

ANFA WOMEN'S LEAGUE 2024

COMPETITION REGULATIONS



ALL NEPAL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

ANFA HOUSE, SATDOBATO, LALITPUR

DEFINITIONS

The highlighted terms used in this Competition Regulations shall have the following meanings, unless the context specifically indicates otherwise:

Accreditation Card	Any physical item which is issued by the ANFA which provides the recipient the right to access a Controlled Access Area
AFC	Asian Football Confederation
ANFA	All Nepal Football Association
ANFA Women's League 2024	The top division women's football competition in Nepal
Club/Team	A women's football club or team formed by the Province FA, Municipality or A/B/C division club which participates in the competitions under the auspices of ANFA
Committee	Different committees formed by ANFA for smooth operation of the competition such as: Women's Committee, Organizing Committee, Competition Committee, Referee Committee, Discipline Committee and so on
Competition	ANFA Women's League 2024 which includes without limitation, all matches as set out in the fixtures, including all stages, ceremonies or official functions connected therewith
FIFA	Fédération Internationale de Football Association
Fixtures	The official schedule which sets out, without limitation, the dates and times on which matches will be played, the stadiums at which the matches will be played, and the names of the participating teams
IFAB	International Football Association Board
Laws of the Game	The laws of association football issued by the IFAB
Match Officials	Any individual appointed to officiate a match in the competition in the role of the Tournament Director, Referee, Assistant Referee, Fourth Official, Match Commissioner, Local General Coordinator, Media Officer, Referee Assessor and any other Match Official stipulated in the Laws of the Game
Media	Any individual granted a media Accreditation Card by the ANFA
Player	Any player who is registered to participate in the competition
Regulations	The Competition Regulations
Team Official	Any official who is registered in the participating club
Venue	The area or stadium where the matches take place

SECTION 1: GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. ANFA Women's League 2024

- 1.1 The Regulations govern the rights, duties, and responsibilities of the ANFA, the participating teams, players and officials taking part in the competition.
- 1.2 The Regulations and all related directives, decisions, and circulars issued by the ANFA shall be binding upon all parties participating and involved in the preparation, organization, and hosting of matches in the competition.
- 1.3 Any rights and proprietary interests associated with the competition that are not granted by these Regulations and/or specific agreements to any participating club shall vest in the ANFA.

2. All Nepal Football Association

- 2.1 The **All Nepal Football Association** shall be responsible for organizing the competition in accordance with the ANFA Statutes. The ANFA General Secretariat shall carry out the necessary administrative work.
- 2.2 The responsibilities of the ANFA shall include, but are not limited to:
 - 2.2.1. supervising general preparations and deciding on the competition format, the draws, and the entries to the competition;
 - 2.2.2. determining the fixtures;
 - 2.2.3. selecting stadiums/venues for the competition after consultation with the participating clubs
 - 2.2.4. appointing Match Officials for each match;
 - 2.2.5. choosing and/or approving the official football and stipulated technical material;
 - 2.2.6. reporting cases where appropriate to the ANFA Disciplinary Committee;
 - 2.2.7. replacing participating clubs that have withdrawn from the Competition
 - 2.2.8. dealing with cases of cancelled matches or abandoned matches
 - 2.2.9. dealing with cases of force majeure;
 - 2.2.10. dealing with any other aspect of the competition that is not the responsibility of any other body pursuant to these Regulations or the ANFA Statutes;
- 2.3. All decisions made by the **ANFA General Secretariat** in relation to the competition are final and binding and not appealable.

3. Participating Teams and Team Entry

- 3.1. The participating teams comply with the stipulated obligations:
 - 3.1.1. follow these competition regulations
 - 3.1.2. comply with the Laws of the Game;
 - 3.1.3. accept that all the administrative, disciplinary and refereeing matters connected with the competition shall be settled by the ANFA in compliance with these Regulations;
 - 3.1.4. observe the principles of fair play;
- 3.2. Entry to the competition is confirmed through Team Confirmation Form with the bank deposit of NRs. 5,000 to All Nepal Football Association's Bank Account No. 00101010031354 in Nepal Investment Mega Bank. To be eligible to participate in the competition, teams must meet all the requirements set out by the ANFA.

