

Rules of
Tipperary School
Boys & Girls
Southern & District League



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1 TITLE

Tipperary School Boys & Girls Southern & District League (hereinafter referred to as the TSSDL or the League) is affiliated to and under the jurisdiction of the Schoolboys Football Association of Ireland (SFAI). The name of a sponsor may be included in the title of the League or Cup competition.

2 OBJECTIVE

The objective of the League shall be to promote the game of Association Football (soccer) through the setting up and playing of fixtures and competitions for teams up to sixteen years of age for boys and girls. Girls may play on Boy's teams in accordance with the current rules of the SFAI.

3 LEAGUE COMMITTEE

- (a) The League and its competitions shall be run by a League Committee (known throughout these rules as the Committee) to include an officer board consisting of a Chairman, Vice Chairman, Hon Secretary and Hon Treasurer each of whom shall be elected by the member clubs on an annual basis at the League AGM and up to eight (8) Committee members, all of whom shall be elected by the member clubs on an annual basis at the League AGM.
- (b) The Committee at its first meeting of each season shall define and allocate the roles of Registrar, Fixture Secretary/s Child Officer, SFAI delegate, and any other roles or duties, deemed suitable, from amongst those Committee members contained in (a) above.
- (c) No more than two (2) members of any one member club can serve at the same time on the Committee in any capacity, in order to remain a member of the Committee all such club representatives must be a current member of their respective club.
- (d) Membership of a current club shall not disbar any individual from serving on the Committee in any capacity but any Committee member or officer must absent him/herself from, and not partake in, any discussion, debate or decision making on any matter coming before the Committee (or its sub-committees) in relation to his/her own club.
- (e) The Committee shall have the sole right to utilise the League's assets on behalf of the League.
- (f) The Committee shall have power to deal as it sees fit with any matter concerning the League, its member clubs and its competitions, not otherwise mentioned within these rules.

- (g) The Committee shall meet at least once every three weeks during the season and at such other times as required, the Committee shall have the full authority to act outside of regular meetings on any matter required including the organisation and running of the League's various competitions.
- (h) The Committee (or its sub-committee/s) may investigate any cases of rough play or misconduct and deal with referees reports, club complaints and protests.
- (i) The Committee shall comply with all current SFAI rules relating to the forwarding of copies of requested information and records of the League to the SFAI.
- (j) The Committee may set up and administer a web site dealing with the operations of the TSSDL and it shall have sole discretion over the content published on any such web site.

4 DUTIES of the LEAGUE OFFICERS and COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman: Shall chair all AGM, EGM, Committee, club delegate, and sub-committee (of which he/she is a member) meetings, he/she shall be entitled to be an ex officio member of all League sub-committees and have a vote on any matter requiring such at Committee (or sub-committee) meetings.

In the event of a tied vote he/she will also have the casting vote if he/she chooses to exercise that right.

Vice-Chairman: Shall assist the Chairman, as required, in the carrying out of his/her duties and shall chair all meetings of the Committee in the absence of the Chairman., in the event of the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman being absent from any such meeting, the Committee shall appoint a person from those present to act as Chairman for the duration of that meeting only.

Hon. Secretary: Shall keep accurate minutes of all Committee, club delegate, AGM, EGM and any other relevant meetings where he/she is in attendance, **he/she** shall be entitled to be an ex officio member of all League sub-committees and issue to all clubs the minutes of delegate meetings within ten (10) days of their completion.

All correspondence to the League from member clubs must issue through the relevant club Hon. Secretary, correspondence from other sources may not be dealt with at the Committee's discretion.

All outgoing correspondence from the Committee must be issued through the League Hon. Secretary, where he/she is absent or unavailable the Committee shall appoint a substitute for such duration as it sees fit. The Committee shall have discretion over the method of correspondence to be used including the use of e-mails.

Hon. Treasurer: Shall be responsible for all financial matters concerning the League, he/she shall sign all payment cheques which must also be signed by one other co-signatory, those co-signatories shall be the current Chairman and Hon. Secretary.

Shall present a financial report to all Committee and club delegate meetings and be responsible for the timely lodgement of all incoming funds with the League's designated bankers.

Shall prepare and present a yearly financial report to the member clubs at the AGM, all such reports shall require to be formally adopted by the member's clubs at the relevant AGM

Shall recommend to the Committee the level of membership and registration fees to be implemented for the coming season.

