



Hong Kong Football Association
2021-2022 First, Second and Third Divisions League
Competition Regulations

Updated on 26th August, 2021

Name and Nature of the League

1. The competition shall be officially called the “Hong Kong First, Second and Third Divisions League”. Hong Kong Football Association (hereinafter referred to as the “HKFA”) reserves the rights to add the name of the Title Sponsor or its product name. The competition is governed by HKFA, all playing teams shall be HKFA members (or members belonging to league or teams having no right to vote) except as otherwise stated in this Regulation, shall be implemented in consistence with the Articles issued by HKFA.

Management of the League

2. The League shall be wholly governed by HKFA.
3. HKFA reserves the right to alter or modify the Rules and Regulations of the League if necessary.
4. The League shall comply with the Laws of the Game as laid down by The International Football Association Board (IFAB).

Commercial Rights

5. HKFA is the original owner of all the rights emanating from the League. These rights include, among others, all kinds of financial rights, audiovisual and radio recording, reproduction and broadcasting rights, multimedia rights, marketing and promotional rights, A-Boards allocation and incorporeal rights as well as rights arising under copyright law whether currently existing or created in the future subject to any provision as set forth in specific regulations.

Divisions

6.
 - 1) Hong Kong Football League is divided into different divisions, and each division may be divided into subdivisions.
 - 2) This Regulation is applicable only to First Division, Second Division and Third Division League.

7. 1) For all matches in the First Division, Second Division and Third Division League, each team shall have **at least 2 players who were born on or after 1 January, 2000 (U22) playing on the field at any one time**. A player being sent-off by referee (red card or two yellow cards) shall be deemed to be a player on the field. This rule is valid and applicable to all competitions.
- 2) If any teams in First, Second or Third Division violates the above Art. 7.1, the player shall be deemed as an ineligible player and disciplinary action will be taken in accordance with Art. 31 of this Regulation.
8. 1) Unless the team obtains consent from the HKFA Board, the team shall file the application for next season's league by or on **31st March, 2022**.
- 2) New application for next season's lowest-level division league shall be filed and submitted to the related department by the specific date regarding to relevant documents.
- 3) Each team could only send one team to participate in the League (including Premier League, First Division, Second Division and Third Division). The HKFA Board shall examine all applications. HKFA reserves the right to request any team to participate in any division league even though the team does not apply for participation in such division in its application. Any team shall not withdraw from the League without the approval of HKFA. If any team withdraws from the League without the approval of HKFA, the team will not be allowed to participate in any division league held by HKFA in next football season. After HKFA has approved the application of withdrawal filed by the team, the team shall be deemed to have withdrawn from the league and lost all rights and benefits granted to participants of the League.
9. A double round robin format is adopted for First and Second Divisions. Each team has to play 2 matches with every single team in its division.
10. Every match in the league is 90 minutes and is divided into the first half for 45 minutes and the second half for 45 minutes. From whistle to whistle will be no more than 15 minutes.
11. The Competition shall allow each playing team to nominate up to **nine (9)** substitutes in a match.

A single round robin format is adopted for Third Divisions. Each team has to play 1 match with every single team in its division.

According to the temporary amendment for the Law 3 of the Laws of the Game, the substitution arrangement will be applied as follows:

During the match, each team:

- may use a maximum of five substitutes
- has a maximum of three substitution opportunities*
- may additionally make substitutions at half-time

Where extra time is played, each team:

- may use an additional substitute (whether or not the team has used its maximum number of substitutes)
 - has one additional substitution opportunity* (whether or not the team has used its maximum number of substitution opportunities)
 - may additionally make substitutions:
 - in the period before the start of extra time
 - at half-time in extra time
 - If a team has not used its maximum number of substitutes or substitution opportunities, the unused substitutions and opportunities may be used in extra time.
- * Where both teams make a substitution at the same time, this will count as a used substitution opportunity for each team.

