



NIGERIAN BAR ASSOCIATION

REGULATIONS ON THE CONDUCT OF THE PRESIDENT'S CUP FOOTBALL COMPETITION AT ANNUAL GENERAL CONFERENCES

DEFINITIONS

AGC - Annual General Conference

AGCPC – Annual General Conference Planning Committee, also referred to as the CPC or the Committee

Branch - A branch of the Nigerian Bar Association

Competition - Refers to football matches that are competed for and can be used interchangeably with the word tournament or game

Conference – The Annual General Conference of the NBA

Home Team: The football team of the city or town hosting the conference or the football team of the branch whose secretariat is closest by distance to the conference city or venue

Merged Team - A football team made up of members from two branches.

Minutes - Refers to minutes relating to time

NBA - Nigerian Bar Association

NBA-AGC -Nigerian Bar Association Annual General Conference

NBA-AGC Chair: Chairperson of the Nigerian Bar Association Annual General Conference Planning Committee

NBA Sports & Recreation Committee: The main sports committee of the NBA

Sub-Committee - The Sports sub-committee of the Annual General Conference Planning Committee, also referred to as the AGC Sports subcommittee or the Sports sub-committee

Qualified Player – A legal practitioner who is a member of the NBA and up to date with his or her bar practicing fees and branch dues and has registered to attend the conference physically

CITATION

These regulations shall be cited as the **NBA Regulations on the Conduct of AGC Football Competitions 2024**

ARTICLE 1: GENERAL POWERS OF THE AGCPC SPORTS SUB-COMMITTEE

1. The Sports sub-committee established by and under the AGCPC shall have the responsibility of organising all the sporting events related to the NBA-AGC including football matches and shall, subject to the approval of the AGCPC, have the power to do the following:
 - a. Set the rules and regulations that will govern the conduct of all the sporting activities at the AGC.
 - b. Plan, execute, supervise and document all the sporting events at the NBA-AGC.
 - c. Hear and resolve disputes arising from the competitions other than those under the direct authority of the referees, umpires or anyone with the responsibility of officiating a sporting event.
 - d. Set timelines for registration and participation of teams and players in the various competitions.
 - e. Determine the registration fees applicable to teams and individuals and the prizes applicable to each sporting event.
 - f. Perform any other duties that may be assigned to the committee.

ARTICLE 2: PRELIMINARIES

2.1 QUALIFICATIONS

- a. Only legal practitioners that are members of the NBA and up to date with their bar practicing fees and branch dues and have registered to attend the conference physically are qualified to take part in the sports competitions during the AGC, including the football competition.
- b. Any qualified player whose name is not on the final list submitted by a branch by the deadline for submission is not qualified to play in the competition.
- c. Any team that fields an unqualified player shall be punished with a match ban. If the match in which an unqualified player is fielded is a final match and the team wins a prize, the prize shall be forfeited to the next winner with the most points and there shall be no limitation on the time frame within which this can occur.

2.2 REGISTRATION

- a. Every team shall pay a non-refundable, non-transferable registration fee of an amount that will be determined from time to time by the CPC.
- b. Teams shall submit their list of players with all details requested by the subcommittee within the specified timelines set out by the sub-committee.
- c. Every team shall have a maximum of 22 registered players including goal keepers. In no circumstances will any team be allowed to have more than 25 persons in total representing the team, comprised of a maximum of 22 players, a team manager, a coach and an assistant coach (optional). All names shall be submitted before the submission deadline set by the sub-committee.
- d. Every team shall have a team manager who shall be the liaison between the team and the subcommittee. The team manager shall be a member of the branch and subject to the same conditions for qualification as players. The team manager shall be different from the coach and/or assistant coach. The coach and assistant coach need not be legal practitioners, except that where

either one of them is a legal practitioner, they shall be required to meet the same conditions for qualification as the players and the team manager.

