

SuperLiga™
Rules and Regulations

Inaugural Edition 2007





SuperLiga™ Table of Contents

Preamble

- I. Title - SuperLiga™
- II. Entries
- III. Organization of the Competition
- IV. Withdrawals
- V. SuperLiga™ Organizing Committee
- VI. Disciplinary Committee
- VII. Appeal Committee
- VIII. Protests
- IX. Matches Played According to the Laws of the Game
- X. Duration, Extra Time, Penalty Kicks
- XI. Field of Play, Stadia, Ballas
- XII. Responsibilities of Each Entity Involved
- XIII. Eligibility of Players, List of Players
- XIV. Equipment
- XV. Referees, Assistant Referees and Fourth Officials
- XVI. Technical Rules
- XVII. Media, Advertising and Merchandising
- XVIII. Financial Regulations
- XIX. Copyrights
- XX. Matters not provided for

PREAMBLE

- A. SUPERLIGA™ is an event approved by the Confederation of North, Central American and Caribbean Association Football (“CONCACAF”), U.S. Soccer (“USSF”) and Federacion Mexicana de Futbol (“FMF”) involving clubs from each of Major League Soccer (United States) and Mexican Primera Division (Mexico).
- B. In 2007 it will be played as a Preliminary Phase involving round-robin group play, a Secondary Phase involving single game semi-finals and a Final Phase involving a single game championship.
- C. Any and all rights included in or not ceded through these regulations shall belong to SUM unless otherwise specifically noted.

I. TITLE - SUPERLIGA

- A. SUPERLIGA™ shall take place on an annual basis. The corresponding clubs affiliated with each of Major League Soccer and Mexican Primera Division meeting the necessary criteria are invited to participate.
- B. SUM will present the winning Club with “La Pluma” trophy for one year as well as an exact replica for permanent possession. SUM will retain the original on which to record all SUPERLIGA™ winners.
- C. The Champion shall receive 35 gold medals.

II. ENTRIES

- A. Clubs meeting criteria in a relevant year have the right to participate in SUPERLIGA.
- B. For 2007, participation shall be by invitation.
 - 1. The participating clubs representing Major League Soccer will be:
 - a. D.C. United
 - b. FC Dallas
 - c. Houston Dynamo
 - d. Los Angeles Galaxy
 - 2. The participating clubs representing Mexico’s Primera Division will be:
 - a. Club América
 - b. Club Deportivo Guadalajara

- c. Monarcas de Morelia
- d. Pachuca

III. ORGANIZATION OF THE COMPETITION

A. The Competition shall be played in three (3) phases:

1. The Preliminary Phase (round robin group play)
2. The Secondary Phase (single game semi-finals)
3. The Final Phase (single game championship)

B. The Preliminary Phase

1. The Preliminary Phase of the competition shall be played as round robin with each of the clubs assigned to a specific group and playing against each of the other clubs in its respective group. Groups shall be comprised of an equal number of MLS and Mexican Primera Division Clubs.
2. The matches of the Preliminary Phase shall award three (3) points for winning a particular match; one (1) point for a draw; and zero (0) points for a loss. No overtime shall be played in the Preliminary Phase.

C. The Secondary Phase:

1. The Secondary Phase of the competition shall be played as respective single game semi-finals. In the event of a draw following regulation time, two, equal periods of 15 minutes each shall be played in their entirety. Should the overtime not yield a victor, the match will be decided by kicks from the penalty mark according to FIFA regulations. The match officially will be recorded as a draw.

D. The Final Phase:

1. The Final Phase of the competition shall consist of a single game championship match. In the event of a draw following regulation time, two, equal periods of 15 minutes each shall be played in their entirety. Should the overtime not yield a victor, the match will be decided by kicks from the penalty mark according to FIFA regulations. The match officially will be recorded as a draw.
2. Clubs shall arrive in the city of the match venue no later than the evening before the date that the match is due to be played.

