



SOUTHERN DEVELOPMENT  
BASKETBALL LEAGUE  
SDBL

# TOURNAMENT Regulations

## Southern Development Basketball League

April–May 2026

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# Section 1. General Provisions

## 1.1. Name of the tournament

These Regulations govern the organisation and conduct of the **Southern Development Basketball League** basketball tournament (hereinafter referred to as **the 'Tournament'**), which is to be held in the Republic of Malta from 13 April 2026 until the date of completion of the play-off stage, as confirmed by the Organiser in the official Tournament calendar. The official website of the Tournament is: <https://sdbl-malta.com>.

These Regulations constitute the primary organisational and regulatory document of the Tournament and are binding on the Organiser, teams, players, officials, referees, technical staff, medical personnel and any other persons admitted to participate in the Tournament or to ensure its conduct.

## 1.2. Aims and objectives

The Tournament is held for the purposes of:

- develop and promote basketball within the Republic of Malta;
- to establish a regular sporting framework for teams to participate in a competitive format;
- to ensure a transparent, disciplined and safe competition format;
- to establish a media and statistical database for the tournament via the official tournament website, **sdbl-malta.com**, and the StreamHub system;
- to organise a high-quality sporting event conducted in accordance with **the FIBA Official Basketball Rules** and the requirements of **the Malta Basketball Association**;
- to create a competitive playing environment for teams participating in the Tournament in accordance with the approved calendar, regulations and application documents.

The tournament also aims to achieve the following objectives:

- ensuring a stable competition calendar within the approved period;
- to establish a transparent system for the sporting classification of teams;
- to ensure uniform requirements for player registration, refereeing, medical support, discipline, infrastructure and match broadcasts;
- creating a unified documentation framework for the organisational, disciplinary and technical support of matches;
- ensuring conditions for video recording of matches, archiving and the potential use of materials for disciplinary, organisational and reporting analysis.

## 1.3. Tournament Organiser

The Tournament Organiser is **Valletta Dream Basketball Club**, affiliated with the **Malta Basketball Association** under affiliation number **VO2557** (hereinafter referred to as **the Organiser**).

For the purposes of these Regulations, the Organiser shall provide organisational, sporting and administrative support for the Tournament and shall be responsible for:

- the overall management of the preparation and conduct of the Tournament;
- approving the calendar, match schedule and reserve dates;
- providing organisational support for the participation of teams registered and admitted to the Tournament;

- approving applications, team squads and changes to team squads in accordance with the procedure set out in these Regulations;
- the appointment and coordination of Tournament officials;
- ensuring participants' access to the match venue;
- ensuring the minimum necessary level of medical and general safety for participants;
- maintaining Tournament documentation;
- maintaining and providing content for the official Tournament website, **sdbl-malta.com**;
- liaising with **the Malta Basketball Association** on matters relating to tournament requirements;
- organising video broadcasts and technical support for matches via the StreamHub system;
- ensuring the consideration of incidents, protests, disciplinary matters and other contentious situations in accordance with the procedure established by these Regulations.

The Organiser shall be entitled to make decisions binding on all Tournament participants regarding matters not expressly regulated by these Regulations, if such decisions are necessary to ensure the sporting, organisational and technical integrity of the Tournament.

#### **1.4. Technical Operator and Broadcast Rights Holder**

The Technical Operator of the Tournament is **StreamHub** (hereinafter referred to as **the Technical Operator**).

The Technical Operator:

- provides a video broadcasting system for matches;
- ensures the technical recording of matches and the video signal;
- provides graphics display and technical support for broadcasts;
- ensures the storage of video recordings of matches;
- prepares and maintains technical reports within its area of responsibility;
- shall not interfere with the sporting, organisational or disciplinary decisions of the Organiser and the referees.

Unless otherwise specified in separate agreements, the rights to the video signal, graphic elements of the broadcast, match recordings, technical broadcast materials and other derivative audiovisual materials belong to the Technical Operator and/or are shared between the Organiser and the Technical Operator in accordance with a separate agreement.

Match statistics shall be maintained by the Organiser, unless otherwise agreed in writing between the Organiser and the Technical Operator.

#### **1.5. Status of the competition**

The tournament is an organised basketball competition held behind closed doors at the **Basketball Complex, Ta' Qali, RBT 13, Malta**.

The tournament is held subject to the following conditions:

- all matches are conducted in accordance with **the FIBA Official Basketball Rules**, unless otherwise expressly provided for in these Regulations;
- the organisation and conduct of the Tournament shall take into account the applicable requirements and organisational standards of **the Malta Basketball Association**;

- The Tournament is held without unrestricted access for the general public, unless otherwise specifically approved by the Organiser;
- participation in the Tournament is restricted to registered players assigned to teams by the Organiser;
- The Tournament does not create an employment relationship between the players, teams, the Organiser and the Technical Operator;
- Prize money payments provided for in these Regulations do not constitute wages, remuneration or regular commercial payments.

The Tournament is an independent event and is conducted in accordance with these Regulations, the Tournament Rules, the official FIBA basketball rules and the applicable requirements of **the Malta Basketball Association**.