Shall recommend, on an annual basis, a suitably qualified person or company to act as the League auditor the appointment of whom shall be approved for the following season by the member clubs at the relevant AGM.

Fixtures Secretary/s: Shall be responsible for the setting of all fixtures, the keeping of accurate League tables in his/her relative age group/s and have the final decision in all matters relating to his/her relevant fixtures including requests for postponements but with the exception of awarding walkovers which decisions shall be the preserve of the Committee.

Public Relations Officer: Shall work under the sole direction of and be responsible to the League Committee for the promotion of all League activities within the policies and guidelines laid down by the Committee.

Child Welfare Officer: Shall be responsible for all child welfare related activity within the league. Any reported act, statement, conduct or other matter which may harm a child or children, or poses or may pose a risk of harm to a child or children will be handled by the Child Welfare Officer.

S.F.A.I Delegate: Shall represent the League to and liaise with the SFAI on all relevant matters and shall report as required to the Committee.

W.F.A.I Delegate: Shall represent the League to and liaise with the WFAI on all relevant matters and shall report as required to the Committee.

Registrar: Shall keep and store an accurate record of all team and player registrations, make such records available to any current member club for inspection as per the rules governing any such request, be responsible for the return of all registration form counterfoils and relevant documents to the member clubs. He/she will not be accountable for the accuracy or veracity of any details entered by member clubs on any player/team registration form/s received and accepted.

ETP Coordinator: Shall carry out all duties and responsibilities assigned to them by the Committee for the GIRLS Emerging Talent Programme including the overseeing of the ETP coaches, ETP fixtures and fund raising.

Committee Members: Shall carry out all duties and responsibilities assigned to them by the Committee and report as required to the Committee.

5 SUB-COMMITTEES and APPOINTMENTS

The Committee shall appoint personnel to the following roles and bodies and all such personnel must be current members of the Committee:

- (a) Fixtures Secretary/s.
- (b) Delegate to the SFAI.
- (c) Public Relations Officer.
- (d) Child Welfare Officer.
- (e) Disciplinary Committee which shall comprise of three (3) members.
- (f) Delegate to the WFAI.
- (g) Emerging Talent Programme Coordinators Boys & Girls.
- (h) Any other Sub Committee that may be deemed necessary.

6 CLUB MEMBERSHIP

- (a) Membership of the League is open to any soccer club in the League's catchment area, all member clubs must satisfy the Committee regarding the quality and standard of their playing area and dressing rooms.
- (b) Membership for existing clubs is renewable prior to the start of each season by way of completing the official application form which must be forwarded to the Hon. Secretary of the League by date notified by committee
- (c) It shall be a strict condition of the granting of applications for League membership that each club shall have completed the relevant application form and supplied the information required thereon. Non-receipt by the League of the completed relevant application form will be taken to mean that the club/s concerned do not seek readmission for the new season.
- (d) All member clubs must notify the Hon. Secretary of the League in writing immediately of any subsequent change/s to the details on its application form.
- (e) All member clubs must have in force a current, and valid, third party liability insurance policy a copy of which must be produced if requested by the Committee.

- (f) The Committee shall have the power to remove any team or club from membership of the League for misconduct.
- (g) The Committee shall have sole control over the right of entry into the League and shall have the power to refuse to accept the entry of any team or club into the League for the following season/s if in the opinion of the Committee such a team or club's previous misconduct warrants such a refusal.

7 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

- (a) The Annual General Meeting of the League shall be held at the end of the season on a date set by the Committee, at least twenty-eight (28) days notification shall be issued to all current member clubs of the date of the relevant AGM, the agenda for which shall consist of:

- Minutes of the previous AGM
- Matters arising from same
- Chairman's address
- Hon. Secretary's report and its adoption
- Hon. Treasurer's report and its adoption
- Election of League Committee
- Appointment of League auditor
- Amendments/additions/deletions to these rules
- Any other business

- (b) Each club in current membership of, and financial good standing with, the League shall be entitled to send one delegate per registered club to represent it and vote at the AGM.
- (c) These rules may only be changed at the AGM or a valid EGM and all proposed amendments/additions/deletions to these rules must be submitted in writing, to the Hon. Secretary of the League no later than fourteen (14) days prior to the relevant AGM.

