

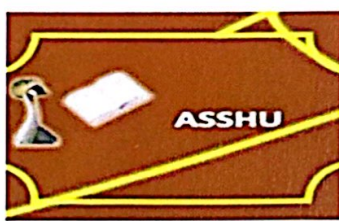


REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SPORTS (MOES)

**DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORTS**

**IN COLLABORATION WITH**



**ASSOCIATION OF SECONDARY SCHOOL HEADTEACHERS**

**OF UGANDA (ASSHU) AND**



**UGANDA SECONDARY SCHOOLS SPORTS**

**ASSOCIATION (USSSA)**

**2024**

**COMPETITION RULES AND  
REGULATIONS**

*[Handwritten signatures]*

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## ABBREVIATIONS USED

1. **MoES:** Ministry of Education and Sports
2. **PESD:** Physical Education and Sports Department
3. **ASSHU:** Association of Secondary School Headteachers of Uganda
4. **USSSA:** Uganda Secondary Schools Sports Association
5. **ZSSSA:** Zonal Secondary Schools Sports Association
6. **DSSSA:** District Secondary Schools Sports Association
7. **NIN:** National Identification Number
8. **LIN:** Learner Identification Number
9. **EMIS:** Education Management Information System
10. **FEASSA:** Federation of East Africa Schools Sports Association
11. **ISF:** International School Sport Federation
12. **ID:** Identification
13. **FASS:** Africa School Sport Federation
14. **ASC:** Athletes Status Committee
15. **UCE:** Uganda Certificate of Education
16. **UACE:** Uganda Advanced Certificate of Education
17. **NSA:** National Sports Act
18. **TC:** Technical Commission
19. **DC:** Disciplinary Committee
20. **CEO:** Chief Executive Officer
21. **FoPo:** Field of Play Officials



## DEFINITION OF TERMS USED

1. **Zone:** as defined in the USSSA Constitution
2. **District:** as defined in Constitution of the Republic of Uganda
3. **Region:** as defined in Constitution of the Republic of Uganda
4. **School:** in this context refers to a Secondary School or its equivalent for those offering International curriculum offering education curriculum leading to award of Uganda Certificate of Education (UCE) or Uganda Advanced Certificate of Education (UACE) or its equivalent
5. **Registered Student:** a learner who has registered with the Ministry of Education and Sports on Education Management Information System (EMIS) and bears Learners Identification Number (LIN)
6. **Bona-fide student:** a learner who has valid admission and fully registered and enrolled with a secondary school to pursue an academic program under the Uganda education system of education leading to award UCE, UACE or its equivalent. He/she must have a Valid School Identify Card
7. **Registered Player/student:** means a bona-fide Student/Player who is registered by the School onto the USSSA Online registration Portal to participate in the MoES Championships organized by the Uganda Secondary Schools Sports Association (USSSA).
8. **Players' Album:** a document that contains a collection of players' photographs, bio data information and details which is automatically generated from the USSSA Online Registration Portal.
9. **Registration Form A:** a document with a set of fields which the games teacher feeds in the players' details and other relevant information as registered on to the USSSA Online Registration Portal. The form is used screening of players/athletes.



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## **PREAMBLE**

The Ministry of Education and Sports' (MoES) Vision is ***“Quality Education and Sports for All”***. MoES therefore is mandated to *provide quality Education and Sports services in the country which are constitutional obligations for Uganda as a State and Government. The MoES within the constitutional mandates, provide for technical support, guide, coordinate, regulate, and promote the delivery of quality education and sports to all persons in Uganda; for national integration, individual and national development.*

Various Sub-sectors under the MoES in the above respect were created to discharge key functions in line with their respective mandates, but all contributes to the attainment to the overall Mission and Vision of the Ministry. The Physical Education and Sports (PES), Sub- sector through the Physical Education and Sports department (PESD), and the National Council of Sports (NCS) play complementary roles but both contributes to attain the overall vision of the Ministry through provision of Physical Education and Sports services to the citizens.