### **1.6. Duration**

The Tournament shall take place from 13 April 2026 until the date of completion of the play-off stage, as confirmed by the Organiser in the official Tournament calendar.

The regular season shall run from 13 April 2026 to 28 May 2026 inclusive.

The play-off stage shall take place the week following the conclusion of the regular season over 2 match days, with 2 matches per day, in the order and on the dates approved by the Organiser.

Matches, match windows, dates between stages and, where necessary, reserve organisational windows are determined by the official Tournament calendar.

### **1.7. Venue**

All Tournament matches are held at:

**Basketball Complex, Ta' Qali, RBT 13, Malta.**

The specified sports venue must ensure that matches can be held in accordance with **the FIBA Official Basketball Rules**, these Regulations and the minimum organisational requirements for the conduct of the Tournament.

Full specifications of the sports venue, access arrangements, infrastructure features, technical areas and conditions for the placement of the Technical Operator's equipment are set out in the relevant sections of these Regulations and the annexes thereto.

### **1.8. Tournament participants**

Ten teams are eligible to participate in the Tournament:

BC Birgu 1971  
 Valletta Union  
 Gozo Unit 66  
 Senglea Sentinels  
 Harbour Flux  
 Limestone Five  
 Kalkara Cannons  
 Hamrun Blaze  
 Birkirkara Axis  
 Marsa Forge

Teams shall participate in the Tournament in accordance with these Rules, the Tournament Regulations, the fixture list and other official documents issued by the Organiser.

The Organiser reserves the right to reject the participation of a team, player or official representative, to refuse registration or to amend eligibility where there are organisational, disciplinary, medical, documentary or other valid reasons.

### **1.9. Competition Format**

The tournament consists of two main stages: the regular season and the play-offs.

The regular season is held in a double-round-robin format between 10 teams.

The play-offs involve the top 4 teams from the regular season and comprise:

semi-finals — 2 matches;

the third-place play-off — 1 match;

the final — 1 match.

All play-off matches are played as single-leg fixtures.

The general format of the Tournament, the ranking system, the scheduling logic, the structure of the stages and the order of team classification are set out in detail in Section 2 of these Regulations.

### **1.10. Official language of the document**

These Regulations are drafted in English as the working and primary version of the document for the purposes of preparation, approval and subsequent translation.

In preparing the English-language version, the interpretation of the organisational logic and structure of the document shall be determined by the version approved by the Organiser.

In the event of any discrepancies between the draft and the final approved version, the version signed or officially approved by the Organiser shall prevail.

### **1.11. Legal force of the document**

These Regulations shall come into force upon their approval by the Organiser and shall remain in force for the entire duration of the Tournament, including the conclusion of matches, the consideration of protests and disciplinary incidents, the fulfilment of obligations regarding prize payments, and the preparation of the final Tournament documents.

Any amendments, additions, clarifications and official interpretations to these Regulations may only be made by the Organiser.

Such amendments shall be issued in the form of official notices, annexes, updated versions of the document or other written acts of the Organiser and shall become binding on all participants from the moment they are officially brought to the attention of the interested parties, unless a different effective date is specified in the notice itself.

Ignorance of these Regulations does not exempt Tournament participants, teams, players, officials or other authorised persons from the obligation to comply with their provisions.

## **Section 2. Tournament Format and Structure**

### **2.1. General Principles of the Tournament Format**

The Tournament is held in two main stages:

Regular Stage

Play-offs for final places 1–4

Both stages are mandatory for all teams in the scope and order established by these Regulations, except in cases where a team forfeits its right to participate on disciplinary, organisational or other grounds, as confirmed by a decision of the Organiser.

The aim of this format is to:

ensure that each team plays a sufficient number of official matches;

establish a transparent system of sporting ranking based on the results of the regular stage;

ensure that only the strongest teams advance to the decisive stage of the competition;

maintain a competitive balance between the regular season and the play-off stage;

ensure a predictable fixture schedule within the Tournament period set by the Organiser's official calendar;

to provide for the transition from the regular season to the play-off stage in accordance with the Tournament schedule.

The Tournament is held for 10 teams. All teams participate in the regular season. Following the regular season, the top 4 teams advance to the play-offs.

The Tournament's sporting format is closed and is based on the principle that no stage of the competition may be revised at a team's initiative after the calendar has been approved, except in cases of official postponement of matches in accordance with the procedure set out in these Regulations.

## **2.2. Regular season**

### **2.2.1. Number of matches**

Ten teams participate in the regular season. The regular season is conducted in a double-round format. In each round, every team plays one match against every other team.

Thus:

the number of matches in one round is 45;

the number of matches in two rounds is 90.

The total number of matches in the regular season is 90.

The rounds are not divided into home and away matches in the traditional club sense, as all matches in the Tournament are held at a single venue at Basketball Complex, Ta' Qali, RBT 13, Malta. The terms 'home' and 'away' are used solely for administrative, statistical, graphical and tournament identification purposes.

### **2.2.2. Scoring System**

During the regular season, the standard tournament scoring system applies:

2 points – win;

1 point – defeat;

0 points — forfeit, no-show, withdrawal from the match or any other decision by the Organiser that directly results in a defeat without a sporting result on the court.

