Football Federation of Belize

The National Elite U-15 Male League Championship Regulations

THE NATIONAL ELITE U-15M LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP REGULATIONS

The National ELITE U-15M LEAGUE Championship is an FFB National Teams Development Program Event

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THE NATIONAL ELITE U-15M LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP REGULATIONS

PREAMBLE

A. The National Elite U-15M League Championship is an official event of the Football Federation of Belize, hereinafter referred to as FFB, and is a development tournament of the Federation. It shall consist of an opening season and a closing season. Each season shall consist of a qualifying group stage and a final phase. The group stage shall be comprised of two sets of at least five teams competing to determine seeding for the round of ten in the final phase. The final phase shall consist of a round of ten series, a round of five competition and final championship match. If the champion of the opening season is different from the closing season, a single match will be played at FFB stadium two weeks after conclusion of the closing season. At the conclusion of the round of ten series in any season, the 23 players with the most votes for best Goalkeeper (3), best Forwards (6), best midfielders (6) and best defenders (8) shall be established as the season's 23 best players. The FFB 15M National team shall be the best 23 players of both seasons'-23.

B. Any rights that these regulations do not cede to a district association participating in the National Elite U-15M League Championships shall belong to FFB.

C. The short-term objective of the tournament is to present a dynamic context through which players can be identified by FFB technical officers for suitability for call up to the U-15 Male national team.

D. The long-term objective is to create and sustain a competitive country wide pool, of the most talented and football cultivated U-15M players as part of the FFB national teams' development program

I. TITLE – THE NATIONAL ELITE U-15M LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

1. The NATIONAL U-15M League Championship shall consist of opening season between January and June and a closing season between July and December of the calendar year. The competition districts affiliated with FFB member are invited to participate with their elite U-15M teams.
2. The Member Associations shall ensure that every talented U-15M player within their football jurisdiction is afforded the opportunity to showcase his footballing talents on the field of play.
3. FFB will present the Champion with the FFB U-15M Championship Trophy.
4. The Champion shall receive 23 gold medals, and the runner-up 23silver medals, and the third-place team 23 bronze medals.

II. ENTRIES

1. The elite representative U-15M teams of FFB competition districts and elite U-17 club teams of FFB licensed clubs have the right to participate.
2. Only players registered with the FFB through the FFB player licensing process shall be eligible for inclusion on the elite representative teams and elite club teams.
2. A letter of participation should be sent to the FFB Competitions Department via the regional office responsible for football districts by March 31 of the competition year.

THE NATIONAL ELITE U-15M LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP REGULATIONS

III. ORGANIZATION OF THE COMPETITION

A. THE GROUP STAGE

a. The MA shall be responsible for appointing the Local Organizing Committee hereinafter referred to as the LOC. It will also designate the leader of the LOC who shall be the MA representative to National Youth Competitions Organizing. Committee

b. The LOC, in conjunction with the Technical Officer of the respective regional office, shall be responsible for determining the method of selecting players for a given MA's representative team as well as evaluating the suitability of a given club's elite U15M club team for the U15M elite league competition. To the farthest extent practicable, the LOC shall make every attempt to stage competitions between u-15 clubs within their respective districts. These competitions will serve to bring districtwide talents into convergence so that the selection committee can conduct an equitable selection process. Each district should have at most five (5) teams. If there are more than five teams, an elimination process shall be conducted to narrow the field of participating clubs to five (5) before April 1 of current year.

c. The TO/LOC shall appoint at least three (3) coaches from among the membership of an ad-hoc coaching association affiliated with the MA.

d. The selection task group shall rely on objective criteria established by the MA's Executive through the Executive Responsible for competitions. These criteria shall attempt to capture the levels of physical fitness, technical fitness, tactical fitness, psycho-social fitness of every player to be used to select players for the MA's representative team.

e. *The LOC, through the District Association Executive Committee and Regional Office, shall submit a list of twenty (23) FFB licensed players to comprise the representative elite u15M team and, if applicable, the elite u15M club team of an FFB licensed club to the FFB Competitions Department via FFB General Secretariat by March 31. Additionally, the names of the Selection* Manager, Coach, medical, and other management personnel shall be submitted.

f. The five teams in each group shall play each other in a league format to yield a table of standings for seeding purposes in determining head to head matchups in the inter-district phase.