These MoES entities work in partnership with other relevant and critical stakeholders like the National Sports Federations and Associations in delivery of Sports Services. The Uganda Secondary Schools Sports Association (USSSA) and Association of Secondary School Headteachers of Uganda (ASSHU) recognized by the MoES are such Associations implementing Secondary Schools Sports competitions while the MoES that plays supervisory roles.

These rules and regulations are the MoES instrument prepared with the best interest of the learners in mind; to address issues of malpractices bring sanity in sports competitions; irregularities in application of



championship rules and regulations; ensure fair play and good governance of the championships, foster credibility of the Secondary School Sports championships; and empower USSSA and ASSHU act within the confines of rule and regulations which is anchored on the sports existing legal frameworks.

## **MANDATE**

The USSSA as an affiliate to PESD is mandated to organize Secondary Schools Sports Association competitions in collaboration with ASSHU for talent identification and development at that level.

## **GENERAL OBJECTIVES**

The Objectives of these Rules and Regulations is to promote fair participation in sports by all Secondary Schools. It's derived from Section 3 (e) of the National Sports Act (2023) which is anchored on the Article 8A of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda (1995) as amended and the directive principle of state policy XVIII.

## **SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES**

To ensure smooth running, organization and management of Secondary School Sports Competition in the Country by:-

- a) Setting up an appropriate structure to guide Secondary School Sports competitions of each Member of the organization
- b) Prescribing and managing all School Sports Competitions from the Grassroots to National Level
- c) Domesticating International Sports Competition Rules to Secondary Schools Competition context and:
- d) Ensuring uniform application of the rules and regulation across all competition levels from the grassroots to National Level.





## **ARTICLE 1: CODE OF CONDUCT**

The Secondary School Sports competitions are an extension of Physical Education Curriculum and expected to contribute to the Ministry's Vision and Mission.

Guidelines and/or codes of ethics and conducts of all concerned parties become inevitable and crucial component of the competition.

Sportsmanlike conducts such as discipline, fair play, respect, courtesy towards opponents, officials, and fans, from the Players. The teams officials are to observe high level of professionalism and ethical standards as USSSA implements the sports competitions with its attendant's rules and regulations governing individual sport and the general management of the competitions.

USSSA expects sportsmanlike behavior from our members at District, Zonal, and National level and when dealing with, Participants, Games Teachers and Spectators. Playing in the spirit of winning or winning at all costs is not our only goal.

The following pages in this Handbook spells out the administrative framework and rules governing USSSA organized competitions in the various sports disciplines.

## **ARTICLE 2: RULES AND REGULATIONS**

- a) Title of the tournaments shall be as specified by USSSA through guidance from the MoES
- b) USSSA District and Zonal Associations in right standing with USSSA are free to organize and take part in USSSA competition.
- c) "Only competitions run under these rules (2024) shall be recognized



- d) All Secondary Schools Sports Competition(s) a National Level shall be organized and managed by Uganda Secondary Schools Sports Association (USSSA).
- e) Any member Zone and its School, District, City hosting USSSA competitions will work closely with USSSA to ensure the smooth preparations and management of the competition(s)
- f) All registered Private and Government Aided secondary schools are in right standing with USSSA and are eligible to participate in USSSA organized activities.
- g) All teams (schools) to play qualifiers at the District and Zones will be released by the USSSA Secretariat as per Registration and;
- h) Zones / Districts that will play qualifiers without Registration onto the USSSA Online Registration Portal, will not be represented at the National championships

### **ARTICLE 3: MANAGEMENT OF COMPETITIONS AT DISTRICT AND ZONE LEVEL**

- a) The District Secondary Schools Sports Associations (DSSSA) shall in liaison with the Districts supervise schools' competitions at the Districts;
- b) The Zonal Secondary Schools Sports Association (ZSSSA) shall organize, coordinate, report supervise competitions at the Zone;
- c) The DSSSA shall select and recommend school teams to participate at the Zone while ZSSSA shall select and recommend teams to the national competitions and;
- d) USSSA may invite a school directly to participate at National level if deemed necessary.



