

SUPERLIGA 2009 REGULATIONS

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 2009 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 Major League Soccer and Mexican Primera Division that meet 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 the criteria in a relevant year have the right to participate in SUPERLIGA.
- B. For 2009, participation shall be by invitation based on aggregate points from the 2008 MLS season and 2008 Clausura and 2008 Apertura season of Mexican Primera Division, providing club(s) are not part of the 2009-2010 CONCACAF Champions League. In the event that a Team passes on the invitation, the next club in line based on points will be invited.
 - 1. The participating clubs representing Major League Soccer will be:
 - a. Chicago Fire
 - b. Chivas USA
 - c. Kansas City Wizards
 - d. New England Revolution

2. The participating clubs representing Mexico's Primera Division will be:
 - a. Atlas
 - b. San Luis
 - c. Santos Laguna
 - d. Tigres

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, the match will be decided by kicks from the penalty mark according to FIFA regulations.

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, the match will be decided by kicks from the penalty mark according to FIFA regulations.
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. 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.
- b. 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 that 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 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 venue managers, 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 the referee team 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. Any investigations shall be directed by the representative of the player's or Club's corresponding national representative.
- D. The Disciplinary Committee may convene hearings in-person or through teleconference and will decide the procedure to be followed.
- E. The Disciplinary Committee shall be comprised by an individual from MLS, one from FMF and one neutral association in the region.
- F. All economic penalties assessed must be paid by the appropriate club no later than thirty (30) days after notification thereof.
- G. The National Association of any penalized player or Club shall be responsible for ensuring that specified sanctions are carried out and complied.
- H. Incidents of Referee Abuse or Referee Assault shall be referred back to the National Association of the alleged individual.

VII. APPEALS 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 by an individual from MLS, one from FMF and one neutral association in the region.

VIII. PROTESTS

Protests, or objections of any kind, connected to matches are subject to the following provisions;

- A. Protests shall be submitted in writing to either 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 individuals at FMF and SUM.
- B. Protests for reasons outlined in paragraphs D, E and F below must be accompanied by a check in the amount of \$5,000 USD payable to Soccer United Marketing.
- C. 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.
- D. 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.
- E. 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.
- F. No protests may be made against the referee's decisions on points of fact connected with play, such decisions being final.
- G. If an unfounded or irresponsible protest is lodged, the \$5,000 check may be charged.
- H. The expenses, which arise from a protest, shall be charged either wholly or in part, to the losing party including but not limited to costs for shipping, conducting conference calls and interviews, etc.
- I. 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 an identified reserve goalkeeper. Such reserve goalkeepers must be identified as eligible substitutes on the official roster prior to the start of the match.

X. DURATION AND 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 the clubs are still tied after the completion of 90 (ninety) minutes, 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.
- C. If a match is interrupted before the 80th minute (79:59) of normal playing time due to reasons of force majeure, the game shall be resumed at the point at which it was stopped. 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. If a match is interrupted and unable to be resumed after the 80th minute (80:00) of normal playing time due to reasons of force majeure, the score of the match and all statistics leading up to that point shall be considered final. The referee shall determine the exact time that a match has been postponed or cancelled.

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 for professional soccer standards. In such cases the visiting club must be permitted a minimum of two training sessions on the artificial surface prior to the match.

- C. The field of play shall not be watered two hours prior to kick-off. The procedure shall be reviewed at the technical meeting and with the Stadium staff in advance of the game. Any changes to this procedure shall only be made with the written permission of both teams and the match commissioner in advance and in extraordinary circumstances. Violations of this rule may result in a fine issued to the Host Club.
- D. 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. Submitting a detailed security plan to the Organizing Committee upon request.
 - c. 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 that, as a condition of its participation, 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 (e.g., TV Commercials, Print Advertisements).

XIII. ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS, LIST OF PLAYERS

- A. Clubs will submit a maximum of 30 players for the Preliminary Phase (i.e. group play) with each player's uniform number and a copy of each player's valid passport, national identity card or state driver's license no later than 5:00pm EST on Thursday, June 18th, 2009. This list of 30 players shall be referred to as the "Preliminary Phase Roster."
- B. Clubs will be permitted to revise its maximum list of 30 players upon completion of the Preliminary Phase and before 5:00pm EST on Friday, July 10th, 2009. This list shall hold for the balance of the tournament including the Final Phase (i.e. championship match). It shall include each player's uniform number and a copy of each player's valid passport, national identity card or state driver's license. This list of 30 players shall be referred to as the "Secondary and Final Phase Roster."
- C. No reinforcement players may be registered in the time between (1) the submittal of the "Preliminary Phase Roster" and the submittal of the "Secondary and Final Phase Roster" or (2) the submittal of the "Secondary and Final Phase Roster" and the completion of the Final Phase.
- D. 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.
- E. 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 the greater score of 3:0 or the actual score of the match.
- F. After arrival in the venue, each Club's head of delegation shall submit to the Match Commissioner the final roster of 18 players (11 starters plus a maximum of 7 eligible substitutes) chosen from the 30 players appearing on the most recently submitted Roster. This list of 18 players shall be referred to as the "official game day roster" and submitted at least forty five (45) minutes prior to kick-off.
- G. 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. A player who receives a second caution in his team's last game of the Preliminary Phase that brings his total number of cautions in the Preliminary Phase to two (2) and is later awarded a straight red card in the same game, he shall be suspended from his next two games (e.g., his team's games in the Secondary Phase and the Final Phase).

A player, who receives a second caution in his team's last game of the Preliminary Phase and is later shown a red card for a second cautionable offense in the same game, shall be suspended from only his next game (e.g., his team's game in the Secondary Phase).

- H. 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.
- I. 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. Any player who is sent off (i.e. red card) or coach or bench personnel who is dismissed in their team's last game in that year's competition shall be suspended automatically, at least, for his next match in future SuperLiga Tournaments. All suspensions will, if necessary, follow a player to a new Club.
- J. All economic penalties assessed must be paid by the appropriate club no later than thirty (30) days after notification thereof.

XIV. EQUIPMENT

A Club's Equipment must comply with the FIFA Equipment Regulations with the following modifications;

- A. The Organizing Committee shall communicate the uniform colors in advance of the tournament. The home club shall have its alternate uniform available in case of a conflict as determined by the referees. Each club shall have at least two different uniforms for each goalkeeper.
- B. 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.
- C. 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 and Disciplinary Committee for SUPERLIGA, but in no case later than twelve (12) hours following the match.

XVI. TECHNICAL RULES

- A. Determination of advancing Clubs (i.e. tie-breakers)
 - 1. If at the end of group play two 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 at the end of group play three or four 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 Club with the greatest difference between goals for and goals against from all group matches (once two of the three (or four) teams are remaining, revert back to scenario 1. as outlined above);
 - b. The Club having scored the most goals from all group matches (once two of the three (or four) teams are remaining, revert back to scenario 1. as outlined above);
 - c. Failing this, the qualified Club shall be determined by a drawing of lots carried out by the Organizing Committee for SUPERLIGA.
- B. Secondary Phase

The Secondary Phase shall consist of four (4) Clubs participating in two (2), 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. 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.