USSSA NATIONAL LEAGUES CAMPAIGN

SCHOOL & WEEKEND LEAGUES

Building a structured, affordable and sustainable pathway for school sport

Presentation by:

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Background, Vision & Problem Statement

The School & Weekend Leagues are designed to strengthen sports development in Uganda by providing structured, inclusive & continuous sporting opportunities for learners both within and outside the school timetable.

Vision

Every Ugandan student finds a sport, discovers talent, and grows into a disciplined, confident citizen.

Problem statement

For decades, school sport in Uganda has been organized mainly around short, one weekend tournaments and occasional championships, while these events create excitement, they have failed to develop, talent, build character and serve the majority of learners

Mandate and Compliance

MANDATE, AND COMPLAINCE

1. LEGAL MANDATE
The Sports Act 2023 provides the legal framework for USSSA's delegated role in secondary school sports under PES supervision.

2. THE COMPLIANCE GAP
Claimed requirement: at least 15 sports categories and appropriate facilities per school.
Reality: Many schools reportedly offer only 1–2 sports.

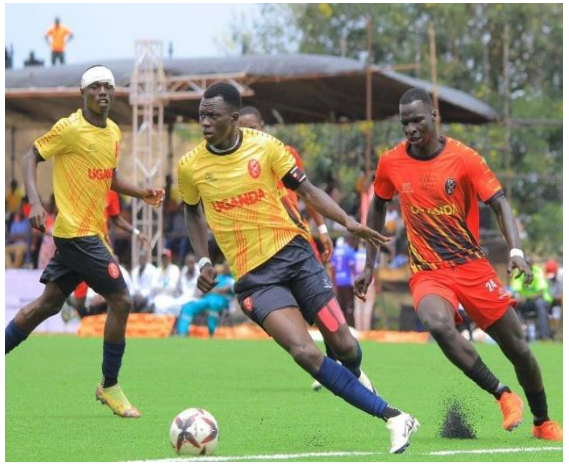
3. STUDENT RIGHTS
UNESCO principles support access to physical education, physical activity and sport.

4. OUR SOLUTION
Protected league time: 3:00–6:00 PM and weekends to expand participation while protecting classroom learning.

Why School & Weekend leagues

Main Objective:

To transform school sports in Uganda from occasional tournaments into a structured, inclusive, student-led, 6-month Weekend League system that develops talent, character, and leadership, and provides a continuous pipeline of skilled, disciplined athletes for school teams, district teams, national teams, and clubs.









To establish a structured league system, not tournemnts

To establish and sustain a minimum 6-month long Weekend League in all participating schools, districts and zones, with regular fixtures, tables, and a full season calendar, replacing the one-weekend tournament model.

Every learner should have a regular, affordable opportunity to play.

SCHOOL LEAGUE

Monday–Friday, after class
Played within the school: Inter-House, Inter-Class and Inter-Club.
Every school must have a School League.

WEEKEND LEAGUE

Saturday and Sunday
Played between neighbouring schools.
Each school fields its best team(s) from its School League.

SCHOOL LEAGUE PRODUCES THE TEAM. WEEKEND LEAGUE TESTS THE TEAM.

The two leagues work together as one continuous development system.

To Create a Clear Talent Pathway to Clubs and National Teams

To create a structured talent identification and transition pathway say S1 → **School** → **District** → **Zonal** → **Regional** → **National** Team / **Club**, with scouting, data, and referral systems so that National Teams and clubs recruit from a wide, well-prepared pool, not from a few tournaments.



FUTURE QUALIFICATION

Weekend League winners will qualify directly to District Qualifiers for all USSSA National Tournaments.

Inclusive Participation for All Learners

- To ensure every learner participates in at least one discipline or role, including football, rugby, basketball, volleyball, netball, handball, athletics, racket games, mind games, and creative arts, so that no child is excluded because he or she cannot play football.







