



**REPUBLIC OF UGANDA  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SPORTS**

**2026**

**SECONDARY SCHOOL SPORTS  
COMPETITION RULE BOOK**

Prepared and approved by;

**DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORTS**

**IN COLLABORATION WITH**

**ASSOCIATION OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS**

**HEADTEACHERS OF UGANDA**

**AND**


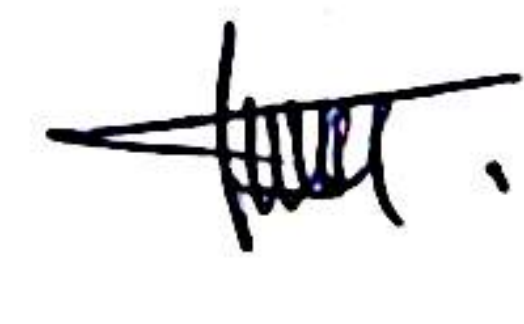
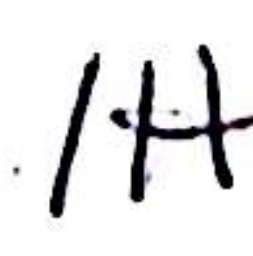
**UGANDA SECONDARY SCHOOLS SPORTS ASSOCIATION**

**2026**

*[Handwritten signatures]*

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>1.0 INTRODUCTION</b> .....	5
1.1 BACKGROUND.....	5
1.2 OBJECTIVES OF THE RULES .....	6
<b>2.0 THE SECONDARY SCHOOL SPORTS COMPETITION RULES</b> .....	6
R1: DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS.....	7
R2: SCOPE OF THE RULES .....	7
R3: NAMING OF THE COMPETITION.....	8
R4: ORGANIZATION OF THE COMPETITION .....	8
R5: CATEGORIZATION OF THE COMPETITION .....	8
<b>R6: ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE COMPETITION</b> .....	10
R6.1 Eligibility Requirements for Schools .....	10
R6.2 Eligibility Requirements for Student athletes .....	10
R6.3 Eligibility Requirement for Refugee learners.....	11
R6.4 Eligibility Requirement for International learners.....	12
R6.5 Grounds for nullification of eligibility.....	12
R6.6 Effect of fielding ineligible players .....	13
R7: REGISTRATION OF PARTICIPANTS.....	13
<b>R8: CODE OF CONDUCT FOR THE COMPETITION</b> .....	13
R8.1 Ethical Conduct .....	13
R8.2 Discipline on and off the .....Field .....	14
R8.3 Illegal substances .....	14
R8.4 Double Licensing.....	14
R8.5 Impersonation .....	15
R8.6 Unregistered student athlete.....	15
R8.7 Forgery.....	15
R8.8 Team Supports Officials.....	15
R8.9 Tournament Uniforms.....	16
R8.10 Beverages and authorized substances .....	16
<b>R9: MANAGEMENT OF COMPETITIONS AT DISTRICT AND ZONE LEVEL</b> .....	16
R9.1: Entry into Zonal Competition.....	17
R10: SPORTS BURSARY AND IMPLICATION ON BENEFICIARIES.....	18
<b>R11: CHANGE OF SCHOOLS BY STUDENT ATHLETES</b> .....	18
R11.1 Pre-conditions for changing schools .....	18
R12: SECURITY MEASURES .....	19
R13: A. SANCTIONS AND DISCIPLINARY MEASURES .....	20
R13: B. EXPLANATION ON SANCTIONS.....	20

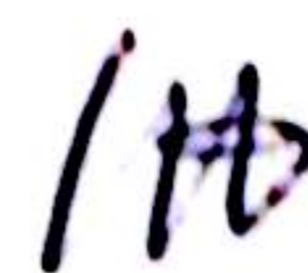
 1  

R13.1 Disciplinary Committee .....	23
R13.2 Complaints/Petitions .....	23
R14: APPEAL MECHANISM .....	24
R14: APPLICABILITY OF TECHNICAL RULES .....	24
R15: MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS .....	24
R16: COMPETITION REPORT .....	25
R17: RESULTS MANAGEMENT AND IMPLICATIONS .....	25
3.0 DECLARATION AND APPROVAL .....	26

~~\_\_\_\_\_~~      ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~      1/16

## LIST OF ACRONYMS

ASC	Athletes Status Committee
ASSHU	Association of Secondary School Headteachers of Uganda
DSSSA	District Secondary Schools Sports Association
EMIS	Education Management Information System
FASS	Africa School Sport Federation
FEASSA	Federation of East Africa Schools Sports Association
ID	Identification
ISF	International School Sport Federation
LIN	Learner Identification Number National Sports Act
MoES	Ministry of Education and Sports
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NIN	National Identification Number
NSA	National Sports Act
NSC	National Council of sports
NSF	National Sports Federations
PESD	Physical Education and Sports Department
R	Rule
USSSA	Uganda Secondary Schools Sports Association
ZSSSA	Zonal Secondary Schools Sports Association




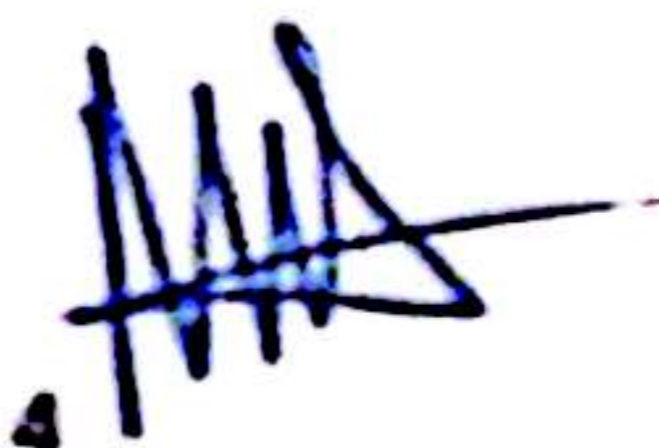
## PREAMBLE

---

WHEREAS the vision of the Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES) is 'Quality Education and Sports for all' and the organization of sports competitions and tournaments in schools is a key mandate of MoES which is exercised through the Department of Physical Education and Sports (PES);

COGNIZANT of the function delegated to Uganda Secondary Schools Sports Association (USSA) by the Department of PES to organize and manage secondary school sports competitions, and;

NOW, therefore, the Rules contained herein this Handbook are hereby issued and adopted as the overall Instrument to be applied and adhered to by all stakeholders in the process of organizing and managing secondary school sports competitions in Uganda.