B. THE INTER-DISTRICT PHASE

a. The Inter-district phase shall consist of all ten-competing elite U15M teams which shall be differentiated into five groups of two elite teams. Each group shall consist of one elite u15M team from North group and one elite u15M team from south group.

b. The pairings will be determined as follows:

i. R10 series A N#1 vs S#5
ii. R10 Series B N#2 vs S#4
iii. R10 Series C N#3 vs S#3
iv. R10 Series D N#4 vs S#2
v. R10 Series E N#5 vs S#1

c. The winners of the five series shall enter into a two-match, home and away format. Three points shall be awarded for a win, one point for a draw and zero points for a loss. Each team shall be paired with two different teams determined as follows:

	Home		away
i.	Winner of series A	vs	winner of series E
ii.	Winner of Series B	vs	winner of series C
iii.	Winner of series D	vs	winner of series A
iv.	Winner of Series C	vs	winner of series B
v.	Winner of series E	vs	winner of series D

d. The five teams shall be ranked #1 through #5 based on total points, goal difference. The teams ranked 1st and 2nd shall play one winner-takes-all match for the U15M League Championship match at a venue determined by the nominal order of districts arranged alphabetically. The starting point for the final match venue rotation shall be the home venue of the team placing first in the round of five.

e. In the round of 10, Matches that are tied at end of regulation time of the second leg shall be subjected to a tie breaker rule as follows: extra time of two 10 to 15-minute halves, taking of penalty kicks. The format for talking of penalty kicks shall be 5 vs 5 then sudden death i.e. 1 vs 1 until a winner emerges from a pair of penalty licks taken by opposing sides.

f. At the conclusion of each match, the coach or his designate shall fill out an outstanding player nomination form. This form captures the net impact that the best defenders, midfielders, forwards, striker and goalkeepers from both teams have had on the coach during the match. Qualitative measures of the physical, technical, tactical, psycho-social condition levels of the players shall be employed to discriminate among candidates for district selection

g. At the conclusion of the season, the 23 players with the most nominations for the various positions shall be named as the U15M National Team

IV. WITHDRAWALS

1. All participating district associations having entered the tournament are obligated to play all their matches until they are eliminated from the Championship. After entering the tournament, a Team that fails to participate, shall be penalized as follows, except in unforeseen circumstances and cases of force majeure as determined by the NOC.

2. If a withdrawal takes place:

a. immediately after submitting letter of intent and list of players but Before the start of the Tournament a fine of $25;

b. two days before date of the Tournament a fine of two hundred dollars ($50).

c. Depending on circumstances and the decision of the FFB Executive Committee, the association of a team which withdraws at any stage of the competition may be sanctioned.

3. Penalties specified herein will not be applied in cases of force majeure, as verified by the relevant FFB Committee.

4. The MA shall be responsible for ensuring that specified sanctions are carried out and complied with;

5. If a team does not report for a match, except in cases of force majeure, or if it refuses to continue to play or leaves the ground before the end of a match, the team shall be considered as having lost. The match and three points shall be awarded to its opponents with a score of 3-0 or more if, in the case of an abandoned match, the winning team has already reached a higher score at the time the guilty team leaves the field or refuses to continue to play;
6. The guilty team shall, as a general rule, be excluded from further participation in the competition so that none of its matches will be deemed valid, unless the incident mentioned in par. 6 occurred in its last match. In addition, the guilty association shall pay compensation for any damages or losses suffered by the other association(s) and by FFB. Furthermore, the guilty District Association will forfeit any claim to financial remuneration from FFB. Further measures may be taken by the NOC;
7. If the circumstances of withdrawal are sufficiently serious, the Disciplinary Committee may also take whatever additional action is appropriate under the terms of the FFB Disciplinary Code;
8. The relevant FFB committee shall determine the amount of damages for financial loss upon receipt of a substantiated and documented request from the Organizing Committee;
9. No appeals can be lodged against these decisions.