If the match is completed in accordance with the established rules of play, both teams receive the corresponding tournament points in accordance with the final result.

If a team is awarded a technical defeat, the Organiser shall be entitled to further determine how such a result is to be reflected in the tournament table, statistics and disciplinary documents of the Tournament.

### **2.2.3. League Table**

Teams are ranked in the regular season table according to the following criteria:

- the number of tournament points scored;
- the results of head-to-head matches between teams with equal points;
- the goal difference in head-to-head matches between such teams;
- the overall goal difference in all matches of the regular season;
- the total number of points scored in all matches of the regular season;
- the number of wins in the regular season;
- the discipline and Fair Play index, if the Organiser deems it necessary to use this criterion;
- a draw, if all previous indicators are equal.

If there is a tie between more than two teams, the Organiser shall apply a sequential system of comparison between these teams, starting with the results of matches between them and ending with the overall regular season statistics.

The league table shall be official from the moment of its publication on the Tournament's official website, [sdbl-malta.com](http://sdbl-malta.com), unless the Organiser publishes a separate notice regarding the provisional status of the table due to a protest, disciplinary proceedings or a technical review of the match report.

### **2.2.4. Restrictions and rescheduling of regular season matches**

The rescheduling of a regular season match is permitted only in exceptional cases, as confirmed by the Organiser.

Acceptable grounds for postponement are:

- the unsuitability of the sports venue or part thereof for the safe conduct of the match;
- technical circumstances preventing the match from being played normally;
- a medical or other emergency preventing the match from taking place;
- an instruction from the Organiser regarding safety, discipline, the health of participants or the integrity of the fixture list;
- other force majeure circumstances deemed sufficient by the Organiser.

The following are not valid grounds for postponement:

- internal personnel difficulties within the team;
- the team's lack of readiness for the match;
- the absence of individual players or team officials;
- logistical difficulties faced by the team;
- the team's late arrival without a valid reason;
- any other circumstances relating to the team's internal organisation.

A team shall not be entitled to unilaterally demand the postponement of a match. The final decision on whether to postpone the match, keep it on the fixture list or award a technical result shall be taken by the Organiser.

### **2.3. Play-offs for final places 1–4**

#### **2.3.1. Play-off participants**

The top 4 teams from the regular season qualify for the play-offs.

Teams finishing in 5th–10th place at the end of the regular season shall conclude their participation in the Tournament upon completion of the regular season, unless otherwise specified by the Organiser.

The final positions of teams that have not qualified for the play-offs are determined in accordance with the final table of the regular season.

#### **2.3.2. Play-off format**

The play-offs are held in the following format:

Semi-finals

1st place in the regular season — 4th place in the regular season

2nd place in the regular season – 3rd place in the regular season

Each semi-final pairing plays one match.

The winners of the semi-finals advance to the final.

The teams that lose in the semi-finals play a match for third place.

The final is a single-match tie.

The third-place play-off is a single match.

The play-offs take place over two match days:

on the first match day, the two semi-finals are played;

on the second match day, the third-place play-off and the final are held.

The use of the terms 'home' and 'away' in the play-off stage is permitted only as an administrative and tournament convention, as all matches are held at a single venue at Basketball Complex, Ta' Qali, RBT 13, Malta.

#### **2.3.3. Procedure for determining the winner in the play-offs**

The winner of each play-off tie is determined by the result of a single match.

A draw is not permitted.

The organiser is obliged to establish in advance a uniform approach to determining the winner and to apply it consistently to all stages of the play-offs.

If the winner of the match is not determined at the end of regular time, an extra period or successive extra periods shall be played in accordance with the FIBA Official Basketball Rules until the winner of the match is determined.

#### **2.3.4. Total number of matches in the play-off stage**

Semi-finals — 2 matches

Third-place play-off — 1 match

Final — 1 match

Total — 4 matches

#### **2.4. Tournament schedule**

The tournament shall take place from 13 April 2026 until the date of completion of the play-off stage, as confirmed by the Organiser in the official tournament calendar.

Within this period, the following shall be scheduled:

90 regular season matches;

4 play-off matches;

gaming and organisational windows between the end of the regular season and the start of the play-offs.

The total number of matches in the Tournament is 94.

#### **2.4.2. Match start times**

Matches are held in accordance with the approved Tournament schedule. Basic match windows:

07:30

08:50

10:10

On specific match days, as per the approved schedule, the following match windows apply:

08:00

09:20

10:30

10:40

During the play-off stage, time slots separately approved by the Organiser shall apply.

#### **2.4.3. Reserve dates**

Within the structure of the Tournament, the Organiser is entitled to provide for reserve and organisational windows to reschedule matches, address scheduling conflicts, technical and medical circumstances, and to facilitate the transition from the regular season to the play-off stage.

The specific dates and procedure for using such windows are determined by the official Tournament calendar.

#### **2.4.4. Allocation of matches across stages**

The Organiser shall draw up the schedule in such a way that:

the regular season is played over two full rounds;

at the end of the regular season, the top 4 teams are determined to participate in the play-offs;

play-off matches are held over two match days;

the final matches are completed within the overall duration of the Tournament;

the official Tournament website <https://sdbl-malta.com> reflects the schedule, results and any changes to the timetable in a timely manner.