4. Withdrawal from the Competition

- 4.1. All participating teams undertake that they shall play all their matches in the competition until elimination.
- 4.2. AFC Competition Regulations shall be enforced in case of team/s withdrawal from the competition.

4.3 In this regard, any participating team that withdraws from the Competition:

4.3.1. before it has commenced, shall be fined:

4.3.1.1. at least NRs. 1,00,000 if its withdrawal occurred thirty (30) days or more before its first match in the Competition; or

4.3.1.2. at least NRs. 3,00,000 if its withdrawal occurred less than thirty (30) days before its first match in the competition.

4.3.2. after it has commenced, shall be fined; at least NRs. 5,00,000 if its withdrawal occurred after the commencement of the competition.

SECTION 2: COMPETITION SYSTEM

5. Competition System

5.1. The Competition shall be organized as the Single Round Robin League of 10 participating teams followed by the Super League (Double Round Robin League) of top 5 participating teams and play-off round of top 4 teams;

5.2 The ranking in the league shall be determined in descending order as follows:

5.2.1 higher number of points obtained in all matches;

5.2.2. if two (2) or more participating clubs are equal on points, the following criteria are applied to determine the ranking (in descending order):

Head-to-Head Criteria

5.2.2.1. higher number of points obtained in the matches played among the concerned participating teams;

5.2.2.2. superior goal difference from the matches played among the concerned participating teams;

5.2.2.3. higher number of goals scored in the matches played among the concerned participating teams;

Group Results Criteria

5.2.2.4. superior goal difference from all matches played;

5.3.2.5. higher number of goals scored from all matches played;

5.3.2.6. Ranking/fair play points system in which the number of yellow and/or red cards in all group; Matches are considered according to the following deductions:

i. per yellow card: minus 1 point;

ii. per indirect red card (as a consequence of two yellow cards): minus 3 points;

iii. per direct red card: minus 4 points;

5.2.2.7. through drawing of lots

6. Cancellation of Matches

6.1. For any match which is cancelled as a result of Force Majeure, the **ANFA** shall decide on the matter at its sole discretion and take whatever action is deemed necessary. Decisions made are final and binding and not appealable.

6.2. Any match which is cancelled, except in cases of Force Majeure recognized by the **ANFA**, may lead to the imposition of sanctions by the ANFA Disciplinary Committee against the relevant party that caused the cancellation.

7. Abandonment of Matches

7.1. For any match which is abandoned as a result of Force Majeure, the **ANFA** shall decide on the matter at its sole discretion and take whatever action is deemed necessary. Decisions made are final and binding and not appealable. Remaining time will be played on the next day on same situation.

7.2. Any match which is abandoned, except in cases of Force Majeure recognized by the ANFA, may lead to the imposition of sanctions by the Competition Organizing Committee against the relevant party that caused the abandonment.

7.3. If a match is forfeit in any case, the opponent team shall be awarded 3 points with 3-0 score or highest goal difference.

SECTION 3: FIXTURES AND MATCH VENUES

8. Fixtures

8.1. The date and format of the official draws shall be determined by the ANFA.

8.2. The ANFA retains final discretion to amend the fixtures at any time.

9. Match Venues

9.1 The match venues shall be determined by the ANFA.

9.2. The ANFA retains final discretion to change the match venue at any time.

SECTION 4: TECHNICAL REGULATIONS

10. Laws of the Game

10.1 All matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game.

10.2. Each match shall last ninety (90) minutes, comprising two (2) periods of forty-five (45) minutes, with a half-time interval of fifteen (15) minutes.