  1/11

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Access to and participation in sports is a constitutional right and obligation, and this stems from provisions of Principle XVII of the Directive Principles of State Policy which provides that the State shall promote recreation and sports for the citizens of Uganda'. Pursuant to this, the Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES) provides for technical support, guidance, coordination, regulation, and promotion of the delivery of quality education and sports to all persons in Uganda, for national integration, individual and national development. Consequently, the provisions made herein this Instrument constitute the Secondary School Sports Competition Rulebook and they provide a holistic and comprehensive guide to govern all aspects of organizing and managing sports competitions held for all secondary schools in Uganda.

  
5

## **1.1 BACKGROUND**

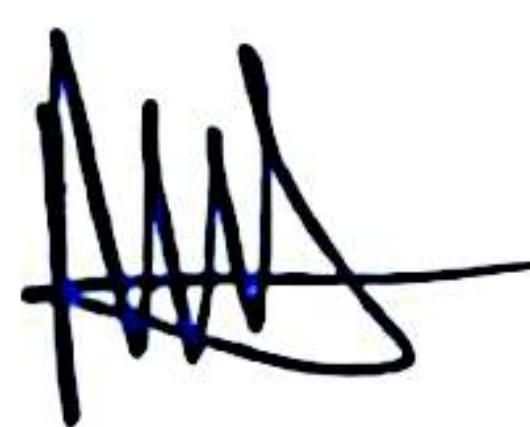
The National Sports Act, under section 48, makes provisions pertaining to the organization and management of National Sports Competitions in education institutions. The Act empowers the Ministry responsible for sports to organize sports competitions for schools and institutions of higher learning.

The organization of these sports competitions is meant to serve a number of objectives including: (a) enhancing of physical activity and sportsmanship within the wider body of students, teachers and the wider community; (b) talent identification and development; (c) enhancing collaboration, teamwork and unity among students, sportsmen and other stakeholders; and, (d) facilitating participation in regional and international sports competitions for schools, among others. As a result, Government is duty-bound to organize sports competitions at all levels of the education system, including primary, secondary, tertiary and higher education.

The MoES, in adherence to the above mandate, is duty-bound to ensure the organization of fair, transparent, competitive and thrilling sports competitions in all schools, and specifically at secondary education level. In executing this mandate, the MoES – acting through its constituent part, the Department of Physical Education and Sports (PES), delegated the function of organizing the secondary school sports competitions to a specialized association for this function, namely; the Uganda Secondary Schools Sports Association (USSSA).

It is expected that the Secondary Schools competitions will be an extension of the schools' philosophy and objectives and expected to contribute to the Ministry's vision and mission. Precedence will be established through good behaviour, attitude and self-control in an educational friendly environment. USSSA expects sportsmanlike behaviour 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.

Therefore, it is in cognizance of the above background that these Rules have been developed to provide overall guidance and strategic direction to all stakeholders and the wider public, in matters pertaining to organization and management of secondary school sports competitions in Uganda.

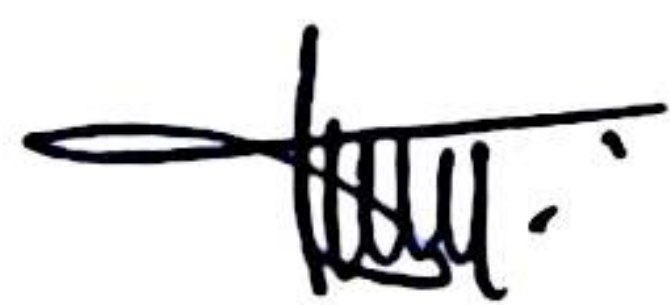


## 1.2 OBJECTIVES OF THE RULES

The *general objective* of these Rules is to guide the organization and management of secondary school sports competitions in Uganda.

The *specific objectives* of the Rules are to:

- a) Define the eligibility criteria for schools and student athletes participating in secondary school sports competitions;
- b) Provide detailed guidance and strategic direction pertaining to the key tasks, duties and responsibilities of the different duty-bearers involved in organization and management of secondary school sports competitions;
- c) Set a code of conduct for all actors and stakeholders in secondary school sports competitions;
- d) To ensure the smooth running /organization and management of school sports in the Country by setting up an appropriate structure and defining the roles and responsibilities of each member of the organization, and;
- e) Provide a mechanism for determining Uganda's participation and representation in regional and international sports competitions for secondary schools.

  
7

## 2.0 THE SECONDARY SCHOOL SPORTS COMPETITION RULES

The following Rules shall be applicable and adhered to in all aspects of managing secondary school sports competitions in Uganda.