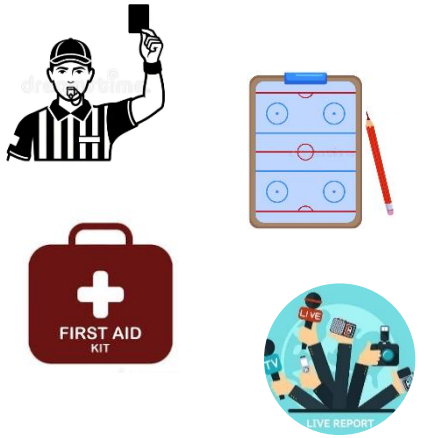
To Build Student Leadership and Life Skills "Students do more than play. They learn to run sport"

To develop student leadership, responsibility, and employability skills by training and empowering students as players, referees, coaches, media personnel, commentators, scorers, photographers, and organizers, in line with the Competence-Based Curriculum.

Model: Learners lead league operations; teachers supervise as patrons

Training areas

- Student referees and umpires.
- Basic coaching.
- Young sports reporters.
- Competition administration.
- First aid and event support.



Capacity-building plan

- Five-day training courses during December and January holidays.
- Regional delivery through host schools and available sports facilities.
- Proposed centres in Central, Eastern, Northern and Western Uganda.
- Joint USSSA and federation certification, subject to agreed standards.

Expected benefits

- Leadership and responsibility.
- Practical, transferable skills.
- Lower dependence on external officials.
- Greater student ownership and discipline.



To Strengthen stakeholder involvement: THE NTARE MODEL

To actively involve parents, guardians, alumni, and the community as supporters, mentors, and partners in school sports, to build trust, ownership, and sustainability of the leagues.

"Revive the Giants – Making Uganda a Sports House"

Launched at Ntare School, Mbarara on 15 November 2026



ALUMNI - SUPPORT

Uniforms
Trophy
Medals

FROM 2027

NSOBA will own the Ntare School League.

STUDENT OFFICIALS CAMP

Five-day camp at Ntare in December.
Target: **105** certified student officials by January 2027.





An example for every zone to adapt and implement.

To ensure sustainability and Accountability

USE EXISTING FACILITIES. PROTECT CLASS TIME. COMPETE ALL YEAR

To establish transparent governance, financial accountability in line with public finance management act, and local partnerships to ensure the league is sustainable beyond donor or one-off support.

Why the model is affordable

- Student officials reduce recurring officiating costs.
- Neighbouring-school clusters limit travel and accommodation.
- Existing school fields and facilities are used.
- After-class and weekend competition protects scheduled classroom time.
- Regional training reduces the need to centralize every activity in Kampala.
- Stakeholder participation

TERM I

February – April*

Launch and establish school and inter-school leagues.

TERM II

May – August*

Continue leagues and coordinate with district and national championships.

TERM III

September – November*

Sustain competition beyond qualification events.

HOLIDAY PERIOD

December – January

Student-officials training and targeted holiday camps.

OTHER – OBJECTIVES

- **To Protect Learning Time and Academic Performance,** To ensure that all league activities are conducted strictly in co-curricular time, games time, and weekends, with a maximum of one match per week per learner, so that sports support learning and never compromise academic performance.
- **To Promote Health, Discipline and Character**, To promote physical fitness, mental well-being, discipline, teamwork, respect, fair play, and resilience among learners through regular, well-managed competition.
- **To Promote Gender Equality and Safeguarding,** To ensure equal opportunities for boys and girls in all disciplines and leadership roles, and to enforce safeguarding, child protection, and safety standards in all league activities.





Implementation & Way forward

- **Stakeholder identification and engagement:** BOG, PTA, Local governments alumni, USSSA structures



- Stakeholder identification and engagement
- Capacity building trainings, workshops and seminars
- Agreed roadmap and administration structures
- Rules and regulations
- Implementation
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Take homes

Capacity Building: prepare every District and Zone

Every School, district and Zone must prioritize and schedule capacity building and training to strengthen the people and systems that make leagues work.