10.3. The winner shall be determined through thirty (30) minutes of Extra Time and Penalty Kicks if the match is tie within 90 minutes in knockout stage.

10.4. Five (5) of the substitutes listed on the 'Match Start List' may take part in the match and each participating club shall have three (3) substitution opportunities in accordance with the Laws of the Game. Any participating player who has been substituted may take no further part in that Match. One more player with one more substitution opportunity is allowed for the match in Extra Time. **One (1) concussion substitution is allowed in a match.**

11. Team Bench and Technical Area

11.1. A maximum of twelve (12) substitute players and a maximum of seven (7) Team Officials are permitted to sit on the team bench during a match, provided they are in possession of the appropriate Accreditation Card.

12. Eligibility of Players

12.1. Each participating team shall ensure that all players are duly registered with the ANFA pursuant to these Regulations.

12.2. Maximum of four (4) foreign players are allowed to be registered from a team. ITC, Valid passport and visa is mandatory for the foreign players during registration.

12.3. Each participating team shall ensure to submit authentic documents for registration of its participating players.

12.4. The approval of the registration of a participating player by the ANFA does not mean that the participating player is eligible to participate in the competition. Each participating team is responsible for fielding only eligible participating players in a match. Failure to do so shall lead to the consequences decided by the ANFA Disciplinary Committee.

13. Registration of Players

13.1. Each participating team must register minimum of 18 players and **maximum of 40 players** in the league. The players who participated in the ANFA Women's League 2024 Qualifiers must participate in ANFA Women's League 2024 from the same qualified teams (Koshi Province, Karnali Province and Sudurpaschim Province); but exempting the players from three teams (Tribhuvan Army FC, APF FC and Nepal Police Club).

13.2. Each participating team can register the players from these three teams (TAFC, APF FC & NPC) other than the players (30 players) who will participate in the league. The letter of approval and release of players from these three teams is mandatory for registration.

13.3. Participating players must be registered via FIFA Connect with the supporting documents (**copy of citizenship certificate or passport or any legal document (birth certificate), passport size photo, contract of players, insurance and fit to play medical document**) as mentioned by the ANFA.

13.4. **The team/s can register player/s during the competition, 2 days prior to their respective match.**

14. Player Selection and Start List

14.1. Each participating team shall mark the starting eleven (11), including the team captain and up to twelve (12) substitutes, on the 'Player Selection List'.

14.2. Each participating team shall identify at least two (2) players as goalkeepers on its 'Start List'. All four (4) registered foreign players can be fielded during a match.

14.3. Each participating team must hand its 'Player Selection List' signed by the Head Coach or the Team Manager, together with the 'Officials on the Substitution Bench' form with the names of the maximum seven (7) Team Officials who shall be entitled to sit on the team bench, to the Match Commissioner at least ninety (90) minutes prior to the commencement of each match.

15. Registration of Officials

15.1. Each participating team shall submit its registration of Team Officials and the supporting documents by the deadline provided by the ANFA.

15.2. Each participating team shall submit a registration of a minimum of three (3) and a maximum of seven (7) Team Officials, including at least one female official in the team.

15.3. Each participating team must include the following three (3) Team Officials in the registration list: Head Coach, Team Manager and Team Doctor/Physio.

15.4. **The Head Coach must possess at least an AFC 'B' Coaching License.**

16. Team Jersey Colors & Players Outfits

16.1. Each team must have a minimum of two sets of uniform with distinct and contrast colors. The jersey numbers must be within number 1 to 99; where number 1 must be reserved for one of the Goalkeepers.

16.2. The basic compulsory equipment (jerseys, stockings) must not have any political, religious or personal slogans, statements or images.

16.3. The player's kit, team colors, sponsor advertising and manufacturer identification, etc. must comply with the provisions of the FIFA Equipment Regulations. This provision applies for the entire competition.