- a. If the match is interrupted before the completion of normal playing time or extra time (if required) because of extreme weather or for reasons outside the control of the host Club, a repeat match lasting 90 minutes shall be arranged for the following day.
- b. The matches may be played in daylight or under floodlight. Matches played at night may be played only at venues where the floodlighting installations meet the minimum lighting requirements laid down by FIFA in the relevant regulations for guidelines.
- c. Financial arrangements for costs incurred by the visiting Club such as travel, board and lodging as a result of playing a match shall be mutually agreed upon by the Clubs concerned and SUM. Any disputes arising therefore may be submitted to the Organizing Committee for SUPERLIGA™ for a final decision to be taken.

IV. WITHDRAWALS

- A. Clubs having entered the competition are obligated to play all of its matches as scheduled by the Organizing Committee.
- B. If a withdrawal takes place:
 1. After entering the tournament but on or before the day of the draw for the Preliminary Phase of the tournament sanctions may include but not be limited to a fine as to be determined by the Organizing Committee.
 2. After the draw but on or before the date of the first match of the Preliminary Phase tournament sanctions may include but not be limited to a fine as to be determined by the Organizing Committee.
 3. Anytime during the Preliminary Phase of the Tournament sanctions may include but not be limited to a fine as to be determined by the Organizing Committee.
 4. After the Preliminary Phase but before the start of the Secondary Phase of the Tournament sanctions may include but not be limited to a fine as to be determined by the Organizing Committee.
 5. Anytime during the Final Phase of the Tournament sanctions may include but not be limited to a fine as to be determined by the Organizing

Committee.

6. In addition to any fine or other punishment imposed, any such club withdrawing from the competition shall be disqualified, have its results treated as 3:0 defeats, and will be prohibited from participating in the next three SUPERLIGA™ competitions.
- C. If a Club does not report for a match - except in cases of force majeure recognized by the Organizing Committee for SUPERLIGA™ - or refuses to continue to play or leaves the stadium before the end of the match, the Club shall be considered as having lost by a 3:0 result. In addition to any fine or other punishment imposed, the guilty Club shall be disqualified from participating in the next three SUPERLIGA™ competitions.
 - D. Depending on circumstances and the decision of the Organizing Committee for SUPERLIGA, a club which withdraws at any stage of the competition may be ordered to reimburse the particular Local Organizing Committee, the opposing club, and SUM any expenses they have already incurred for its club as a result of its proposed involvement or non-involvement in the competition and also pay compensation for any damages or losses arising from its withdrawal.
 - E. Penalties specified in the previous Article will not be applied in cases of *force majeure*, as verified by the Organizing Committee for SUPERLIGA.
 - F. The National Association of any penalized club shall be responsible for ensuring that specified sanctions are carried out and complied.
- V. SUPERLIGA™ ORGANIZING COMMITTEE**
- A. The Organizing Committee for SUPERLIGA, to include representation from USSF, FMF and SUM, is responsible for the organization of the competition.
 - B. The Organizing Committee shall, amongst other matters, be responsible for:
 1. Supervising general preparations, deciding on the match system, the draws and forming the groups.
 2. Fixing dates, venues, stadia for the matches
 3. Determining kick-off times
 4. Appointing match commissioners, technical study group, security officers;
 5. Developing and approving the stipulated technical material.
 - C. The Organizing Committee's decisions shall be final.

VI. DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

- A. The SUPERLIGA™ Disciplinary Committee is empowered to:
1. Admonish, sanction, fine, suspend or disqualify players, referees, Club officials or coaches.
 2. Take any disciplinary measure in accordance with the FIFA Disciplinary Code against any person or club(s) which may violate the Competition Regulations, the Laws of the Game or the rules of Fair Play.
- B. Report serious matters for further consideration by the Organizing Committee for SUPERLIGA.
- C. The decisions of the Disciplinary Committee will be based on written reports from referees, assistant referees and/or the Match Commissioner, video footage available from the disputed match and any testimony received through interviews of witnesses. All participating clubs will be informed of the sanctions imposed.
- D. The Disciplinary Committee may convene hearings in-person or through teleconference and will decide the procedure to be followed.
3. The Disciplinary Committee shall be comprised of one individual representing each organization: MLS, FMF Primera Division and CONCACAF.
 4. All economic penalties assessed must be paid by the appropriate club no later than thirty (30) days after notification thereof.