## **ARTICLE 4: ENTRY**

- a) Each DSSSA through its Secretariat will present teams to the zone that have qualified for Zonal competition(s) as specified by the Zone.
- b) Each ZSSSA through its Secretariat will present teams to USSSA that have qualified for National competition(s) as per the National slots.

## **ARTICLE 5: QUALIFICATION OF THE SCHOOL TEAM**

- a) The school must be registered with and be licensed by the MoES;
- b) The school must be following the Normal National or International School Curriculum; sports academies are not allowed;
- c) To participate in the National competition(s), all teams from each member zone must have qualified through the gazette competition stages and/or must have received an invitation from USSSA Secretariat.
- d) Each team must present Player's Registration Form A, filled by the Games Teacher, endorsed by the Headteacher and bearing official school stamp;
- e) Each School must print and present an up-to-date Player's albums from USSSA Online Registration System, and;
- f) Each team must meet all the requirements specified in the invitation letter.

## **ARTICLE 6: ETHICAL CONDUCT**

All participants and officials must:-

- a) Act with honesty, transparency and be accountable for all omissions and commissions



- b) All players must demonstrate sportsmanship both on and off pitch/ court at all times; and should ensure fair play is a core element of USSSA Championship(s).
- c) Any participant or official who engages in unethical conduct will face the disciplinary committee and is liable to be sanctioned
- d) Refusal to furnish all information relevant to an investigation of a possible violation of any USSSA regulation when required will have amount to an offence and is liable to sanctioned by the disciplinary committee.

## **ARTICLE 7: ELIGIBILITY**

All bona-fide students are eligible to participate so long as he/she;

- a) Has been duly admitted in the school according to the published entrance requirements by the MoES;
- b) Is able to produce current school identity card, a certified testimonial and/or valid P7 UNEB pass slip for the 'O' level and, P7 and S4 UNEB pass slips for 'A' level. In absence of pass slips, the UNEB verification letter must bear the date of birth of the student and must have gone through the screening exercise;
- c) Is within the specified age. In case of conflicting dates of birth in the Pass slip, NIRA, EMIS, USSSA Registration system or Federation Player's license, the earlier date will be considered as official;
- d) Is on normal academic progression. Repeaters are not eligible;
- e) Shall compete for only one school in a season of USSSA sports calendar. (One school in a calendar year) ;
- f) Has not used prohibited substances to enhance Performance
- g) Is registered on the EMIS (possess LIN) and on USSSA Online Registration System for that year and.
- h) Possesses an up to date School ID



## ARTICLE 8: CHANGE OF SCHOOL

- a) A student on sports bursary may change school provided that he/she gets clearance of the former school;
- b) A student not on sports bursary is free to change and without any encumbrances;
- c) Any aggrieved student who has been refused transfer may appeal to the USSSA Athletes Status Committee (ASC) who may after consultations with relevant MoES Departments allow the transfer;
- d) Each school shall be required to register all students on the sports bursary in the USSSA Online Registration. The Registration form shall be signed by the Parent, Student and Head teacher. Any student whose bursary has not been registered in the system is a free agent.
- e) A student who has already played for another school in a particular calendar year may change school but cannot play for the new school with in the same calendar year and;
- f) Any school that denies a student his/her ORIGINAL UNEB documents commits an offence and is liable to sanction under these rules and regulation.

