

NIGERIA NATION-WIDE LEAGUE ONE (NLO) STATUTES

Article 1: Title/Name

1. The regulations may be cited as the “Nigeria Nation-Wide League statutes”.

Article 2: INTERPRETATION

In these statutes, unless otherwise stated:

1. NFF means Nigeria Football Federation
2. FIFA means Federation of International Football Association
3. CAF Means Confederation of African Football
4. WAFU means the West African Football Union
5. NLO Means Nigeria Nation-Wide League One

Articles 3: Application and Exemption

1. The provision of these statutes shall apply to the Nigeria Nation-Wide League One (hereafter referred to as NLO)
2. The following shall be exempted from the application of these regulations:-
 - a. The Nigeria Premier League
 - b. The Professional Leagues
 - c. The Challenge Cup
 - d. The Football Academicals, Institutional and Youth Football.
3. The overall operation of the NLO shall be under the supervision of the NFF in accordance with article 18 of FIFA statutes.

Article 4: Headquarters, Logo and Emblem

1. The Headquarter of the NLO shall be situated at Abuja
2. The Logo and emblem of the League shall be determined by the General Assembly.

Article 5:- Affiliation

1. The NLO is a Football body recognized by NFF, in the Federal Republic of Nigeria.
2. NLO is affiliated to the NFF by virtue of the NFF statutes.

Articles 6:- Objectives

The Objectives of NLO are:-

1. To provide, organize, control and Administer Non Professional Football under the jurisdiction of NFF and to facilitate the development of Non Professional football in the Federal Republic of Nigeria in accordance with the statutes and law of NFF, FIFA, CAF, WAFU and any other International Football Organization.
2. To foster friendly relations amongst the officials and players of the clubs.
3. Generally to concern itself with all matters relating to the conduct of Non-Professional Football in Nigeria.
4. To utilize its fund for investments and for such other purposes and which shall be in the interest of the NLO and the affiliated clubs and/or the objectives for which the NLO is established.
5. To establish standard for venues and facilities.
6. To protect the welfare of players and coaches.
7. To carry out and do anything conducive or incidental to the attainment of the above objects.

Article 7:- Membership/Admission

1. All Non Professional Football Clubs in Nigeria Shall be eligible for membership of NLO provided they are affiliated and registered with the statutes' Football Association and the NFF and have fulfilled all conditions and terms set out by NLO.
2. All clubs registered shall voluntarily put themselves under obligation to unconditionally abide by the League rules/regulations and the statutes of the NFF.
3. All affiliated clubs shall pay affiliation fees, subscription fees and any other fee as may be decided by the League Board, from time to time.

Article 8: Organization

The NLO shall have the following bodies:-

1. The General Assembly
2. The League Board
3. The Committees
4. Secretariat
5. The Bodies of NLO shall either be elected or appointed in accordance with the procedures described in these statutes

Article 9:- General Assembly

1. The General Assembly is the meeting at which all of the members of NLO periodically convene. It represents the supreme legislative authority of NLO
2. The General Assembly may be ordinary or extra-ordinary.
3. The chairman shall preside over the business in compliance with the standing orders of the general assembly.
4. The delegates shall compose of one person to represent all clubs in their state. Plus FCT. Abuja.
5. Each delegate has an equal number of votes and only those present are entitled to vote.
6. The League Board members and the Secretary shall take part in the General Assembly without voting rights. During their terms of office, the said members may not be appointed as delegates for their clubs or states.

Article 10: Power of the Assembly

1. Adopting or amending the statutes and standing orders of the assembly.
2. Approving minutes of the last meeting.
3. Approving budget of the NLO
4. Receiving and approving chairman's Report.
5. Appointing the independent auditor upon the proposal of the board.
6. Fixing membership subscriptions
7. Electing chairman, Vice-Chairman and other members of the Board
8. Admitting, suspension and expelling a member.
9. Approving the resignation of member

10. Dissolving NLO

11. The decisions of the Assembly shall be by simple majority of the members who are entitled to vote.

12. The decisions of the Assembly shall be carried by a simple majority.

13. The ordinary general assembly shall be held every year. The extra-ordinary meeting of the assembly can be convened as necessary.

