

## Pune Premier League (PPL)

### Official Rule Book – 7-a-side Football League

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#### 1. General Guidelines

##### 1.1. Team Size

- Each team must register a minimum of **10 players** and a maximum of **16 players** in the squad.
- A team must field **7 players** (including goalkeeper) during a match.
- The **minimum number of players required to start or continue a match is 5**. If a team cannot field 5 players, the match will be awarded as a **walkover** to the opposition.

##### 1.2. Match Format

- Each match will be played in **two halves of 14 minutes each**, with a **5-minute half-time break**.
- League stage matches can end in a **draw**.

##### 1.3. Kick-off & Reporting

- Teams must report **at least 30 minutes before the scheduled kick-off**.
- A **15-minute grace period** will be allowed from the official kick-off time. If a team fails to field the minimum required players within this time, the match will be considered a **walkover**, with a **3-0 scoreline awarded to the opponent**.

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#### 2. Rules of Play

##### 2.1. Standard Football Laws Apply

- Matches will follow the **FIFA Laws of the Game**, adapted for **7-a-side format**.
- Each match will have **1 central referee** and **1 assistant referees**. The referee's decision will be **final and binding**.

##### 2.2. Offside Rule

- **No offside rule** will be enforced in the PPL 7-a-side format.

##### 2.3. Substitutions

- **Rolling substitutions** are allowed. A player can re-enter after being substituted.

- Substitutions must take place from the halfway line with referee's permission.

#### 2.4. VAR (Video Assistant Referee)

- **No VAR system will be used.** Referee decisions on the field are final.

#### 2.5. Discipline

- A **yellow card** results in a warning.
  - A **red card** results in immediate suspension for the rest of the match and a **minimum 1-match ban**.
  - A team reduced to fewer than 5 players due to red cards or injuries will **forfeit the match**.
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### 3. Points System (League Stage)

- **Win** – 3 points
- **Draw** – 1 point
- **Loss** – 0 points
- **Walkover** – 3-0 scoreline awarded

Tie-breakers (if teams are level on points):

1. Goal Difference
  2. Goals Scored
  3. Head-to-Head Result
  4. Alphabetical order of the team name
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### 4. Player Regulations

#### 4.1. Player Registration

- All players must be **registered before the start of the league**.
- A player can only be registered for **one team per season**.

#### 4.2. Transfers

- Transfers (internal between PPL teams or external) are only allowed during the **official Transfer Window**, declared by the organizers.

- Once the transfer window closes, **no player movement** will be permitted until the end of the season.

#### 4.3. Unregistered Players

- Any team found fielding an unregistered or suspended player will **forfeit the match (3-0)** and may face disciplinary action.
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### 5. Conduct & Discipline

- Players, coaches, and spectators must maintain **sportsmanship and respect** towards referees, opponents, and officials.
  - Abusive language, violent conduct, or misconduct can result in **suspensions, fines, or expulsion from the league**.
  - The **League Committee** reserves the right to make final decisions on disputes, protests, or disciplinary issues.
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### 6. Miscellaneous Rules

- Teams must wear **proper kits** (jerseys with numbers, shorts, stockings, shin guards, and proper football shoes).
- Goalkeeper must wear a **distinctly different color jersey**.
- In case of a **clash of jersey colors**, the away team must change.
- The League Committee reserves the right to amend or add rules for smooth conduct of the tournament.

### 7. Promotion & Relegation System

#### 7.1 League Structure

The PPL will operate in a **3-tier system**:

1. **Premier League (Top Division)**
  2. **Championship (Second Division)**
  3. **Division One (Third Division)**
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#### 7.2 Promotion & Relegation Rules

##### Premier League

- The **bottom 3 teams** at the end of the season will be **relegated** to the Championship.

### **Championship**

- The **top 2 teams** at the end of the season gain **direct promotion to the Premier League**.
- Teams finishing **3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th** enter the **Promotion Playoffs**:
  - **Semi-Finals**: 3rd vs 6th, 4th vs 5th (one-leg knockout).
  - **Final**: Winners of the semi-finals play each other.
  - The **winner of the playoff final** is awarded **3rd place** and earns promotion to the Premier League.
- The **bottom 3 teams** in the Championship will be **relegated to Division One**.

### **Division One**

- The **top 3 teams** at the end of the season will be **promoted to the Championship**.
- There is **no relegation** from Division One (base division).

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### **7.3 Additional Notes**

- In case of a **points tie** for promotion, relegation, or playoff spots, the following tie-breakers will apply:
  1. Goal Difference
  2. Goals Scored
  3. Head-to-Head Record
  4. Alphabetical Order of the team name
- Promotion and relegation take effect **at the start of the following season**.