16.4. The jersey color shall be determined as follows:

- Team A shall select the jersey color first (Shirt, Shorts, Socks)

- Team B shall select the jersey color, different from Team A
- The Match Commissioner shall decide the jersey color in case of same colors of the jerseys

SECTION 5: MEDIA

17. Media Access

17.1 ANFA shall control and provide the free access to the relevant media for the coverage of the match or competition.

18. Press Conference

18.1. The ANFA is responsible for the organization of a Pre-Match Press Conference (PMPC) to be conducted under the supervision of the Media Officer at least one (1) day prior to the competition.

18.2. The Head Coach of each participating club must attend a Post-Match Press Conference, for each match in which they participate, commencing no later than fifteen (15) minutes after the match. If requested by the ANFA, the Player of the Match of each match must also attend the Post-Match Press Conference.

18.3. Any individual who fails to attend an obligatory press conference shall be fined at least NRs. 5,000. The relevant participating club shall also be held liable for any failure to attend a press conference. The ANFA Disciplinary Committee may impose further sanctions at its discretion.

18.4. If requested by the ANFA, participating clubs shall make their Head Coach available on match day for an interview of not more than ninety (90) seconds at their point of arrival at the stadium for the match.

SECTION 6: TICKETING

19.1. The ANFA shall determine the ticketing policy for the competition.

19.2. The ANFA shall provide the complimentary tickets to the participating clubs; when they have match.

19.2.1. five (5) VIP Tickets;

19.2.2. thirty (30) Normal Tickets;

SECTION 7: COMMERCIAL, ADVERTISING AND BRANDING

20. Commercial Rights

20.1. The ANFA is the owner of all the Commercial Rights emanating from the competition as well as from any other related events under its jurisdiction, without any restrictions as to content, time, place and law.

21. Advertising and Branding

21.1. Except where stipulated otherwise by the ANFA, each clubs shall ensure that all relevant approvals are secured and unrestricted access for the placement and publishing of advertising or branding of the competition shall be available to the ANFA.

21.2. The ANFA shall determine the advertising and branding services to be provided to the teams.

SECTION 8: SAFETY AND SECURITY

22.1. The ANFA and participating teams must prioritize the safety and security of the players, officials, volunteers, fans and all others involved in the competition.

22.2. The ANFA shall ensure the availability of adequate security personnel for the competition.

SECTION 9: MEDICAL

23. Pre-Competition Medical Assessment

23.1. Each participating team shall present the official medically fit document of each players during the registration.

23.2. Any player for whom the required documents are not provided is not eligible to be registered for the competition.

24. Facilities and Personnel

24.1. The ANFA shall provide the Doctor, Physio and other relevant Medical Technicians for the treatment of players during the matches in the competition as per the requirement.

24.2. The ANFA shall provide the first aid treatment facilities only during the matches in the competition.

24.3. The match venue shall be facilitated with at least one (1) well equipped ambulance for the safety of the players and officials.

25. Insurance

25.1. The teams must insure (medical/accidental insurance) all the players of the team to participate in the competition.

25.2. The teams must submit the documents of insurance during the registration of players.

26. Anti-Doping

26.1. Doping is strictly prohibited. The AFC Anti-Doping Regulations, the AFC Disciplinary and Ethics Code, and all relevant AFC directives in relation to anti-doping are applicable to the competition.

26.2. The ANFA shall organize the Anti-doping Awareness Session and the teams are requested to participate and follow the instructions.

SECTION 10: FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

27. Team Preparation Money

27.1. The participating teams shall be provided the team preparation money of NRS. 7,00,000/- each by the ANFA in two installments as per the contract, after fulfillment of requirements determined by the ANFA. Additional NRS. 2,00,000 /- shall be provided to the top 5 teams in the Super League.