Article 11:- League Board

1. There shall be established for the NLO a governing board (hereafter referred as the Board). It shall consist of:-
 - a. Six representatives of the NLO clubs registered with the NLO from the six geo-political zones excluding the position of chairman
2. All members of the Board shall be elected at a general assembly duly convened for that purpose.
3. If a position becomes vacant, the board shall fill that position until next General Assembly, when a replacement will be elected for the remaining term of mandate.
4. The guidelines for the elections shall be provided by the Electoral Committee to be set up by the board, under the supervision of the NFF.
5. Such representative as elected to the board or maybe elected to serve their clubs shall be bonafide members of their respective clubs involved in the day to day running of the clubs affairs and have been of such good standard within their respective clubs for not less than Six(6) months prior to being nominated to serve their clubs.
6. Such representative will remain on the board irrespective of his/her status on the club, till the end of the tenure of the board, but he/she cannot contest re-election, unless reappointed into a clubs management.
7. The tenure of the board shall be four (4) years from the date of its inauguration.

Article 12: Functions/Powers of the Board

1. The function of the board shall be:-
 - a. To appoint an Executive Secretary
 - b. To approve the appointment of others NLO staff on the recommendations of the Executive Secretary.
 - c. To organize League matches for Non-professional football clubs
 - d. To provide in co-operation with other bodies, adequate training for its employers and various personnel that maybe involved in the administration and organization of the League and its activities
 - e. To scrutinize League table and ratify at the end of the Season.
 - f. To determine such area of the Leagues activities to be commercialized in order to earn income for the League, the players and the clubs
 - g. To regulate the organization, registration, practice of form with the law of the Nigeria Football Federation on Technical issues affecting the administration and Organization of the game of football.
 - h. To approve bye-laws of the league which shall conform to the laws of the Nigeria Football Federation on Technical issues affecting the administration and organization of the game of football
 - i. To advise the NFF board on matters affecting the league and furnish it with information as may be required from time to time
 - j. To perform such other functions as the Federation may, from time to time assign the Board.
 - k. To organize election for the incoming board, under the supervision of the NFF.
2. The Board shall have the power to set out hereunder, as well as have the power to delegate in writing to the management the right to:
 - a. Buy, sell, or hire, exchange, transfer, receive by way of gift, donations or otherwise, moveable and immovable properties.
 - b. Invest its funds with recognize banks, building societies or capital market only.
 - c. Engage officers for the NLO either on a honorary basis or on positioning from the NFF or Federal Ministry in charge of Sports on such terms as the NLO may deem necessary or convenient and to remunerate any such

officer or servant employed otherwise than on a honorary basis and also any member or other person rendering services to the NLO

- d. Make and amend rules and regulations for the proper functioning of the NLO
 - e. Levy membership and any other fees inclusive of registration and participation fees on members on an annual basis and should the need arise, to levy additional fees.
 - f. Initiate, convene, organize and hold conference of representatives of members of the NLO or any committee thereof other persons.
 - g. Raise by way of public or private appeal subscription of donations, such moneys as may be deemed necessary or incidental for the attainment of all or any objects of this NLO and to take and accept any subscriptions, contributions, gifts, endowment and bequest, whether in land, property, money or otherwise, for any of the object of NLO and to carry out any trust attached to any such gift, endowment or bequest.
 - h. Print and publish such newsletter, periodicals, books pamphlets or leaflet and to make, procure and/or exhibit such photographs, pictures, cinematography i.e. firms and other publicity media that may be necessary or desirable for the promotion of its objects or to enter into any arrangement for the printing or publishing or exhibition.
3. The quorum of the meeting of the board shall be by simple majority.
 4. It shall make decisions by a simple majority of the members present. In the event of tie, at a vote, the chairman shall have a casting vote.
 5. The meeting of the board shall be held, at the least, every month of the League season or as necessary.
 6. The chairman shall convene and preside over the meeting or vice chairman, in the absence of the chairman, in that order. In the absence of the two above, the board shall elect a member to preside over the meeting.
 7. The Executive secretary shall take part in the meetings of the board and shall take down its minutes.

Article 13: Chairman and Vice Chairman

1. There shall be a chairman of the board who shall be elected by and among the board members.
2. There shall be a Vice- Chairman who shall be elected by the board.

Article 14:- Duties of the Chairman

1. The chairman represents the League legally
2. Shall be responsible for implementing the decision of the general assembly and the board through the Secretariat.
3. Supervise and ensure effective functioning of the bodies of the NLO.
4. Shall preside meetings of the general assembly, the Board and any other committee as provided in the statutes.
5. The board may decide to delegate more powers to the chairman.