### R1: DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

In the context of these Rules, the following key terms are defined as follows:

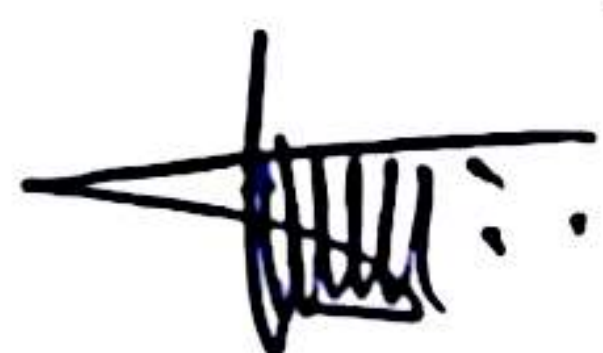
- a) **Zone:** A grouping of districts as determined in line with provisions of the USSSA Constitution.
- b) **District:** A collection of schools geographically situated in the same political district, as designated by the Ministry of Local Government.
- c) **Region:** As defined in Constitution of USSSA.
- d) **School:** Any institution or establishment that provides education and training to children or learners at various levels, including Secondary Education (section I of the Education act).
- e) **Student Athlete:** A student who is registered on to the USSSSA Online portal to participate in the USSSA championships after meeting the eligibility requirements as defined in these rules.
- f) **Players' Album:** An authenticated document that contains a collection of players' photographs, bio data and other relevant information.
- g) **Parent:** Any person, of adult age, exercising lawful parental authority over a student.

### R2: SCOPE OF THE RULES

The Rules contained herein are applicable to all natural persons, juristic persons (companies, corporations, NGOs or any entity otherwise named) who are involved in the organization and management of secondary school sports competitions.

Specifically, the Rules are applicable and binding on the following stakeholders:

- a) Secondary schools, including: Ordinary Secondary Level schools, Advanced Secondary Level schools as well as Ordinary and Advanced Secondary Level schools; and, International Schools;
- b) Student athletes at secondary education level;
- c) School proprietors, administrators and manager;
- d) School-based sports staff including sports teachers, sports tutors, sports managers,



8



coaches, and sports directors, among others:

- e) Competition officials including field officials, supporting staff etc;
- f) Participating districts, zones, regions or any other grouping of schools or teams for Purposes of participating in secondary school sports competition, and;
- g) Parents and the wider community.

### **R3: NAMING OF THE COMPETITION**

The official title of the secondary school sports competitions shall be the **National Secondary School Sports Competition** and a specific title for respective competitions shall be designated and communicated annually by the Ministry responsible for sports, through the PES department. The communication in R3. (1) above shall be made at the point of issuing the annual Education Institutions National Sports Calendar.

### **R4: ORGANIZATION OF THE COMPETITION**

The following shall apply to organization of Competitions under these Rules:

- a) The National Secondary School Sports Competition shall be organized annually by the Uganda Secondary Schools Sports Association (USSA), working in collaboration with Association of Secondary School Headteachers of Uganda (ASSHU);
- b) The organization of the said Competition shall be undertaken by USSA as a delegated function from the MoES. As such, the MoES shall retain the oversight role in execution of the said Competition;
- c) The National Secondary School Sports Competition shall be organized annually, and;
- d) An Organizing Committee shall be created by the Competition organizer, and this shall, among other tasks, be responsible for selection and designation of the Host Venue for the different phases of the above Competition.

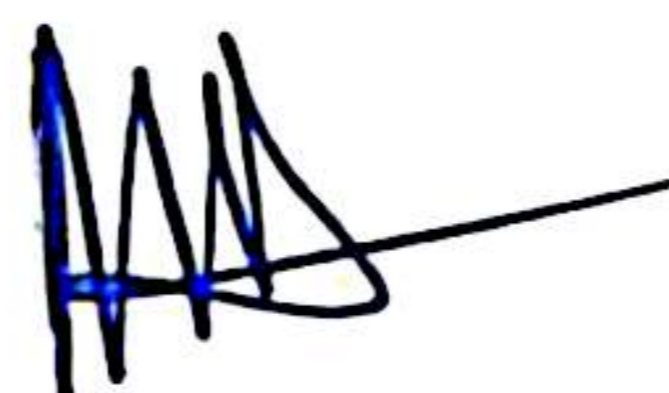
### **R5: CATEGORIZATION OF THE COMPETITION**

The following shall apply to organization of the Competition:

- a) The organizers of the National Secondary School Sports Competition shall determine and organize different categories for sports competitions pursuant to provisions of the
- b) Never-the-less, the aforementioned Competitions shall be organized at;
  - (i) District level
  - (ii) Zonal level
  - (iii) National level
- c) The organizers may prepare and issue Guidelines and Instructions for Competitions at the levels stated above, as and when they are required, provided the matter being guided upon is not provided for under these Rules. In case of any dispute between the guidance



9



provided in the Guidelines and Instruction with any other provision within these Rules. the provision in these Rules shall prevail.

## **R6: ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE COMPETITION**

The following requirements are mandatory for any participant to be rendered eligible to participate in the National Secondary School Sports Competition, and they apply to different categories of stakeholders as follows:

### **R6.1 Eligibility requirements for schools**

A school shall be eligible to participate in a Competition organized under these Rules if it meets the following requirements: -

- a) The school must be registered with and licensed by the MoES to operate;
- b) The school must be following the Normal National or International School Curriculum. Sports Academies are prohibited from these competitions;
- 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 signed by the Head teacher of the school. And an up-to-date Player's albums printed from USSSA Online Registration System, and;
- e) Each team must meet all the requirements specified in the invitation letter.

### **R6.2 Eligibility Requirements for student athletes**

For a student athlete to be eligible to participate in any Competition organized under these Rules, they must have adhered to the following prior to presenting themselves for consideration:

- a) Has been duly admitted in the school according to the ministry of Education and sports guidelines;
- b) Has valid school identity card and in school register;
- c) Is registered on the EMIS (possess LIN), and on USSSA Online Registration System with valid passport photo;
- d) Must provide valid P7 UNEB pass slip for the 'O' level students and, P7 and S4 UNEB pass slips for 'A' level students;



10



- e) Must provide a certified PLE and UCE Testimonial for S1 and S5 respectively for activities that happen before the pass slips are out;
- f) In cases of loss of documents (pass slips), should provide UNEB verification letter that must bear the date of birth of the student;
- g) Must have gone through the mandatory screening process for eligibility;
- h) Is within the specified age for the competition as specified in the invitation letter. 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;
- i) Is on normal academic progression. Repeaters are not eligible;
- j) Shall compete for only one school in a season of the Educational Institution National sports calendar. (One school in a calendar year);
- k) Has not used prohibited substances to enhance Performance, and;
- l) All athletes must go through screening process that include both document verification and physical examination.

