commencement of the 2024 Football Season**

The 2024 SKNFA Football Season will commence on Tuesday 20th February 2024 with the President's Cup.

### **Rule 1**

#### **STRUCTURE & FORMAT OF COMPETITIONS**

- a) The SKNFA shall organize separate leagues, competition, matches, and events amongst the registered clubs in the different divisions:
- Competition I – Premier Division regular season and Premier League Cup Playoffs
  - Competition II – Division I regular season – Playoff Match (where applicable)
  - Competition III – FA Cup “Knock-out” competition
  - Competition IV – Reserve League
  - Competition V – Youth Leagues (Boys and Girls)-Finals (where applicable)
  - Competition VI – Senior Female League-Finals (where applicable)
  - Competition VII – 5-A-Side, 7-A-Side Tournament
  - Competition VIII – Beach Soccer
  - Competition IX – Futsal Tournament
  - Competition X – President's Cup
  - Skills Competition and 5-A-Side Street Football
  - Any other competitions sanctioned by the SKNFA.
- b) Each team shall play against each other in a round robin format, with three (3) points for a win, one (1) point for a draw, and zero points for a defeat.

General team rankings and points standings, shall be determined by the following criteria:

- Greatest number of points obtained in all matches;
- Goal difference in all group matches;
- Greatest number of goals scored in all group matches;

If two (2) or more teams are equal on the basis of the above criteria, their rankings shall be determined as follows:

- Greater number of points scored in matches between tied teams;
- Greater goal difference in matches between tied teams (if more than two teams finish equal on points);
- Greater number of goals scored in matches among the tied teams (if more than two teams finish on equal points);
- The lower number of points based on the number of yellow and red cards in all matches is considered according to the following additions:

- Yellow card: +1 point each
  - Direct Red card: +3 point each
  - Toss of a coin
- c) (I) If a team does not report for a match except in cases of **force majeure** recognized by the SKNFA, the team shall be considered as having lost the match and three points shall be awarded to their opponent, as if it were a match won with three goals to none.
- (II) If the team refuses to continue to play or leaves the ground before the end of a match, the team shall be considered as having lost the match and three points shall be awarded to their opponent, as if it were a match won with three goals to none.
- (III) The guilty team in (II) above shall, as a general rule, be excluded from further participation in the competitions/league so that none of its matches are deemed valid unless the incidents mentioned occurred at its last match. In addition, the guilty team/club shall pay compensation for any damages or losses incurred by the other team/club and the SKNFA. Furthermore, the guilty team/club may be disqualified from taking part in the next SKNFA league/competition, or any activity organized under the auspices of the SKNFA.
- (IV) If a player or official of any team shall be deemed to have brought the game into disrepute, the player or official of that team shall be brought before the disciplinary committee of the SKNFA.
- d) The SKNFA shall take action that is deemed necessary in cases of **force majeure**.
- e) The General Secretary shall in good faith, seek to give a minimum of forty-eight (48) hours' notice in writing of all fixtured **and re-fixtured matches (where necessary)**.
- f) To have a match re-fixtured, clubs/teams shall submit a written request to the General Secretary seventy-two (72) hours before the original match date.
- g) All competitions shall be gender exclusive unless otherwise directed by the Competition Director and sanctioned by the SKNFA Council.

#### **SKNFA COMPETITIONS DIRECTOR**

- Responsible for the general administration and management of all competitions staged by SKNFA.
- Supervision of all competitions staff and volunteers including but not limited to General Coordinators, Assistant General Coordinators, Match Commissioners, Security Officers et al in consultation with the General Secretary.

- Responsible for the appointments of general coordinators and/or assistant general coordinators and match commissioners (if necessary)
- Prepare job-related reports as directed by the General Secretary.
- Develop competition regulations and propose competition structures recommended by the Technical Department.
- Determine kick-off times.
- Conduct stadium and other competitions venue inspections
- Prepare post tournament reports.
- Assist with VIP Protocol in conjunction with the General Secretary or appointed person or committee.
- Supervising all Matchday preparation
- Liaise with the Referees Committee on appointments and coordinate distribution of equipment.
- Responsible for all other competition matters as directed by the General Secretary of the SKNFA

### **SKNFA COMPETITION COMMITTEE and OTHER COMMITTEES**

The Competition Committee is appointed by the SKNFA Council and is responsible for the supervision of SKNFA leagues, tournaments, and competitions in conjunction with the SKNFA Secretariat.

- I. The Competition Committee in conjunction with the SKNFA Secretariat shall, amongst other matters, be responsible for:
  - a) Dealing with all reported issues from the Competitions Director
  - b) Dealing with protests and reports from Clubs
  - c) Reporting all breaches of the doping regulations to the General Secretary
  - d) Advise on which laboratories will carry out the doping.
  - e) Deciding which matches will be subjected to doping tests.
  - f) Report all discipline matters to the General Secretary

II. The SKNFA decisions shall be final.

### **III. DISCIPLINARY AND ETHICS COMMITTEE**

The Disciplinary and Ethics Committee shall hear all disciplinary and ethics matters: **Please refer to the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee Code of the SKNFA**

#### **I. APPEAL COMMITTEE**

- A. The Appeal Committee shall hear appeals lodged against decisions passed by the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee, which are not final according to these regulations.
- B. The procedure to be applied by the Appeal Committee is defined in the Regulations governing the SKNFA Appeal Committee's function.

- C. The Appeal Committee shall reach its decisions on the basis of the documents and other means of evidence contained in the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee's file. However, the Appeal Committee may, if necessary, also resort to any further evidence (including television and video recordings, etc.), which considers relevant.
- D. Decisions pronounced by the Appeal Committee are final.

## **Rule 2**

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

*Each club may enter one or more teams into the League Competitions organized by the SKNFA provided that the Clubs acquire Full Club License, pay the participation fee for each team entering into the competition. Teams representing or subordinate to the same club are not allowed to participate in the same division.*

#### **1. Registration Process**

All Clubs must complete registrations of their teams' players using FIFA Connect Platform. The following information are to be provided:

1. First and last names of players
  2. Gender
  3. Address
  4. Date of Birth
  5. Player's Photo
  6. Player's I.D
  7. Parent's Consent Form
- I. Clubs are to register all teams to participate in various leagues at the beginning of the season.
  - II. It is allowed for a player who was not previously registered with any club for two (2) years or more to be registered without obtaining a transfer.
  - III. A player who was not registered at the start of the 2024 and was previously registered with another club within a period less than two years must seek a transfer from their previous club.
  - IV. Prior to the start of the season all players must be assigned a jersey number for the duration of the season. Approval must be granted by the SKNFA to change the assigned jersey number. Failure to comply will result in the club being referred to the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee for further actions.
  - V. All Clubs may register up to the maximum number of players below to participate in the following Leagues:
    - Premier Division – 30 players
    - Division 1 – 30 players
    - Reserve League – 20 players

- Women's League – 25 players
- Males Youth League – 20 players
- Females Youth Leagues – 20 players

## **2. Registration Fees**

- I. Each participating team shall pay a participation fee as per division:
  - a. Premier Division – EC \$900.00
  - b. Division 1 - EC \$500.00
  - c. Men's Reserve League – EC \$400.00 (if applicable)
  - d. Youth and Female Leagues – EC \$200.00
- II. Each player and technical staff member of each team must have an Identification Card (ID) to play and participate in all SKNFA Leagues/Competitions.
- III. The first ID Card will be issued at no cost. However, EC\$50.00 will be charged for every other issued ID card including transfers.

## **3. Insurance**

- I. All players participating in the SKNFA Football Leagues are required to have insurance.
- II. No player will be allowed to play in any leagues or competitions if he or she has not completed the insurance form and become duly insured.
- III. Any team playing an uninsured player/s shall forfeit the match or matches concerned and 3 points awarded to the opponent/s as if it were a match won with 3 goals to none. The club may be summoned to the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee where further sanction may be imposed.
- IV. Kindly refer to the insurance policy for further details.

## **4. Transfer Window**

- I. The transfer window for the SKNFA National Football League is as follows:
  - **Period 1: Opened on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2023 and closes on the Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024 at 11:59 p.m.**
  - **Period 2: Opens on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2024 to Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2024 at 11:59 p.m.**
- II. Clubs seeking to transfer players from one Club to another Club must submit a Transfer Request using the FIFA Connect Registration Platform and pay an administrative fee of EC \$300.00 to the SKNFA Secretariat in the first transfer window. EC\$200.00 per transfer will be paid to the club in which the player is leaving.

