



**2017/2018 NPFL PRE-SEASON INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT**  
**RULES AND REGULATIONS**

The following shall apply to the 2017/2018 Pre-Season Invitational Tournament of the Nigeria Professional Football League (NPFL), to be held at the Sani Abacha Stadium, Kano.

**Rule 1: Title and Trophy:**

- 1.1 The tournament shall be called “the NPFL Pre-season Invitational Tournament”.
- 1.2 The trophy shall remain the property of League Management Company Limited (LMC).
- 1.3 The trophy shall be won by the club duly declared winner by the LMC in accordance with these Rules.

**Rule 2: Form and Organization:**

- 2.1 The LMC shall organize the tournament.
- 2.2 The tournament shall consist of six (6) teams, including the four (4) teams that have qualified to represent Nigeria in the 2018 CAF Inter-Club Tournaments, a topflight team from the host city and the National team B; provided that the LMC reserves the right to replace any of the qualified teams as the circumstances may require.
- 2.3 The teams shall be divided into two groups of three (3) teams each, with the winners of each group qualifying for the final match.
- 2.4 Three points shall be awarded for a win and one point for a draw.
- 2.5 If two or more teams have the same points at the end of the group stage, the winner of the group shall be the team with superior goal difference; if those teams still have the same goal difference, the winner of the group shall be the team with the highest number of goals scored; if those teams still have the same number of goals scored, the winner shall be determined by the result of the match(es) involving those teams; and if there is still a tie, the winner shall be decided by the toss of coin.
- 2.6 Each match shall be for a period of 45 minutes per half, with a 15-minute half-time interval. Additional time shall be at the discretion of the Referee.

2.7 The winner of the competition shall be decided by the outcome of the final match.

**Rule 3**      **Eligibility:**

3.1 Eligible teams shall be those clubs that have qualified to represent Nigeria in the 2018 CAF Inter-Club Tournaments, a topflight team from the host city and the National Team B; or such other team as may be invited to replace an eligible club pursuant to Rule 2.2.

3.2 The teams must have satisfied all the conditions for participation as outlined in these Rules and voluntarily put themselves under obligation to unconditionally abide by the Rules of the Tournament, the Laws of the Game and the statutes of the LMC and NFF.

**Rule 4**      **Team Outfits:**

Each club shall use only approved jerseys and colours for the tournament.

**Rule 5**      **Registration and Fielding of players:**

5.1 Participating clubs are required to register a maximum of thirty five (35) players and ten (10) officials for the tournament.

5.2 Only players whose contracts have been duly registered by the participating clubs are eligible to feature for such club in this tournament.

5.3 The final list of 35 players and 10 officials, together with 1 passport photograph each, must reach the LMC not later than Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> December, 2017.

5.4 All players and team officials must be duly registered and accredited to participate in this tournament.

5.5 Each team shall list a maximum of 22 players per match i.e. 11 starting players and 11 substitutes. A maximum of 5 substitutes may be used.

5.6 Team sheets shall be made available to the organizers and the media not later than one hour before the kick-off time for each match.

**Rule 6**      **Provisions for matches:**

6.1 The venue of the tournament shall be the Sani Abacha Stadium, Kano; provided that the LMC may designate an alternative venue if the circumstances so require.

6.2 There shall be a Pre-Tournament Technical Meeting organized by the LMC.

6.3 The tournament fixtures are also attached to the Rules.

**Rule 7      Protest and Appeals:**

All protests and complaints shall be handled by the LMC or a Committee set up by the LMC and its decision on the matter shall be final and binding.

**Rule 8      Disciplinary Matters:**

8.1 Yellow and Red cards recorded during the regular season or any other tournament are not transferable to this Tournament and vice versa.

8.2 A Player who receives a Red card shall be suspended for the next match.

8.3 Yellow and Red cards shall attract a fine of N10,000.00 and N20,000.00 respectively, payable before the team's next match.

8.4 It is mandatory for teams to pay for fines arising from Yellow and Red cards recorded during the last game before presentation of trophy and medals.

**Rule 9      Media:**

9.1 The post-match press conference is mandatory and must be attended by the Chief Coach, the Media Officer and the Team Captain (or any player who featured in the match) of each team.

9.2 Participating teams are required to appoint a Media officer for the Tournament.

**Rule 10      Supporters:**

Clubs are responsible for the conduct of their supporters/fans.

**Rule 11      Matters not provided for:**

Any matter unforeseen or not provided for in these Rules shall be dealt with by the LMC as the circumstances require, having regard to the principles of fairness, sportsmanship, the Framework and Rules of the Nigeria Professional Football League and the overall interest of the game of football.