



2026 INTER-SCHOOLS 5-A-SIDE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Official rules and regulations

Venue	The Pavilion by KSD	Participating states	Ogun and Lagos
Competition dates	11–21 November 2026 (Wednesday–Saturday match days only)	Maximum schools	20
School registration	₦25,000	Registration deadline	30 October 2026

ARTICLE 1 – GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 1.1** The competition shall be known as The Pavilion by KSD 2026 Inter-Schools 5-A-Side Football Championship.
- 1.2** Its objectives are sportsmanship, teamwork, discipline, healthy competition and student development.
- 1.3** Schools, players, officials and spectators shall comply with these regulations and lawful, reasonable tournament instructions.
- 1.4** The Organizing Committee shall administer the competition and interpret these regulations fairly, subject to applicable law and child-safeguarding obligations.

ARTICLE 2 – SCHOOL REGISTRATION

- 2.1** Participation is open to invited or approved private secondary schools in Ogun and Lagos States, up to a maximum of 20 schools.
- 2.2** Registration costs ~~₦25,000~~ per school and is confirmed only after full payment, submission of required documents and approval.
- 2.3** Each school may register one team and shall nominate an authorized school representative.
- 2.4** The registration deadline is 30 October 2026 unless formally extended.
- 2.5** Fees are generally non-refundable after confirmation, except where the event is cancelled by the organizers or a refund is required by law. Any withdrawal or sanction shall be reviewed fairly.

ARTICLE 3 – PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

- 3.1** Players must be bona fide current students of the school they represent and meet the age category and cutoff date published before registration closes.
- 3.2** Each school shall provide a verified roster showing names, dates of birth, classes and school identification details.
- 3.3** The Committee may verify enrollment and identity. A player may represent only one school.
- 3.4** Schools must obtain parent/guardian consent, provide emergency contacts and arrange appropriate adult supervision.
- 3.5** Knowingly fielding an ineligible player may result in match forfeiture or disqualification after investigation and an opportunity to respond.

ARTICLE 4 – TEAM COMPOSITION

- 4.1** A team may register up to 10 players: five on the pitch (including goalkeeper) and up to five substitutes.
- 4.2** Rolling substitutions are allowed through the designated area under the referee's instructions.
- 4.3** A match may not begin or continue with fewer than three eligible players on one team.
- 4.4** Each school may accredit up to two team officials, including its coach. Only accredited persons may enter the technical area.

ARTICLE 5 – COMPETITION FORMAT AND DATES

- 5.1** The final number of schools shall be based on completed, approved paid registrations. The Committee shall publish the final format, group allocations, qualification criteria and fixtures before kickoff.
- 5.2** If 20 schools participate, they shall be arranged into four groups of five. Each school plays four group matches; the top two from each group advance to the quarterfinals.
- 5.3** Group points: win 3; draw 1; loss 0. Group ties shall be resolved by goal difference, goals scored, head-to-head result where applicable, fair-play record, then supervised drawing of lots.
- 5.4** Where fewer than 20 schools register, the Committee shall publish an appropriately adjusted group and knockout format before competition begins.
- 5.5** The confirmed competition calendar is set out below. No matches are scheduled on Sundays, Mondays or Tuesdays.

Date	Stage
Wed 11 – Sat 14 Nov	Group stage
Wed 18 Nov	Remaining group matches
Thu 19 Nov	Quarterfinals
Fri 20 Nov	Semifinals
Sat 21 Nov	Third-place playoff, Grand Final and awards

- 5.6** Fixtures shall provide reasonable recovery time and avoid consecutive matches for the same school. Changes after publication require timely communication and a reasonable justification related to fairness, safety or operations.

ARTICLE 6 – MATCH RULES AND DURATION

- 6.1** Each match comprises two 15-minute halves with a five-minute halftime interval; referees may allow appropriate stoppage time.
- 6.2** The championship follows published modified small-sided football rules. There is no offside.
- 6.3** Players must wear matching shirts, appropriate footwear and shin guards. Dangerous jewelry and equipment are prohibited.
- 6.4** Before the opening match, the Committee shall circulate definitive rules for kick-ins/throw-ins, goalkeeper restrictions, restarts, penalty area and substitutions.
- 6.5** Drawn knockout matches proceed to three penalty kicks per side, followed by sudden death if required.
- 6.6** Referee decisions on facts of play are final.

ARTICLE 7 – FIXTURES, ARRIVAL AND FORFEITS

- 7.1** Schools must arrive at least 45 minutes before kickoff for roster checks and preparation.
- 7.2** A team more than 10 minutes late without an accepted reason may forfeit 3-0; double no-shows may result in double forfeits.
- 7.3** Matches may be postponed for unsafe weather, medical emergencies, security issues or other serious operational circumstances.
- 7.4** Schools need attend only on scheduled match days unless reasonably required for an advance-notified official activity.
- 7.5** Match times shall be communicated sufficiently early for transport, school supervision and academic planning.

