



**SECTION
A & B**

**USSA FOOTBALL NATIONAL
INSTITUTIONAL GAMES**

**NATIONAL INSTITUTIONAL GAMES
COMPETITION RULES AND
REGULATIONS**



USSA FOOTBALL NATIONAL INSTITUTIONAL GAMES™

General Provision

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1. USSA FOOTBALL NATIONAL INSTITUTIONAL GAMES™

1.1 The USSA Football National Institutional Games Men and Women are USSA Football competitions embodied in the USSA Football Constitution.

1.2 The USSA Football National Institutional Games takes place annually. As a general rule, every institution that is affiliated to USSA Football and SAFA may participate in the National Institutional Games.

1.3 The National Institutional Games Men and Women consists of two sections: Section A and Section B for both Men and Women where teams are divided to sections according to their strength.

1.4 The regulations for the USSA Football National Institutional Games regulate the rights, duties and responsibilities of all institutions taking part in the USSA Football National Institutional Games Men and Women. The regulations and all guidelines and circulars issued by USSA Football are binding for all parties participating and involved in the preparations, organization and hosting of the USSA Football National Institutional Games.

2. Qualifying Criteria

2.1. The USSA Football National Institutional Games qualifying teams are decided by USSA Football NEC taking into account the number of teams affiliated to USSA Football and are in good standing as per USSA Football Constitution.

2.2. The teams shall be divided into Section A and Section B for both Men and Women.

2.3. A Club must have both men and women in order to qualify to participate in the final tournament either in Section A or Section B.

2.4. Every Club shall participate in the SAFA League in order to eligible to qualify for the tournament, as provided in the USSA Football Constitution. A Club shall submit a letter confirming their affiliation from a relevant SAFA LFA.

2.5. On entering the competition, all institutions automatically undertake to:

- a) Observe these regulations;
- b) All administrative matters relating to the qualifying criteria shall be dealt with by USSA Football NEC.
- c) Observe the USSA and USSA Football Constitution;

- d) Observe the principles of Fair Play.

3. USSA Football Organising Committee

3.1. The responsibilities of the USSA Football National Institutional Games Organising Committee shall include but not limited to;

- a) Preparations of the final competition, the draw and the formation of groups;
- b) Fixing the dates and venues of the matches in the final competition.
- c) Determining the match schedule and kick-off times for the final competition;
- d) Appointing match commissioners, security officers and any other officials when need arises;
- e) Judging infringements concerning the eligibility of players in the final competition
- f) Choosing the official football and stipulated technical material for the final competition;
- g) Judging protests and taking appropriate steps to verify their admissibility

3.2. The Organising Committee for the USSA Football National Institutional Games will constitute the following: (i) USSA Football NEC, (ii) Tournament Technical Director, (iii) Host Institution; (iv) USSA PEC; (v) SAFA

- a) **USSA Football NEC** shall be responsible for;
 - i. Conducting the draw for the tournament;
 - ii. Drawing the fixture;
 - iii. Dealing with withdrawal and replacement of teams;
 - iv. Conducting and overseeing the whole tournament
 - v. Convene disciplinary actions
- b) **Tournament Technical Director** must be from the host institution shall have the following responsibilities:
 - Coordinating all the technical matters relating for the tournament but not limited to:
 - i. Playing venues,
 - ii. Match officials,
 - iii. Hosting Issues (Accommodation, Meals, and Security etc.), where necessary.
- c) **USSA PEC** shall be responsible for;
 - i. Assisting the host institution to organise the tournament.

- d) **SAFA** shall be responsible for the following:
- i. Providing administrative assistance for the tournament (e.g. capturing of scores and team sheets);
 - ii. Providing the referees panel and the referees coordinator;
 - iii. To participate in the disciplinary committee;
 - iv. Assist with the technical matters;

4. Host Institution

4.1 The USSA Football Executive Committee has a right to award the rights to host the final competition of the USSA Football National Institutional Games to bidding institutions.

4.2 The host institution is responsible for organising hosting and staging of the final competition. It shall set up a Local Organising Committee (LOC) which will comprise of members from the USSA Football NEC as presented in Article 3.

5. Participating Member Institutions

5.1. The institutions that have qualified for the final competition agree to comply with rules and regulations and ensure that every delegation member i.e. (Players, Coaches, Managers, Medical Personnel, Representatives and Drivers) complies with these regulations, the Laws of the game, the USSA Football Constitution, USSA Constitution and USSA Regulations.