Promotion and Relegation

12. 1) a. After completion of the League, the right to be promoted to Hong Kong Premier League shall be granted to the team ranked first in First Division League.
- b. The teams that are eligible for Hong Kong Premier League shall comply with the club licensing criteria and obtain the applicable license before joining next season's Hong Kong Premier League.
- c. In case of a vacancy in Hong Kong Premier League, the HKFA Board has the right to fill in the vacancy with a team based on the ranking from First Division League or keep the vacancy. However, the team chosen to fill in such vacancy shall comply with the club licensing criteria before joining next season's Hong Kong Premier League.
- 2) a. After completion of the League, **the teams ranked last two** in First Division League Table shall be relegated to play in Second Division in next football season.
- b. After completion of the League, **the teams ranked last two** in Second Division League Table shall be relegated to play in Third Division in next football season.
- c. After completion of the League, **the teams ranked last two** in Third Division League Table shall be eliminated.
- 3) a. After completion of the League, the HKFA Board will have a meeting to determine teams to be promoted and relegated, and may invite the following teams to attend the meeting if necessary:
 - (i) Teams ranked last two in First Division League, as mentioned in Art. 12(2)(a);
 - (ii) Teams ranked last two in Second Division League, as mentioned in Art. 12(2)(b);
 - (iii) The team ranked third in Second Division League; or
 - (iv) The team ranked third in Third Division League.
- b. In the meeting, the right to be promoted to First Division will be first granted to the teams ranked first and second in Second Division League.

- c. If the team ranked first or second in Second Division League abandons its right to promote: the priority of promotion (or remain in same division) will be given in the following order:
 - (i) The team ranked third in Second Division League;
 - (ii) The team ranked last second in First Division League;
 - (iii) The team ranked last in First Division League.
- d. In the meeting, the right to be promoted to Second Division will be first granted to the teams ranked first and second in Third Division League.
- e. If the team ranked first or second in Third Division League abandons its right to promote: the priority of promotion (or remain in same division) will be given in the following order:
 - (i) The team ranked third in Third Division League;
 - (ii) The team ranked last second in Second Division League;
 - (iii) The team ranked last in Second Division League.
- f. In the meeting, if any team in Second or Third Division abandons its right to promotion, its ranking in the League will be revoked, and applicable places of teams shall be determined subject to the following situations:
 - (i) If a team's qualification for champion is revoked, then the champion shall be replaced by the runner-up, the runner-up shall be replaced by the 3rd place, the 3rd place shall be replaced by the 4th place, and so on.
 - (ii) If a team's qualification for runner-up is revoked, then the runner-up shall be replaced by the 3rd place, the 3rd place shall be replaced by the team ranked 4th place, and so on.
 - (iii) If a team's qualification for the 3rd place is revoked, then the 3rd place shall be replaced by the team ranked 4th place, the 4th place shall be replaced by the team ranked 5th place, and so on.
- g. The teams to be promoted or relegated shall be determined in a meeting pursuant to the above rules; however, the HKFA Board has the right to choose to fill in or keep a vacancy if there is any.

Entry Fee

- 13. The team that intends to participate in the league is required to pay Entry Fee. The HKFA Board has the right to vary the Entry Fee. No application will be accepted without payment of Entry Fee.

Competition Venue and Date

- 14. HKFA is responsible for the venue arrangement.
- 15. The Secretariat of HKFA shall be responsible for arrangement of match fixtures. Unless there is any restriction on arrangement for playing fields, a team and its opponent team in a match are determined by lot drawing.