V. THE NATIONAL ORGNIZING COMMITTEE

1. The Organizing Committee for the U-15M Championship shall be The National Organizing Committee. It shall be appointed by the FFB Executive Committee and shall be responsible for the organization of the competition.
2. The Organizing Committee shall, amongst other matters, be responsible for:
a. Supervising the general preparations, determining the competition system, as well as forming the competition groups for the Tournament.
b. Fixing the dates, venues, stadia for training sessions, and Tournament matches.
c. Determining the schedule for the tournament.
d. Designation of referees and officials for all matches in the Tournament.
e. Choosing the official ball of the Tournament, and any other technical material required during the Tournament.
f. Functioning as a decision making body in the event of challenges or complaints, and issuing the applicable rulings thereto.
g. Executing and coordinating the operation and logistics of the Tournament.
h. Deciding the applicable solutions in case of force majeure.
i. Preparing and submitting a Competition Budget
j. Preparing a Competition Report using Headings used in these regulations. This Report shall include a situation report on the physical/technical/tactical/psycho-social conditions of the eight teams.
k. Preparing and submitting an income and expense report for the competition
l. Collating match data collected by referees on match reports
m. Appointing the team responsible for developing criteria to be used to invite players to the U-17 national Selection training camp

VI. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE HOST TEAM

1. The Host team shall be responsible to:
a. Provide meals for twenty-three (23) persons (18 players and 5 team officials) per team.

b. Provide local ground transportation for each participating 23 persons to and from training sites, and match venues exclusively.
c. Provide water and re-hydrating beverages for all Tournament matches.
d. Have training sites in good and adequate conditions available for all associations.
e. Provide adequate security for all participants, district association officials, and match officials from arrival to departure.
f. Provide medical and emergency services at Tournament matches.
g. Provide all members of each Association with the required accreditations.
h. provides laundry facilities. (finals match)
i. provides advance information to parents of children participating in tournament.

VII. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTICIPATING ASSOCIATIONS

1. Each participating MA shall be responsible for:
a. equipping its representative team.
b. maintaining reliable communication links between association and the families of the children during their stay at host venue.
c. The conduct of the members of its delegation (officials and players), and of any person carrying out duties on its behalf throughout the competition, from their arrival into the host venue until their departure;
d. Travel and accident insurance coverage for all the members of its delegation;
e. Any expenses of extending the stay of any member of its delegation, unless otherwise approved by FFB;
f. Returning the information requested by FFB by the dates specified;
g. Applying for applicable documents in good time, as necessary.
h. Attending press conferences and other official media activities organized by FFB in accordance with the instructions issued by FFB.
i. Assign the coaches to nominate best defender/midfielder/forward/gk from both teams in every match.
2. The participating MAs and their players and officials agree to comply with the Laws of the Game and the FFB Statutes and these Tournament Regulations.
3. The participating MAs and their players and officials agree to comply with the FFB Disciplinary Code, the FFB Code of Ethics as well as decision and directives of FFB bodies, unless these Regulations stipulates otherwise.

VIII. ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE FROM THE HOST VENUE

1. All delegations shall arrive at least 4 hours (four) hours prior to the commencement of the scheduled match, and they shall leave within two hours pf match.