5.2. On entering the final competition, the participating member institutions automatically undertake to:

- a) Comply with the maximum number of players and officials per official delegation for the Final Competition;
- b) Observe these regulations and ensure that their delegation members, in particular but not only their players, also observe these regulations and the principles of Fair Play;
- c) Accept and obey all decisions taken by the bodies and officials of USSA Football under the terms of these regulations;

- d) Participate in all matches of the final competition on which their team is scheduled to take part;
- e) They are responsible for the conduct of their delegation members and any of their persons carrying out duties on its behalf throughout the duration of the final competition at the host institution;
- f) Attending all press conferences and any other official media activities organised by USSA Football.
- g) Responsible for paying for medical costs for its delegation.

6. Withdrawal, penalty for failing to play, replacement

6.1 All participating member Institutions undertake to play all of their matches until the end of the USSA Football National Institutional Games, unless there are reasons from the USSA Football NEC.

6.2 Any participating member institution that withdraws from the final competition, must withdraw at least 30 days before the start of the final competition.

6.2.1 Shall a team withdraw in Section A in the current year, it shall be relegated to Section B in the following tournament.

6.2.2 Shall a team withdraw in Section B or Section A without complying with the rules and regulations, necessary action shall be taken against that team by the USSA Football NEC.

6.3 Depending on the circumstances of the withdrawal, the USSA Football Disciplinary Committee shall take disciplinary actions against the member institution concerned in the subsequent USSA Football Competitions, should they fail to comply with Article 6.2 of the rules.

6.4 If, through the fault or negligence of any Participating Member Institution, a match in the final competition cannot take place or be played in its entirety, the USSA Football Disciplinary Committee shall declare such match forfeited (awarding victory and the resultant three points to the opposing team as well as the score of 3 – 0, or greater, depending on the score in the match at the time of abandonment); and/or exclude the team concerned from the final competition.

6.5 The USSA Football Organising Committee shall take whatever action deemed necessary in the case of force majeure.

7. Disciplinary Matters

7.1 Disciplinary incidents are dealt with in accordance with the disciplinary code of USSA, SAFA and the host institution in force, as well as with all relevant circulars and directives, with which the participating institutions undertake to comply.

7.2 The participating institutions and their delegation members agree to comply with the Laws of the game and with the USSA Football Constitution.

7.3 In addition, the players agree notably to:

- a) Respect the spirit of Fair Play and non-violence;
- b) Behave accordingly;
- c) Refrain from doping;

8. Medical and Doping

For the duration of the USSA FOOTBALL NATIONAL INSTITUTIONAL GAMES™ USSA Football and the Host Institution shall provide medical personnel during the matches and will inform the surrounding hospitals of the tournament. Should any player be admitted the cost of which shall be borne by the Institution where the player belongs to.

9. Disputes or Protests

9.1 Protests are objections of any kind related to events or matters that have direct effect on matches, including but not limited to the, eligibility of players and footballs.

9.2 Unless otherwise stipulated in this article, protests shall be submitted in writing to the USSA Football Tournament Secretary within two (2) hours of the conclusion of the match in question, with a full written report, otherwise they will be disregarded.

9.2.1 The written protest must set out the full facts on which it is based and refer to the Article and/or Rule and Regulation allegedly contravened by the offending party.

9.2.1.1 Upon receipt of a protest, the Designated USSA Football Official shall:

- a) Call for any further written information and documentation from the protesting team; and
- b) Forward to the offending party the documentation received from the protesting team and advise the offending party, of the nature of the protest and request such party for a written explanation, but warn such party, that such explanation may be later used in evidence against the said party.
- c) The protesting team shall have the right to be present at, or give evidence before the Disciplinary Committee hearing the charge(s) against the offending party. USSA Football may subpoena the protesting team to give evidence or produce any book, paper or document in the hearing.

9.3. The referee shall be made aware of the intention to protest by the team captain before or during the course of the match immediately after the disputed incident; play need not be stopped. The necessary formalities should be done immediately after the match. (As per FIFA practice)

9.4 No protests may be made about the referees decisions regarding facts connected with play, such decisions being final.

9.5 The protesting team must pay a protesting fee of R 3000.00 cash (as determined in the rules from time to time), during the presentation of the letter to the tournament Secretary before the hearing takes place.