- e. At registration, each team shall indicate in the specified format, the name, year of call and proof of registration of its team manager, his or her WhatsApp enabled phone number and an email address for communication.
- f. A team shall not substitute any member of the team after submitting the list of team members unless it has applied to the sub-committee stating reasons why such names should be substituted and attaching the names and other relevant details (SCN No, proof of registration and payment of branch dues) of the proposed substitutes.
- g. Any team that submits the names of less than 12 (Twelve) players shall not be approved for registration.
- h. A team that submits less than 22 but more than 12 team members shall have up till 24 hours before the tournament begins to make up their number to 22 players. Should they wish to substitute any team member on the list already submitted, they shall follow the process stated in (f) above.
- i. No team shall be allowed to substitute more than 5 (five) players after submitting their team list.
- j. After the close of registration and before the fixtures draws, the sub-committee shall release the chart that will guide the progression in the games up to the finals and shall communicate this to all registered teams.

2.3 MERGER OF TEAMS

- a. Two branches within a State may merge to form a football team and register as one team.
- b. A merged team shall not be formed by more than two branches and shall not have a player from any other branch outside the branches of two merged teams.

- c. When two branches form a team, the names of the two branches separated by a slash or hyphen shall reflect in the name of the team e.g. Udi/Enugu or Udi-Enugu.
- d. When a merged team wins a prize at the tournament, the two branches shall share the prize equally between them, irrespective of the number of players from any merging team. This is without prejudice to any decision of the merging branches to distribute the whole or part of the prize money amongst the players, in which case it will be shared equally among the individual members of the team.
- e. Without prejudice to Clause 2.3(a), two teams from two different States can merge if all the other teams in their respective States have either registered on their own, or merged with another team in their State, or do not wish to participate in the competition.
- f. In the circumstances outlined in Clause 2.3(e) a team that wishes to participate in the competition may only merge with a branch in another State that shares a border with its State.
- g. There shall be an irrebuttable presumption that merged teams contributed equally to register and participate in the tournament and no part in a merged team shall claim an advantage on the grounds that they contributed more to participating at the tournament.
- h. In a merged team, one team shall contribute not less than one third of the total number of registered players.
- i. If a merged team wins a tournament at the AGC, the team shall defend the title as a merged team at the next AGC tournament.
- j. No merged team shall be allowed to disband while they are defending champions unless they lose the title to another team.
- j. No merged team shall disband during a tournament to form an independent team or form a merger with another team.

- k. Any merged team that receives a punishment shall not participate in the next match or competition, either as a merged team or as separate teams unless they satisfy their liabilities as a merged team.
- l. Neither branch in a winning merged team may in any circumstance independently lay claim, take advantage of or put themselves out as the winner of the tournament.
- m. In the case of a merged team, the details to be submitted upon registration shall include an agreement to compete as a team signed by the Chairmen of both branches in the format contained in Form A annexed to these regulations.

ARTICLE 3: RULES

3.1 GENERAL RULES

- a. The games shall begin at 8am daily. Teams are expected to arrive at the pitch no later than 7:15am for verification of players before each match.
- b. Verification of team members shall be conducted 45mins before the start of each match and all team members are expected to have with them valid identity cards.
- c. No player shall be allowed to play in a match without first providing a valid and verifiable means of identity.
- d. All team members must be lawyers and must have registered for the conference.
- e. No player shall be allowed to participate in any match if his or her name is not on the list of team members submitted by the branch by or before the stated deadline and in accordance with the provisions set out in these regulations.

- f. Any team that fails to show up 10mins after the scheduled start time shall be walked over and the opposing team shall be awarded 3 points and 3 goals.
- g. A team must have at least 8 players including a goalkeeper to start a match.
- h. The duration of the game at the group stage shall be 25 minutes per half and a 5-minute half time while the quarterfinals, semi-finals, third place matches and the finals shall have a duration of 35 minutes per half and a 10-minute half time.
- i. In the event of a draw at the knock-out stage, the teams shall go straight to penalty shootouts which shall be in accordance with extant FIFA rules.

3.2 CARDS

- a. The team of a player that is shown a yellow card shall pay the sum of ₦2000.00 (Two Thousand Naira Only) for each yellow card given in a match.
- b. The team of a player that is shown a red card shall pay the sum of ₦10,000.00 (Ten Thousand Naira Only) for each red card given in a match.
- c. The amount shall be payable to the NBA via an account designated for such purpose and shall be payable before the team's next match.
- d. Where the team does not have another match, the amount shall be paid within 48 hours of the match during which the card was given.
- e. In the case of default in (d) above, the sub-committee shall communicate with the branch through their designated contact person by their stated email address demanding for the payment to be made. If the branch fails, neglects or refuses to pay within a further 48-hour period from the time the demand is made, a further payment of ₦20, 000.00 (Twenty Thousand Naira Only) shall be imposed against the branch.