- III. In the second transfer window, Clubs are to submit a Transfer Request using FIFA Connect Platform and pay \$300.00 to the SKNFA Secretariat. EC\$200.00 per transfer will be paid to the club in which the player is leaving.
- IV. Clubs seeking to transfer coaches and team officials from one Club to another Club must submit a Request using the FIFA Connect Registration Platform and pay an administrative fee of EC \$200.00 to the SKNFA Secretariat.

### **Rule 3.**

#### **TROPHIES AND AWARDS**

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

All Leagues	-	Winner	-	Trophy and 30 Medals
	-	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	-	30 Medals
	-	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	-	30 Medals

- b) Special & Individual Awards

- I. At the end of the regular season each club shall nominate persons for the below individual awards. Individual awards shall be decided on a points system as mentioned on the SKNFA Awards Form.
- II. The Special and Individual Awards shall be decided from the following lists:

- a. League MVP
- b. Golden Boot
- c. Best Defender
- d. Best Midfielder
- e. Golden Glove
- f. Rookie of the Year
- g. Player of the month
- h. Man of the Match
- i. Coach of the Year
- j. Referee of the Year
- k. Club Community Service Award
- l. Most Successful Club Youth Academy

### **Rule 4.**

#### **CLUBS**

- a. A club may register one or more teams for participation in the league competitions organized by the SKNFA. No club is allowed to have more than one (1) team in the same division.



- b. All clubs **must** adopt a primary school and commit to at least one (1) social activity. The adoption of the school and the community social activity must be completed within the first three (3) months of the 2024 season.

## **Rule 5.**

### **TEAMS**

- a) Only teams whose clubs are affiliated to the SKNFA shall participate in the League competitions.
- b) All teams **MUST** submit a **COMPLETED** Club Information Form inclusive of all officials and contacts of the club.
- c) Every playing member of a team must be registered with the SKNFA.
- d) Each team is allowed **SIX (6)** substitutions during a match. One of the 6 substitutions allowed must be a goalkeeper. Additionally, the names of players, reserves and team officials must be submitted to the Referee before the start of play.

A maximum of nine (9) reserves players and a maximum of seven (7) team officials shall be allowed on the bench whilst the game is in progress. The referee may, at any time for due reason, request any player or team official to leave the vicinity of the field of play and the technical area.

The seven officials on the bench of the team's technical staff shall include the following:

- **Head Coach (SKNFA B License, Equivalent or Higher) – Mandatory**
- **Assistant Coach (SKNFA B License, Equivalent or Higher) – Mandatory**
- **Goalkeeper Coach (FIFA, CONCACAF or SKNFA Certification)**
- **Medical Personnel (Accredited Organization Qualified) – Mandatory**
- Team Manager
- Trainer (Certified)
- Physiotherapist (Certified)
- Equipment Manager
- Assistant Team Manager

The SKNFA will provide the necessary training for Clubs' technical staff members to be certified. All Clubs' must have certified technical staff members. (No technical staff member who is not certified will be allowed in the teams' technical area).

- e) Teams' Technical Staff members should be appropriately dressed in the same uniform (shirts and pants of the same color and style). Appropriately dressed

means staff members can wear a football uniform (jersey, short pants, and same color socks); also, a long track pants and polo shirt of the same color are acceptable. The Head Coach is allowed to wear distinct colors different to other technical staff members. No open shoes are allowed to be worn while on the bench by technical staff members. All shoes must be closed shoes including sneakers. Technical Staff members who are inappropriately dressed will not be allowed on the bench by Match Coordinator and/or Match Commissioner.

- f) During a match only the team's qualified head coach, qualified assistant coach or qualified goalkeeper coach can stand and give technical information to the players on the field. Only one person is allowed to stand at any one time in the technical area.
- g) Team Colours: Each team shall register two or more different contrasting playing uniforms for outfield players and goalkeepers. The SKNFA reserves the right to assign the playing uniform that each team will wear for every match of the competitions based on the approved match kits.
- h) The team listed first on the fixture is designated the Home Team while the other listed second is designated the Away Team.
- i) Any team playing an unregistered player or one who is not properly transferred and has included that player on the match list shall forfeit the match or matches concerned and 3 points awarded to the opponents as if it were a match won with 3 goals to none.
- j) Any team playing a player or has a player in the technical area who is under suspension shall forfeit that match or matches concerned and the 3 points awarded to the opponents, as if it were a match won with 3 goals to none.
- k) A team who has more than three players representing St. Kitts-Nevis National Teams on international duties may request to have its matches rescheduled at least 72 hours before its next match. Teams that have three or less players representing the National Team are expected to play its scheduled matches as per fixture.
- l) All teams must register a head coach and an assistant coach. The coaches must have the SKNFA B License, Equivalent or a higher qualification for the 2024 Season. A copy of the coach's qualification must be presented with the registration form.
- m) A team that has Coaches on the bench who do not have the SKNFA B License, Equivalent or higher shall forfeit the match or matches concerned and 3 points awarded to the opponents as if it were a match won with 3 goals to none.
- n) Where dressing rooms are provided, all teams shall return to their respective dressing rooms twenty (20) minutes before the scheduled kick-off time for inspection. The team manager is responsible for ensuring that this deadline is

observed. Failure of the team to observe this deadline would lead to the matter being referred to the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee.

- o) The SKNFA may enter National Youth Teams in the Youth, Junior and Senior Leagues. Players who are representing the National Youth Teams will be allowed to play in the premier division or division one once the player is eligible (meet the age criteria). However, such must be given written permission to participate.

## **Rule 6.**

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

#### **1. PLAYERS**

- a) All players must be registered members of teams and shall be given a registration number by the SKNFA.
- b) For a player to move from one club to another a Transfer Request must be submitted using the FIFA Connect Platform by the club requesting the transfer.
- c) A player may transfer from one club to another only during the transfer and registration periods as designated by the SKNFA.
- d) Transfers and Registrations of players are only permitted during the designated registration and transfer periods.
- e) Any player seeking transfer is not allowed to play in any match until the transfer process has been completed i.e. approved or denied transfer certificate.
- f) All players participating in the SKNFA Leagues are eligible for National Team Representation. National Players must be a citizen of St. Kitts-Nevis. Once players are selected to represent the country, players must attend NationalTeam training.
- g) Players selected to represent St. Kitts and Nevis are not allowed to participate in any other league that is NOT approved or sanctioned by the SKNFA. Players must receive a written approval from the SKNFA to participate in Leagues not approved or sanctioned by the SKNFA. Players selected to represent St. Kitts and Nevis who do not receive the approval to play in Leagues and/or Tournaments not approved or sanctioned by the SKNFA will be suspended from the SKNFA Leagues participation and will be reported to the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee for further disciplinary actions.
- h) Any player who has been refused a transfer by any club may appeal to the **Players Status Committee** to have the matter resolved.
- i) A registered club player can only play for one team and in one division (except National Teams selected players). Club registered players shall not be allowed to

play in different divisions. Club Teams that play players who are already playing in another division shall be fined and reported to the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee for further disciplinary actions.

## **2. COACHES**

- a) All coaches must be registered members of teams and shall be registered in the FIFA Connect Registration System.
- b) A coach may move from one club to another at any time using the FIFA Connect Registration System.
- c) Registration of coaches who were not registered with the SKNFA at the beginning of the season must be registered in the FIFA Connect System.
- d) Any coach moving from one club to another is not allowed to coach in a match until the registration process in the FIFA Connect System has been completed.
- e) All Coaches shall dress in proper coaching attire for all matches.
- f) All coaches must have the minimum SKNFA B License or Equivalent and must attend the annual Coaching Refreshers Course to be scheduled by the SKNFA.
- g) In changing coaches, the SKNFA shall give written approval for a maximum of four (4) weeks for clubs to assign qualified coaches in position/s upon request by club in writing to the SKNFA Secretariat.
- h) Teams who fail to use qualified coaches at their matches, except for the four (4) weeks allowed and approval given by the SKNFA, shall forfeit the match or matches concerned and 3 points awarded to the opponents as if it were a match won with a score of 3 goals to none.