VII. APPEAL COMMITTEE

- A. The Appeals Committee shall hear appeals lodged against decisions passed by the Disciplinary Committee.
- B. The procedure to be applied by the Appeals Committee is defined in the FIFA Disciplinary Code.
- C. The Appeals Committee shall be comprised of one individual representing each organization: MLS, FMF Primera Division and a CONCACAF representative.

VIII. PROTESTS

- A. Protests subject to the following provisions are objections of any kind connected with matches of the final competition.
- B. Protests shall be submitted in writing to the Match Commissioner at the match not later than two hours after the game and followed up immediately with a written report, including the original protest, to be sent via email to FMF and SUM.
- C. Protests for reasons outlined in paragraphs D, E and F below must be accompanied by a check fee for the amount of \$5,000 USD.
- D. Protests against the eligibility of players chosen to take part in the Final Phase shall be made to the Match Commissioner at the time of the exchange of rosters (approximately one (1) hour prior to kick off) of the Final.
- E. Protests against any incidents that occur during a match shall be directed to the referee by the club captain immediately after the disputed incident and before play has been resumed. The protest shall be confirmed in writing to the Match Commissioner or the SUPERLIGA™ representative at the match not later than two hours after the match in question.
- F. Protest against the state of the pitch, the markings, the accessory equipment (goals, etc.) or the football shall be made in writing to the referee before the start of the match by the official responsible for the club lodging the protest. If the turf becomes unplayable during the match, the captain of the club concerned shall immediately inform the referee in the presence of the opposing club's captain.
- G. No protests may be made against the referee's decisions on points of fact connected with play, such decisions being final.
- H. If an unfounded or irresponsible protest is lodged, the \$5,000 check may be charged.
- I. The expenses, which arise from a protest, shall be charged either wholly or in part, to the losing party.
- J. Once the winning club of SUPERLIGA™ has been proclaimed, any protest or complaint about the sports procedure followed during the competition shall be disregarded.

IX. MATCHES PLAYED ACCORDING TO THE LAWS OF THE GAME

- A. All matches will be played under the Laws of the Game as approved by the International Football Association Board and published by FIFA.
- B. In the case of any discrepancy in the interpretation of the Laws of the Game, the English text shall be authoritative.
- C. A maximum of fourteen (14) persons shall be allowed on the team bench, seven (7) Club officials and seven (7) substitutes. The names of these persons and their functions must be indicated on the form provided by the “Fourth Official” prior to the match.
- D. Each Club shall be permitted a total of four (4) substitutions for field players and one (1) substitution for the identified reserve goalkeeper. Such goalkeeper must be identified on the official roster prior to the start of the match.

X. DURATION, EXTRA TIME, PENALTY KICKS

- A. Each match shall last 90 (ninety) minutes, comprising two periods of 45 (forty-five) minutes with an interval of 15 (fifteen) minutes in between.
- B. If, in accordance with the provisions of these regulations, extra time must be played, it shall always consist of two periods of 15 (fifteen) minutes each, with an interval of five minutes at the end of normal playing time, but not between the two periods of extra time.
- C. Should one club score more goals in extra time than the other, it shall be declared the winner.
- D. If the clubs are still tied at the end of extra time, penalty kicks shall be taken to determine the winner, in accordance with the procedure laid down by the International Football Association Board and published by FIFA.
- E. If a match is interrupted before the completion of normal playing time or extra time due to reasons of force majeure, a repeat match lasting 90 minutes shall be arranged for the following day. If it is still impossible to play the match the next day for the same reasons, the match may be postponed by another day provided both clubs agree. If the match still cannot be played on the third day, the expenses thus incurred by the visiting Club shall be divided equally between the two Clubs.

XI. FIELD OF PLAY, STADIA, BALLS

- A. Each club or entity organizing matches in SUPERLIGA™ shall ensure that the

stadia and its facilities in which the matches are to take place fulfill FIFA requirements and comply with the standards of safety and security required for international matches. The fields of play and the accessory equipment shall comply with the provisions stipulated in the Laws of the Game. The fields and the facilities shall be in optimum condition.