16. Competition fixtures will be sent to each team prior to the commencement of the competition. All matches must be played as scheduled. If any team fails to comply with the rule, HKFA will impose disciplinary action on the violating team, including a fine, deduction of the score obtained in the competition, and deduction of the points acquired in the Division. If any team not only fails to take part in a scheduled match, but also found with any of the following situations, including (but not limited to) withdrawals from the league, or does not report for a match or refuses to continue a match, then HKFA will impose disciplinary action based on each occurrence, including but not limited to:
 1. Withdraws from the League during the period between its confirmation of participation and commencement of its first scheduled match.
 2. Withdraws from the League after the first match has been held in the division to which its team belongs to.
 3. Withdraws from the League after its team plays the first scheduled match.
 4. Withdraws from a scheduled match within 24 hours before the match.
 5. Does not report for a scheduled match on the date of the match or before.
 6. Refuses to continue a match or incompletes the match.
17. Any request for re-schedule of a match due to special reasons must be made to the Secretariat in written notification. HKFA will re-schedule the competition as requested when the reasons indicated are due and proper. The request must be made in written notification and delivered to the Secretariat of HKFA at least 30 days before the scheduled match or within 5 days after the fixtures are issued (whichever is earlier). Each team, is only entitled to make such request once in the season. HKFA has the ultimate authority to make the final decision on re-scheduling matches. To ensure the fairness of the league, except the unusual weather, any request for re-schedule of a match on the last four league weeks will not be accepted unless a special reason have been provided.
18. Unless teams are informed by HKFA 2.5 hours prior to the time scheduled for a match, the match shall be played as scheduled.
19. Failure to start or finish a match due to a force majeure incident (such as unusual weather, floods, lightning, storm, fire, explosion, earthquake, sag, structure destruction, epidemics, others natural disaster, power breakdown or shortage, war, military action, riot, civil commotion, strike, business suspension or other industrial actions, terrorist attack, civil unrest, implementation of any law or regulation, state of anarchy, or lack of local or international power with authorization)(which delays or prevents anyone from performing the contents of the agreement) shall be handled in accordance with Act. 20. The date of the match to be re-scheduled will be decided by HKFA and shall not affect other fixture.
20. Each match lasts for 90 minutes. If a match cannot continue to the end, HKFA has the right to decide whether the match is completed or needs to be replayed for another 90 minutes. All matches to be replayed shall be done in accordance with the General Rules of the League provided by HKFA and the latest Laws of the Game issued by IFAB.
21. Notices issued by HKFA are delivered to registered mail address, fax number or email address. The notice is regarded as fully given after HKFA has delivered or sent the notice in any of the aforementioned communication ways.

Arrangement of Participating Name

22. A Participating Club may apply for HKFA's permission to use its main sponsor's name as the name of its playing team appeared on fixtures list and relevant publications and announcements provided that:
1. the application has to be submitted to HKFA not later than fifteen (15) days before the first match of the Competition in that season;
 2. to pay to HKFA a non-refundable payment of HKD 5,000 (Five Thousand HK Dollars).

Football Used in Matches and Basic Equipment

23. HKFA shall arrange and decide the match venue and inform the playing teams. HKFA will provide match ball if there is commercial sponsorship obtained, if not, the match ball used in a competition shall be provided by team named first in the fixture.
24. 1) Every club that participates in the competitions organized by HKFA is required to register at least 2 sets of kit for the Outfield Players and at least 3 sets of kit for the Goalkeeper (kits including shirt, shorts and socks) 7 working days before the first match of the respective competition. The colours of the shirts and socks of home kit and reserve kit of outfield player and goalkeeper must have a clear colour contrast.
- 2) To avoid a clash in colours, each team must prepare at least 2 sets of registered kits for the Outfield players and 3 sets of registered kits for the Goalkeeper (kits including shirt, shorts and socks) in every match. When playing in the matches, the players of the playing teams shall wear shirts and socks which in the opinion of the referee is of a sufficient contrast that the refereeing officials shall be able to distinguish clearly between the two playing teams. Teams may need to wear the kit of the combination colour of their home and away kits. The following order of precedence shall apply for the selection of the choice of shirts and socks by the referee:
- i. 1st priority: the outfield players of the [home] team (except the goalkeeper);
 - ii. 2nd priority: the outfield players of the [away] team (except the goalkeeper);
 - iii. 3rd priority: the goalkeeper of the [home] team;
 - iv. 4th priority: the goalkeeper of the [away] team.
- Referee takes the final decision regarding to the kits colours of the teams
- 3) A number must appear clearly on the shirt and shorts, and a player must wear a shirt and shorts with the same number printed on his shirt and shorts whenever he participates in a match. The location of the number on the shirt and shorts of the same team must be identical.
- 4) The number appearing on the shirt and shorts must be between from 1 to 99, and number 1 must be worn by a goalkeeper.
- 5) Apart from the goalkeeper, the shirts, shorts and socks worn by the outfield players of the same team must be identical. The colours of the shirts and socks (including the goalkeepers) of home kit and reserve kit must have a clear colour contrast of dark and light.
- 6) All advertisement regarding the equipment or kits of the football teams / players shall be done in accordance with the 2021/22 Equipment Regulation.