Rules alterations or deletions are effective from the date on which they were agreed at an AGM or EGM unless they were proposed and agreed as otherwise date specific.

- (d) All proposed amendments/additions/deletions to these rules for consideration at an AGM can only be submitted by the current Hon. Secretary of a current member club and must also be signed by the current Hon. Secretary of one other current member club, both of which clubs must be in financial good standing with the League.
- (e) A two thirds majority of those present and voting shall suffice to carry or defeat any proposed amendments/additions/deletions to these rules, provided such

amendments/additions/deletions have been forwarded and received in the prescribed manner.

- (f) All nominations for election to the Committee must be posted to the Hon. Secretary of the League no later than fourteen (14) days prior to the relevant AGM
- (g) All such nominations must be signed by the current Hon. Secretary of a current member club and must also be signed by the current Hon. Secretary of one other current member club, both of which clubs must be in financial good standing with the League.
- (h) Numbering/lettering of these rules shall be amended as a result of any changes made at an AGM or EGM
- (i) Member clubs not in good financial standing with the League may be refused admission to, and or representation at, any AGM, Club Delegate Meeting or EGM.

8 EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING (EGM)

- (a) An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) of the League may be called at any time by the Committee.
- (b) A request for an EGM can be submitted by the member clubs and any such request must be made in writing to the League Hon. Secretary, giving at least thirty (30) days notification of such a request and be signed by the Hon. Secretaries of at least five (5) current member clubs of the League all of which clubs must be in financial good standing with the League.
- (c) Any such request from the member clubs to stage an EGM must state the business to be discussed at that EGM and only such business can be discussed at that EGM.
- (d) A non-returnable fee of €100 in the form of a bank draft only must accompany any such request.
- (e) Where a request from the member clubs to call an EGM has been granted by the Committee the League Hon. Secretary shall give at least 14 days' notification of the date, venue and time of that EGM to the member clubs.
- (f) Any proposed amendments/additions/deletions to these rules which form the basis of a request from the member clubs to call an EGM must be submitted in writing and must accompany such request as per the procedures for requesting an EGM.
- (g) Each club registered to the League and represented at an EGM shall be entitled to one vote.

- (h) A two thirds of those present and voting shall decide any matter subject to a vote at an EGM.

9 CLUB DELEGATE MEETINGS

- (a) A meeting of delegates from all current member clubs shall be held on the last Tuesday of the months of February, August and November, notification of which may also be issued to the local press and or media.
- (b) Each member club must send one (1) delegate to such meetings, he/she must be a current member of the relevant club and must sign the attendance book to verify their attendance at any such meeting. Member clubs which fail to be represented at delegate meetings shall be fined €30 for each non-attendance unless they have requested and received prior permission to be excused from attending that meeting. No member club can be granted more than two excused absences. The Committee shall investigate any further absences and may impose additional sanctions.

10 CHILD WELFARE

All member clubs of the League are bound to comply with the current requirements of the FAI child welfare programme and policies which include the appointment of a club child officer, the name and contact details of whom must be submitted to the League Hon. Secretary by date specified by committee prior to commencement of each season

11 REPRESENTATIVE TEAM MANAGEMENT and STRUCTURES

- (a) The Committee shall have the sole power to appoint and dismiss team managers or management structures for teams representing the League, such positions may or may not be advertised publicly and no monetary reward or professional contract will be entered into with any such appointee/s.
- (b) Appointed team managers shall have the right to recommend assistants and structures, but only the Committee shall have the right to agree to such structures and make any appointments.
- (c) No member of any representative team management shall have the right to fund raise without prior application to and the approval of the Committee.

- (d) Where Committee permission has been granted for such fundraising all monies collected must be returned to the League Hon. Treasurer and only the Committee shall decide upon its disbursement.
- (e) Where vacancies arise within the representative team management structures the Committee shall have the sole right to appoint any such replacement/s.
- (f) All team managers and or their backroom staff shall be responsible for the entire actions of the relevant squad/s of players and shall attend any meeting called by the Committee in relation to team matters.
- (g) A club may not refuse the release of player(s) when they have been called up to represent their league.