When preparing the fixture list, the Organiser is entitled to take into account the density of matches, the time required for the technical processing of match reports, the publication of results, the readiness of the broadcasting infrastructure, and the need to consider possible protests and disciplinary incidents.

## **2.5. Postponements and scheduling**

Acceptable reasons for postponing a match are:

force majeure;

unsuitability of the venue;

medical grounds affecting the safety of the match;

emergencies at the venue;

breach of the conditions of access to the venue;

an order from the Organiser regarding safety, discipline or the preservation of the sporting integrity of the Tournament;

other force majeure circumstances.

The following are not valid reasons for postponement:

a team's failure to appear;

internal personnel issues within the team;

lack of the minimum required number of players;

failure to submit application or organisational documents on time;

late arrival, unless deemed valid by the Organiser;

the team's request to change the match date for sporting or personal reasons.

If a match is rescheduled, the Organiser shall determine the new date, time and administrative status of the match. Teams are obliged to comply with the updated fixture list.

## **2.6. Approval of the schedule and changes**

The Tournament schedule is drawn up and approved by the Organiser.

The official publication of the calendar, results, schedule changes and notifications of postponements is available:

on the Tournament's official website, [sdbl-malta.com](https://sdbl-malta.com);

via official communication channels determined by the Organiser;

in the form of individual notifications sent to team representatives.

Any changes to the fixture list shall be communicated to the teams within a reasonable timeframe sufficient for organisational preparation for the match. If circumstances require urgent action, the Organiser shall be entitled to shorten the notice period to the extent permitted by the actual situation.

The calendar published on the Tournament's official website, [sdbl-malta.com](http://sdbl-malta.com), shall be deemed the official version of the schedule, unless otherwise specified in a separate notification from the Organiser.

## Section 3. Registration of teams and players

### 3.1. General Registration Rules

Ten teams, approved by the Organiser, are eligible to participate in the Tournament.

To be eligible to participate in the Tournament, each team must register in accordance with the procedure established by the Organiser.

Team registration is considered complete after:

submission of the application details;

the submission of the squad list;

submission of the team's official representative's details;

the Organiser has verified the information;

confirmation of the team's eligibility to participate in the Tournament.

For the organisational and administrative support of the Tournament, the Organiser shall compile a set of registration documents for each team, which shall include:

the team's entry form;

a list of the team's players;

player cards and other identification details;

contact details of the team's official representative;

consents to participation, the processing of personal data, the use of images and participation in broadcasts;

other documents necessary for the safe and proper conduct of the Tournament.

The Organiser reserves the right to refuse to register a team or player, to remove a team or player from the registration list, or to refuse to confirm participation where there are documentary, disciplinary, medical, organisational or other valid reasons.

### 3.2. Player status and eligibility requirements

Players participating in the Tournament must meet the requirements set by the Organiser, these Regulations and the applicable organisational requirements for the conduct of a basketball tournament within the Republic of Malta.

At the time of drafting these Regulations, no specific age category has been established for the Tournament. The Tournament is held in an open format, unless otherwise specified by the Organiser prior to the start of the competition.

The following persons are eligible to participate in the Tournament:

- have registered in accordance with the procedure established by the Organiser;
- have provided documents or information confirming their identity;
- have been admitted by the Organiser on the basis of organisational, disciplinary and medical criteria;
- are included in the squad of one of the Tournament teams;
- have no restrictions that would render their participation in a match inadmissible on medical or disciplinary grounds.

The following persons are not permitted to participate:

- who have not completed registration;
- who have provided false information;
- who have not verified their identity;
- who are not included in the official team line-ups;
- who have been suspended on disciplinary, medical or organisational grounds;
- who have not signed or confirmed the mandatory consents and authorisations, if such agreements are required by the Organiser.

If, after the start of the Tournament, it transpires that a player was admitted on the basis of false information, the Organiser shall be entitled to:

- exclude the player from the Tournament;
- cancel their further participation;
- take action against the relevant team;
- review the match results if the player's participation affected the official line-up or the sporting result;
- issue a separate disciplinary decision.

The Organiser is entitled to establish additional eligibility criteria if this is necessary to meet safety requirements, ensure the organisational stability of the Tournament, and uphold the principles of fair competition.

### **3.3. Number and composition of players**

Each team shall be formed within the organisational limit set by the Organiser, with the basic guideline for the competitive squad being a squad of 12 to 14 players per team, unless otherwise specifically approved by the Organiser.

The final number of players in a specific team's line-up is determined by the Organiser, taking into account:

- the total number of registered participants;
- the need to ensure sporting balance;
- the availability of players;
- the medical status of the players;
- the Tournament schedule;

organisational and disciplinary factors.

For the purposes of match eligibility, the Organiser shall approve the official squad for the Tournament and, where necessary, a separate squad for a specific match.

A player may only be included in one team for the Tournament and may not be listed in the squads of several teams simultaneously.

Once the team squads have been officially approved prior to the start of the Tournament, a player may only transfer from one team to another by decision of the Organiser and only where there are organisational, disciplinary, medical or other valid grounds.