IX. U15M DISCIPLINARY BOARD

1. The Disciplinary Board is empowered to:
a. Admonish, sanction, fine, suspend or disqualify players, referees, team officials or coaches.

b. Take any disciplinary measure in accordance with the Draft FFB Disciplinary Code against any person or District Association(s) which may violate the Competition Regulations, the Laws of the Game or the rules of Fair Play.
c. Prohibit violators from participating in a specific number of FFB organized tournaments in which they might otherwise have participated.
2. Report serious matters for further consideration by the FFB Executive Committee.
3. The decisions of the Disciplinary Board will be based on written reports from referees, assistant referees and/or the Match coordinator and video footage available from the disputed match. All participating District Associations will be informed of the sanctions imposed.
4. The Disciplinary Board may convene a personal hearing and will decide the procedure to be followed. Decisions resulting from such hearing shall be invalid if less than three (3) members are present.
5. All economic penalties assessed must be paid by the appropriate Association no later than seventy-two (72) days after notification thereof.
6. Cautions and Suspensions:
a. Cautions received during one competition are not carried over to another competition.
b. A single caution received in the preliminary phase of the competition shall not be carried over to the final Phase of the competition.
c. Two (2) cautions received in different games in the Preliminary Phase or two (2) cautions in different games in the Final Phases of the Competition shall result in automatic suspension from the next game in the competition.
d. Red card suspensions shall be served regardless of the stage of the competition.

X. U15M APPEALS COMMITTEE

1. The Appeals Committee shall hear appeals lodged against decisions passed by the Disciplinary Board.
2. The procedure to be applied by the Appeals Committee is defined in the Draft FFB Disciplinary Code.

XI. PROTESTS

1. Protests, subject to the following provisions, are objections of any kind connected with matches organized in the FFB U-15M Championship.
2. Protests shall be submitted in writing to the Match Commissioner or FFB representative at the match not later than two (2) hours after conclusion of the match and followed up immediately with a written report
3. Protests for reasons outlined in paragraph 4 below must be accompanied by a deposit in the amount of five dollars ($5.00) payable to Match Commissioner.
4. Protests against eligibility of players chosen to take part in a game and deemed to have been suspended shall be submitted in writing to the Match Commissioner not later than two (2) hours following the conclusion of the match.
5. Protests against any incidents that occur during a match shall be confirmed in writing to the Match Commissioner or the FFB representative at the match not later than two (2) hours following the conclusion of the match in question.
6. No protests may be made against the referee's decisions on points of fact connected with play, such decisions being final.

XII. MATCHES PLAYED ACCORDING TO THE LAWS OF THE GAME

THE NATIONAL ELITE U-15M LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP REGULATIONS

1. All matches will be played under the Laws of the Game as approved by the International Football Association Board and published by FIFA.
2. In the case of any discrepancy in the interpretation of the Laws of the Game, the English text shall be authoritative.
3. Only five (5) appropriately credentialed team officials, and up to seven (7) players [substitutes], shall be allowed to sit on the bench at the touch line, a maximum of twelve (12) persons. The names of all these persons and their functions shall be indicated on the form provided by the referee's.

XIII. DURATION, EXTRA TIME, PENALTY KICKS

1. Each match shall last 70 **minutes,** comprising two periods of 35 **minutes** with an interval of 10 minutes in between.
2. In knockout phase of tournament, if the teams are still tied at end of normal time, extra time of ten to fifteen minutes per half will be played followed by 5 vs 5 penalty kicks followed by 1 vs 1 sudden death to determine winner
3. In the home and away knockout series, if the teams are still tied at the end of normal time of second leg of the series, extra time of ten to fifteen minutes per half will be played followed by penalty kicks from the penalty mark to determine the winner