### **R6.3 Eligibility requirement for refugee learners**

A refugee shall provide the following documentation and particulars:

- a) Full name as it appears on official identification documents;
- b) Date of birth;
- c) Familiar language;
- d) Gender;
- e) Current class or level of study; and
- f) Nationality.

#### **Particulars of the Educational Institution**

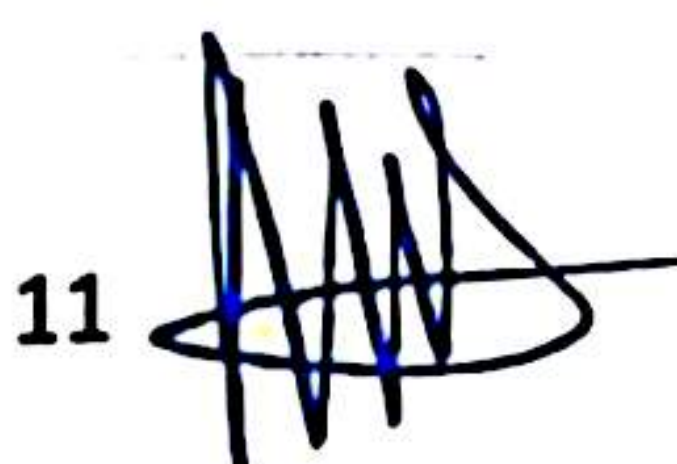
- a) Name of the institution;
- b) District and Sub-county where the institution is located; and
- c) Level of education offered by the institution.

#### **Academic Standing**

Certificate of equivalence of the academic standing of the particular learner

#### **Refugee Status**

A valid Refugee Permit or Refugee Identification Document issued by the mandated Government authority



## **R6.4 Eligibility requirement for international learners**

### **Immigration Status**

The learner shall provide a valid Student Pass duly issued by the Government authority.

### **Particulars of the Learner**

The learner shall submit full and accurate details of the learner, including:

- i) Full names as they appear on official identification documents;
- ii) Date of birth;
- iii) Familiar language;
- iv) Gender;
- v) Current class or level of study; and
- vi) Nationality.

### **Particulars of the Educational Institution**

The applicant shall provide complete details of the educational institution in which the learner is enrolled, including:

- i) Name of the institution;
- ii) District and Sub-county where the institution is located;
- iii) Grade or level of enrolment; and
- iv) Type of curriculum offered.

### **Academic Standing**

Certificate of equivalence of the academic standing of the particular learner

### **Details of Parents or Guardians**



Full particulars of the learner's parent(s) or legal guardian(s), including names and contact information.

K) In the event that a player's identity conflicts between the official documents submitted and those obtained during the investigation, the student will be set aside

## **R6.5 Grounds for nullification of eligibility**

The following grounds shall provide a strict ground for ineligibility, and thus disqualification, from participating in a Competition organized under these Rules:

- a) Being under-age or over-age for a particular competition;
- b) Student not on normal progress as per MoES;
- c) Impersonator;
- d) Sanctioned Athlete, and;
- e) Failure to comply with the set Rules governing transfer of the student athlete from one school to another.

 12  1A

## **R6.6 Effect of fielding ineligible players**

The effect and implication of fielding an ineligible student athlete to participate in any Competition organized under these Rules is as follows:

- a) Fielding an illegible student athlete in a competition is an offence;
- b) A school team and its respective officials that fields an illegible student athlete shall be disqualified from the competition, and banned for a minimum of 2 years;
- c) The affected student athlete and official shall be banned from participating in all USSSA related school tournaments for a minimum of 2 years, and;
- d) Additional sanctions may be levied as the organizers deem necessary.

## **R7: REGISTRATION OF PARTICIPANTS**

The following shall apply to registration and licensing of participants under Competitions organized pursuant to these Rules:

- a) It shall be a mandatory requirement for all participants, namely; schools, student athletes and officials to be registered and licensed by USSSA prior to their participation in any Competition organized under these Rules;
- b) USSSA shall determine the mode of registration – be it online, physical or otherwise, and will prescribe and schedule fees to be paid by applicants for registration and licensing under this Rule, and;
- c) USSSA shall develop and issue the necessary materials, including registration forms, to be complied with by all applicants during the registration and licensing process.

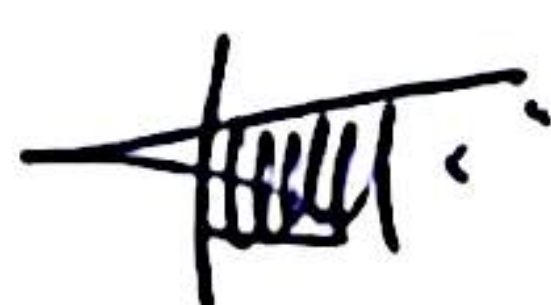
## **R8: CODE OF CONDUCT FOR THE COMPETITION**

The provisions made under this Rule shall entail the code of conduct for all participants in any

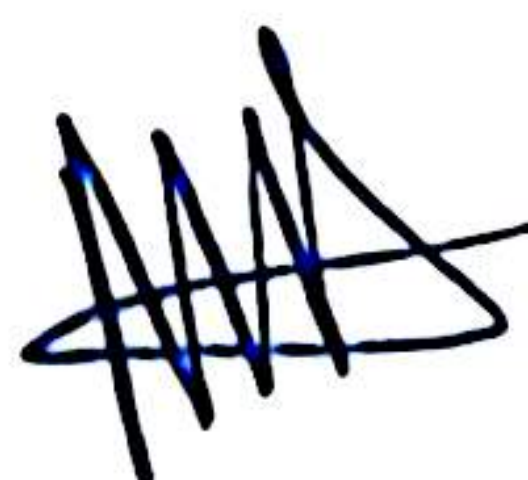
### **R8.1 Ethical Conduct**

The following are the minimum ethical practices required of all participants in Competitions organized under these Rules:

- a) All participants and officials must act with honesty, transparency and accountable, Sportsmanship at all times and should ensure fair play is a core element of Secondary Schools Sports Championship(s);
- b) Any participant or official who engages in unethical conduct will face the Disciplinary Committee and will be accordingly sanctioned, and;



13



- c) Refusal to furnish all information relevant to an investigation of a possible violation of any rules when required amounts to an offence and will be sanctioned appropriately by the Disciplinary Committee.