The Organiser is entitled to determine the minimum and maximum number of players in a team's squad for the purposes of a specific Tournament, if required upon final verification of registration details.

#### **3.4. Team formation and player allocation**

Team line-ups shall be confirmed by the Organiser on the basis of the application documents submitted by the relevant teams.

The Organiser is entitled to check team line-ups for:

compliance with the application requirements;

completeness of information;

the absence of duplicate players across teams;

compliance with age, disciplinary, medical and other eligibility requirements;

the accuracy of identification details.

The final team line-ups shall be approved by the Organiser prior to the start of the first match of the Tournament, or in accordance with any other procedure expressly set out in the Organiser's schedule and official notices.

Once the squads have been approved, the Organiser shall publish or otherwise officially notify the participants of the team squads.

#### **3.5. Player verification before the match**

A mandatory player eligibility check shall be carried out before each match.

Eligibility checks shall take the form of visual and documentary verification, organised by a representative of the Organiser, the match referee or another official authorised by the Organiser to perform such a function.

The following may be used as part of the verification process:

identity documents;

digital copies of documents;

photographs of players;

internal participant cards;

lists of registered players;

team match lists.

A player may only be admitted to a match after confirmation that they are part of the official team line-up and that there are no restrictions on their participation.

If there is any doubt regarding a player's identity, the validity of their admission or their status as a registered participant, the Organiser is entitled to:

temporarily bar the player from the match;

request additional documents or explanations;

carry out a re-check;

record the incident in the match report or a separate organisational document.

If verification cannot be carried out properly before the start of the match, the Organiser shall be entitled to make an operational decision based on the priority of safety, the authenticity of the line-up and the integrity of the Tournament.

### **3.6. Responsibility of the team and official representatives**

Each team is obliged to ensure that only those players participate in the match who:

are included in the official team line-up;

are eligible to play in the match;

have not been suspended on disciplinary, medical or organisational grounds;

meet the requirements of these Regulations.

The team, represented by the captain, an official representative or another authorised person, is responsible for:

the accuracy of the information provided;

confirming the team line-up in a timely manner;

compliance with the registration procedure;

complying with the Organiser's requirements;

ensuring the players behave in a disciplined manner;

compliance with match admission procedures;

maintaining a professional relationship with the referees, the Organiser and the Technical Operator.

Breach of these duties may result in:

refusal to admit a player or group of players;

disciplinary measures against a specific player;

disciplinary measures against the team;

a technical defeat;

expulsion of the team or player from the Tournament in cases of gross or repeated breaches.

### **3.7. Registration of the captain and official team representative**

Each team must have:

a captain;

an official team representative.

At the Organiser's discretion and depending on the team's actual organisational structure, a coach, assistant coach, manager or other official may also be designated.

The team captain is the only player who, during a match, is entitled to address the referee within the limits permitted by the rules of the game and these Regulations.

The official team representative is the contact person for matters relating to:

the schedule;

registration;

confirmation of the squad;

disciplinary matters;

receipt of notifications;

operational liaison with the Organiser.

Only persons listed in the team's official documents or separately authorised by the Organiser may be present in the technical area and represent the team in official communications.

The Organiser reserves the right to limit the number of such persons if necessary to maintain order, safety and the requirements of the match venue.

### **3.8. Changes to the team line-up**

Prior to the official start of the Tournament, the Organiser is entitled to make changes to team line-ups on its own initiative or upon a reasoned request from an interested party, if this is necessary to ensure sporting balance, medical safety, discipline or the organisational stability of the Tournament.

After the start of the Tournament, changes to the squad are permitted only by decision of the Organiser and only where there are sufficient grounds, including:

a player's withdrawal for medical reasons;

a player's disciplinary exclusion;

documented inability of a player to continue participating;

organisational necessity, without which the continued running of the Tournament may be impeded;

other exceptional circumstances.

The Organiser is entitled to set a specific window for changing line-ups before the start of the play-off stage or to expressly prohibit any changes after the completion of the regular stage.

If a roster change is permitted, it shall be formalised in accordance with the procedure established by the Organiser and reflected in the official Tournament documents.

The unauthorised participation of an unregistered player, the substitution of a player outside the approved procedure, or the use of a player who is not eligible to participate shall be regarded as a material breach of these Regulations and may result in sporting and disciplinary sanctions.

### **3.9. Data confidentiality and use of materials**

The Organiser processes the data of players and officials solely for the purposes of:

admitting players to the Tournament;

maintaining match, administrative and disciplinary records;

ensuring the safety of participants;

organising broadcasts and identifying players on air;

compliance with the requirements of these Regulations;

the preparation of official tournament materials.

Such data may include:

surname, first name and other identifying details;

photographs;

match data;

video footage;

contact details of the team's official representatives;

other information necessary for the conduct of the Tournament.

By participating in the Tournament, players and officials confirm their consent to:

being identified in the official lists, match reports and Tournament materials;

the use of their image in broadcasts, photographs and video footage;

the use of their data for statistical, organisational and informational purposes relating to the Tournament;

the archiving of Tournament materials to the extent necessary for organisational, disciplinary and reporting purposes.