XIV. ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

1. Eligible players to participate in the tournament shall NOT attain 16th birthday at any point during year of the U15M League Championship.
2. Each participating association shall select its district selection team from the best players who hold an FFB player license, are players on a club team registered with the association, are Belizean nationals, and are eligible for selection in accordance with the provisions of the FFB Regulations governing the Application of the applicable sections of the FFB Statutes.
3. Each player should be in possession of a player passport containing an up-to-date photograph and giving full on the date of birth (day, month, year) of the player. If a player is not in possession of a player passport, he may not be allowed to participate in the tournament.
4. Provisional List of Players: For tournament, participating District Associations must provide their "List of Players" on the official form provided, to the office of the FFB General Secretariat, at least seven (7) days prior to the kick-off of the opening match. This list is binding and shall contain the names of at least eighteen (18) players. The release list shall at a minimum contain the full last name(s), all first names, popular name, place and date of birth, and player passport number.
5. Team Delegations and Final Roster: Each participating Association shall submit to the FFB General Secretariat its Final Delegation list of up to twenty-three (23) persons, which must include up to eighteen (18) players not later than fifteen (15) days prior to the first match of the Championship.
6. A listed player may only be substituted in the event of serious injury up until twenty-four (24) hours before his team's first match. The substitute shall be selected from the provisional list of twenty-five (25) players. Any additional cost associated with approved player replacement will be at the expense of the team.
7. All eighteen players shall be named on each match sheet (11 selected players and 7 substitutes). Up to five (5) of the substitutes may take the place of the selected players during the match.

8. The Associations shall be responsible for fielding only eligible players. Failure to do so shall lead to the consequences stipulated in the FFB Disciplinary Code.

XV. REGULATIONS GOVERNING SPORTS EQUIPMENT

1. Players and officials are not allowed to visibly display political, religious, commercial or personal messages in any language or form on their playing or team kit, equipment (including kit bags, beverage containers, medical bags, etc.) or body. The similar display of commercial messages and slogans in any language or form by players and officials is not allowed for the duration of their time at any official activity organized by FFB (including in the stadium for official matches and mixed zone activities).
2. Each team shall have an official and reserve team kit, which shall be declared on the team color form. The colors of the reserve team kit (shirt, shorts, and socks) shall be noticeably different from and contrast with the colors of the official team kit (shirt, shorts, and socks). The reserve team kit (including the goalkeeper's) must also be taken to every match. Only these colors may be worn at matches.
3. Each player shall wear a number between 1 and 25 on the front and back of his team shirt and on his playing shorts. The number assignment shall be permanent throughout the tournament. The colors of the numbers must contrast clearly with the main color of the shirts and shorts (light or dark or vice versa) and be legible from a distance for spectators in the stadium and television viewers in accordance with the appropriate Regulations.

XVI. FLAGS AND ANTHEMS

1. During the tournament, the FFB flag and the Belize flag shall be flown inside the stadium at every match providing sufficient flag poles are available. The FIFA Fair Play flag shall also be hoisted or draped in the stadium, clearly visible from the VIP box.
2. The Belize National Anthem shall be played while the teams are entering the field.

XVII. REFEREES, ASSISTANT REFEREES AND FOURTH OFFICIALS

1. The referees, assistant referees and fourth officials (hereinafter referred to collectively as match officials) for the preliminary and final competitions shall be appointed for each match by the FFB Referees Committee. The decisions of the FFB Referees Committee are final and not subject to appeal. 2. The match officials shall receive the official refereeing kit and equipment from FFB. They shall wear and use only this kit on match days.
3. The match officials shall be given the opportunity to use training facilities.
4. After each match the referee shall fill out the official FFB report forms and he shall hand it over immediately after the match to the Match Commissioner or the FFB General Coordinator at the venue as directed.
5. On the report form, the referee shall note all occurrences before, during, and after the match in as much detail as possible, such as: a. Misconduct of players, leading to caution or expulsion; b. Unsporting behavior of officials, supporters and any person acting on behalf of a national association at a match; c. Any other incidents.

