

DIANI JUNIOR CUP

OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT RULES & GOVERNANCE DOCUMENT

1. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

The Diani Junior Cup is designed to foster:

- Youth development
- Fair competition
- Discipline and integrity in football

All participants, including players, coaches, officials, parents, and spectators, are expected to:

- Uphold fair play and mutual respect
- Maintain professionalism and discipline
- Adhere strictly to all tournament rules

⚔ The Tournament Organizing Committee has the authority to:

- Interpret rules
- Enforce discipline
- Make final decisions in the tournament's best interest

2. PLAYER REGISTRATION & VETTING

2.1 Registration Requirements

- All teams must submit complete player documentation by the official deadlines.
- Only registered and approved players are eligible to participate.
- Late or incomplete registrations may lead to disqualification.

2.2 Mandatory Vetting

- All players must attend the official vetting process.
- No vetting will occur during the tournament.

- Teams are responsible for transportation and allowances.

2.3 Background Verification

The committee reserves the right to verify all players.

Immediate disqualification will result from:

- Age falsification
- Identity fraud
- Use of ineligible players

2.4 Vetting Procedure

- Players may be asked verification questions.
- Coaches may observe but can provide assistance only when requested.
- Any interference will lead to immediate removal.

2.5 Documentation

- Photos will be taken for official records.
- Players who fail the vetting will be documented and will not participate.

⚠ All vetting decisions are final and binding.

3. TEAM ARRIVAL & OPENING CEREMONY

Date: 9th December

Time: 8:30 AM – 9:10 AM

Mandatory Attendance:

All teams are required to attend.

Program:

- Arrival & Assembly
- Opening Prayer
- Welcome Speech
- March Past
- Trophy Presentation
- Player Tag Distribution

- Departure to match venues

4. PLAYER TAGGING POLICY

4.1 Responsibility

- Tagging will be conducted by team coaches.
- Tags must match the registered player details.

4.2 Enforcement

- No tag = No participation; referees may deny entry.

4.3 Violations

Incorrect tagging and tag manipulation will be treated as age cheating.

4.4 Damaged Tags

- Replacement during a match is free of charge.
- Replacement outside a match will cost Ksh 350.

⚠ All tagging violations will result in full disciplinary sanctions.

5. AGE CATEGORIES & MATCH FORMATS

Rolling substitutions are permitted for U7–U13.

Matches will follow adapted FIFA Laws.

AGE CATEGORIES & ELIGIBILITY

CUT-OFF DATE:

1st January 2027

MATCH DURATION

- U7 → 30 minutes (3 × 10)
- U9 → 40 minutes (2 × 20)
- U11 → 50 minutes (2 × 25)

- U13 → 50 minutes (2 × 25)
 - U15 → 70 minutes (2 × 35)
 - U17 → 90 minutes (2 × 45)
 - U19 → 90 minutes (2 × 45)
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6. MATCH DAY OPERATIONS

6.1 Pre-Match Requirements

- Teams must arrive 30 minutes before kickoff.
- Submit the Match Day Team Sheet.

6.2 Player Verification

Conducted by the Match Commissioner, including tag inspection.

Players will not be allowed to play if:

- They lack a tag.
- Their tag is altered or tampered with.

6.3 Match Rules

- Grace period: 10 minutes.
- Matches will adhere to FIFA-based youth adaptations.

6.4 Walkover Rule

- Result: 3 points + 2–0 scoreline. Goals will not be attributed to individuals.
 - Two walkovers will lead to automatic disqualification.
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7. SUBSTITUTIONS

Unlimited rolling substitutions are permitted, subject to the referee's approval.

8. DISCIPLINE & SANCTIONS

8.1 Cards

- Yellow Card → Warning
- Red Card → Immediate send-off

8.2 Suspensions

A red card results in missing the next match. Two yellow cards leading to a red card will also result in missing the next match.

8.3 Age Cheating (Critical Offense)

Includes:

- Fake documents
- Incorrect tagging
- Identity fraud

Sanctions:

- Attempt → Player suspended + team warning
- Proven → Player and team disqualified + matches forfeited + possible ban

8.4 Sanctions Table

9. POINT SYSTEM & TIEBREAKERS

- Win = 3 points
- Draw = 1 point
- Loss = 0 points

Tiebreakers:

1. Goal Difference
2. Goals Scored
3. Head-to-Head
4. Fair Play
5. Penalty Shootout

10. TOURNAMENT STRUCTURE & PROGRESSION

U7 – U13 (20 Teams)

Teams progress into:

- Main Cup
- Plate Cup
- Bowl Cup
- Drop Cup

U15 (16 Teams)

- 4 groups of 4
- Progression:
 - o 1st → Main Cup
 - o 2nd → Plate cup
 - o 3rd → Bowl cup
 - o 4th → Drop cup

U17 (16Teams)

- 4 groups of 4
- Progression:
 - o 1st → Main Final
 - o 2nd → Plate Final
 - o 3rd → Bowl Final
 - o 4th → Drop Final

All teams will continue playing beyond the group stage.

11. PROTESTS & COMPLAINTS

11.1 Match Protests

Report immediately to the Match Commissioner. If unresolved, a written protest must be submitted before the match concludes. The match will continue under protest.

11.2 Outcomes

A valid protest may change the result.

11.3 Complaints

Must be submitted in writing and do not nullify completed matches.

11.4 Special Cases

An ineligible player will result in a 1-point deduction per match.

Referee complaints will be for evaluation only.

⚖️ All decisions are final.

⚖️ 12. MATCH COMMISSIONERS

Responsibilities:

- Oversee match operations
- Verify players
- Enforce rules
- Handle protests
- Submit reports

Authority:

- Deny entry to ineligible players
- Remove officials for misconduct

13. VENUE & GROUND MANAGEMENT

Teams will be assigned specific grounds and must remain within designated areas.

Restricted Areas:

- Field of play
- Technical Bench (TB)
- Officials' zones

Unauthorized access will lead to disciplinary action.

14. CODE OF CONDUCT

Players:

- Respect all participants
- No abuse or violence

Coaches:

- Remain in the Technical Bench area
- No incitement or abuse

Parents/Spectators:

- No sideline coaching
- No access to the Technical Bench
- Respect officials

Misconduct will result in removal.

15. MEDICAL & SAFETY

Only registered members are allowed in the Technical Bench. Each team must provide:

- A doctor

Or

- A first aider

△ The tournament medical team will respond upon request and in emergencies.

All medical costs are the team's responsibility.

16. MEDIA & PHOTOGRAPHY POLICY

All venues are designated media zones, and entry implies consent for usage in promotion, marketing, and archiving.

Non-consent must be submitted prior to the tournament.

17. MEDIA & BRANDING CONTROL

All rights belong to the Diani Junior Cup. Only accredited media are allowed, and no conflicting branding is permitted.

18. SECURITY & DISCIPLINE

Security will be enforced at all venues. Misconduct may lead to removal or sanctions.

19. MATCH INTERRUPTIONS

Matches may be delayed or postponed due to weather or safety concerns, with decisions made by officials.

20. AWARDS

Trophies will be awarded for:

- Main Cup
- Plate
- Bowl
- Drop

Individual awards will also be presented.

21. TOURNAMENT OBJECTIVE

The tournament aims to provide:

- Equal opportunity
 - Maximum match exposure
 - Structured player development
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22. FINAL AUTHORITY

The Tournament Organizing Committee holds full authority over:

- Rule interpretation
- Discipline
- Scheduling
- Final decisions

All decisions are final and binding.