The publication and use of Tournament materials shall be carried out by the Organiser and/or the Technical Operator within the limits of their respective powers and rights.

### **3.10. Completion of registration and legal validity of documents**

A player's registration and the finalisation of the team line-up shall be deemed to be definitively completed only upon confirmation by the Organiser.

It is the Organiser who determines which documents, information and confirmations are sufficient for a player's admission and the formation of the team line-up.

Official team line-ups, registration lists, player cards, confirmation of participation and other documents drawn up in preparation for the Tournament form an integral part of the Tournament's organisational framework and are to be used in conjunction with these Regulations.

Any team, player or official admitted to the Tournament is deemed to have read this section and accepts the procedures set out herein regarding registration, player allocation, admission to matches and the use of data.

## **Section 4. Organisation of matches**

### **4.1. General Principles for the Organisation of Matches**

Tournament matches shall be conducted strictly in accordance with:

these Regulations;

the Tournament Regulations, if approved by the Organiser as a separate document;

the FIBA Official Basketball Rules;

decisions of the Organiser, taken within the scope of its authority;

the applicable organisational requirements of the Malta Basketball Association, if such requirements are applicable to the Tournament.

The Organiser shall ensure:

access to the venue where matches are held;  
the venue is ready for use;  
the operational readiness of the basic infrastructure;  
access for referees, officials, medical staff and the Technical Operator;  
basic coordination of the match proceedings;  
maintenance of organisational documentation;  
coordination with the StreamHub Technical Operator;  
publication of official materials, schedules and updates on the official Tournament website [sdbl-malta.com](http://sdbl-malta.com).

All Tournament matches will be held at:

Basketball Complex, Ta' Qali, RBT 13, Malta.

Teams, players and officials are required to arrive at the venue in good time and be ready for admission, verification, pre-match preparation and entry onto the court at the time specified by the Organiser.

The basic requirement for arrival at the venue is no later than 30 minutes before the start of the match, unless the Organiser has set an earlier time.

#### **4.2. Match line-up**

Before the start of each match, the team must ensure that it has a sufficient number of players to play the game in accordance with the FIBA Official Basketball Rules and these Regulations.

For organisational purposes, the team must ensure:

the presence of players eligible to play in the match;  
the presence of the team captain;  
the presence of an official team representative, if specified in the registration details;  
compliance with requirements regarding kit, equipment and discipline;  
timely confirmation of the match squad.

A team that fails to provide the minimum required line-up to start the match may be deemed unfit to participate in the game.

In such a case, the Organiser, in conjunction with the refereeing team, is entitled to:

grant a short organisational waiting period;  
declare the team late;  
record a technical defeat;  
draw up a no-show report or other match administrative document.

If, after the start of the match, a team loses the minimum required number of players due to sendings-off, injuries, refusal to continue playing or other circumstances, the further course of the match shall be determined in accordance with the rules of the game, these Regulations and the Organiser's decision.

#### **4.3. Confirmation of the squad and pre-match documentation**

Before the start of the match, each team is required to confirm its match squad in the manner prescribed by the Organiser.

Confirmation of the squad may be carried out:

through the team's official representative;  
by the team captain;  
via the internal system or admission table used by the Organiser;  
via the match support coordinator;  
via the StreamHub Technical Operator in matters relating to broadcast preparation and schedules, if such a role has been assigned to them by the Organiser.

Pre-match documentation may include:

the list of players for the match;  
the starting line-up;  
details of the team captain;  
details of the team officials;  
identity verification notes;  
official notes from the Organiser, the referee and the Technical Operator.

The Organiser is entitled to determine a standard format for the pre-match report, which is mandatory for all matches of the Tournament.

Providing false information regarding the match squad, concealing a player's status, substituting a player, or other breaches of the squad confirmation procedure shall be regarded as a material breach of these Regulations.

#### **4.4. Access to the court and technical areas**

Access to the court, team benches, the referees' area, the secretarial desk area, the Technical Operator's area and other functional areas of the Basketball Complex, Ta' Qali, RBT 13, Malta shall be granted only in accordance with the procedure established by the Organiser.

Only the following persons shall be admitted to the court and adjacent technical areas:

players included in the match squad;  
official team representatives;  
the refereeing team;  
the match secretary and other officials at the table, if appointed;  
medical staff;  
the Organiser's staff;  
StreamHub technical operator staff;  
other persons specifically admitted by the Organiser.

The following are not permitted:

persons not included in the match or organisational lists;  
unauthorised accompanying persons without the Organiser's permission;  
external camera operators, unless their admission has been specifically agreed;  
persons whose behaviour poses a threat to order, safety or the normal conduct of the match.

The Organiser reserves the right to limit the number of persons on the team bench, in the warm-up area and in other functional areas of the venue.

#### **4.5. Pre-match protocol and teams' entry onto the pitch**

Before the start of the match, the teams undergo a mandatory pre-match procedure, which includes:

- checking players' eligibility;
- checking of kits and equipment;
- confirmation of the match line-up;
- confirmation of the team captain's status;
- where necessary, a briefing on organisational matters;
- confirmation of the match's technical readiness.