- f. The sub-committee shall have the power to fine, ban or suspend any team whose member or branch remains recalcitrant in paying for any card(s) given. If the card is awarded in a final or semi-final match, the sub-committee reserves the right to remove the amount from any prize money won, in addition to any other punishment it may mete out in its discretion.
- g. Any player who receives a red card shall receive a one-match ban and shall not play in the next match of his team.

3.3 KITS

- a. All teams shall have two sets of jerseys in two different colours and shall attach a picture of their jerseys when submitting their list of players.
- b. All players in a team except for the Goalkeeper shall wear the same jersey of the same colour and shall wear boots and shin guards at every match.
- c. Where the jerseys of two teams fixed to play a match are the same colour, the home team's right to use its preferred jersey shall supersede that of the other team.

3.4 REFEREES

- a. All decisions of the referees shall be final and any attack on the referee and/or any other match officials by any team member and/or supporter(s) of a team shall be immediately punishable with disqualification from further participation in the competition and the team may be banned from participation in subsequent AGC competitions for a specified period.

3.5 PRIZE

- a. All prize money shall be paid into the bank accounts of the branches of the winning teams.
- b. All prizes other than money shall be awarded in the name of the branch of the winning team.

- c. In the case of a team comprising two branches, the prize money shall be paid into the account number designated by the merged team.

ARTICLE 4: COMMUNICATIONS

- a. Any communication via emails and WhatsApp messages shall be valid communication. In the case of a WhatsApp message, it shall not be valid unless it is preceded or followed by an email.
- b. Any communication sent to the Chairman or Secretary or any other member of the Branch EXCO of either of the branches of a merged team shall be deemed to be binding on both branches.
- c. Any communication to or from the Team Manager relating to fixtures, time, numbers, dates, disputes or any information whatsoever shall be deemed to be valid communication to or from the team.
- d. Nothing in clause c above shall invalidate any written or electronic communication made instead to the Chairman or Secretary of the branch by the sub-committee.
- e. The sub-committee shall not be liable for the failure of the Team Manager of a team or the Chairman or Secretary of a branch to communicate to the team any information sent to them.
- f. It is the responsibility of each team to ensure that the email address forwarded to the sub-committee is correctly spelt as no case shall be made on the ground that the email address forwarded to the AGC Sports committee was wrong. Any email sent to such email address by the sub-committee shall be deemed to be valid communication.

ARTICLE 5. DISCIPLINE

- a. The AGC Sports sub-committee shall have the power to penalise any team for non-compliance with these rules and any other act(s) during the tournament which in the opinion of the sub-committee constitutes a punishable act of indiscipline.

- b. When the AGC Sports sub-committee takes a decision on the field of play against a team, such decision shall also be communicated to the team in writing within 24 hours.
- c. All written complaints against any punishment levied against a team shall be signed by the Branch Chairman or Secretary, or the branch's Sports Committee Chair, and the Team Manager.
- d. The sub-committee or any panel constituted to review complaints shall not entertain any complaint from an individual player or team member.
- e. The sub-committee shall not have the power to penalise a player for fouls in the ordinary course of a game that are within the power of the referee to do.
- f. The sub-committee shall have the power to impose a ban, a fine and any other form of punishment to maintain the integrity of the competition.
- g. Any team that features a player who is not a legal practitioner shall be banned for a number of years to be determined by the AGC Sports sub-committee and where such a team wins a prize, the prize shall be withdrawn and awarded to the next team.
- h. Any team that engages in a fight or any form of hooliganism on or off the football pitch, shall be banned for a number of years to be proposed by the sub-committee to the AGCPC and subject to ratification by NEC and no member of that team shall qualify to play in the competition under any guise whatsoever during the period of the ban, including changing his or her membership to another branch before the next AGC. When a team is banned for any reason under these regulations, no member of the team shall play in any other team during the subsistence of the ban.
- i. Any player or team member indicted in Clause (h) above shall be referred to the Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Committee.
- j. Teams shall be held liable for any acts of indiscipline by their fans/supporters. Where such fans/supporters are legal practitioners they shall also be referred to the Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Committee.