### **R8.2 Discipline on and off the Field**

The following rules shall apply to discipline on and off the field in any Competition organized under these Rules:

- a) All players shall play in accordance with the Rules governing the respective game as well as in compliant with the General rules of the Secondary Schools Sports Championships;
- b) Any player who physically attack a Referee or any authorized person(s) before, during or after a match commits an offence and 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;
- c) For all official matters, the organizers shall only deal with a professional teacher officially registered for the tournament;
- d) Team Support Official(s) who insight violence or attack a Referee or Members of the Organizing Committee of the championship shall face appropriate based on the gravity of the offence, and;
- e) The fans who violently attack the referee of other members of the organizing Committee shall be dealt with using appropriate Uganda laws on violence.

### **R8.3 Illegal substances**

The following shall apply when it comes to prohibited substances:

- a. 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.
- b. Any official promoting illegal substance use to enhance performance will be banned from handling players and will face the disciplinary committee.

### **R8.4 Double licensing**

The following shall apply when it comes to prohibited substances:

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

### **R8.5 Impersonation**

The following shall apply when it comes to impersonation:

 , 14  

- a) 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-bonafide player;
- b) The school and/or individual(s) involved shall be banned for a minimum of 2 years and may face additional sanctions as provided for in these rules.

#### **R8.6 Unregistered student athlete**

The following shall apply when it comes to student athletes:

- a) If a school fields an unregistered player that affected player will be disqualified from the Tournaments;
- b) The school shall lose all the matches in which that player was fielded, and;
- c) The school shall pay a fine as provided for in these rules and regulations or as determined by the Organizers.

#### **R8.7 Forgery**

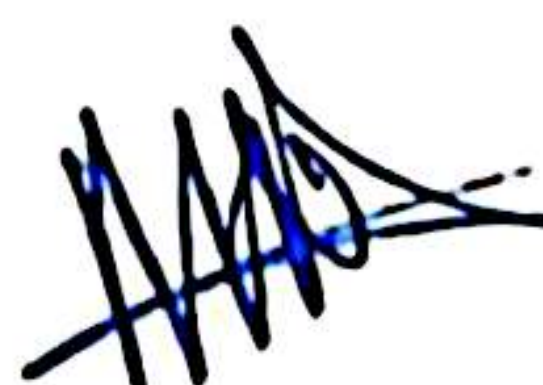
The following shall apply when it comes to forgery:

- a) Any school that submits/presents forged and /or inconsistent academic documents to the organizers commits an offence and shall be sanctioned as provided for in these rules and regulations;
- b) Such official(s), if are teachers, may be forwarded to the Ministry of Education and Sports Awards and Sanctions committee for disciplinary action, and;
- c) In circumstance where the team officials involved are not teachers, they will be arrested by the police and tried under relevant provisions of the Uganda laws.

#### **R8.8 Team Supports Officials**

The following shall apply when it comes to Team Supports Officials:

- a) Every school team must be accompanied by a Games teacher who must be a trained professional teacher, registered with Ministry of Education and Sports;
- b) A Coach with a minimum of beginner's license from the National Sports Federation and should be attached to form A;
- c) Assistant Coach, who is a student training in coaching a particular sport;
- d) A Medical Officer to handle the school team, and;
- e) Media Officer who is a student.



## **R8.9 Tournament Uniforms**

During the Tournaments, teams shall be required to do the following:

- a) Wear their Branded uniforms for home and away matches cleared by the organizer for Local Championships;
- b) For sponsored championships where the sponsor provides Uniforms, no team will be allowed to wear School Branded Uniforms unless it's cleared by the organizers;
- c) For international Competitions, all teams will be provided with National Uniforms, therefore, no school shall wear its own uniform; and;
- d) Failure to observe the above, the affected team will pay a fine as agreed by the Disciplinary Committee or will be disqualified from the tournament. The school officials may be forwarded to the rewards and sanction Committee of MoES.

## **R8.10 Beverages and authorized substances**

The following shall apply when it comes to beverages and other authorized substances during the Competitions organized under these Rules:

- a) Where the Competition sponsor, is a beverage Company, no conflicting product shall be brought to the Games Villages or playing venues;
- b) Energy drinks are not healthy product for growing children; therefore, it prohibited for the players during the tournaments, and;
- c) Any performance enhancing substance is prohibited. If found consuming or in possession will lead to appropriate sanction within these rules.

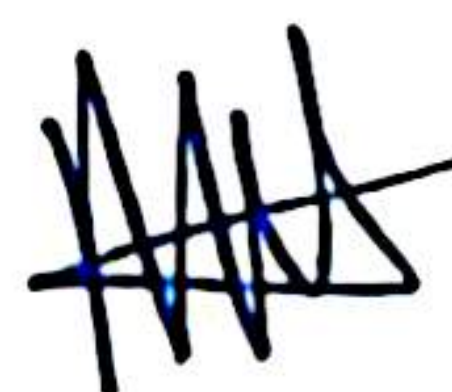
## **R9: MANAGEMENT OF COMPETITIONS AT DISTRICT AND ZONE LEVEL**

The following Rules shall apply to organization and management of Competitions at district and zone level:

- a) The Secondary schools shall organize age-appropriate inter-class/ Inter-House or intercolour sport competitions to provide equal opportunities to all learner to be selected on the school team(s) under the supervision of DSSSA;
- b) The DSSSA shall organize and coordinate district sports competitions under
- c) supervision of the Zonal leaders;
- d) The ZSSSA shall organize, coordinate, supervise zonal sports competitions under of the USSSA;



16

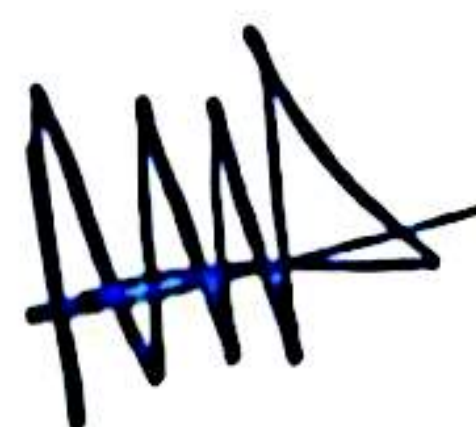


- e) DSSSAs shall select and recommend school teams to compete at the Zonal level;
- f) ZSSSAs shall select and recommend teams to USSSA to compete at national level; vi) USSSA in consultation with ASSHU and MoES may invite a school directly to participate at National level when deemed necessary, and;
- g) The DSSSA shall report in detail all cases of mal-practice and indiscipline handled at district level to the ZSSSA;
- h) The ZSSSA shall report in detail all cases of mal-practice and indiscipline handled zonal to the USSSA;
- i) The USSSA shall report in detail all cases of mal-practice and indiscipline handled during National Championships to MoES and refer appeals cases to the Appeals Committee, and;
- j) USSSA shall select teams for international competition and supervise teams' preparations for international engagements.

### **R9.1: Entry into Competitions**

The following shall apply in determining entry into competitions:

- a) Each School Sports Department through the Games Teacher may prepare a maximum of three teams in each sports discipline to be entered for competitions below the district level;
- b) A maximum of two teams per school per discipline may progress to the district level competitions;
- c) Only one team per discipline per school can qualify for the zonal level competitions;
- d) Schools that present more than one team in a discipline at a level may merge their teams at the next level;
- e) Each DSSSA through its Secretariat will present teams to the Zone that have qualified for Zonal competition(s) as specified by USSSA;
- f) Each ZSSSA through its Secretariat will present teams to USSSA that have qualified for National competition(s) as per the National slots, and;
- g) USSSA selects national team(s) for international competitions and present to MoES.



## **R10: SPORTS BURSARY AND IMPLICATION ON BENEFICIARIES**

Any school may decide to offer a sports bursary to identified learners with potential to excel in a given sport, and the following rules shall apply to cases where such a bursary is provided to a student athlete:

- a) A sports bursary may fall under any of the following categories: -
  - (i) **Full Sports Bursary:** This covers the entire cost of accessing education at the sponsoring school, and the beneficiary is not required to pay any money or anything in-kind, to facilitate their stay at the school over the duration of the bursary.
  - (ii) **Partial Sports Bursary:** This refers to a monetary or in-kind contribution or waiver to a student athlete to cover part of their school fees and charges obligations during subsistence of the bursary. In this context, a partial scholarship must cover at least 40% of the student athlete's total sum of school fees and charges.
- b) Any school offering a sports bursary to a student athlete must execute a Bursary Agreement with both the student beneficiary and their parent of the student, and a copy of this Agreement shall be deposited with USSSA;
- c) The Bursary Agreement executed in R10 (2) above must make an express provision on safeguarding the best interest of the child or student athlete, and must clearly provide for safeguarding of the student's right to education as well as their other due rights and privileges, and;
- d) Non-adherence to the provisions made under R10 and R11 shall render the defaulting party liable to being expelled from participating in Competitions organized under these Rules, or any other punishment as the Rules provide.

## **R11: CHANGE OF SCHOOLS BY STUDENT ATHLETES**

The following provisions shall apply to all student athletes who are desirous of changing from one school to another.

### **R11.1 Pre-conditions for changing schools**

Change of school will happen when the following pre-conditions are met:

- a) A student on a full sports bursary may change school provided that he/she gets clearance of the former school;
- b) A student not on a full sports bursary is free to change school without any encumbrances;
- c) Transfer of student(s) will take place within the transfer period to ensure the students academics are not interfered with. USSA shall prescribe and gazette the transfer period and circulate the said information through a media of wide and nation-wide circulation;

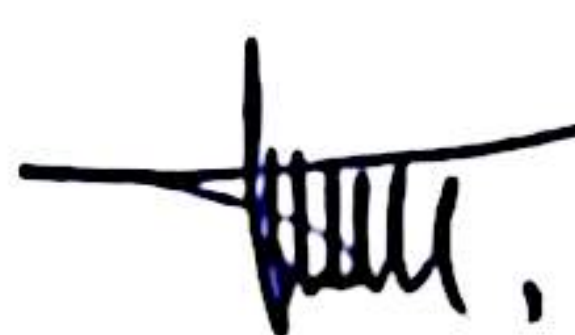


- d) Any aggrieved student who has been refused transfer may appeal to the USSSA Athletes Status Committee (ASC) who may after consultations with relevant MoES Departments for appropriate course of action;
- e) Each school shall be required to register all students on the full sports bursary in the USSSA Online Registration;
- f) The bursary agreement must be signed by the Parent, Student and Head teacher;
- g) Any student whose bursary has not been registered in the system is a free agent;
- h) Any school that denies a student his/her ORIGINAL UNEB documents commits an offence and is liable to sanction under these rules, and;
- i) USSSA is not responsible for any forgeries, impersonations and financial/ payments involved while filing and clearing and effecting transfer of the student(s).