The Organiser is entitled to set precise time limits for the pre-match procedure, including the deadline for submitting line-ups, the deadline for completing the kit check, and the deadline for the team to be ready to take to the pitch.

Teams shall enter the court in the order determined by the Organiser and the refereeing team.

If no separate team presentation ceremony is provided for within the Tournament, teams shall enter the court in an orderly manner sufficient to ensure discipline, the timely start of the match and the proper preparation of the broadcast.

Players, officials and team representatives are required to maintain order in the technical areas, not to obstruct the work of the Organiser, the referees and the Technical Operator, and not to delay the start of the match.

#### **4.6. Match duration and playing intervals**

The match shall be conducted in accordance with the FIBA Official Basketball Rules.

The standard duration of the match is:

4 quarters of 10 minutes each.

Breaks between playing periods, the half-time break, extra periods and other time parameters shall be determined in accordance with the official FIBA rules of the game, unless otherwise expressly provided for by the Organiser within permissible limits that do not distort the sporting nature of the match.

A draw in an individual match is permitted or not permitted depending on the stage of the competition and the applicable rules:

in regular season matches, the general order of play provided for by the official rules and the approved competition format applies;

in play-off matches, the outcome of a specific series cannot be concluded without determining a winner, and, where necessary, extra periods shall be applied in accordance with the procedure set out in Section 2 of these Regulations.

In the event of exceptional circumstances relating to safety, the technical readiness of the venue, a medical incident or other extraordinary circumstances, the Organiser, in conjunction with the refereeing team, shall be entitled to alter the organisational parameters regarding the start of the match, the duration of breaks or the procedure for resuming play, provided that such changes do not contravene the mandatory requirements of the rules of the game.

#### **4.7. Organisation of match statistics**

Match statistics are maintained by the Organiser.

The Organiser shall ensure the collection, recording, storage and processing of match statistics to the extent it deems necessary for:

tournament record-keeping;  
displaying results;  
preparing post-match materials;  
providing information support for the Tournament;  
preparing reports;  
use for administrative and disciplinary purposes.

The StreamHub technical operator may use statistical information to the extent necessary for graphical accompaniment of the broadcast, archiving, technical reports and other functions, provided that the relevant data has been transmitted or confirmed by the Organiser.

In the event of a discrepancy between unofficially displayed statistics and the official match report, the official match document, confirmed in accordance with the procedure established by the Organiser and the refereeing team, shall take precedence.

#### **4.8. Equipment and Responsibilities of the StreamHub Technical Operator**

The StreamHub Technical Operator shall provide the technical aspects of the match broadcast.

Within the scope of their competence, the Technical Operator shall ensure:

the installation and positioning of video recording equipment;  
preparation of the broadcast infrastructure;  
the launch and management of the video signal;  
continuous recording of the match, where technically feasible;  
display of match graphics within the broadcast model used;  
storage of the video archive;  
preparation of technical reports, if such reports are required by the Tournament model.

The technical operator shall not interfere with:

sporting decisions;  
refereeing decisions;  
the determination of team composition;  
disciplinary decisions;  
the recognition or non-recognition of game incidents;  
calculation of the official result insofar as it requires confirmation by the refereeing team and the Organiser.

Teams, players and team representatives are not permitted to interfere with the equipment, obstruct the view of the cameras, move devices, hinder the Technical Operator's staff or otherwise obstruct the technical support of the match.

#### **4.9. Restriction of access to equipment and working areas**

StreamHub's technical equipment, including cameras, tripods, cables, power supplies, workstations, terminals and other technical components, shall be located in secure and functionally necessary areas of the venue.

Such areas shall be determined jointly by the Organiser and the Technical Operator.

It is prohibited to:

touch the equipment without permission;  
change its position;  
obstruct the view of the equipment;  
interfering with the work of the Technical Operator's staff;  
moving cable connections;  
enter the Technical Operator's work area without authorisation.

Any damage caused to the equipment shall be recorded by the Organiser and may result in disciplinary, organisational and other measures being taken against the party at fault.

#### **4.10. Postponed, interrupted and unfinished matches**

A match may be postponed prior to its start if:

the venue is not ready for the match;  
circumstances have arisen that prevent the match from being played safely;  
there are technical problems making the match impossible or dangerous;  
medical or other exceptional circumstances have arisen;  
the organiser has decided to reschedule the match for valid reasons.

The match may be interrupted or stopped after it has started if:

there is a threat to the health and safety of the participants;  
a serious medical incident has occurred;  
there is a breach of order that prevents the game from continuing;  
the venue has become unsuitable for further play;  
there are technical or organisational circumstances of an exceptional nature;  
the team has refused to continue the match;  
the number of players on the team has fallen below the permitted level;  
the refereeing team and the Organiser have concluded that it is impossible to continue the match.

The decision regarding the outcome of a postponed, suspended or unfinished match shall be taken by the Organiser, taking into account:

the provisions of the rules of the game;  
the point at which the match was stopped;  
the official match reports;  
the referees' explanations;  
video footage;  
disciplinary and organisational circumstances.

The organiser is entitled to:

order a replay;  
order a continuation of play;  
to award a technical result;  
postpone the match to an alternative date;

take any other reasoned decision within the scope of their authority.