WHEN

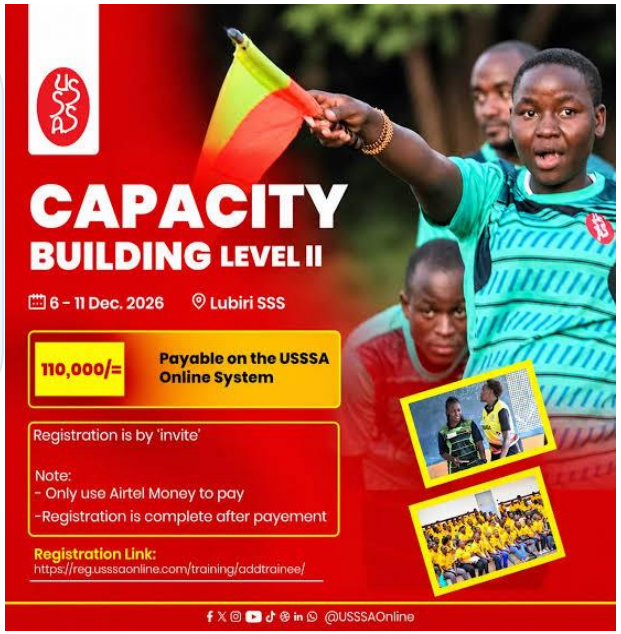
December 2026
& January 2027

WHAT

- Officiating
  Coaching
  Reporting
- First aid and injury management
- safeguarding

WHO

All Schools
All Districts
All Zones
No registered league will be left out





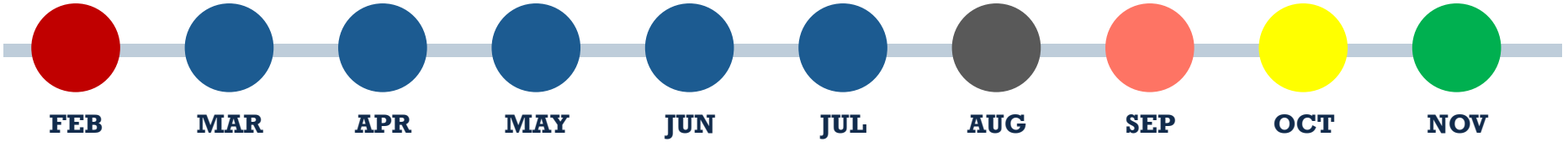






A predictable annual league calendar

The intended operating season is February to November every year.



MONDAY – FRIDAY

School League: after-class fixtures within each school.

SATURDAY – SUNDAY

Weekend League: fixtures between neighboring schools.

- Registration of leagues
- Registration of learners
- Communication and intentional reporting

NATIONAL LEAGUES GUIDLINES

Key principles: protect learners and keep sport accessible

LIMIT THE LOAD

Maximum 1 competitive school match per week, plus maximum 1 weekend match for school-team players.

PROTECT LEARNING

School League takes place after class. Weekend League is played on weekends.

KEEP COSTS LOW

No expensive tournaments. Focus on affordable, student-centred competition.

USE LOCAL FIXTURES

Neighbouring schools play each other to avoid transport costs. Where needed, one school may field Team A and Team B.

BUILD COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Parents and Old Boys/Girls can support kits, prizes, Adopt a House and Adopt a Club initiatives.

Trophies, balls and learner registration

TROPHIES & BALLS

Some leagues received their promised equipment; others did not.
The Secretariat acknowledges planning gaps, and the President apologises.
Trophies are now available for collection by leagues that followed the guidelines.

ROTATIONAL TROPHY

The trophy is rotational.
A team keeps it permanently only after winning it three consecutive times.

REGISTER ALL LEARNERS IMMEDIATELY

Enrol every student participating in the system. Registration is now open and will become a prerequisite for participation.
This helps protect learners and their schools from talent disputes or unauthorised recruitment.

KEEP OUR CHILDREN ACTIVE THROUGH SPORT

Structured leagues. Protected learning. Affordable competition.
Stronger schools. More opportunities for talent.

JUSTUS MUGISHA

President, Uganda Secondary Schools Sports Association (USSSA)



NOVEMBER 2026