ARTICLE 8 – DISCIPLINE AND FAIR PLAY

- 8.1** Violence, threats, harassment, discrimination, bribery, match manipulation and intentional injury are prohibited.
- 8.2** Two yellow cards in a match result in a red card. A straight red card carries at least a one-match suspension pending review.
- 8.3** Three yellow cards in separate matches trigger a one-match suspension. Accumulated cautions reset after the group stage, but suspensions carry forward.
- 8.4** Further sanctions, including disqualification, may follow a documented investigation and opportunity to respond.
- 8.5** Abandoning a match without a valid safety reason may lead to forfeiture and additional disciplinary action.

ARTICLE 9 – PROTESTS AND APPEALS

- 9.1** Protests about eligibility or rules breaches must be submitted in writing by the school representative, ordinarily within 30 minutes of the match, except for evidence not reasonably available then.
- 9.2** An appointed panel shall consider evidence and permit the affected school to respond.
- 9.3** Disagreement with a referee's factual decision alone is not grounds for an appeal.
- 9.4** Decisions should be communicated before the school's next fixture where practicable.

ARTICLE 10 – MEDICAL CARE AND CHILD SAFEGUARDING

- 10.1** Qualified first-aid or medical coverage must be available on every match day.
- 10.2** Schools must provide emergency contacts and ensure appropriate adult supervision, consent and safe transport.
- 10.3** Suspected concussion requires immediate removal, no same-day return and appropriate medical clearance before further participation.
- 10.4** Officials may stop play for injury, heat, weather, unsafe conditions or security concerns.
- 10.5** Student images and interviews require appropriate parental/guardian permissions and privacy safeguards.

ARTICLE 11 – SPECTATORS AND ADMISSION

- 11.1** General admission is proposed at ₦1,000 per spectator per day, subject to final management approval and published ticket conditions.
- 11.2** Each school may receive up to four complimentary spectator passes valid only on its match days. Registered players and accredited officials enter free on their match days.
- 11.3** Spectator seating capacity is 150. Entry and re-entry remain subject to safe venue capacity.
- 11.4** Resale of complimentary passes, pitch invasion, violence and disruption are prohibited.

- 11.5** Students must be supervised; alcohol, tobacco and other age-restricted products shall not be promoted as part of the school competition.

ARTICLE 12 - PRIZES AND AWARDS

- 12.1** The championship shall offer cash prizes, trophies and medals. The maximum cash prize pool is ~~₦~~450,000, conditional on 20 schools completing full registration and payment by the deadline.

Position	Maximum cash prize
Champions	₦250,000
Runners-up	₦150,000
Third place	₦50,000
Total	₦450,000

- 12.2** If fewer than 20 schools register and pay, the prize amounts shall be reduced under a prize-adjustment schedule disclosed to schools before registration closes.
- 12.3** Final cash prizes shall be confirmed in writing after registration closes and before the championship begins. Confirmed amounts shall not subsequently be reduced due to withdrawals, except in the event of lawful cancellation or a mutually agreed variation.
- 12.4** Cash prizes shall be paid to verified school accounts or through another properly documented school-authorized arrangement.
- 12.5** Prize payments shall be completed within seven (7) calendar days after the Grand Final (normally by 28 November 2026), subject to resolution of outstanding eligibility or disciplinary proceedings.

ARTICLE 13 - PHOTOGRAPHY AND PUBLICITY

- 13.1** The event may be documented for legitimate publicity, subject to appropriate consent for identifiable minors.
- 13.2** Schools shall not be required to share private student contact information with sponsors.
- 13.3** Commercial filming and student interviews require advance authorization and safeguarding compliance.

ARTICLE 14 - SCHOOL RESPONSIBILITIES

- 14.1** Each school is responsible for safe student transportation, supervision, equipment and appropriate fitness-to-play arrangements.
- 14.2** Coaches and representatives must cooperate with medical, security and match officials and explain the rules to their teams and supporters.

ARTICLE 15 - ORGANIZING COMMITTEE AUTHORITY

- 15.1** The Committee manages the draw, fixtures, referees, disciplinary process and awards.
- 15.2** Unforeseen matters shall be decided fairly and documented; material rule changes shall be communicated promptly and not applied retrospectively in an unfair manner.

SCHOOL DECLARATION AND ACCEPTANCE

We confirm that we have read and understood these regulations and agree to comply with them, including player eligibility and student supervision obligations.

School name _____

Principal / authorized representative _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Official school stamp _____