## **3. TEAM OFFICIALS**

- a. All Team Officials must be registered members of teams and shall be given a registration number by the SKNFA.
- b. All teams must register the following Team officials:
  - Team Manager
  - Trainer and/or physiotherapist
- c. For a Team Official to move from club to another a request must be submitted using the FIFA Connect Platform by the club requesting the official.
- d. A Team Official may move from one club to another at any time once the process is completed.
- e. Registration of Team Officials who were not registered with the SKNFA at the

beginning of the season must be lodged with the Secretariat on the appropriate forms, at least 48 hours before participating in the match.

- f. Any Team Official seeking to move from one team to another is not allowed to administer in matches until the process has been completed.
- g. All Team Officials must attend the SKNFA annual Club Development Seminar to be scheduled by the SKNFA.

## **Rule 7.**

### **REFEREES AND ASSISTANT REFEREES AND OTHER MATCH OFFICIALS**

- a) After each match, the referees shall complete a Report on the match, and forward it to the General Secretariat of the SKNFA, within twenty-four (24) hours after the conclusion of the match. The Report shall contain as much detail as possible about all occurrences before during and after the match, such as: -
  - (i) Detailed result.
  - (ii) Misconduct of players leads to caution or expulsion.
  - (iii) Unsporting behavior of players, officials, and supporters.
  - (iv) Any other incidents.
- b) The SKNFA reserves the right to appoint a Match Commissioner and/or Match Coordinator for All SKNFA matches. The Match Commissioner or Coordinator shall complete a report and forward it to the Secretary of the Association, within twenty-four (24) hours after the conclusion of the match.
- c) Where applicable, all matches shall have a Referee Assessor. The Referee Assessor shall complete a report and forward it to the General Secretariat of the SKNFA within twenty-four (24) hours after the conclusion of the match.
- d) The referees, assistant referees, fourth officials, match coordinator, match commissioner, and referee assessor if required to do so, shall attend any meeting held by the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee, only to assist the Committee with any point of his report that is not understood.
- e) The referees, assistant referees, fourth officials and Referee Assessor shall be evaluated on a continual basis by the Referees Committee and/or Referee Department.
- f) The Referees Committee has the right to apply any sanctions pertaining to all referees that is stipulated in the Referees Code of Conduct. Any further sanctions shall be referred to the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee.

## **Rule 8.**

## **LAWS OF THE GAME**

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

### **Rule 9.**

#### **GENERAL**

- a) Players and Officials may be required for media interviews before or after games. Failure to co-operate may be deemed to be a breach of these rules and regulations.
- b) A player who receives two yellow cards in a match shall be automatically suspended for the next match in the same competition of which his team is fixtured to play.
- c) A player who receives a direct red card in a match shall automatically be suspended for the next two matches in which his/her team is fixtured to play.
- d) A player who receives a second direct red card, in all competitions, shall automatically be suspended for the next three matches in which his/her team is fixtured to play and be reported to the Disciplinary Committee.
- e) A player who receives a third direct red card, in all competitions, shall automatically be suspended for the next four matches in which his/her team is fixture to play and reported to Disciplinary and Ethics Committee who may impose further sanctions.
- f) A player who receives a fourth direct red card, in all competitions, shall automatically be suspended for the next five matches in which his/her team is fixture to play and reported to Disciplinary and Ethics Committee who may impose further sanctions.
- g) A player receiving a red card in the team's final match of a season shall be suspended for their first match in the next season. Further sanctions, if any, imposed by the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee shall (continue to be) served in the next season.
- h) A player or team official who accumulates three (3) yellow cards, in the same competition, shall automatically be suspended for his/her team's next match of the same competition.
- i) A player or team official who accumulates six (6) yellow cards, in the same competition, shall automatically be suspended for his/her team's next two matches of the same competition.

- j) A player or team official who accumulates nine (9) yellow cards in the same competition, shall automatically be suspended for his/her team's next three matches of the same competition.
- k) Pursuant to (g) (h) and (i) above, following the player's suspension, the yellow cards shall be included in the calculation of yellow cards for further suspension.
- l) At the end of the regular season, calculation of yellow card accumulation during the regulation season (excluding the Playoffs) shall cease, provided that a player who accumulates 3, 6 or 9 yellow cards shall serve the suspension pursuant (g) (h) and (i) above.
- m) A player who accumulates three (3) yellow cards in the Playoffs stage of the competition shall automatically be suspended for his or her team's next match.
- n) Upon receiving a report from a referee that he or she has cautioned a player (i.e., a yellow card) for violation of the laws of the game, the General Secretary shall send an acknowledgement to the referee and send to the secretary of the club for which the player was playing at the time written notification that the caution has been administered and recorded.
- o) Upon receiving a report from a referee that he or she has dismissed a player from the field of play for misconduct the General Secretary shall send an acknowledgement to the referee and send to the secretary of the player's club a letter informing of the player's automatic one game suspension and any further disciplinary action.
- p) Upon receiving the said notification reference above, the club secretary must convey the notification to the player concerned. It is the duty of the club secretary and the player to acknowledge receipt of the notification within seven (7) days of the date stated on it.
- q) Any team official expelled from the bench during a match, the said official may be, if necessary, escorted from the stadium in order for the game to resume. If the guilty official refuses to leave the stadium, the said official shall be suspended from taking part in any other match and reported to the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee.
- r) A team official who receives a direct red card shall be automatically suspended for that team's next two matches. The said official may be summoned by the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee for further sanctioning.
- s) A team official who receives a second direct red card on the bench for the second time shall be automatically suspended for that team's next five consecutive matches. The said official shall be summoned to the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee for further sanctioning.
- t) Team official serving suspension must not take any part (coaching, advising) in

the team's matches. Team officials guilty of this act shall be referred to the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee for further suspension.

- u) Any player or team/club official who is found guilty of physical assaults on a match official shall be fined a minimum of EC\$1000.00 and be suspended for a minimum of nine (9) consecutive matches. Also, the said individual may be summoned by the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee, which can impose further sanctions.
- v) Any player or team/club official who is found guilty of using threatening language towards a match official shall be fined a minimum of EC\$1,000.00 and be suspended for a minimum of five (5) consecutive matches. Also, the said individual may be summoned by the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee, which can impose further sanctions.
- w) Any player or team/club official who is found guilty of verbal abuse to a match official shall be suspended for a minimum of 3 consecutive matches, the said individual may be summoned by the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee, which can impose further sanctions. Also, match officials who are found guilty of verbal abuse of any player or team/club official may be summoned to the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee for further sanctions.
- x) Any player or team/club official who is found guilty of physical assaults on another player shall be suspended for a minimum of five (5) consecutive matches. Also, the said individual may be summoned by the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee, which can impose further sanctions.
- y) Once the referee reports an act of misconduct by a player or team official, pursuant to sections (S), (T), (U) and (V) above, the Secretariat shall write to the club informing them of the charge against the player. The player shall have twenty-four (24) hours in which to respond to the said charge if the player/match official accepts the charge or fails to respond to the charge within forty-eight (48) hour window then the applicable sanctions shall be automatically enforced. If the player or team official denies the charge within the twenty-four (24) hour window, the matter shall go to the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee for a hearing.
- z) Players and team officials guilty of involvement in a brawl shall be sanctioned with a suspension for at least 9 matches.
- aa) If, in the case of violence, it is not possible to identify the perpetrator(s), the SKNFA shall sanction the club to which the aggressors belong.
- bb) Disciplinary measures shall be imposed on clubs where a team fails to conduct itself properly. In particular: a six (6) point deduction shall be imposed where the players are guilty of involvement in a brawl.



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

### **Rule 10.**

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

- a) Any team that fails to show up for a fixtured match without prior notice shall lose the match by default.
  
- b) In addition, the defaulting team shall incur a fine of EC\$300.00, such an amount to be paid to the office of the Secretariat forty-eight (48) hours after the match has been completed or before the team plays its next fixtured match. Failure to comply with this requirement will lead further sanctioning by Disciplinary and Ethics Committee.
  
- c) Any team missing three (3) consecutive matches, without reasonable cause shall be removed from the competition fixture and shall not be allowed to take any further part in the said competition and reported to the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee for further action.
  
- d) "Reasonable cause" shall be defined to mean acts of God, accidents, or failure of requisite equipment which makes its impractical or impossible for the team to show up for the match.
  
- e) In such an event, the team should file a "Request for Re-fixturing" clearly stating the basis for its request. The request shall be examined by the Secretariat, which shall render a final judgment on the matter.

### **Rule 11.**

#### **FIXTURES**

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

### **Rule 12.**

## **START TIME FOR EACH MATCH**

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

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

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

Any team which fails to have the requisite numbers (seven (7) players) required to play a match, will lose the said match by default, and be deemed as a no show.