12 TEAM and PLAYER REGISTRATIONS

- (a) Before taking part in any of the TSSDL or SFAI competitions all players must be registered on a current official registration form issued by the Committee, it shall be the sole responsibility of each member club to ensure the on time forwarding of all player and team registration forms to the League.
- (b) No player or team registration forms will be accepted or validated without the accompanying relevant registration fee/s.
- (c) It shall be the sole responsibility of the member clubs to ensure the accuracy of the details entered on any registration form submitted to the League for the purposes of competing in the TSSDL or the SFAI's competitions.
- (d) All clubs will be supplied with their registration form counterfoil/s, it shall be the responsibility of the member clubs to retain and store all registration form counterfoils which must be produced upon request from the Committee under any circumstances.
- (e) Player/team registration forms must be posted to the Registrar, within the prescribed time limits, to the address notified to the member clubs.
- (f) All first time registrations of players must be accompanied by an original birth certificate for all such players.
- (g) No player can sign for and be registered to more than one member club in any one season without being properly transferred from his/her original club on an official League transfer form. Original club shall mean the club to which the player has been first registered to for the relevant season. All transferred players must be re-registered to his/her new team. Up to 15th October of any season, players may transfer from one club to another (including inter club transfers), having lodged

with the Registrar a transfer form duly signed by the secretaries of both clubs and having also lodged by post a properly signed registration form for the new club.

- (h) No player can play for more than one team in his/her club at the same age group in any one season without being transferred on an official transfer form. All transferred players must be registered to his/her new team.
- (i) To be eligible to represent the League in any match, a player must be registered with a club in the League for the season commencing in the year of the tournament.
- (j) Team registration forms must be forwarded to the Registrar at least ten (10) days prior to the start date of the relevant season, proof of postage on the relevant day shall suffice to comply with this rule.
- (k) Following that team registration any other player must be registered the day prior to playing in any TSSDL fixture, proof of postage on the relevant day shall suffice to comply with this rule.
- (l) A current member club Hon. Secretary can request a search of player registrations upon payment of the fee of €10 to the League Hon. Treasurer, a maximum of three (3) player's names shall only be searched on any one team, the search shall be conducted at a time and place suitable to the Hon. Registrar.
- (m) Any club found guilty of playing unregistered player/s shall be fined €20 for each unregistered player, this fine is in addition to any other penalties imposed which may include the deduction of match points or loss of cup match.
- (n) Players must have been born on or after 1st January of the relevant year to be under age. Breach of this rule i.e. the playing of over age player/s, whether deliberately or not, shall result in the automatic removal of the offending team from all TSSDL competitions for that season, the suspension of the team manager for the remainder of that season and the forfeiture of all positions, points gained and cup matches won for that season.
- (o) Where a team has been removed under the terms above the player's registrations will then become the property of the League and teams from within member clubs may make application to re-register such players subject to a maximum of three (3) such players being allowed to be signed by any one team.
- (p) Players cannot be signed and re-registered under these circumstances after the 31st March in any season.
- (q) Players cannot play for more than one team in the same knock out type competition in the same season.
- (r) Where any player/s is the subject of a protest regarding non-registration or being over age the Committee shall have the power to require the submission of any and all documentation as it sees fit to assist in the investigation of such cases, all

member clubs shall be bound to produce such documentation and deliberate failure to do so may be judged as an attempt to hinder any such investigation and considered an admission of wrong doing.

- (s) When a player becomes a registered player with a team in the League, it shall be an offence for any official, member of any other club or any other person to request, encourage or influence that player, or to approach his/her parents/guardian/friends to seek a transfer to another team or to participate in any training, coaching or games under the auspices of another club.

Such offences shall be deemed to be “poaching” and any person/club found culpable shall render himself/herself and /or his/her team liable to a fine and/or suspension and/or removal from the League.

- (t) All registration fees must be paid in full and on time, the last date for receipt of such payments will be notified to the member clubs at the League AGM., payment for all registration fees shall be by way of bank draft, club cheque or postal order only.
- (u) No team or player will be deemed to be registered unless the relevant registration fee has been paid.
- (v) The Committee shall have full power to impose whatever sanction it deems appropriate on clubs which fail to meet their financial obligations to the League.
- (w) There shall be no limit to the amount of eligible players signed and registered to any team, however no player can be registered to any team in the League who is currently registered in another League.
 - a. The TSSDL League Committee will review all transfer requests on a case by case basis and make a decision. All Committee decisions are final.
- (x) A squad playing in an age group must register a minimum number of five (5) players of that age group in the squad.