## ARTICLE 9: FIELDING INELIGIBLE PLAYERS

- a) **Ineligible (non-bona-fide):** fielding a non-bona-fide player in a competition is an offence.
- b) A school team and its respective officials that fields a non-bona-fide student shall be disqualified from the competition, banned for a minimum of 2 years.
- c) Affected player and official shall be banned from participating in all USSSA related school tournaments for a minimum of 2 years.
- d) Addition sanctions may be levied as the organizers deem necessary;



## ARTICLE 10: MULTI-PRACTICES

### a) **Illegal substances:**

- (i) Any player caught in possession of or involved in use of illegal substances shall be expelled from the tournaments venue and banned from USSSA tournaments for 3 years;
- (ii) Any official promoting illegal substance use to enhance performance will be banned from handling players and will face the disciplinary committee;

### b) **Double licensed:**

- (i) A player who plays for more than one school in a USSSA sports season shall be banned for a minimum of 2 years;
- (ii) The defaulting school shall face sanctions as may be provided for in these rules;

### c) **Ineligible (impersonation):**

- (i) A school that fields a player who impersonates by using another student's name and or academic documents shall be guilty of using a non-bona-fide player
- (ii) Shall be banned for a minimum of 2 years and may face additional sanctions as provided for in these rules;

### d) **Ineligible (unregistered):**

- (i) A school that fields an unregistered player, that affected player will be disqualified from the Tournaments;
- (ii) The school shall lose all the matches played with that player was fielded and;
- (iii) Pay a fine as provided for in these rules and regulations or as determined by the Organizers.



**e) Forgery:**

- (i) Any school that submits/presents forged and or inconsistent academic documents to the organizers shall be sanctioned as provided for in these rules and regulations and;
- (ii) Such officials may be forwarded to the Ministry of Education and Sports Awards and Sanctions committee for disciplinary action.

**ARTICLE 11: DISCIPLINE ON AND OFF THE FIELD**

- a) All players shall play in accordance with the Rules governing the respective game;
- b) Any player who physically attacks a referee or any authorized person(s) before, during or after the match shall be disqualified / expelled from the tournament and face extra sanctions as provided for by the laws, rules and regulations of the games (International Laws) ;
- c) Officials managing the team(s), who physically attack a Referee or any authorized person(s) before, during or after a match shall be expelled from participating in the tournament and banned for a minimum of 2 years. They may face extra sanctions as determined by the Organizers and the Rewards and Sanctions Committee of Ministry of Education and Sports;
- d) For all official matters, the organizers shall only deal with a professional teacher officially registered for the tournament;
- e) Every school team must be accompanied by a Games teacher who must be a trained professional teacher registered with MoES, a Coach with a minimum of Beginner's License from the National Sports Federation, a trained Assistant Coach who is a student, Medical Officer and Media Officer who is a student.



- f) No team will be permitted to use;
  - a. Branded uniforms during the tournament unless if cleared by the organizers. This will apply only where there is an official sponsor for the tournament;
  - b. Unauthorized products during the tournament; especially in the residential quarters, and the Training/Match grounds will not be allowed where there is an official sponsor.
- g) Failure to observe the provision (f) and (g) above, the affected team will pay a fine as agreed by the Judiciary or will be disqualified from the tournament.

## **ARTICLE 12: SECURITY**

- i. The Host at the Zone, District, School and organizers shall be responsible for security during the championship;
- ii. All participants and officials will be accredited to the Tournaments;
- iii. All participants and officials should wear their accreditation cards at all the times during the championships;
- iv. Accreditation cards will be used alongside the other documents to prove eligibility of the player;
- v. All participants should be in their respective Games Village by 7.00pm;
- vi. Any player that shall be found outside the Games Village after 7.00pm shall be construed to be out of bounds and shall be subjected to disciplinary action by the organizers. The penalty may affect the whole team and;
- vii. Any team or player(s) that will fail to observe the above, shall be sanctioned as provided for by the rules and regulations;