### **Rule 13.**

## **MATCH LOST BY DEFAULT or ABANDONMENT**

- a) A team that loses a match by default shall not be awarded points or goals while the opposing team shall be awarded three points as if it were a match won with three (3) goals. The losing team shall incur a fine of minimum EC \$300.00 and reported to the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee for further action.
- b) A team that loses a match by abandonment shall not be awarded points or goals while the opposing team shall be awarded three points as if it were a match won with a minimum of three (3) goals. The losing team shall incur a fine not exceeding EC \$5000.00 and reported to the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee for further action.
- c) In the case of a match being abandoned as a result of force majeure after it has already kicked off, the following principles will apply:
  - The match shall recommence at the same minute at which play was interrupted rather than being replayed in full and with the same score line.
  - The match shall recommence with the same players on the pitch and substitutes available as when the match was abandoned.
  - No additional substitutes may be added to the list of players on the team sheet.
  - The team 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 match shall restart at the play where the play was stopped when the match was abandoned (i.e. with a free kick, throw-in, goal kick, corner kick, penalty kick, etc.) If the match was abandoned while the ball was still in play, it shall restart with a dropped ball from the position of the ball when play was stopped.

- The kick-off time, date and location shall be decided by the SKNFA.
- Any matters requiring a further decision shall be handled by the SKNFA.

### **Rule 14.**

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

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

- appearing for a match and failing to take the field of play.
- failing to complete a match when instructed to do so by the Referee.
- using abusive language or causing physical injury to match officials.
- failing to submit match cards to match officials.
- Repeated acts of defiance or un-cooperation with respect to the conduct of matches.
- A player who impersonates or knowingly participates in a match under another person's name.

### **Rule 15.**

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

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

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

Appeals of any decision of the SKNFA Disciplinary and Ethics Committee must be submitted within forty-eight hours and shall be accompanied by a cash payment of five hundred dollars (\$500.00). Lodging an appeal does not defer a decision taken.

#### **PROTESTS**

- A. Protests subject to the following provisions are objections of any kind connected with matches organized in the SKNFA Leagues and Competitions.
- B. Protests shall be submitted, except if the following provisions stipulate a different procedure, in writing to the Match Commissioner not later than two hours after the game and followed up immediately with a written report, including the original protest, to be sent to the SKNFA General Secretariat by fax or hand delivered. In the league or competition, the plaintiff Team will confirm the protest by letter to be sent to the SKNFA General Secretariat within forty-eight hours.

- C. Protests against the eligibility of players taking part in any league matches shall be submitted in writing to the Match Commissioner/Referee not later than two hours after the match in question and confirmed by letter to be sent to the SKNFA General Secretariat within forty-eight hours.
- D. Protests against any incidents that occur during a match shall be directed to the referee by the team captain immediately after the disputed incident and before play has been resumed. The protest shall be confirmed in writing to the Match Commissioner or the SKNFA representative at the match by the head of the team delegation not later than two hours after the match in question.
- E. Protest against the state of the pitch, the markings, the accessory equipment (goals, etc.) or the football shall be made to the referee before the start of the match.
- F. No protests may be made against the referee's decisions on points of fact connected with play, such decisions being final.
- G. Once the winning teams of the SKNFA Leagues and Competition Championships have been proclaimed, any protest or complaint about the sports procedure followed during the competition shall be disregarded.
- H. If an unfounded or irresponsible protest is lodged, a fine may be imposed.

***No team/club shall take the SKNFA to a Court of Law. Should any team/club do so, said team/club shall be subjected to suspension and an automatic fine of EC\$5000.00. Further the SKNFA shall report the matter to the FIFA General Secretary and Legal Department.***

## **Rule 16.**

### **DOPING CONTROL**

- (a) Doping is forbidden.
- (b) The SKNFA will establish its own Doping Commission to deal with all Football Doping Issues in St. Kitts-Nevis.
- (c) The SKNFA shall carry out drug testing for the 2024 Football Leagues.
- (d) Doping is the use of and/or distribution of a substance or a composition of substances as promulgated by FIFA in The Doping Control Regulations Schedule I.

- (e) The SKNFA reserves the right to carry out random doping tests before and during any competition as deemed necessary.
- (f) If the SKNFA suspects a coach, referee, and team official of Doping the SKNFA reserves the right to carry out doping tests on suspected person.
- (g) Tests may be carried out at any or all of the matches in any competition.
- (h) All players in clubs, including reserves, shall be subject to doping control.
- (i) Any player, referee, coach, team officials of club which:
  - (1) Refuses to submit to a drug test.
  - (2) Falsifies the result of a test or attempts to do so.
  - (3) Is found guilty of intentionally or unintentionally taking prohibited substances.

may be suspended for a maximum of six (6) matches from all football activities sanctioned by the SKNFA and also referred to the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee for further actions. If any player, referee, coach, team official who has served a suspension is found guilty on a second account shall be suspended for nine (9) matches from all football activities sanctioned by the SKNFA and also referred to the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee for further actions. A third offense of any player, referee, coach, team official, that person shall be suspended from further participation in the SKNFA leagues and referred to the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee for deciding the sanction.
- (j) Any official who intentionally or unintentionally abets or incites such an infringement to be committed shall be referred to the disciplinary committee.
- (k) For infringements of the doping control regulations as stipulated by FIFA in Schedule I of The Doping Control Regulations, the SKNFA is empowered to apply all sanctions contained in the FIFA list of disciplinary measures.

## **Rule 17**

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

- a. The leagues will be played under the FIFA Regulations for the status and transfer of players.
- b. Players may only be registered to play with a National Association during one registration period as laid down by the National Association, with a LIMIT of one transfer of registration per player in the same season in a period of twelve (12) months.
- c. The registration period for the 2024 League shall close on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January

2024.

- d. The SKNFA can only register players coming from another Member Association subsequent to the receipt of a certificate of transfer of registration from that of the other Association, referred to as The International Registration Transfer Certificate (ITC).
- e. An International Transfer Certificate (ITC) must be received before the close of the SKNFA registration period and transfer window.
- f. Clubs can enter into Loan Agreements with other Clubs. Each Club is allowed to loan a maximum of two players (2) to other clubs and also can accept a maximum of two (2) loaned players.
- g. A player will be considered loaned when the Agreement Form is signed by the General Secretaries of both Clubs and the loaned players. A Loan Administration Fee of EC \$200.00 must accompany the Loan Agreement Form.
- h. All Loan Agreement Period terminates at the end of the season. A loaned player is still considered a member of his original Club. The loan agreement is for playing purposes and said players must comply with rules and regulation of the other Club.
- i. Players on loan are not permitted to play against the team which holds their registration/their parent club in any competition.
- j. All Loan Agreements are to be completed by the end of the 2nd transfer window i.e., Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2024.

## **Rule 18**

### **Club Licensing**

**All Clubs are to adhere to the Club Licensing Regulations as stipulated by the SKNFA. All Clubs that are fully compliant with these regulations will be considered licensed. The Clubs that are not compliant will be debarred from participation in any SKNFA football leagues until these criteria are met.**

## **Rule 19**

### **Communication**

- a. The following are the methods of communication to inform clubs, players, coaches, referees, and teams' officials:
  - i. Emails and/or website
  - ii. Letters
  - iii. Telephones

- b. Emails and/or website will be the primary source of communication to Clubs.
- c. Each club must submit three active email addresses and /or a website address, and physical address when completing registration forms.
- d. The primary means of communication will be through emails and/or website address.
- e. All players, coaches, referees, and team officials are to register his/her email address with the SKNFA.
- f. Clubs and other persons who need a hard copy of any document can call the Secretariat to get a copy.