13 APPEALS

Each club, its officials, managers, players and members shall be bound by the decisions of the League subject to any appeal to the SFAI, any such appeal must be lodged under and comply with the SFAI’s current rules on appeals.

14 PROTESTS

- (a) It shall be open to current member clubs to lodge a protest against any team suspected of playing ineligible or over age player/s. During a game any team in doubt as to the eligibility of its opposition's player/s shall be at liberty to secure, at half time, through the match referee, the names, signatures and dates of birth of any three opposition players. Refusal by any team to comply with such a request will be regarded as an attempt to conceal an irregularity. At the end of a game a club is at liberty to secure the names, signatures and dates of birth of any substitutes who played after the half-time interval.
- (b) Irrespective of the above, where the Committee has grounds to suspect a breach of rules has occurred, it shall have the power to investigate and impose sanctions.
- (c) Protests from member clubs must be sent by registered post to the League Hon. Secretary within three (3) days following the date of the game in question, for the purposes of this rule Saturdays, Sundays and bank or public holidays shall not count.
- (d) All protests must be accompanied by a fee of €50, in the form of a bank draft or postal order, made payable to the TSSDL, any other method of payment or non-payment of this fee or the sending of such fee by any other method shall render the protest out of order and will not be dealt with.
- (e) An exact copy of the protest (minus the fee) must be sent by registered post to the Hon. Secretary of the opposition club, within the same time frame, in writing by registered post and be signed by the current Hon Secretary of the club lodging the protest.
- (f) Any club in receipt of a protest against it shall have the right to lodge a counter protest which must comply with the same time constraints, fee, postage system and all other procedures as those set out for lodging a protest.
- (g) Any sanction imposed by the Committee under this rule shall relate solely to the fixture quoted in the original protest/counter lodged by the relevant member club/s.
- (h) No protest or complaint will be dealt with from a third party club i.e. a club not involved in the fixture in question.
- (i) Protests or counter protests shall not be entertained from any club not in good financial standing with the League.
- (j) All fines imposed by the Committee (and not the subject of an onward appeal) must be paid within 14 days of the issuing of such notice. Fines not paid within this timeline may lead to additional sanctions being imposed.

15 COMPETITIONS

- (a) The control and management of all competitions shall be vested solely in the Committee, each member club of the League shall be entered into all relevant competitions run by the League, the Committee shall have the sole right to determine the competitions to be run each season.
- (b) Teams travelling to play outside this jurisdiction must request and be granted permission to do so firstly by the Committee and then the SFAI and the FAI.
- (c) Member clubs shall at all times be responsible for the behaviour of their team/s, officials and supporters, reports of misconduct on or off the field of play shall be dealt with by the Committee or its sub-committee/s and proven breaches of this rule shall render those found guilty liable to be fined and or suspended and the removal of their team from all competitions in the TSSDL for the remainder of that season. In the interest of national justice where a club is to be disciplined for an incident other than a sending off of a player the club shall be notified in writing or e-mail by the league and afforded the opportunity to address the league on the matter to hand.
- (d) Where a team has been removed under this rule the players involved shall have their registrations catered for under the terms of rule 12(o) above.
- (e) The duration of games in the 11 a- side format shall be as those used in the current SFAI competitions.
- (f) The duration and format of small sided games shall be at the discretion of the Committee.
- (g) The number of substitutes used in 11-a-side games shall be as those used in the current SFAI competitions.
- (h) Roll on and roll off substitutes will be permitted in all League's games.
- (i) The size of footballs to be used at each age group shall be as those used in the current SFAI competitions.
- (j) Any player red carded or sent off from the field of play shall be automatically suspended from his/her next competitive game in the competition in which he/she was sent off, where it is not possible to serve that suspension under those terms he/she will stand suspended from his/her next competitive game in the age group at which he/she is registered.
- (k) All players sent off will be subject to further sanctions which may include fines and or further suspension.
- (l) Where players are sent off in SFAI or any other bodies competitions their case shall be subject to the current rules of that body.