- B. The matches of SUPERLIGA™ may be played on natural or artificial surfaces. Where artificial surfaces are used, the surface must meet the requirements of the FIFA Quality Concept for artificial turf or the International Turf Standard, unless special dispensation is provided by FIFA. In such cases the visiting club must be permitted a minimum of two training sessions on the artificial surface prior to the match.
- C. Participating clubs shall be furnished with 24 official match balls.

XII. RESPONSIBILITIES OF EACH ENTITY INVOLVED

A. All Phases

- 1. Each club or entity that arranges a match shall be responsible for:
 - a. Guaranteeing law and order as well as safety in the stadia, if necessary in collaboration with the relevant authorities.
 - b. Undertaking to arrange adequate liability insurance cover in respect of the stadium in which the match is due to be held.
- 2. Each Visiting Club will be responsible for:
 - a. Providing necessary travel and lodging information (e.g. rosters and rooming lists).
 - b. Any cost in obtaining visas for its delegation, unless otherwise mutually agreed among the parties.
- 3. Each participating Club shall be responsible for:
 - a. The behavior of the members of its delegation (officials and players).
 - b. Health, accident and travel insurance coverage for its full delegation.

- c. Returning the information requested by the Organizing Committee for SUPERLIGA™ by the dates specified.
 - d. Applying for visas in good time from the diplomatic mission of the organizing countries, if necessary.
 - e. Attending press conferences and other official media activities organized by SUM in a timely manner.
4. Commercial Reference to Event and Advertising Provisions
- a. Participating clubs shall agree, as a condition of its participation, that the term SUPERLIGA™ and any of its equivalent, abbreviated or as translated into other languages, may only be used by such Clubs in a sporting context with no commercial implications. SUM owns the copyright for all these terms.
 - b. Clubs shall also agree to abide by any advertising provisions issued by SUM.

XIII. ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS, LIST OF PLAYERS

- A. Clubs will be permitted to inscribe a maximum of 30 players for the Preliminary Phase (i.e. group play) no later than 48 hours prior to the commencement of the Preliminary Phase of the competition.
- B. Clubs will be permitted to revise its maximum list of 30 players upon completion of the Preliminary Phase and no later than 48 hours prior to the commencement of the Secondary Phase (i.e. semi-finals). This list shall hold for the Final Phase (i.e. championship match) as well.
- C. Players must be under contract to the Club, properly registered with the National Association and eligible to play in any league match for the current playing season per the FIFA transfer dates in each country.
- D. Clubs must submit their roster of a maximum of 30 players to the Organizing Committee for SUPERLIGA™ and to their opponent no later than 48 hours prior to the start of a match.

- E. No reinforcement players may be registered.
- F. Players must be in possession of a valid passport, national identity card or state issued driver's license; otherwise, they will not be permitted to play.
- G. Once having appeared in any Phase for a Club, a player may not appear for any other Club during any other portion of the same competition.
- H. After arrival in the venue, each Club's head of delegation shall, upon request, submit to the Match Commissioner, the final roster of 18 players and the identification documentation required in paragraph E above for its players for verification.
- I. Any club found guilty of fielding an ineligible player shall forfeit the match. Victory and the resultant three points will be awarded to the opposing Club as well as a score of 3:0 or greater depending on the score of the match.
- J. Clubs shall submit a match day roster of a maximum of 18 players no later than 60 minutes prior to the scheduled kick off time.
- K. Any player who accumulates two cautions (i.e. yellow cards) during the Preliminary Phase (i.e. group play) of the competition shall be suspended automatically for his club's next match unless there is a case of mistaken identity as determined by the Disciplinary Committee.
- L. Any player who received only one caution through the Preliminary Phase (i.e. group play) shall have that caution expunged from his record entering the Secondary and Final Phases of the competition.
- M. Any player who is sent off (i.e. red card), or coach or bench personnel who is dismissed, shall be suspended automatically at least for his Club's next match, including the Final, pending any additional, supplemental discipline which may be administered by the Disciplinary Committee.
- N. All economic penalties assessed must be paid by the appropriate club no later than thirty (30) days after notification thereof.

XIV. EQUIPMENT

- A. A Club's Equipment must comply with the FIFA Equipment Regulations with the following modifications:
- B. Uniform Colors - The home club must communicate their preferred uniform

colors to the visiting club a minimum of one week in advance of the match so that the visiting club comes prepared with two sets of uniforms which do not conflict with the home club's uniform. The home club shall have its alternate uniform available in case of a conflict as determined by the referees. Each club shall have a least two different uniforms for each goalkeeper.