- 7) All protection equipment being used in matches by players, such as masks and goggles, a written request must be submitted forty-eight (48) hours before the kick-off of the match. All protection equipment shall only be used during the match after an approval of HKFA.

Enrollment and Qualification

25. The registration procedure shall be completed in accordance with the Rules of the Association and the HKFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players. Except as otherwise provided herein, all regulations and rules provided by HKFA for player identity and team transfer shall be applicable to the competitions. Staff and players of the team shall complete the registration procedure through the online registration system “HK Football Connect”. The team has to log in the system to complete the registration.
26. After players have completed the registration procedure, the team has to submit to the Participating Players List (including at least 15 players) to the Player’s Registration Department 7 working days before the start of the first match of its division. The team has to choose qualified players from the Participating Players List and specify the player information on the list for Player’s Registration Department’s verification.
27. The team will be issued a registration certificate of match supervisors and players after the Player’s Registration Department has verified the Participating Players List. Name, photo and registration number of each match supervisor and players are presented in order to secure their qualification for participation in the match.

If the team fails to show the referee a valid registration certificate of match supervisors and players immediately prior to a match, the match shall not be started, and the team shall be deemed to have violated regulations and be punished by the Discipline Committee.

28. If a match is abandoned by the Referee for any other reason after kick-off and the match shall be re-scheduled, only the players that are submitted in the “Participating Players List” as of the date of the match are allowed to play the re-scheduled match.
29. 1) Limitation on player registration with First, Second or Third Division:
There are two registration windows for the Competition. Each registration window shall open on a date as communicated by the HKFA.
- i) Registration Window 1: 6th August 2021 to 28th October 2021 (A professional whose contract has expired prior to the end of a registration period may be registered outside this registration period and the date will be extended to 28th December 2021) ;
- ii) Registration Window 2: 4th January 2022 to 31st January 2022 (A professional whose contract has expired prior to the end of a registration period may be registered outside this registration period and the date will be extended to 31st March 2022)
- * This will be processed in accordance with to the “FIFA Player Status”, please refer to the relevant regulations for details

- 2) The deadline for submission of “Participating Players List”:
- Each participating club can replace or add participating players for any reason, provided that the maximum number of registered players is not exceeded, until 14 working days (i.e. on or before 17th November 2021) after the end of Registration Window 1, a professional whose contract has expired prior to the end of a registration period may be registered outside this registration period and the date will be extended to 28th December 2021.
- During Registration Window 2, i.e. 4th January 2022 to 31st January 2022, each participating club can replace or add participating players for any reason, provided that the maximum number of registered players is not exceeded. , until 14 working days (i.e. on or before 23rd February 2022) after the end of Registration Window 2. A professional whose contract has expired prior to the end of a registration period may be registered outside this registration period and the date will be extended to 31st March 2021.
- 3) Players transferring from one football team to another:
- A player that has played two matches or more in Hong Kong Premier League (including Reserve Division) shall be deemed as a player of Premier League. A player that has played two matches or more in First Division shall be deemed as a player of First Division. A player that has played two matches or more in Second Division shall be deemed as a player of Second Division. A player that has played two matches or more in Third Division shall be deemed as a player of Third Division. (Only player who was fielded in the match will be counted)
 - Any player shall not participate in the division which is lower than his division during the football season without the consent of HKFA.
 - Under no circumstances shall a player who was fielded in 5 or more matches in his division never be allowed to participate in the division lower than his division. (Only player who was fielded in the match will be counted)
- 4) Non-resident (foreign) Players (Except HKFC):
- Limitation on the players on First Division teams: A participating team can submit up to a maximum of three (3) non-resident (foreign) players at the Participating Players List for its first team playing in the Competition at any one time in a Season. A maximum of three (3) non-resident (foreign) players can be fielded at one time of a First Division match. Limitation on the players on Second Division and Third Division teams: No non-resident (foreign) players shall be included in the Participating Players List.
- 5) Number of times for a player can transfer:
- According to Article 17(8) of the Rules of the Association, a player may be registered with 3 teams in every season, but shall represent only two of the teams to participate in a formal competition. (The rule is made in compliance with the provisions for a player’s status and transfer of football teams in Article 5(3) of FIFA.) Each player may transfer to another football team no more than twice every football season.
- 6) Unless the HKFA Board agrees otherwise, the maximum number of the players listed in the Participating Players List of each team shall be 30 (at the same time).