- k. There shall be an AGC Sports sub-committee Dispute Panel constituted by the Chairman of the AGC Sports sub-committee for the purpose of hearing complaints arising from the competition.
- l. The AGC Sports sub-committee Chairman shall chair all dispute panels unless any of the parties before the panel involves the Chairman's branch, in which case he shall appoint another member of the sub-committee to chair the panel.
- m. No member of the panel shall come from a branch which has a dispute before it.
- n. Nothing in these regulations shall prevent the Chairman from appointing anyone outside the AGC Sports sub-committee for the purpose of settling any dispute or resolving any complaint.
- o. Any team that has a complaint against another team or person(s) shall file a complaint within 48 hours of the event complained of and upon receipt, the sub-committee shall forward the complaint to the other team and/or person(s) for their response within 48 hours.
- p. Every team shall have the right to be heard within the time stated in a summons.
- q. No dispute shall be filed in respect of any matter relating to clause 3:2 of these regulations.
- r. Save for any complaint in respect of a team fielding a non-lawyer or otherwise unqualified player, any complaint not brought by a party within 48 hours of the event occurring shall not be entertained and the complaint shall be deemed to be obsolete.

ARTICLE 6. APPEALS

- a. Appeals from the decisions of the panels set up by the AGCPC Sports sub-committee shall lie to the Chairman of the NBA Sports & Recreation Committee, who shall constitute from amongst the members of the NBA

Sports & Recreation Committee and the CPC on the recommendation of the Chair of the AGCPC, an odd numbered Appeal panel of not less than three members, to hear appeals from the decision(s) of the AGC Sports sub-committee.

- b. Members of the Appeals Committee shall be members of the NBA Sports & Recreation Committee who registered for and participated in the AGC.
- c. Any team that is not satisfied by the decision of the AGC Sports sub-committee shall within 48 hours send a further appeal to the Appeal Panel by transmitting via email their original statement to the AGC Sports subcommittee upon which the AGC sports sub-committee made a decision and the decision of the AGC Sports sub-committee or a statement on the decision of the AGC Sports sub-committee if such decision was taken the sub-committee verbally on the field of play.
- d. The Appeal Committee shall have the power to decide all appeals, which must be decided within one month without prejudice to the fact that a new Executive Committee of the NBA may be constituted and/or a new Sports & Recreation Committee inaugurated.

ARTICLE 7: POWER TO MAKE RULES

- a. The AGCPC shall have the power to make and adopt subsidiary rules in a case of a lacuna in these regulations and such rules shall not be inconsistent with any express provision in these regulations.
- b. FIFA Rules shall apply in event that there are no express provisions in these regulations and no subsidiary rules on any matter made by the AGC Sports sub-committee.

REGULATIONS DRAFTING COMMITTEE

M.A Lawan Esq.- Chairman, NBA Sports & Recreation Committee

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Anthony Atata - Chairman, 2024 NBA-AGC Sports sub-committee

Caroline Ladidi Anze-Bishop

Cyril Oriabure

Clement Eddy Okhaigbe

Adesua Erewele

Umar Shehu Garba

Olujimi Olujide-Poko

Farida Umar Usman- Secretary

Hadiza Nasir Ahmad

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AGREEMENT TO MERGE AS A TEAM

The Nigerian Bar AssociationBranch
inState and the Nigerian Bar
Association.....Branch in
..... State have agreed to merge to
participate as a team in the President’s Cup football competition
at the Annual General Conference holding in
.....

Our team shall be known as the...../..... Team

Our email address is.....

Our contact person is:

Name.....

Designation & Branch.....

Telephone Number.....

Registration details.....

SIGNED:

SIGNATURE.....

NAME.....

BRANCH.....

DESIGNATION.....

SIGNED:

SIGNATURE.....

NAME.....

BRANCH.....

DESIGNATION.....