### **Rule 20**

***All players, team officials, coaches, referees, match officials and spectators are to comply with the DISCIPLINARY AND ETHICS CODE OF THE SKNFA and FIFA CODE OF CONDUCT/ETHICS, and FIFA Fair Play Code.***

### **Rule 21**

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

### **Rule 22**

**The SKNFA Council, whose decisions shall be final, will resolve matters not provided for in these Rules and Regulations.**

### **Rule 23**

***THE CONDITIONS FOR THE USE OF ANY SPORTS FACILITY WILL BE SUBJECT TO THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS ESTABLISHED BY THE MINISTRY OF SPORTS. AS SUCH MEMBERS OF SKNFA WILL BE REQUIRED TO ADHERE TO THE SAID TERMS AND CONDITIONS.***

## **PREMIER LEAGUE**

1. The 2024 SKNFA **PREMIER LEAGUE** shall commence on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024.
2. The league shall be conducted in conformity with the rules and regulations of FIFA and the SKNFA.
3. The Premier League shall consist of ten (10) teams namely:

1. Bath United FC
  2. Cayon Rockets FC
  3. Conaree FC
  4. Garden Hotspurs FC
  5. Newtown United FC
  6. St. Pauls United FC
  7. St. Peters FC
  8. Trafalgar South Stars FC
  9. United Old Road Jets FC
  10. Village Superstars
4. Venue – Matches will be played at venues determined fit by the SKNFA and on days and times as fixtured.
5. All players in the Premier Division League are under **16 years of age MUST have a signed consent form from parent/guardian**. Any team that registers a player on its team list who are under the age of 16 will lose the match by default and will not be awarded points or goals while the opposing team shall be awarded three points as if it were a match won with three (3) goals to nil if consent form wasn't signed by parent/guardian and the club shall be referred to the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee for further actions.

### **Format**

The above-mentioned teams shall play two (2) rounds of round robin matches. The top four (4) teams at the end of the two (2) rounds will then enter into a group of 4 Playoff Format called Premier League Cup.

The two bottom teams in the Premier League at the end of the regular season shall be relegated to Division I and the top two teams of Division I at the end of the regular season shall be promoted to the Premier League for the 2025 Season. The 3<sup>rd</sup> from bottom place team in the Premier Division will play vs the 3<sup>rd</sup> place team in Division 1 at the end of the regular season in a promotion/relegation playoff. The winner will compete in the Premier Division in 2025 Premier League. The loser will compete in the Division 1 in the 2025 Division 1 League.

### **Incentives:**

- The team with the most points for each round will be awarded one thousand dollars (EC\$1000.00).
- The team with the most points at the end of the two (2) rounds will be awarded ten thousand dollars (EC\$10,000.00).

### **Match Days**

As a general rule the match days for the Premier League are as follows (***but is not limited to these days***):

- Fridays
- Saturdays



- Sundays

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

## **PRESIDENT'S CUP**

The President's Cup will be played at the start of the 2024 SKNFA Football Season. The winners of the Premier League and the FA Cup will compete in the President's Cup.

If one team is the winner of both the Premier League and the FA Cup, the match will be played between the Premier League Champion and the second placed team in the FA Cup.

### **Format**

- The match shall be played within two (2) 45-minute halves (90 minutes).
- In the event of a tie at the end of regulation time 2-15-minute halves will be played. (Golden goal no longer applies).
- In the event of a tie at the end of extra time:

- **Step 1**

The best of five kicks from the penalty mark will apply.

- **Step 2**

If at the end of the best of five kicks from the penalty mark there is still a tie, sudden death penalty kicks shall be taken by those players who have not taken penalty kicks before.

- **Step 3**

If there is still a tie at the end of steps 1 and 2, continue sudden death kicks from the penalty mark until there is a winner.

The winner of the President's Cup will receive EC\$2,000.00 and a trophy.

## **PREMIER LEAGUE CUP PLAYOFFS**

The top 4 teams at the end of the two (2) rounds of matches will enter into a group of 4.

The Premier League Cup will be a one (1) round of round robin matches. The two (2) teams leading at the end of the Premier League Cup Playoffs will then play in the best of three (3) finals to determine the Premier League Champions.

The WINNER OF THE PREMIER LEAGUE CUP COMPETITION will be eligible to represent the Federation in international club championships.

**Best of Three Finals**

- The finals shall be played within two (2) 45-minute halves (90 minutes).
- In the event of a tie at the end of regulation time 2-15-minute halves will be played. (Golden goal no longer applies).
- In the event of a tie at the end of extra time:

- **Step 1**

The best of five kicks from the penalty mark will apply.

- **Step 2**

If at the end of the best of five kicks from the penalty mark there is still a tie, sudden death penalty kicks shall be taken by those players who have not taken penalty kicks before.

- **Step 3**

If there is still a tie at the end of steps 1 and 2, continue sudden death kicks from the penalty mark until there is a winner.

The prize structure for the Premier League is as follows:

- Winner - EC\$50,000.00 with trophy and medals
- 2nd Place - EC\$20,000.00 with medals
- 3rd Place - EC\$8,000.00 with medals
- 4th Place - EC\$6,000.00
- 5th Place - EC\$4,000.00
- 6th Place - EC\$3,000.00
- 7th Place - EC\$1000.00
- 8th place - EC\$1000.00
- 9th Place - EC\$1000.00
- 10th place - EC\$1000.00

**DIVISION I**

The 2024 SKNFA **DIVISION 1 LEAGUE** shall commence on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

The 2024 Division I Football League may consist of the following eligible club teams:

1. Conaree Fireball International FC
2. Dieppe Bay Eagles FC

3. Hardtimes United FC
4. Lodge Patriots FC
5. Molineux Pitbulls FC
6. Newton Ground FC
7. Rivers of Living Waters FC
8. Saddlers United FC
9. Sandy Point FC
10. Security Forces United FC
11. St. Thomas/Trinity United FC
12. Tabernacle (Mantab) FC
13. Trinity/Challengers United FC
14. Youth & Experience FC

Venue – Matches will be played at venues determined fit by the SKNFA and on days and times as fixtured.

All players in the Division I League who are under **16 years of age MUST have a signed consent form from parent/guardian**. Any team that registers a player on its team list who are under the age of 16 will lose the match by default and will not be awarded points or goals while the opposing team shall be awarded three points as if it were a match won with three (3) goals to nil if consent form wasn't signed by parent/guardian and the club shall be referred to the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee for further actions.

### **Format**

The above-mentioned teams shall play two (2) rounds of round robin matches. The team with the most points at the end of the regular season will be crowned Division 1 Champions. The top 2 teams at the end of the regular season will be promoted to the Premier Division for the 2025 Premier League. The 3<sup>rd</sup> place team at the end of the regular season will play in a promotion/relegation playoff match vs the 3<sup>rd</sup> from bottom place team in the Premier Division. The winner of the promotion/relegation playoff match will compete in the Premier Division for the 2025 Premier League and the loser of the promotion/relegation playoff match will compete in the Division 1 for the 2025 Division 1 League.

### **Match Days**

As a general rule the match days for the Division I are as follows ***(but not limited to any other day)***:

- Thursdays
- Saturdays

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

The prize structure for the Division I League is as follows:

Winner - EC\$15,000.00, a trophy and medals

2<sup>nd</sup> Place - EC\$10,000.00 and medals

3<sup>rd</sup> Place - EC\$5,000.00 and medals

### **Promotion/Relegation PLAYOFF MATCH**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> from bottom place Premier Division team and 3<sup>rd</sup> place Division 1 team at the end of the regular season will play in a playoff match. The winner will compete in the 2025 Premier League. The loser will compete in the 2025 Division 1 League.

#### **Promotion/Relegation Playoff Match**

- The Playoff match would be 90 minutes regulation time, i.e., 45 min per half with a 15-minute interval.
- In the event of a tie at the end of regulation time two (2) 15-minute halves will be played. (Golden goal no longer applies).
- In the event of a tie at the end of extra time:

- **Step 1**

The best of five kicks from the penalty mark will apply.

- **Step 2**

If at the end of the best of five kicks from the penalty mark there is still a tie, sudden death penalty kicks shall be taken by those players who have not taken penalty kicks before.

- **Step 3**

If there is still a tie at the end of steps 1 and 2, continue sudden death kicks from the penalty mark until there is a winner.

### **FA CUP - Knock-Out Competition**

All registered teams in the St. Kitts Nevis Football Association's Premier League, Division I and Women's League qualify for the 2024 F.A Cup (Knock-Out Competition).

The competition shall be played under the following format:

At the end of the registration date for the 2024 Football league, teams are ranked, zoned, and fixtured based on the final standings of the 2023 FA Cup. Teams that did not participate in the 2023 FA Cup will be ranked based on their registration date.

The two finalists from the Knock-out Competition in the 2023 season will represent the top team in each Zone and will benefit from a bye if the Zone has an odd number of teams.

Each preliminary match will be based on teams' ranking from the previous year knock-out competition. The match ups will be arranged in the following format – highest ranked teams will play lower ranked teams. A full fixture will be developed and circulated.

All teams shall compete in matches under the following conditions.