XVIII. TECHNICAL RULES

THE NATIONAL ELITE U-15M LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP REGULATIONS

1. The Organizing Committee may organize an official draw of the teams in the Tournament and shall decide on the structure and format.
2. The matches in the group phase shall be played according to the league system, each club meeting every other club once with the following awards: three points for a win, one point for a draw, and none for a defeat. In knockout phase and In the event of a draw after normal time, extra time of 10 to 15 min per half shall be played followed by penalty kicks shall be taken in a 1 vs 1 fashion until a winner emerges. All group participants shall advance to the home and away round of 10 knockout stage.
The five winners of the round of 10 shall enter a home and away league style competition with three points for a win, one point for a draw and zero point for a loss. The two teams ranked first and second shall play one single final winner-takes-all match at the venue of the team placed first. Thereafter the venue shall be determined from an alphabetically based nominal order of competition districts as follows: Belize, Belmopan, Benque Viejo, Cayo, Corozal, Dangriga, Midsouth, Orange Walk, San Pedro, Toledo
3. The winner of the season shall be awarded The FFB U-15M Championship Trophy.
4. If the winner of the opening season is different from the winner of the closing season, a one match winner takes all will be played at the FFB stadium in Belmopan two weeks after conclusion of the closing season
5. The ranking of each team in each group will be determined as follows:
a. Greatest number of points obtained in group matches
b. Goal difference in all group matches
c. Greatest number of goals scored in all group matches
d. Greatest number of points obtained in group matches between the teams concerned;
e. Drawing of lots by the NOC.

XIX. FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

1. FFB shall bear the following:
a. transportation from district to venue for championships, transportation in and around host venue, food, and approved per diem for the referees and assistant referees, training sessions, team practices and matches, Uniforms,
2. A grant shall be made to the host association towards the expenses for ground transportation. The head of delegation shall present invoice for transportation when delegation arrives at the FFB training facility

XX. MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR

FFB's Executive Committee, whose decisions shall be final, will resolve matters not provided for in these Regulations. In the case of any discrepancy in the interpretation of the English or Spanish texts of these regulations. The English text shall be authoritative.

For the Executive Committee of FFB, this 5 day of April, 2019,

President
Sergio Chuc

Football Federation of Belize
Belize C.A.

General Secretary
Earl Jones

THE NATIONAL ELITE U-15M LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP REGULATIONS

ROAD TO 2017 FIFA U-17 WORLD CUP INDIA

MATCH SCHEDULE FOR 2016 NATIONAL U-17 CHAMPIONSHIP(DISTRCIT SELECTIONS)

match	duration	60mins								
interval		10 mins								
tie	breaker	penalties	1 vs 1	until	winner	emerges	Winner	receives	extra pt	
EST	earliest	start	time							
LST	latest	start	time	(based on	extra time	due to	tiebreaker	penalties		
IBS	ISIDORO	BEATON	STADIUM							
				FRIDAY	JULY 29	2016				
		GRP1			VENUE			GRP2		
	EST	match		LST	IBS		EST	match		LST
RD1	10am	A	vs B	on time	IBS	RD2	11:20	A	vs B	11:35
RD3	11:30	C	vs D	11:45	IBS	RD4	12:50	C	vs D	13:10
RD5	13:00	A	vs C	13:15	IBS	RD6	14:20	A	vs C	14:35
RD7	14:30	B	vs D	14:45	IBS	RD8	15:50	B	vs D	16:05
				SATURDAY	JULY 30	2016				
		qualifying round								
		GRP1			VENUE			GRP2		
RD9	9:00	A	vs D	on time	IBS	RD10	10:20	A	vs D	10:35
RD11	11:55	B	vs C	12:05	IBS	RD12	13:05	B	vs C	13:20
		semi-finals								
	TIME			MATCH				VENUE		
RD13	18:00	GRP 1 WINNER		VS	GRP2 RUNNERUP			ISB		
RD14	20:00	GRPP2 WINNER		VS	GRP1 RUNNERUP			ISB		
				SUNDAY	JULY 31	2016				
		finals								
	time			match				venue		
RD15	16:00	RD13 LOSER		VS	RD14 LOSER			ISB		
RD16	18:00	RD13 WINNER		VS	RD14 WINNER			ISB		
	CLOSING CEREMONY AND AWARDS									