9.6 If the above time limits and formal requirements for lodging a protest are not met, the protest shall be disregarded.

9.7 If an unfounded or irresponsible protest is lodged, the DC may impose a fine.

10. Equipment and Team Colours

10.1 The participating institutions shall comply with the equipment regulations in force.

10.2 Each team shall inform USSA Football of the Two (2), different and contrasting colours, (one predominately dark and one predominately light) for its official and reserve team kits (shirt, shorts and socks). In addition, each team shall select three (3) contrasting colours for its goalkeeper kits. These three (3) goalkeeper kits must be distinctly different and contrasting from each other as well as different and contrasting from the official and reserve kits. This information shall be sent to USSA Football on the team colour form. Only those colours may be worn during matches.

10.3 Throughout the National Institutional Games, each player shall wear the number assigned to him/her on the official players list in accordance with the regulations.

10.4 Each kit (top and shorts) shall be numbered and it shall be on the back of the shirt and in front maximum 6cm in height on the shorts.

10.5 The official and reserve team kits including those of the goalkeepers shall be taken to every match.

10.6 Branded competition kits shall not be used for the whole duration of the National Institutional Games if the games are sponsored.

10.7 The footballs used in the final competition shall be selected and exclusively supplied by USSA Football. The footballs shall conform to the provisions of the Laws of the game. They shall bear one of the following three designations: the official “FIFA APPROVED” logo, the official “FIFA Inspected” Logo, or the “INTERNATIONAL MATCHBALL STANDARD” reference.

10.8 In the case where training balls are provided by USSA Football as additional training balls on arrival at the host institution, only those balls delivered by USSA Football may be used for training and warm up sessions in the official venues.

11. Venues and Kick-off times of matches

11.1 The venues and kick-off times shall be confirmed by the USSA Football National Institutional Games Organising Committee.

11.2 All matches for both men and women shall last 70 minutes comprising of 35 minutes each half and a half time of 10 minutes.

11.3 The teams shall be allowed to warm up on the pitch before each match, weather permitting.

11.4 Smoking or drinking is not allowed in the technical area

12. Match Officials

12.1 A referee, two (2) assistant referees and a fourth official will be appointed for each match by the SAFA Referee Committee.

12.2 The match officials shall wear their official refereeing kits which were provided by SAFA. They shall wear and use only those kits and equipment on match days.

12.3 If the referee or one of the assistant referees is prevented from carrying out his /her duties, such referee or assistant referee shall be replaced by the fourth official.

12.4 After each match the referee shall complete and sign the official SAFA/USSA Football report form. On the report form the referee shall note all occurred incidences of significance, such as misconduct of players leading to caution or expulsion, unsporting behaviour by supporters and or by officials or any other person acting on behalf of the institution at the match and any other incident happening before, during and after the match in as much detail as possible.

11.5 The decision of the SAFA Referees Committee is final and binding and is not subject to appeal.

13. Laws of game

All matches shall be in accordance with the Laws of the game in force at the time of the USSA Football National Institutional Games.

14. Section A and Section B (Men and Women)

14.1. Section A

- a) Shall consist of a fixed number of twenty (20) teams.
- b) The bottom three (3) teams shall be relegated to Section B.

14.2. Section B

- a) Shall have a maximum of twenty-two (22) teams.
- b) All teams are eligible to be promoted to Section A.
- c) The top three (3) teams shall be promoted to Section A.

15. Draw

15.1 The draw shall take place at least two (2) months before the first match of the final competition.

15.2 The draw shall be organised by USSA Football.

16. Arrival at University of Host Institution

Each team participating in the final competition shall arrive at the Host Institution as per the circular provided by the host institution in consultation with USSA Football NEC.

17. Eligibility of players

Only bona-fide students from participating institutions are allowed to play in the tournament. Players must produce a valid student card or accreditation before each game or upon request by tournament officials.

17.1 Only Bona-fide students will be allowed to participate in the tournament.

The following documents are necessary to be accredited to participate in the tournament.

17.2.1 Valid Student card

17.2.1 Identity Document or Passport

17.2.3 Proof of registration

17.2.4 ID photo (Sent electronically)

18. Player list and official delegation list

18.1 Each participating institution shall submit a list of players (USSA 2 form as well) to the Secretary of USSA Football. The maximum number of the delegation shall be twenty-five (25) people.