### **PRELIMINARY, QUARTER-FINALS & SEMI-FINALS**

- Each match shall have a winner and only the winner shall advance to the next round.
- Each match shall be 90 minutes regulation time, i.e., 45 min per half with a 15-minute interval.
- In the event of a tie at the end of regulation:

- **Step 1**

- The best of five kicks from the penalty mark will apply.

- **Step 2**

- If at the end of the best of five kicks from the penalty mark there is still a tie, sudden death penalty kicks shall be taken by those players who have not taken penalty kicks before.

- **Step 3**

- If there is still a tie at the end of steps 1 and 2, continue sudden death kicks from the penalty mark until there is a winner.

### **FINALS**

- The final match shall be played within two (2) 45-minute halves (90 minutes).
- In the event of a tie at the end of regulation time two (2) 15-minute halves will be played. (Golden goal no longer applies).
- In the event of a tie at the end of extra time:

- **Step 1**

- The best of five kicks from the penalty mark will apply.

- **Step 2**

- If at the end of the best of five kicks from the penalty mark there is still a tie, sudden

death penalty kicks shall be taken by those players who have not taken penalty kicks before.

▪ **Step 3**

If there is still a tie at the end of steps 1 and 2, continue sudden death kicks from the penalty mark until there is a winner.

The FA – Cup Knock out competition is governed by the SKNFA Rules and Regulations of the 2024 Football Season.

Male FA winners - The Grand prize for the FA Cup Champions EC\$8,000.00 and a trophy  
The Runner up shall receive EC\$4,000.00.

Female FA winners - The Grand prize for the FA Cup Champions EC\$3,000.00 and a trophy  
The Runner up shall receive EC\$1,000.00.

## **ELVIS STAR BROWNE WOMEN'S LEAGUE**

1. The 2024 SKNFA **ELVIS STAR BROWNE WOMEN'S LEAGUE** shall commence on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2024.
2. The league shall be conducted in conformity with the rules and regulations of FIFA and the SKNFA.
3. The Elvis Star Browne Women's League shall consist of various clubs' teams.

### **REGISTRATIONS**

- All female players are eligible to participate in the SKNFA Elvis Star Browne Women's Senior League.
- Players below the age of 16, must have signed consent from parent/guardian.

### **Match Days**

As a general rule the match days for the Elvis Star Browne Women's League are as follows (***but not limited to any other day***):

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

### **FORMAT**

- Matches will be played in the 11 v 11 format.
- Two rounds of round robin matches will be played between the registered teams.

- Each match will be 90 minutes regular time i.e. 45 minutes per half with a 15-minute interval.

## **WOMEN'S LEAGUE FINAL FOUR PLAYOFF**

The SKNFA reserves the right to format the Women's League Final Four playoffs and best of three finals based on the number of teams participating in the Women's League.

Four (4) teams at the end of the two (2) rounds will enter into a group of four (4) called the Final Four.

The two (2) teams leading at the end of the Final Four (4) Playoffs will then play in the finals to determine the Elvis Star Browne Women's League Champion.

### **Finals**

- The final match shall be played within two (2) 45-minute halves (90 minutes).
- In the event of a tie at the end of regulation time two (2) 15-minute halves will be played. (Golden goal no longer applies).
- In the event of a tie at the end of extra time:

- **Step 1**

The best of five kicks from the penalty mark will apply.

- **Step 2**

If at the end of the best of five kicks from the penalty mark there is still a tie, sudden death penalty kicks shall be taken by those players who have not taken penalty kicks before.

- **Step 3**

If there is still a tie at the end of steps 1 and 2, continue sudden death kicks from the penalty mark until there is a winner.

### **Incentives**

*The prize structure for Elvis Star Browne Women's League is as follows:*

1<sup>st</sup> Place - \$20,000.00, a trophy and medals

2<sup>nd</sup> Place - \$10,000.00 and medals

3<sup>rd</sup> Place - \$6,000.00 and medals

## **Female Under 12 League**

### **REGISTRATIONS**

Players who are eligible to participate in the SKNFA U-12 Girls' League must be born on or after 1<sup>st</sup> January 2012.

- The twelve (12) to sixteen (16) players that your club registers must be assigned a jersey number for registration purposes. However, in the event that a player has to play in another number, that player must receive permission from the referee.
- Included in the registration of players, there must be a minimum of two (2) mandatory goalkeepers.

### **FORMAT**

- Team will play in an 8 v 8 format (7 field players and a goalkeeper)
- Two rounds of round robin matches will be played between at least 8 teams. Each match will be played in thirds of 15 minutes with a 5-minute interval.
- Each player, including the goalkeeper, must play a full 15 minutes per match.

### **U-12 Final Competition (8v8)**

- The top teams will be matched up against the bottom teams and be placed in groups.
- Each group will play one round of round robin matches.
- After the round robin matches, the top two teams will advance from each group.
- Only the winning teams will advance until the final two teams.
- The final two teams will play for the knock-out championship.

### **SUBSTITUTION**

- Each team will be allowed up to seven (7) substitutions per game, one of which must be a goalkeeper. A substituted player cannot return to the field after being substituted.

### **CAUTIONS & EXPULSIONS**

- A player who receives an accumulated three (3) yellow cards during the league will be suspended for her team's next fixtured match.
- Any player that receives a red card will automatically miss her team's next fixtured match.
- Any player receiving three (3) red cards will not participate further in the League and summoned to the SKNFA Disciplinary and Ethics Committee.

### **TEAM TECHNICAL STAFF**

1. All team managers must be a female.
2. All teams must have a head coach and assistant coaches, one of which must be a female. All coaches must have a minimum of the SKNFA D or the Concacaf D License.

### **TROPHIES AND AWARDS**

The Association shall be responsible for providing cups/trophies for the SKNFA Women's Leagues. Cups/Trophies and Awards to be competed for are as follows: -



- **League:**
  - Winner - Trophy and medals
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Medals
  - Any other awards if necessary

## **OTHER TOURNAMENTS**

The Females will be engaged in other tournaments as per scheduled on fixtures. Further information relating to these tournaments will be issued as the dates for the tournaments become available.

## **RESERVE LEAGUE**

### **A. GENERAL INFORMATION**

- a) The SKNFA Reserve League will be governed by the 2024 SKNFA General Rules and Regulations. However, the following rules and regulations will also be included and must be adhered to.
- b) The 2024 Reserve Football League shall commencement date shall be determined by the SKNFA.
- c) Each Club participating in the Reserve League must identify its 20 top players to play for its first team. The 20 top players identified are not allowed to play in the Reserve League. The first team's first and second choice goalkeepers must be registered as a top player. First Team goalkeepers shall not be registered for the reserve league team.
- d) A Top Player is categorized as follows:
  - A player who has represented the National Senior and Olympic Team in the last 5 years.
  - A player who has been a regular starter over 3 consecutive seasons in the Premier League or Division 1
  - Players who the Club deems as its selected players for the top division.
- e) The additional players registered will be allowed to play in both the Reserve League and the registered division for the said club.
- f) Each Club is allowed to register a maximum of 20 players on the Reserve League Registration Form.
- g) Each Reserve League team MUST register its own goalkeepers. Reserve League goalkeepers can be called up to play for their Premier or Division 1 teams at any time.
- h) A Premier League Top Player returning to play after an extended absence (one month or more) due to injury is allowed to play in the reserve league or for any number of

matches until such player returns to regular playing time in the Premier League.

i) The Reserve League will consist of the following Teams:

- a. Bath United FC
- b. Cayon Rockets FC
- c. Conaree FC
- d. Garden Hotspurs FC
- e. Newtown United FC
- f. St. Pauls United FC
- g. St. Peters FC
- h. Trafalgar South Stars FC
- i. United Old Road Jets FC
- j. Village Superstars FC
- k. Other registered teams

## **B. SUBSTITUTION**

- a) Each team will be allowed six (6) substitutions per game, one of which must be a goalkeeper.
- b) A substituted player cannot return to the field after being substituted.

## **C. FORMAT**

- a) Teams will compete in one round of round robin matches to determine the top four (4) teams.
- b) The top four (4) teams will play a one (1) round of round robin matches. The two (2) teams leading at the end of the Playoffs will then play one match to determine the Reserve League Champion.
- c) The Championship match will be played as follows:

- The championship match shall be played within two (2) 45-minute halves (90 minutes).
- In the event of a tie at the end of regulation time two (2) 15-minute halves will be played. (Golden goal no longer applies).
- In the event of a tie at the end of extra time:

- **Step 1**

The best of five kicks from the penalty mark will apply.