## **R12: SECURITY MEASURES**

The following shall apply to security measures during the Competitions organized under these Rules:

- a) The host at the Zone, District, School and organizers shall, respectively, be responsible for security during the Competition;
- b) All participants and officials will be accredited to participate in the tournaments / competition;
- c) All participants and officials should wear their accreditation cards at all the times during the competitions;
- d) Accreditation cards will be used alongside the other documents to prove eligibility of the player;
- e) All participants should be in their respective Games Village by 7.00pm;
- f) 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.
- g) Students and officials who carry valuables (such as mobile phones or money) into the games village shall do so at their own risk.
- h) Any student found to be a suspect in incidents arising within the games village shall be handed over to Security Personnel for appropriate action.
- i) No student or official is permitted to physically assault another student under any circumstances.



19



- j) In cases of vandalism of property at the host school, any school found guilty shall be required to compensate the host school for the damage caused before vacating the premises at the conclusion of the championship.
- k) The Uganda Secondary Schools Sports Association (USSSA) shall be responsible for the management and enforcement of discipline among student-athletes and associated personnel during its sanctioned activities and events.
- l) In the execution of this mandate, USSSA shall act in consultation with the host school and, where necessary, in coordination with the relevant law enforcement agencies
- m) Any team or player(s) that will fail to observe the above, shall be sanctioned as provided for by the rules and regulations.

### **R13. A: SANCTIONS AND DISCIPLINARY MEASURES**

The following sanctions and disciplinary measures shall apply in organization and management of Competitions under these Rules:

- a) If a team violates these rules and regulations, the USSSA judicial bodies may implore one or more of the following sanctions upon individual, individuals or school team;
  - (i) Expulsion;
  - (ii) Suspension,
  - (iii) Probation,
  - (iv) Forfeiture of Contest,
  - (v) Reprimand
  - (vi) Sanctions by agreement
  - (vii) Ejection/ Disqualification,
  - (viii) Docking of Points
  - (ix) Fine
  - (x) Ban
  - (xi) Reference to the Rewards and Sanctions Committee of Ministry of Education and Sports.

### **R.13. B. EXPLANATION ON SANCTIONS**

The disciplinary Committee reserve the right to evoke any of the sanctions below based on the gravity of the offence.

The detailed provisions pertaining to the sanctions above are as follows:

 20  

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

b) **Suspension:** - A school or an individual team may be suspended from participation in the USSSA for:

- (i) Unsportsmanlike conduct on the part of the Team manager, coach or student; ii. Playing individual team of a member school;
- (ii) Violation of the rules governing recruitment of students. iv. Additional violations during the term of probation;
- (iii) Violation of the eligibility rules as set forth in one of the Articles of these rules; and;
- (iv) Such other violations of the USSSA Constitution, Rules and Regulations as the Executive may direct.
- (v) Suspension from the USSSA shall not be less than 365 days commencing at the start of the next sports season




a) **Probation:** - 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; and;
- (v) Other violations of the USSSA's Constitution, rules and regulations as the Executive Committee may determine in its discretion.

**Note:**

A team shall be placed on probationary status for a term not less than 365 days commencing immediately.

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.

 21  

- b) **Forfeiture:** - A team that is not ready to take on a match 30 minutes after its scheduled time shall forfeit the match. A team that reports for a match 10 minutes after its scheduled time shall pay a fine as agreed by the Judiciary.
- c) **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.
- d) **Sanctions by agreement:** - As a supplement to the sanctions set forth above:
- (i) 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, and;
  - (iv) Existing agreements and its teams shall be communicated to all parties.
- e) **Ejection:** The following shall apply to ejection from the Competition:
- (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, and;
  - (iii) USSSA and its member associations shall make known to all teams the ejected player(s), official(s) or school team(s).

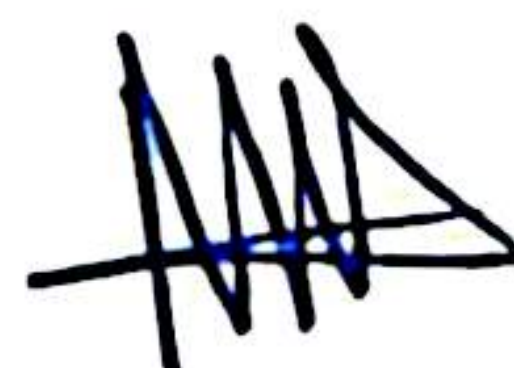
## 2. Determination of gravity of offence

Before imposing any sanction set forth, the judicial body must approve the sanctions by an affirmative majority vote of those members voting. The judicial bodies shall consider the following factors when determining the level of sanctions:

- a) The nature of the violation;
- b) Whether the violation was deliberate;



22



- c) Whether violations were repeated;
- d) Whether the member school or the individual team of the member school has previously violated the USSSA's constitution, rules and regulations;
- e) Whether the member school or individual team of the member school reported its violation to the USSSA;
- f) Whether the member school or individual team of the member school was cooperative with the USSSA in investigating its violation;
- g) Whether the member school or individual team of a member school imposed its own sanction, and;
- h) If the offender was aware of the consequences of the offence before committing the offence.

### **R13.1 Disciplinary Committee**

The following shall apply to the Disciplinary Committee:


- a) There shall be a disciplinary committee 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 of the sport;
  - (v) The organizer of the sport, and;
  - (vi) Any other person co-opted to the committee.
- b) The committee shall take necessary emergency measures to ensure the smooth technical running of the events of the match/competitions;
- c) The committee has the discretion on how to conduct the procedures of its meetings;
- d) The committee shall decide on disputes or queries arising immediately from the competition or match, and;
- e) The Committee shall report to the Executive Committee.

### **R13.2 Complaints/Petitions**

The following shall apply to complaints and petitions arising out of matters handled by the Disciplinary Committee: -



23



- a) A complaint resulting from a given match must reach the chairperson or commissar in charge of the respective sports discipline within 1 hour after the end of the game/match and must be presented by the games teacher of the complaining team aggrieved;
- b) The Chairperson may give a ruling if the case is basically technical;
- c) The complaint must be accompanied with a non-refundable fee of **One Hundred Thousand Uganda Shillings (Shs.100, 000)**;
- d) If, however, the complaint is more serious and nontechnical, the Chairperson will call for a meeting of the disciplinary Committee which will deliberate on the issue and give a ruling or a recommendation, and;
- e) During a championship, the decisions made by the disciplinary committee are final however, the affected team can appeal to the Appeals Committee.