18.2 The list of players shall be accompanied at a minimum, by the following:

- Full Name
- All First Names
- Popular Name
- Number to be placed on shirt
- Number of Goals at USSA level
- Position
- Date of Birth
- Height and Weight

18.3 The final list of players and officials shall constitute the official delegation list.

18.4 Before the start of the official competition each player on the list must prove their identity by providing or producing their valid documents as per Article 17 herein.

18.5 All players shall be named on the player list for each match. Not more than fourteen (14) people shall be allowed to sit on the substitute bench. A suspended player will not be allowed to sit on the substitute bench. Up to a maximum of three (3) of substitutions may take place out of the selected players at any time during the match.

18.6 Before the start of the final competition, all team officials on the official delegation list must prove their identity by producing their ID or passport with a photograph. USSA Football shall use each player and a team official with an official accreditation bearing a photograph for accreditations. Each participating institution will receive a maximum of twenty-six (25) accreditations.

18.7 Only players in possession of a valid accreditation may play in the final competition. The accreditation must always be available for inspection.

18.8 As per USSA regulations on submission of forms, no changes can be made on the team list ten (10) days before the official start of the final competition.

18.9 The participating institutions shall ensure that all accreditation data required by USSA Football is submitted by the deadline stipulated by USSA.

19. Competition Format

19.1 The final competition shall be played in a group stage, followed by two (2) knockout stages and the final.

19.2 In the knockout stages, if a match is level at the end of normal time, no extra time shall be played, penalty shoot-outs will be taken to determine the winner.

20. Group Stage for Section A and B (Men & Women)

20.1 The twenty (20) participating teams in Section A will be divided into four (4) groups of five (5) teams.

20.2 The maximum number of participating teams in Section B shall be divided into (4) groups.

20.2 The USSA Football NEC will divide teams into groups by seeding and putting them into different pots, thereafter drawing them in public.

20.3 The system of play will be the round robin system, with each team playing one match against each other in the same group, with three (3) points for a win, one (1) point for a draw and none (0) for a defeat.

20.4 The ranking of each team in each group will be determined as follows:

STAGE 1:

20.4.1 Greatest number of points obtained in all group matches;

20.4.2 Goal difference in all group matches;

20.4.3 Greatest number of goals scored in all group matches;

After applying 20.5.1 to 20.5.3 first and two or more teams are still equal on points at the end of the group matches, their rankings will be determined as follows:

STAGE 2

20.4.4 Greatest number of points obtained in group matches between the teams concerned;

20.4.5 Goal difference resulting from the group matches between the teams concerned;

20.4.6 Greater number of goals scored in all group matches between the teams concerned;

20.4.7 Fair play points system (where cautions and suspensions will be taken into consideration);

20.4.8 Toss of a coin.

20.6 Knockout Stages

- (a) The top two (2) teams finishing first and second in each group qualify for the quarter finals.
 - a) The team finishing third (3) in each group will play for position (9-12),
 - b) The two (2) teams finishing fourth and fifth shall play for positions thirteen to twenty (13-20).
 - c) This shall apply to both section A and Section B taking into account the number of teams.
 - d) Should there be a change in this format particularly in Section B, the USSA Football Tournament Convener will inform members in writing before the start of the tournament.

21. Cautions and suspensions

The following shall apply in relation to the cautions and suspensions;

21.1 Two bookings in two separate matches is punishable by one match suspension;

21.2 A player or team official's send-off (Red Card) is punishable by an immediate suspension from the match and a further one-match automatic suspension. The referees report may warrant further disciplinary action;

21.3 At the end of the round-robin phase all yellow cards incurred will cease to apply but all the players who are to serve suspension will remain suspended.

21.4 Any player, official and team who are deemed to have behaved in a manner that puts the game into disrepute will be summoned to a Disciplinary hearing. The DC is empowered to suspend, fine or expel the people in question as per USSA, SAFA and FIFA Rules and Regulations

22. Trophies and Awards

The following awards will be presented at the end of the tournament for both the men and women in both sections:

22.1 Winners Trophies;

22.2 Team of the Tournament;

22.3 Coach of the Tournament;

22.4 Manager of the Tournament;

22.5 Player of the Tournament;

22.6 Top goal scorer of the Tournament;

22.7 Goalkeeper of the Tournament

23. Selection of National Players

USSA Football National Teams will be selected at the tournament at both Section A and Section B.