## ARTICLE 13: SANCTION AND PENALTIES

- a) If a team violates the USSSA rules and regulations, the USSSA Disciplinary Committee bodies may implore one or more of the following sanctions upon individual, individuals or school team;-
- (i) Suspension,
  - (ii) Probation,
  - (iii) Disqualification,
  - (iv) Forfeiture of Contest,
  - (v) Docking of Points
  - (vi) Reprimand
  - (vii) Fine.
  - (viii) Ban
  - (ix) Referred to Rewards and Sanctions Committee of MoES;
- b) Before imposing any sanction set forth, the Disciplinary Committee must approve the sanctions by an affirmative majority vote of those members voting. The Disciplinary Committee shall consider the following factors when determining the level of sanctions:-
- (i) The nature of the violation,
  - (ii) Whether the violation was deliberate,
  - (iii) Whether violations were repeated,
  - (iv) Whether the school or the individual team of the member school has previously violated the USSSA's constitution, rules and regulations.
  - (v) Whether the school or individual team of the member school reported its violation to the USSSA,
  - (vi) Whether the school or individual team of the member school was cooperative with the USSSA in investigating its violation; and



(vii) Whether the school or individual team of a member school imposed its own sanction.

(viii) If the offender was aware of the consequences of the offence before committing the offence.

a) **Expulsion:** - A member school may be expelled from participation in the USSSA activities for serious and deliberate or violations of the terms of the USSSA's constitution, rules and regulations.

**b) Suspension**

(i) A school or an individual team may be suspended from participation in the USSSA for:

(ii) Unsportsmanlike conduct on the part of the Team manager, coach or student.

(iii) Playing in a game or contest against a suspended entity e.g. member school or a suspended individual team of a member school.

(iv) Violation of the rules governing recruitment of students.

(v) Additional violations during the term of probation.

(vi) Violation of the eligibility rules as set forth in one of the Articles of these rules.

(vii) Such other violations of the USSSA constitution, rules and regulations as the Executive may direct

(viii) Suspension from the USSSA shall not be less than 365 days commencing at the start of the next sports season.

**NB: Suspended teams, school, individuals will be publicized with reasons for their suspension.**

**3. Probation**

a) A school or team may be placed on probationary status for;

i. Unsportsmanlike conduct on the part of the Team manager, coaches or students Athletes.



- ii. Playing in a game or contest against a suspended member school or a suspended individual team of a member school.
  - iii. Violation of the rules governing recruitment of athletes.
  - iv. Violation of the eligibility rules as set forth in one of the Articles of these rules.
  - v. Other violations of the USSSA's Constitution, rules and regulations as the Executive Committee may determine in its discretion.
- b) A team shall be placed on probationary status for a term not less than 365 days commencing immediately.
- i. During the term of probation, the school or team may play all scheduled tournaments and be included in future schedules but shall be ineligible for championships or related to the concerned discipline.

**NB: the organizers shall publish the list of individuals, players and schools on probation for avoidance of doubt.**

#### **4. Forfeiture**

- (i) A team that is not ready to take on a match 30 minutes after its scheduled time shall forfeit the match.
- (ii) A team that reports for a match 10 minutes after its scheduled time shall pay a fine as agreed by the Judiciary.

#### **5. Reprimand:-**

USSSA may also issue an official letter of reprimand to individuals, a school or an individual for a violation of the USSSA's constitution, rules and regulations.

#### **6. Sanctions by agreement:-**

- i. As a supplement to the sanctions set forth above, the Secretariat shall have the discretion to consider and recommend to the executive



committee such other or alternative sanctions as may be proposed by the applicable school (agreement)

- ii. The Executive Committee shall have the discretion to consider and approve or not approve any such proposed agreement; provided that neither the Secretariat, nor the Executive committee, shall be obligated to consider, negotiate, approve or enter into any agreement.
- iii. In the event that the USSSA and a member association or school shall enter into an agreement, the member association or school's failure to comply with the terms of the agreement shall be deemed an independent violation of these rules. Existing agreements and its teams shall be communicated to all parties.

#### **7. Ejection: -**

- i. Any player or coach, who is ejected for any reason from a game or contest, is automatically suspended from participating in a minimum of one game or contest, commencing with the team's next scheduled game or contest.
- ii. It is a responsibility of the match commissar to enforce this rule and to notify the secretariat of the ejection and subsequent suspension.
- iii. USSSA and its member associations shall make know to all teams the ejected player, official or school team.