- 7) International Transfer Certificate (ITC) required for an overseas player to participate in the League:
- a. If a player declares that he has been registered overseas, the player has to obtain the international transfer certificate before being registered.
 - b. If a player declares that he has never been registered overseas, the player shall be registered pursuant to the different procedures provided by Premier League and First, Second and Third Divisions.
 - c. This rule is applicable to not only the League, but also other competitions held by HKFA.

For First, Second and Third Divisions:

- The registration procedure shall be completed, but the Registration Department of HKFA shall also consult with the national/district association where the overseas player is attributed to confirm the player status.
- If, when completing the registration procedure, the player declares that he has never been registered with any association, but is found afterwards that he has, all he has declared shall be disposed as false information. A fine of HK\$2,000 for each match shall be imposed upon the football team during violation.
- If an overseas player being registered with First Division to transfer to a team of Hong Kong Premier League, the player shall complete such registration procedure as provided in this Rule for a player registered with Hong Kong Premier League.

- 8) Online Transfer Matching System (TMS) Provided by FIFA:

According to the instructions of FIFA, all the international transfers of professional player have to be completed in the online system (FIFA TMS). International transfers shall be accepted only with the electronic international transfer certificate issued by the system, instead of any other form of international transfer certificate.

30. Each Participating Club is responsible for and bears the onus of fielding only eligible Participating Players in a match. If it is proved that a team sends an un-registered or ineligible player to play, it shall be deemed to have violated regulations and the case will refer to Disciplinary Committee according to disciplinary procedure.

Ineligible Players

31. A player that is found with any of the following situations shall be deemed as ineligible player:
- 1) The team fails to register the player in accordance with the Regulations of HKFA and Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players by FIFA.
 - 2) The player failed to be included the "Participating Players List" of the team.
 - 3) The name of the player is not in the team list (Form B) provided by HKFA.
 - 4) Personal information given during referee inspection is inconsistent with that specified in the "List of Registered Players".
 - 5) A player disguises the player whose identity check has been completed to play a competition.
 - 6) The player should have not played the competition due to any kind of suspension.
 - 7) The player is suspended from that match for his violation of any regulations of the League or of any provision of disciplinary code.

If a team allows any ineligible player to participate in a competition, the HKFA Board or relevant committee shall impose proper disciplinary action in accordance with the Disciplinary Code, including but not limited to:

- Fine;
- Adjudicating the Club to have lost the Match by 0-3, or if the goal difference at the end of the Match in question is greater than 0-3, the result on the pitch is upheld or a replay of the Match; and
- Decision issued by the HKFA Board or relevant committee.

Registration of Game Supervisors

32. Each team must enroll at least one up to 7 team officials at the age of 21 or above to be the Game Supervisor(s). At least one Game Supervisor must be a coach with class C or above assessed by Asian Football Confederation and registered with Hong Kong Football Association. A Game Supervisor has to be present during the entire match. If before or during the match, either team has no Game Supervisor presence, the referee will not start the match or they will terminate the match immediately. The team that has no supervisor appearance shall bear the consequence and responsibility.

It is the responsibility of the Game Supervisor to ensure that all the match documents required are correct, including but not limited to the Team List [Form B], the Registration Card of Game Supervisors and Players, etc. Game Supervisor shall sign and confirm to receive the red and yellow card records after the match.

33. Each official in First, Second and Third Divisions shall only enroll as game supervisor for one team in each division. Team officials shall only represent the duties of game supervisor for one team in every single match.
34. Any request for the registration of the Game Supervisors must be submitted in writing **on or before 31st May 2022**. Any late request will not be entertained. All teams can amend the Game Supervisors from the list of registered team officials at any time throughout the season.

Team List [Form B]

35. 1) Before the competition begins, the Game Supervisor and the captain of each team must fill out Form B (teams could make copy of Form B, but cannot amend any content of Form B, which is issued by HKFA and shall be confirmed and signed by the game supervisor and the captain. Players in the competition and the registration number and jersey number of each player shall be specified in the Form. The Form together with the list of of game supervisors and players shall be given to the referee for inspection. The manager or the coach of the team must deliver the player cards of all players and the team sheet (Form B) to a referee during the provided period prior to the match.