28. Prize and Awards

28.1. The ANFA will award the following:

28.1.1. First Position: Rs. 10,00,000, Medals and Trophy

28.1.2. Second Position: Rs. 5,00,000, Medals

28.1.3. Fair Play Award: Rs. 1,50,000 and Trophy

28.1.4. Most Valuable Player: Rs. 1,00,000 with Trophy

28.1.5. Highest Scorer: Rs. 50,000 with Trophy

28.1.6. Best Goal Keeper: Rs. 50,000 with Trophy

28.1.7. Player of the Match: Rs. 5,000 (per match) with Trophy

SECTION 11: DISCIPLINARY

29. Disciplinary Measures

29.1. All disciplinary measures in relation to the competition shall be undertaken in accordance with the current ANFA Statutes, AFC Disciplinary and Ethics Code, and all relevant ANFA regulations and circulars.

29.2. The ANFA may introduce new disciplinary rules and sanctions for the duration of the competition. Such rules shall be communicated to the participating clubs at the latest.

29.3. Only participating players and Team Officials may serve match suspensions in the competition.

29.4 The ANFA Disciplinary Committee may impose any sanction listed in the AFC Disciplinary and Ethics Code for violation of any articles in these regulations, if necessary.

30. Integrity

30.1. The participating teams shall compulsorily participate in the Integrity Information Session organized by the ANFA for the participation in the league.

30.2. The participating teams must adhere by fair play and sportsmanship.

30.3. Any involvement in betting and match fixing is strictly prohibited.

31. Cautions and Expulsions

31.1. If a participating player or team official receives a caution (Yellow Card) in three (3) separate matches in the competition, she is automatically suspended from the next match in the competition. Only 1 or 2 caution (Yellow Card) received in the single round robin league/super league shall not be carried to the next round.

31.2. Any participating player or team official who receives two cautions (Yellow Cards) followed by the Red Card in same match is suspended from the match and shall miss at least one upcoming match.

31.3. Any participating player or team official who receives direct Red Card in a match is suspended from the match and shall miss at least one upcoming match.

31.4. The match suspension caused by the three Yellow Cards or Red Cards shall be carried to the next round of the league.

32. Protest

32.1. For the purpose of these Regulations, a protest is an objection of any kind related to any event and/or matter that has a direct effect on a match.

32.2. Unless otherwise stipulated in these Regulations, to be considered valid, a protest must be:

32.2.1. an application submitted in writing to the Match Commissioner for the relevant match within two (2) hours of the end of the relevant match;

32.2.2. followed up with a full written report which must be sent to the ANFA General Secretariat within twenty-four (24) hours of the end of the relevant match; and

32.2.3. accompanied by a non-refundable fee of NRs 5,000 (non-inclusive of any bank charges) which must be transmitted to the bank account nominated by the ANFA General Secretariat within twenty-four (24) hours of the end of the relevant Match.

32.3. No protest shall be lodged relating to the Referee's decisions regarding facts connected with play. Such decisions are final and binding and not subject to appeal.

32.4. If any of the formal requirements set out in Article 32.2 are not met, the relevant protest shall be disregarded. The ANFA Disciplinary Committee decides whether or not such formal requirements have been met.

SECTION 12: CLOSING PROVISIONS

33. Decisions

33.1. All decisions made in accordance with these Regulations, except where expressly identified otherwise, are final and binding and not appealable in accordance with the ANFA Statutes.

34. Amendments

34.1. The ANFA reserves the right to make amendments to any part of these Regulations for any reason whatsoever. Such amendments shall be duly communicated in due course.

35. Force Majeure

35.1. The ANFA is the only body capable of declaring a Force Majeure event.

36. Matters Not Provided For

35.1. Matters not provided for in these Regulations shall be decided by the ANFA. Such decisions are final and binding and not appealable.

36. Implementing Provisions

36.1. The ANFA General Secretariat is entrusted with the operational management of the competition and is therefore entitled to make decisions and adopt the detailed provisions necessary for implementing these Regulations.

37. Enforcement

37.1. These Regulations will come into force immediately.

Kiran Rai
General Secretary
ANFA