- C. Player Names - Players may be identified by means of their surname or an abbreviation or nickname on their shirts. The player's name shall correspond with the name on the players' list.
- D. Sponsor Advertising - Clubs may wear the uniform they wear in their current league competitions. However, the advertising of tobacco or distilled spirits, as well as slogans of a political, religious or racist nature or for other causes that offend common decency, is prohibited.

XV. REFEREES, ASSISTANT REFEREES AND FOURTH OFFICIALS

- A. The referee chosen for each match shall be from a country whose Club is not included in the same group as the match in question unless both clubs hail from the same country. The assistant referees and fourth official may be selected from the country of the host club in order to limit the cost of organizing matches.
- B. Two referees and two assistant referees shall be appointed for each match.
- C. After each match the match commissioner and referee shall complete their designated official report forms. They shall fax or email their reports immediately following the match to the Organizing Committee for SUPERLIGA, but in no case later than twelve (12) hours following the match. They shall mail their reports within twenty-four (24) hours to the Organizing Committee for SUPERLIGA.

XVI. TECHNICAL RULES

- A. Determination of advancing Clubs (i.e. tie-breakers)
 - 1. If at the end of group play, two or more Clubs are equal on points, the manner in which Clubs will advance to the next round will be resolved as follows and in the order indicated:
 - a. The result of head-to-head competition between the tied Clubs;
 - b. The difference between goals for and goals against from all group

- matches;
 - c. The Club having scored the most goals from all group matches;
 - d. Failing this, the qualified Club shall be determined by a drawing of lots carried out by the Organizing Committee for SUPERLIGA.
2. If two clubs remain equal after one club has advanced through any of the aforementioned steps, the tie-breaker shall revert to the first step (head-to-head) and continue if necessary.

B. Secondary Phase

The Secondary Phase shall consist of four (4) Clubs participating in two, respective semi-finals. The semi-final pairings shall be determined as follows:

1. Winner of Group A versus Runner-up of Group B
2. Winner of Group B versus Runner-up of Group A
3. The Organizing Committee for SUPERLIGA™ will notify the Clubs of the results, the semi-finals pairing and venue by email and/or fax immediately as it is known.

C. Final Phase

1. The Final Phase shall be played as a single game championship.
 - a. The two (2) semi-final winners will play each other in the SUPERLIGA™ championship.
2. The Organizing Committee for SUPERLIGA™ will notify the Clubs of the results and venue by email and/or fax immediately as it is known.

XVII. MEDIA, ADVERTISING AND MERCHANDISING

1. A. Marketing, Radio, Television and all new Media rights for all phases of SUPERLIGA™ is the sole property of SUM.
- B. All merchandise bearing the name, marks or logos of SUPERLIGA™ remains solely that of SUM.

XVIII. FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

- A. All Phases

1. Revenues

The exact amounts paid to clubs, as per the provisions are determined by the Executive Committee before the start of the competition.

2. Expenses

- a. Travel. Each Club is responsible for its own travel expenses, including air and local transportation, accommodations and meals, visas, etc. (unless otherwise mutually agreed by the Clubs and SUM).
- b. The host Club is responsible for:
 - i. All game related costs (stadium, security, promotion, tickets, etc.)
 - i. All Game Official and Commissioner air and local transportation, accommodation, meals and their per diems.

3. Prize Pool. A prize pool, if any, shall be decided by the Executive Committee and distributed to the Clubs within sixty days (60) following a final accounting of the Final Phase matches.

XIX. COPYRIGHT

- A. The copyright of the fixtures and matches adopted by the Executive Committee and drawn up in accordance with the provisions of these regulations are the property of SUM.

XX. MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR

- A. SUM, whose decisions shall be final, will resolve matters not provided for in these Regulations.
- B. In the case of any discrepancy in the interpretation of the English, Spanish or French texts of these regulations, the English text shall be authoritative.

These regulations were adopted by the Organizing Committee for SUPERLIGA™ and entered into force immediately.