### **ARTICLE 14: SUBMISSION OF DOCUMENTS**

Member Associations which fail to submit documents as requested by the secretariat within the due dates will be fined not less than UGX.100,000 per member.

### **ARTICLE 15: DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE**

#### **a) Disciplinary Committee**

There shall be a Disciplinary Committee (DC) for each Tournament which shall consist of;



- i. The Chairman as appointed by the Executive Committee.
- ii. The ASSHU representative.
- iii. The Commissar of that sport discipline contested for.
- iv. A member of the Technical Commission (TC) of the sport.
- v. The organizer of the sport.

#### **b) Roles of the Disciplinary Committee**

The Committee shall:

- i. The committee shall take necessary emergency measures to ensure the smooth technical of the competitions.
- ii. Have the discretion on how to conduct the procedures of its meetings.
- iii. Decide on disputes or queries arising immediately from the competition or match.
- iv. The Committee shall report to the Executive Committee
- v. Its quorum shall be.
  - a) The Chairperson
  - b) Any other two members

### **ARTICLE 16: COMPLAINTS AND PETITIONS**

- a) A complaint resulting from a given match must reach the chairperson or commissar in charge of the respective sports discipline within 24 hours after the end of the game/match
- b) It must be presented by the Team manager of the complaining/aggrieved team.
- c) The Complaint/Petition must be accompanied with a non-refundable fee of **Shs.100,000,**
- d) The Chairperson may give a ruling if the case is basically technical
- e) If, however, the complaint is more serious and non-technical, the Chairperson will call for a meeting of the Disciplinary Committee



which will deliberate on the issue and give a ruling or a recommendation.

- f) During a championship the decisions made by the disciplinary committee are final however; the affected team can appeal to the Appeals Committee.

## **ARTICLE 17: APPEALS COMMITTEE**

This shall be provided by the USSSA Constitution

## **ARTICLE 18: FIXTURES**

### **a) Walk-overs:**

- (i) A team may be awarded a walk-over if its opponent fails to take up the match 30 minutes after the scheduled time.

### **b) Honour of fixtures:**

- (i) A team MUST honour all fixtures. Failure to honour matches will attract sanctions as determined by the Organizing Committee.

### **c) Postponement:**

- (i) The provisions of 12 (i) notwithstanding the organizing committee has the authority to reschedule the match.
- (ii) Only the Organizing committee has the authority to reschedule a match

### **d) Interference of Matches:**

- (i) Each team is responsible for the action of its players, officials and spectators.
- (ii) If a game is suspended or terminated or interrupted by the interference of supporters of a particular school, that team will lose the match. Further sanction may be imposed against the team, individual players, officials or school.



## ARTICLE 19: RESULTS

- a) Results of matches, giving full details, to be handed in, in writing on official match results forms, to the Commissar not later than 1 hour after the match had been completed by the organizer of the concerned sport.
- b) The Executive Committee through its CEO shall be responsible for displaying up to date details of the Tournaments.
- c) In the case of a member school withdrawing from the tournament(s) before playing 75% of its matches or before the final positions have been determined, the result of matches played by that team will be nullified. Otherwise the remaining teams will forfeiture. And such a team will be sanctioned.
- d) Every sports discipline will be played following the international rules and laws that govern that sport. In case of any adjustments in the rules and laws, communication will be done in advance to all affected parties.

## ARTICLE 20: MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR

Any matters not provided for in these Rules and Regulations shall be decided upon by the Jury of appeal in line with the Ministry of Educations and Sports standing orders and International Schools Sports Federation (ISF) and International Laws, Rules and Regulations governing specific Sports Disciples, .

.....  
Mugisha Christopher Banage

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (CEO)**

.....  
Mugisha Justus

Mugisha Justus

**PRESIDENT**

.....  
Commissioner Physical Education and Sports

Commissioner Physical Education and Sports

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SPORTS (MoES)**