- **Step 2**

If at the end of the best of five kicks from the penalty mark there is still a tie, sudden death penalty kicks shall be taken by those players who have not taken penalty kicks before.

- **Step 3**

If there is still a tie at the end of steps 1 and 2, continue sudden death kicks from the

penalty mark until there is a winner.

## **F. Incentives**

a) *The prize structure for the Reserve League teams is as follows:*

*1<sup>st</sup> Place - EC\$3000.00 and a trophy and medals*

*2<sup>nd</sup> Place - EC\$1500.00 and medals*

*3<sup>rd</sup> Place - EC\$1000.00 and medals*

*4<sup>th</sup> Place - EC\$750.00*

## **SKNFA U13 PREMIER YOUTH CUP**

The SKNFA Premier Youth Cup will be governed by the 2024 SKNFA rules and regulations. However, the following rules and regulations will also be included and must be adhered to:

### **GENERAL**

- Players and coaches are to shake hands in the spirit of fair play and sportsmanship at the beginning and end of all matches.
- At the end of each game, players are to gather at the center circle and shake hands before leaving the field.
- Before leaving the venue, each team coach will give an encouraging speech for 5 minutes to each team.
- Each team coach is to choose his player of the match (from the opponents' team) and submit his name to the SKNFA Secretariat.

### **REGISTRATIONS**

- Players who are eligible to participate in the SKNFA Premier Youth Cup must be born 1<sup>st</sup> January 2011 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013.
- The twenty (20) players that your club registers must be assigned a jersey number for registration purposes. However, in the event that a player has to play in another number, that player must receive permission from the referee.
- Included in the registration of players, there must be a minimum of two (2) mandatory goalkeepers.
- A copy of the players' identification document (passport/birth certificate) should accompany each player registration for players to be eligible to play.
- Each player must complete a "Right to First Registration Form" as part of the registration process.

### **FIXTURES**

**At all fixtured matches Team A will be responsible for appointing speaker(s) to address players on a chosen topic. All lectures should begin thirty (30) minutes before the teams' warm-up.**

**Topics should focus on life skills development such as discipline, obedience, teamwork, respect, sportsmanship, time management and conflict resolution.**

- Teams listed as “TEAM A” on the fixtures are considered the home team. In the event that the two teams share the same colours, team A will be given preference over team B therefore team B has to change to their alternative colours. If Team B does not have an alternative kit, then Team B can use a different colored bib or vest once permission is given is given by the referee.
- Please see below the primary and alternative colours of each team:

***(Note: these colours will be provided following registration of all teams)***

### **FORMAT**

- Team will play in a 11 v 11 format.
- One round of round robin matches will be played between at least 10 teams. Each match will be played in two twenty-five minutes half with a 5-minute interval.

### **U-13 Final Competition (11v11)**

- The top teams will be matched up against the bottom teams and be placed in groups.
- Each group will play one round of round robin matches.
- After the round robin matches, the top two teams will advance from each group.
- Only the winning teams will advance until the final two teams.
- The final two teams will play for the knock-out championship.

### **SUBSTITUTION**

- Each team will be allowed up to six (6) substitutions per game, one of which must be a goalkeeper. A substituted player cannot return to the field after being substituted.

### **CAUTIONS & EXPULSIONS**

- A player who receives an accumulated three (3) yellow cards during the league will be suspended for her team’s next fixtured match.
- Any player that receives a red card will automatically miss the team’s next fixtured match.
- Any player receiving three (3) red cards will not participate further in the League and summoned to the SKNFA Disciplinary and Ethics Committee.

### **TEAM TECHNICAL STAFF**

The following must be part of the technical staff:

1. A manager
2. A head coach and assistant coach. All coaches must have as a minimum the CONCACAF D License.
3. Teams will not be allowed to play a match without the respective technical staff on match day. If the staff is not present, the team shall lose the match by default.

## **TROPHIES AND AWARDS**

The SKNFA shall be responsible for providing cups/trophies for the SKNFA Women's Leagues. Cups/Trophies and Awards to be competed for are as follows: -

- **League:**
  - Winner - EC\$2,500.00 plus Trophy and medals
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - EC\$1,500.00 plus Medals
  - Any other awards if necessary

## **PROTESTS/DISPUTES**

- All protests must be sent to the SKNFA Secretariat within twenty-one (24) hours after a match. Any protest received after twenty-one (24) hours will be disregarded.
- All decisions of the SKNFA shall be final and will not be subject to appeals.

## **DISCIPLINARY MATTERS**

- All players and coaches are to adhere to the Code of Conduct stated below.
- All disciplinary matters will be referred to the SKNFA Disciplinary and Ethics Committee.

## **SKNFA 'Atiba Harris' U-15 Boys' League**

The SKNFA 'Atiba Harris' U-15 Boys' League will be governed by the 2024 SKNFA rules and regulations. However, the following rules and regulations will also be included and must be adhered to:

### **GENERAL**

- Players and coaches are to shake hands in the spirit of fair play and sportsmanship at the beginning and end of all matches.
- At the end of each game, players are to gather at the center circle and shake hands before leaving the field.
- Before leaving the venue, each team coach will give an encouraging speech for 5 minutes to each team.
- Each team coach is to choose his player of the match (from the opponents' team) and submit his name to the SKNFA Secretariat.

### **REGISTRATIONS**

- Players who are eligible to participate in the SKNFA 'Atiba Harris' U-15 Boys' League must be born 1<sup>st</sup> January 2009 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011.
- The twenty (20) players that your club registers must be assigned a jersey number for registration purposes. However, in the event that a player has to play in another

number, that player must receive permission from the referee.

- Included in the registration of players, there must be a minimum of two (2) mandatory goalkeepers.
- A copy of the players' identification document (passport/birth certificate) should accompany each player registration for players to be eligible to play.
- Each player must complete a "Right to First Registration Form" as part of the registration process.

### **TRANSFERS**

- The transfer of players will be done according to the SKNFA official transfer windows.
- Transfer of players below the age of sixteen (16) are to be completed on a youth transfer form provided by the SKNFA.
- Players under the age of sixteen (16) are not required to pay a transfer fee, however the forms must be signed by both clubs and parent(s).

### **FIXTURES**

**At all fixtured matches Team A will be responsible for appointing speaker(s) to address players on a chosen topic. All lectures should begin thirty (30) minutes before teams' warm-up.**

**Topics should focus on life skills development such as discipline, obedience, teamwork, respect, sportsmanship, time management and conflict resolution.**

- Teams listed as "TEAM A" on the fixtures are considered the home team. In the event that the two teams share the same colours, team A will be given preference over team B therefore team B has to change to their alternative colours. If Team B does not have an alternative kit, then Team B can use a different colored bib or vest once permission is given by the referee.
- Please see below the primary and alternative colours of each team:

***(Note: these colours will be provided following registration of all teams)***

### **FORMAT**

- One round of round robin matches, or two rounds of round robin matches will be played between the registered teams (to be determined by SKNFA based on registration). All matches would be 70 minutes regulation time, i.e., 35 min per half with a 15-minute interval.
- The top four (4) teams will enter into the semi-finals at the end of each round to play the Easter Cup.
- (The top four teams will be decided by the teams with the most points or goal difference). If points and goal difference are the same, kindly refer to the SKNFA general rules and regulations for the 2024 Season.
  - In the semi-finals the top four (4) teams will play as follows:
    - Team 1 vs. Team 4
    - Team 2 vs. Team 3
- The two (2) winning teams will advance to the finals, while the losing teams will

compete for third and fourth place.

### **Semifinals and Finals Matches**

- Each match shall be 90 minutes regulation time, i.e., 45 min per half with a 15-minute interval.
- In the event of a tie at the end of regulation:
  - **Step 1**  
The best of five kicks from the penalty mark will apply.
  - **Step 2**  
If at the end of the best of five kicks from the penalty mark there is still a tie, sudden death penalty kicks shall be taken by those players who have not taken penalty kicks before.
  - **Step 3**  
If there is still a tie at the end of steps 1 and 2, continue sudden death kicks from the penalty mark until there is a winner.

### **SUBSTITUTION**

- Each team will be allowed to substitute players three times per game, with a maximum of seven (7) substitutions per game, one of which must be a goalkeeper.