- (m) All TSSDL competitions being run on a League basis, i.e. those with points awarded for a win or draw, and where more than one team finishes on the same points total shall be decided by the playing of a one off knock out game at a venue to be decided by the Committee, where a similar tie arises in the runner up position the same system shall be used to decide the issue, goal difference/average will not be used to separate teams tied on the same number of match points.
- (n) Any team failing to show for TSSDL fixtures will render itself liable to having conceded a walkover, no fixture secretary shall have the power to award a walkover, all such decisions shall be the preserve of the Committee. In the event of Club A giving a walkover to Club B, Club B shall receive the three points. Club A shall be liable to fine as decided upon by committee
- (o) Any club wishing to claim a walkover must do so within three (3) days following the fixture date, all such claims must be in writing signed by the club Hon. Secretary and sent to the League Hon. Secretary, for the purposes of this rule Saturdays, Sundays and bank or public holidays shall not count.
- (p) Any team conceding more than two (2) walkovers in any competition in any one season shall render itself liable to removal from that competition, this sanction may be increased to include a fine the level of which shall be at the discretion of the Committee.
- (q) Where a team withdraws, or ceases to exist for whatever reason, it shall then have its player's registrations become the property of the League and those players shall then be catered for under the terms of rule 12(o) above.
- (r) The winners and runner up teams in all TSSDL competitions shall receive a suitable medal or trophy for a squad of players the number of which shall be determined by the Committee.
- (s) The winners of any TSSDL competition shall be presented with the relevant perpetual trophy which shall become the responsibility of the holder club for the length of time determined by the Committee. All perpetual trophies are the property of the League and all such clubs will be liable for the repair of damage to or the replacement costs of any such trophy whilst in that club's possession.
- (t) All fixtures in TSSDL knock out type competitions shall, in the event of a tied score be decided on the day of the initial fixture by the use of extra time of ten minutes each way and if necessary followed by FIFA penalty kicks rule, this rule shall also apply to play off type games.

16 FIXTURES

- (a) No club or team shall have the power to postpone a fixture.
- (b) Games must be played on the day and at the time appointed unless otherwise amended by the Fixtures Secretary. The Committee shall have the power to deprive both clubs of the match points and to fine or otherwise sanction any club found guilty of breaching this rule.
- (c) Official notification, including time/venue and referee for all matches shall be issued via the TSSDL, web site.
- (d) Results of all games must be telephoned or sent by text message by the home team to the relevant Fixture Secretary within 24 hours of the completion of the relevant game, failure to do so will incur a fine of €30. No calls will be accepted after 9.00pm on game day.
- (e) Requests for match postponements shall only be considered where same are received in writing via e-mail from Club Secretary to League Fixture Secretary with copy to League Hon. Secretary
- (f) Where such requests are based on school tours or religious ceremonies the Committee shall have the power to request, and be furnished with, documentary evidence of such an event. Such documentary evidence must contain the names of the individual players concerned and be issued by the relevant authority or body.
- (g) No postponement request is to be considered as having been granted without the prior permission of the Fixture Secretary.
- (h) Emergencies will be dealt with on a case by case basis.
- (i) The TSSDL HOME team submits email to the fixture Secretary after the game and no later than 9pm Sunday evening stating the score line and brief description of the standard of the game.
- (j) Games where a team doesn't show up or where a game is set to be played but is not will be open to sanction from the TSSDL committee and a possibility of a fine.
- (k) Any game that has a change of fixture date request received by the Fixtures Secretary under (16.e) and is not covered by (16.f) may be played prior to the original date of fixture but not later than Tuesday following the original fixture date and must have agreement from the opposition team and Fixture Secretary If the opposition team cannot accommodate the change of fixture, then the original fixture stands.

17 Games Code of Conduct

- (a) Players and team managers must not question the referee's decision.
- (b) When a free kick is awarded, the defending team must observe the compulsory six-yard rule immediately,
- (c) Players must not attempt to steal ground when taking kick-ins or throw-ins, or free kick.
- (d) No coaching from the touchline during the actual play.
- (e) Team mates and adults in charge should give positive encouragement to players who make mistakes.
- (f) Players, team managers and match officials should shake hands before and after each game.

18 JURISDICTION

The Committee, or its sub-committee/s, shall have the power to deal with any situation or circumstances not specifically catered for in these rules irrespective of whatever manner any such matter comes to or is brought to the attention of the Committee.