The referee and duty officer must:

- a. check the identity of each player to play the competition; and
 - b. submit the team list (Form B), substitution form and the referee's report to HKFA within 48 hours after the match.
- 2) If the referee or the duty officer suspects any player's identity, he has the right to ask the player to show the ID certificate and sign on the team list.

- 3) If it is proved that a team sends an un-registered or ineligible player to play, it shall be deemed to have violated regulations and the case will refer to Disciplinary Committee according to disciplinary procedure.
- 4) The team list shall specify the registration number of each player and the number printed on the player's jersey, and the contents of the team sheet shall be confirmed by the game supervisor and the captain of the team by signing on the list prior to the match.
- 5) The names of assistant referees and any 4th official for the match shall be indicated in the referee's report.

Number of Players

36. If the number of players of a team is less than 11 upon commencement, the match shall continue as according to the number of players as stipulated in the Laws of the Game. As the aforementioned situation affects the operation of the match and the image of the League and makes the match unable to continue in the spirit of fair play, the team shall be punished for its violation of this rule by the HKFA Board or a committee under the HKFA Board. The sanction may include but is not limited to the following:
 - Fines: - 1st time HK\$1,500
 - 2nd time HK\$3,000
 - 3rd time HK\$5,000
 - 4th time Suspension to be considered by the HKFA Board

Referees and Assistant Referees

37. HKFA will appoint referees and assistant referees from the list of registered referees. If all or any referees fail to appear to perform required duties, the Secretariat may appoint, prior to the commencement of the match, other persons as it thinks fit to perform the duties required for referees or assistant referees.
38. The HKFA Board has the right to decide the remuneration to referees and assistant referees if necessary.
39. Unless the consent of the HKFA is acquired prior to a match, the match shall be played as scheduled. The referee on the site must report to HKFA any incident resulting in delay of the match and any lateness or absence of any assistant referee or oneself. The assistant referee who is late or absent must explain the reason.
40. The referee must send the referee's report, incidents regarding red cards resulting in players from the field, and the report on misconduct of relevant people, including players, staff or audience to HKFA within 48 hours after the match.

Protest, Claim or Complaint

41. No protests can be made against the referee's decisions. Such decisions are final and not subject to appeal, unless otherwise stipulated in the HKFA Disciplinary Code. Any and all protest, claims or complaints in connection with a match shall be made in written notification and delivered together with a deposit of HK\$2,000 to the Secretariat within 48 hours after the match. The protest, claim or complaint will be dealt with within 7 days after the receipt by HKFA. No protest, claim or complaint shall be withdrawn without the consent of HKFA. If the protest, claim or complaint is not successful, all or part of the deposit paid will be forfeited.

Protest Against Facilities or Objects Used in a Match

42. Any protests in connection with facilities, goalposts or other objects used in a match shall be made in writing and delivered together with a deposit of HK\$2,000 to the Secretariat within 48 hours after the match. The protest will be dealt with within 7 days after the receipt of the protest. No protest, claim or complaint shall be withdrawn without the consent of HKFA. If the protest, claim or complaint is not successful, all or part of the deposit paid will be forfeited.

Ranking System

43. The Competition shall be played in league format. The winner of a match shall be awarded three (3) points. Each team participating in a match which ends in a draw shall be awarded one (1) point.
44. Participating teams' final positions in the league table shall be determined by the number of points obtained by their respective playing team in the Competition, the team having obtained the highest number of points being at the top of the table and the team having obtained the lowest number of points being at the bottom.
45. If any two (2) or more playing teams have obtained the same number of points, the positions of the teams concerned shall be determined as follows by order of priority:
 - 1) number of points obtained in the matches of the Competition between/among the teams concerned, higher or highest placed team shall be the team with the higher or highest number of points;
 - 2) goal difference, that is to say, the difference between the total number of goal scored by and against a team in the matches of the Competition between/among the teams concerned, and higher or highest placed team shall be the team with the higher or highest goal difference;
 - 3) number of goals scored by a team in the matches of the Competition between/among the teams concerned, and higher or highest placed team shall be the team with more or most goals scored;
 - 4) if, after having applied Art. 45.(1) to 45.(3), playing teams still have an equal ranking, Art. 45.(1) to 45.(3) are reapplied exclusively to the matches between the playing teams in question to determine their final rankings. If this procedure does not lead to a decision, Art. 45.(5) to 45.(8) apply;
 - 5) goal difference, that is to say, the difference between the total number of goal scored by and against a team in all its matches of the Competition, and higher or highest placed team shall be the team with the higher or highest goal difference;