### **COACHES AND TECHNICAL STAFF MEMBERS**

- Each team must have a qualified (Concacaf C License) head coach and assistant coach for Youth Leagues.
- Each team must have a goalkeeper coach who has attended a FIFA or CONCACAF goalkeeping.
- Each must have a trained medical person.
- Each Team must have a team manager/administrator.
- Teams will not be allowed to play a match without the respective technical staff on match day. If the staff is not present, the team shall lose the match by default.

### **CAUTIONS & EXPULSIONS**

- A player who receives two consecutive yellow cards in a game will be suspended for its team's next fixtured match.
- A player who has accumulated three (3) yellow cards will be suspended for his team's next fixtured match.
- Any player that receives a red card will automatically miss his team's next fixtured match.
- Any player receiving three (3) red cards will not participate further in the League and summoned to the SKNFA Disciplinary and Ethics Committee.

### **TROPHIES AND AWARDS**

- The Association shall be responsible for providing cups/trophies for the 'Atiba Harris' U-15 League. Cups/Trophies and Awards to be competed for are as follows: -
  - Winner - \$2,500.00 plus Trophy and medals
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - \$1,500.00 Medals
  - Any other awards if necessary

### **PROTESTS/DISPUTES**

- All protests must be sent to the SKNFA Secretariat within twenty-four (24) hours after a match. Any protest received after twenty-four (24) hours will be disregarded.
- All decisions of the SKNFA shall be final and will not be subject to appeals.

### **DISCIPLINARY MATTERS**

- All players and coaches are to adhere to the Code of Conduct stated below.
- All disciplinary matters will be referred to the SKNFA Disciplinary and Ethics Committee.

## **SKNFA U-17 Keith Gumbs Youth League**

The SKNFA U-17 Keith Gumbs League will be governed by the 2024 SKNFA General Rules and Regulations. However, the following rules and regulations will also be included and must be adhered to:

### **GENERAL**

- Players and coaches are to shake hands in the spirit of fair play and sportsmanship at the beginning and end of all matches.
- At the end of each game, players are to gather at the center circle and shake hands before leaving the field.
- Before leaving the venue, each team coach will give an encouraging speech for 5 minutes to each team.
- Each team coach is to choose his player of the match (from the opponents' team) and submit his name to the SKNFA Secretariat.

### **REGISTRATIONS**

- Players who are eligible to participate in the SKNFA Keith Gumbs U-17 Boys' League must be born 1<sup>st</sup> January 2007 and December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009.
- The twenty (20) players that your club registers must be assigned a jersey number for registration purposes. However, in the event that a player has to play in another number, that player must receive permission from the referee.
- Included in the registration of players, there must be a minimum of two (2) mandatory goalkeepers.
- A copy of the players' identification document (passport picture page or birth



certificate) should accompany each player registration for players to be eligible to play.

### **COACHES AND TECHNICAL STAFF MEMBERS**

- Each team must have a qualified (Concacaf C License) head coach and assistant coach for Youth Leagues.
- Each team must have a goalkeeper coach who has attended a FIFA or CONCACAF goalkeeping.
- Each must have a trained medical person.
- Each Team must have a team manager/administrator.
- Teams will not be allowed to play a match without the respective technical staff on match day. If the staff is not present, the team shall lose the match by default.

### **TRANSFERS & LOANS**

- The transfer of players will be done according to the SKNFA official transfer windows.
- A player (16 years) who is registered with a club that is not participating in the youth leagues cannot be loaned to a club that is participating in the youth league. If a club has a team participating in the youth leagues all youth registered players of that club must play for the clubs' youth teams

### **FIXTURES**

**At all fixtured matches Team A will be responsible for appointing speaker(s) to address players on a chosen topic. All lectures should begin thirty (30) minutes before teams' warm-up.**

**Topics should focus on life skills development such as discipline, obedience, teamwork, respect, sportsmanship, time management and conflict resolution.**

- Teams listed as "TEAM A" on the fixtures are considered the home team. In the event that the two teams share the same colours, team A will be given preference over team B therefore team B has to change to their alternative colours. If Team B does not have an alternative kit, then Team B can use a different colour bib or vest once permission is given is given by the referee.
- Please see below the primary and alternative colours of each team:  
***(Note: these colours will be provided following registration of all teams)***

### **FORMAT**

- Two rounds of round robin matches will be played between clubs' youth teams. All matches would be 90 minutes regulation time, i.e., 45 min per half with a 15-minute interval.
- The top four (4) teams will enter into the semi-finals. (The top four teams will be decided by the teams with the most points or goal difference). If points and goal difference are the same, kindly refer to the SKNFA rules and regulations for the 2024 Season.
  - In the semi-finals the top four (4) teams will play as follows:

- Team 1 vs. Team 4
  - Team 2 vs. Team 3
- The two (2) winning teams will advance to the finals, while the losing teams will compete for third and fourth place.

#### **SEMI-FINALS & FINALS MATCHES**

- Each match shall be 90 minutes regulation time, i.e., 45 min per half with a 15-minute interval.
- In the event of a tie at the end of regulation:
  - **Step 1**  
The best of five kicks from the penalty mark will apply.
  - **Step 2**  
If at the end of the best of five kicks from the penalty mark there is still a tie, sudden death penalty kicks shall be taken by those players who have not taken penalty kicks before.
  - **Step 3**  
If there is still a tie at the end of steps 1 and 2, continue sudden death kicks from the penalty mark until there is a winner.

#### **SUBSTITUTION**

- Each team will be allowed six (6) substitutions per game, one of which must be a goalkeeper.

#### **CAUTIONS & EXPULSIONS**

- A player who receives two consecutive yellow cards in a game will be suspended for its team's next fixtured match.
- A player who has accumulated three (3) yellow cards will be suspended for his team's next fixtured match.
- Any player that receives a red card will automatically miss the team's next fixtured match.
- Any player receiving three (3) red cards will not participate further in the League and summoned to the SKNFA Disciplinary and Ethics Committee.

#### **TROPHIES AND AWARDS**

- The Association shall be responsible for providing cups/trophies for the Keith Gumbs U-17 League. Cups/Trophies and Awards to be competed for are as follows: -
  - Winner - \$3,000. 00 plus Trophy and medals
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - \$1,500. 00 plus Medals
  - Any other awards if necessary

#### **PROTESTS/DISPUTES**

- All protests must be sent to the SKNFA Secretariat within twenty-four (24) hours after a match. Any protest received after twenty-four (24) hours will be disregarded.
- All decisions of the SKNFA shall be final and will not be subject to appeals.

### **DISCIPLINARY MATTERS**

- All players and coaches are to adhere to the Code of Conduct stated below.
- All natural and legal persons are to adhere to the Disciplinary and Ethics Code of SKNFA
- All disciplinary matters will be referred to the SKNFA Disciplinary and Ethics Committee.

## **SKNFA Youth Leagues Players' Code of Conduct**

**Let there be no MISUNDERSTANDING! VIOLATIONS of the following rules can result in immediate dismissal from the League**

- Play according to the laws and spirit of the game.
- Be on time and be prepared for matches and at players' training sessions.
- Display self-control in all situations. Never use foul or abusive language-before, during or after a game or at players' training session
- Train and play to the best of your ability, have a positive attitude, and encourage others to do the same.
- Respect the opposition. Treat them as you would like them to treat you.
- Respect the referee. Never dispute his or her decisions. They are only human, and they make mistakes, just like you.
- Turn up for training and matches in appropriate and clean clothing.
- Wear the right sort of footwear.
- Always wear shin guards
- Keep your boots/trainers clean.
- You are expected to remain at school and attend all your classes; permission to leave must be obtained and checkout procedures must be followed, also, the coach must be notified.
- The coach must be notified of your reason for being absent from school, training, and matches.
- You are required to attend all training sessions, games, and lectures unless permission is granted by the coach.
- Show respect to coaches, teachers, parents, team managers, administrators, and other people of authority at all times.
- Flammables, explosives, and firearms are not permitted in schools, at training and games, and at home.
- NO FIGHTING
- NO STEALING

- Possession or the use of tobacco, alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs is illegal and against the rules.

*(Coaches and team officials are to ensure that players and parents are given a copy of the above code of conduct).*

### **POWERS OF SKNFA COUNCIL**

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

These rules rescind and or replace any rules previously issued by the St. Kitts-Nevis Football Association.

These rules were ratified by the SKNFA Council on the 10<sup>th</sup> of January 2024 and shall become effective immediately.

For SKNFA:



**Atiba Harris**  
**President**



**Techell McLean**  
**General Secretary**