#### **R14: APPEAL MECHANISM**

The following shall apply to appeals under these Rules:

- a) Any party that is aggrieved by the decision of the Disciplinary Committee may lodge a formal appeal to the Ministry responsible for sports, through the PES department;
- b) An Appeals Committee shall be constituted by the Permanent Secretary, MoES for this purpose, and will handle any such appeals, and;
- c) The decision of the Ministry Appeals Committee shall be final and binding on all parties to the dispute.

#### **R14: APPLICABILITY OF TECHNICAL RULES**

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.

#### **R15: MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

The following shall apply to miscellaneous matters in organizing Competitions under these Rules:-

- a) **Walk-overs:** A team may be awarded a walk-over if its opponent fails to take up the match 30 minutes after the scheduled time.
- b) **Honor of fixtures:** A team **MUST** honor all fixtures. Failure to honor matches will attract sanctions as determined by the Organizing Committee.
- c) **Postponement:** The provisions of R15 (1) and (2) notwithstanding, the organizing committee has the authority to reschedule the match. Only the Organizing committee has the authority to reschedule a match.



24




- d) **Interference of Matches:** The following shall apply when it comes to interference in 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, and;
  - iii Further sanction may be imposed against the team, individual players, officials or school.
- e) Any Member Association which fails to submit documents as requested by the secretariat within the due dates will be fined a maximum of Ugx.100, 000 per member. To ensure fairness and integrity in all competitions, the following terms related to match interference are defined and strictly prohibited:
- i **A Mover** – an athlete who unlawfully represents and plays for more than one school in the same competition, such a student if found will be banned from all USSSSA organized Championships for a period of two years.
  - ii **Match fixing** – an action of playing a match with an intention of achieving Predetermined results or an act of determining an outcome of a match before it is played. Any school or individual engaged in this practice will be banned from USSSSA organized Championships for a period of two years.
- f) Any matter(s) not provided for in these Rules shall be decided upon by the Appeals Committee of MoES, and its decision in the matter shall be final and with binding effect.




## **R16: COMPETITION REPORT**

The organizers of the National Secondary School Competition shall prepare an Annual Report for the competition and submit it to the Ministry responsible for sports.

## **R17: RESULTS MANAGEMENT AND IMPLICATIONS**

The following shall apply to results from Competitions organized under these Rules:

- 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

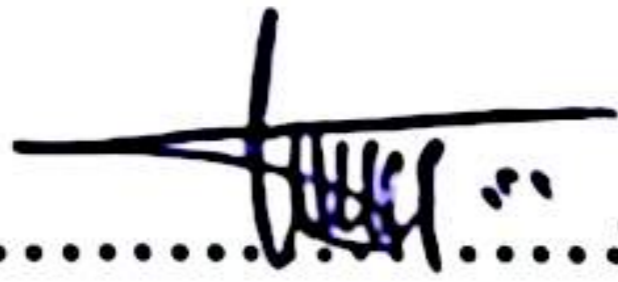
 25  

matches played by that team will be nullified. Otherwise, the remaining teams will forfeiture. And such a team will be sanctioned, and;

- d) The official results of the Competitions organized these Rules, as declared in the final Competition Report, shall be based on to determine eligibility and constitution of the schools to represent / constitute 'Team Uganda' in any regional, continental or international sports competitions for secondary schools in which Uganda may be eligible to participate.

### 3.0 DECLARATION AND APPROVAL

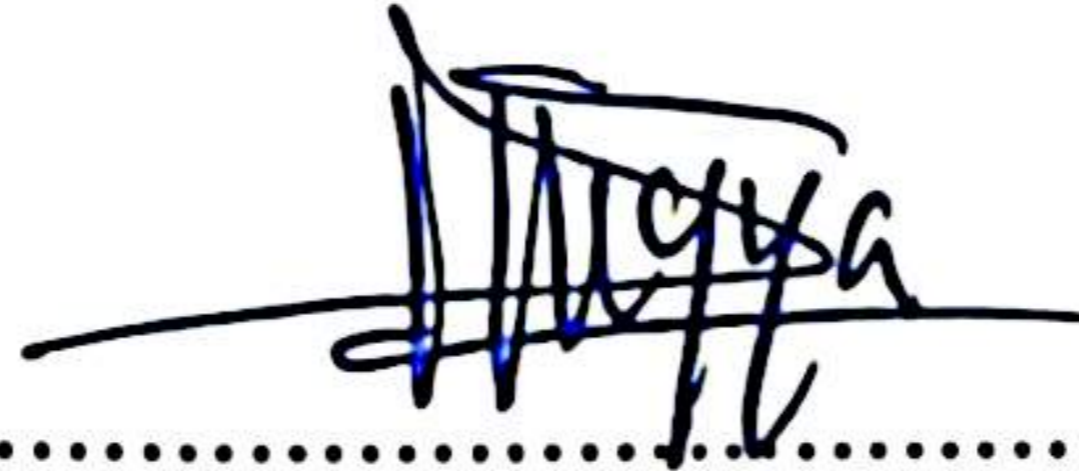
We, the undersigned, in exercise of the authority entrusted to us, hereby approve the content herein this Secondary School Sports Competition Rulebook as the overarching instrument to provide strategic guidance to all schools, student athletes, officials and any other stakeholder, during the process of organizing and managing secondary school sports competitions in Uganda.



.....  
Mr. Mugisha Christopher Banage  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (CEO)**  
USSSA



.....  
Mr. Mugisha Justus  
**PRESIDENT**  
USSSA



.....  
Rev. Can. Dr. Duncans Mugumya (PhD)  
**COMMISSIONER PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORTS**  
**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SPORTS**