Article 15: Committees

1. Subject to the provision of these regulations, the board may set up the following committees for the League or finance, organizing, media /sponsorship, Rules review/match reports committees as it may consider necessary for achieving the objectives of the league; except for Disciplinary, Referee and Appeals Committees, which are the exclusive preserve of the NFF. The organizing Committee of the NLO shall forward proven cases of poor officiating by any referee with evidence(s) and its recommendation to the NFF referees' committee for consideration and possible disciplinary actions.
2. Every committee shall have a chairman.
3. The league Board shall be solely responsible for approving the constitution and composition of these Committees.

Article 16: Secretariat

1. There shall be Executive Secretary, who shall be appointed by the board, and who shall be the chief Executive Officer of the NLO and the Head of the Secretariat.
2. The Executive Secretary shall be placed on five years tenor, to enable him oversee day to day runnings and implement the set out agenda/policies of the board.
3. The Executive Secretary shall be responsible for:-
 - a. Implementing the decisions of the general assembly and board.
 - b. Providing secretarial services to the general assembly, the Board and committee of the NLO
 - c. Compiling the minutes of the meetings.
 - d. Managing and keeping proper financial records of NLO
 - e. Correspondences
 - f. Any other legal duty assigned by the general assembly, board, and the chairman.
4. The board shall appoint such other person(s) to assist the Executive Secretary in the performance of his/her duties.
5. The Secretariat shall be organized by the Board in such a manner that it will assist it to achieve its objects.

Article 17:- Finances

1. The NLO shall establish, source and maintain funds for the general runnings of the League.
2. The Executive Secretary, being the accounting officer, shall utilize the fund for carry out the bodies as may be their determined by the board.
3. The Revenue shall be:-
 - a. All monies as may be: granted to the League by the Governments or any authority.
 - b. All monies realized from sponsorships, endorsement, Radio and TV Rights
 - c. All monies accruing to the League by the means including grant, endorsement and donations.

- d. All charges, fees, fine, dues or amount received by the board.
- e. All interest on monies invested by the board.
- f. All monies raised for the general purpose of the League.
4. The financial period shall be one year and shall begin on the 1st January and End on 31st December.
5. Independent auditors shall be appointed by the General Assembly upon recommendation by the Board.

Article 18: Financial Regulations

1. The board shall cause the Executive Secretary to prepare estimates of the expenditure necessary to carry out the programmes approved by it.
2. The board shall prepare and submit the audited and annual report to:-
 - a. All affiliated clubs
 - b. The Nigeria Football Federation (NFF)
 - c. Each member of the Board
 - d. Any other statutory body where necessary.
3. The board shall keep proper account in respect of one year and proper records in relation to the said account and shall cause to prepare in the year a statement showing the income and expenditure of the league.
4. The Board shall cause every statement prepared to be audited within one month after the end of the financial year by auditors appointed from the list and in accordance with the guidelines supplied by the auditor General of the Federation.

Article 19: Power of the NFF

1. Subject to the provisions of these statuses, the NFF may issue directives to the Board provided, such directives are in line with the guidelines of relevant International Football bodies. NLO shall respect all existing agreements entered by the NFF in the running of the Non-professional League.
2. Copies of all contract agreements entered between NLO and other bodies will be lodged with the NFF.

Article 20:- Appeals

1. All decisions made or penalties imposed by the NLO or its agent shall be subject to appeal to the Appeals Committee of NFF
2. The Decision of the appeals committee shall be final and binding on the parties and no further appeal shall be entertained.

Articles 21:- Other Provisions

1. No member, official, player or any other person, shall take any dispute to court of law. Upon affiliated to the NLO such persons bodies or clubs shall have voluntarily renounced the right of Legal redress in any court of law, in accordance with FIFA, CAF, and NFF statutes.
2. Any club, official, player, supporters or any relevant body violating these statutes shall be sanctioned by the board as deemed fit.
3. The Board shall have final decision on any matter not provided for in the statutes or in case-majeure.
4. The NLO may be dissolved on a resolution passes by the General Assembly on the grounds that the NLO is unable to fulfill its objects. In the event of dissolution the funds and assets of the NLO shall be held in trust by the NFF, until such a time a new League body is duly formed.
5. The statutes shall remain in force until such a time amended or replaced by the resolution to that effect by the General Assembly and approved by the NFF.
6. These statutes were adopted at the General Assembly meeting of the Non-professional Football clubs held on