- 6) number of goals scored by a team in all its matches of the Competition, and higher or highest placed team shall be the team with more or most goals scored;
 - 7) least number of yellow and red cards. Each team will receive points for receiving red and yellow cards as indicated below:
 - i. Each yellow card (1 point)
 - ii. Each red card as a consequence of two yellow cards (3 points)
 - iii. Each direct red card (3 points)
 - iv. Each yellow card followed by a direct red card (4 points)The team receiving the least number of points will be ranked the highest.
 - 8) drawing of lots.
46. For each Division, the team obtaining the highest points is the champion, the team obtaining the second highest points is the first runner-up. Other places shall be determined in accordance with Act. 43 to 45 provided above.
47. If any Participating team ceases to participate in the Competition during the course of the season, the record of the matches of the Competition in which its playing team has participated shall be expunged from the league table.

Trophies and Medals

48. Trophies and medals for each Division shall be awarded in the following situations:

First, Second and Third Division

The champion team, the runners-up, the 3rd place and the 4th place will each be awarded a replica trophy and 37 medals.

The League Trophy is the property of HKFA and will be awarded to the champion team. When the winning team is confirmed, it is awarded the trophy as the prize and shall keep it in its custody for a year whichever is earlier. The trophy should be returned in good condition to HKFA in April next year. If the trophy is lost or damaged while being kept by the champion team and such loss or damage cannot be covered by the insurance acquired by HKFA, the champion team shall be liable for the expenses of replacement or repair.

Top Scorer

The top scorer of each division will be awarded a trophy/medal. (If any team violated the regulations and the match has adjudicated with the lost, then the goal(s) which scored by player(s) from the violation team will not be counted.)

Violation of the Regulations

49. If any team or its staff or player violates this Regulation of the League or commits any misconduct, HKFA shall have the Disciplinary Committee to deal with the violation or misconduct. HKFA has the right to expel the violating football team, staff or player from the League, suspend its membership, suspend it from the game, or impose on it a fine or other proper penalties. If any team is temporarily suspended from the match, HKFA has the right to award to its rival in the match all the points assigned for the match during such suspension of the team.

50. If a player is warned by the referee showing a yellow card or is sent off from the field by the referee showing a red card, or the referee or assistant referee reports or complains in writing about the player for misconduct, the player will be examined by the Disciplinary Committee or other relevant committee assigned by HKFA Board for proper punishment.
51. Any complaint made in writing by a Director of HKFA, staff of a team or a referee will be reviewed by the HKFA. If the complaint is in the scope of the duties of the Disciplinary Committee, it shall be dealt with by the Disciplinary Committee. The HKFA Board or the selected committee of the HKFA Board only deals with the complaints beyond the scope of the duties of the Disciplinary Committee and the incidents regarding violation of the Regulations.
52. When a protest, claim or complaint is dealt with by the Disciplinary Committee or any committee of the HKFA Board, the members of the committee shall not attend the meeting on behalf of any team, except for submitting evidence and relevant information to the committee.

Code of Ethics

53. All participating clubs, its Officials and Players, Match Officials are responsible to comply with the FIFA, AFC or HKFA Code of Ethics and all relevant circulars and directives in force at the time of the Competition, and agree in particular to respect the fighting against discrimination, racism and match-fixing activities.

All participating clubs, its Officials and Players, Match Officials are responsible to ensure the fairplay of all games. Any violated behavior will be examined by the Disciplinary Committee, or further examine by AFC or other related authorities.

Language

54. The Chinese version (of the rules) should have priority over the English version should there be any inconsistency or contradiction in between.

Modification and Interpretation of the Regulations

55. The HKFA Board has the right to modify, add, delete and interpret any rule provided in this Regulation.

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