#### **4.11. Interaction between teams and referees during the match**

During the match, only the team captain is entitled to address the referee within permissible limits and in a manner that does not disrupt discipline or the normal course of play.

Other players, team representatives and officials must refrain from exerting pressure on the referees, engaging in disputes in an unacceptable manner, making provocative gestures, displaying demonstrative disagreement or taking any other actions that disrupt the conduct of the match.

Decisions made by the referee during the match are binding.

Disagreement with such decisions may only be expressed through the procedures expressly provided for in these Regulations, including through post-match protest mechanisms, provided there are valid grounds for such a protest.

#### **4.12. Photographic, audio and video materials of the match**

All photographic, video and other media materials created in connection with the match may be used by the Organiser and the Technical Operator StreamHub within the limits of their rights and powers.

Players, team representatives and other persons admitted to participate in the match agree that:

their image may be recorded;

the match may be broadcast and recorded;

match materials may be used for informational, archival, disciplinary, organisational and marketing purposes;

video footage may be used as supporting evidence when considering incidents, protests and disciplinary matters.

The procedure for the use of media materials is set out in more detail in the sections of these Regulations concerning broadcasts and information policy.

#### **4.13. Procedure for making changes to the match schedule**

The Organiser is entitled to make changes to the date, time and administrative status of a match where there are sufficient grounds.

Such changes may be caused by:

technical necessity;

a congested schedule;

the use of a reserve date;

a medical incident;

a disciplinary incident;

the need to ensure the fair conduct of the competition stage;

other circumstances requiring administrative intervention.

Teams shall be notified of such changes through official communication channels, including via publication on the Tournament's official website, [sdbl-malta.com](http://sdbl-malta.com), and through other channels determined by the Organiser.

Teams are not entitled to disregard the updated schedule once it has been officially communicated.

#### **4.14. Final provisions regarding the organisation of matches**

All match participants must assume that the priority is:

safety;  
the timely conduct of the match;  
compliance with the rules;  
maintaining the sporting integrity of the Tournament;  
protection of the rights of the Organiser, referees, Technical Operator and other participants.

The Organiser shall be entitled to supplement the organisational procedures for the match with service instructions, internal checklists and other documents that do not conflict with these Regulations.

## Section 5. Refereeing

### 5.1. General principles of refereeing

Matches in the Tournament shall be refereed in accordance with:

these Regulations;  
the Tournament Regulations, if approved by the Organiser as a separate document;  
the FIBA Official Basketball Rules;  
decisions of the Organiser, taken within the scope of its organisational authority;  
the applicable requirements of the Malta Basketball Association, if such requirements are applicable to the Tournament.

Refereeing of the Tournament shall ensure:

fair play;  
uniform application of the rules of the game;  
the safety of participants;  
discipline on the court and in the technical areas;  
the timely and accurate completion of match documentation.

The Organiser shall ensure the appointment of referees, the coordination of their participation in Tournament matches and the organisational support of the refereeing team.

Referees are required to act independently within the rules of the game and shall not be subject to interference from teams, players, team representatives, the StreamHub Technical Operator or any other persons not vested with the relevant authority.

### 5.2. Officials of the refereeing team

The following referees are appointed to officiate at Tournament matches:

Andre Attard — National Referee

Leonard Silvero — National Referee

Zvezdan Dobrosavlievic — National Referee

The aforementioned individuals are the official referees of the Tournament and are appointed by the Organiser to officiate matches in accordance with the schedule, appointments and organisational requirements of the Tournament.

The Organiser shall have the right to allocate referees to matches, change appointments between matches, appoint specific pairs or combinations of referees, and make changes to appointments where necessary.

If an additional appointment of officials is required for a specific match, including a secretary, timekeeper, statistics officer, commissioner or other official, the Organiser shall be entitled to make such an appointment separately.

### **5.3. Composition of the refereeing team for a match**

For each match, the Organiser shall appoint a refereeing team in accordance with the rules of the game and the Tournament's organisational model.

Under the Tournament's match model, the refereeing team may include:

Referee No. 1;

Referee No. 2;

match secretary;

a timekeeper;

a scoreboard operator or other official at the table, if necessary;

other officials, if their participation is required by the Organiser.

The composition of the refereeing team for a specific match shall be communicated to the relevant parties in the manner determined by the Organiser.

If, for organisational reasons, the full complement of officials is not available in the extended form, the Organiser is obliged to ensure at least a level of refereeing and match support that allows the match to be conducted in accordance with the rules of the game, safety requirements and these Regulations.

### **5.4. Match documentation**

An official match document shall be drawn up for each match, reflecting key details of the match played.

Such documentation may include:

the date and time of the match;

the name of the Tournament;

the names of the teams;

team line-ups;

details of the team captains;

appointment of referees;

final result;

details of match sanctions and incidents;

information on injuries, breaks, stoppages and other significant circumstances;

official comments from the refereeing team;

confirming notes from the Organiser and other officials, if provided for by the Tournament procedure.

The Organiser shall be entitled to approve a standard match report template, which shall be mandatory for all matches of the Tournament.

The official match report is the primary written record of the match result and related circumstances.

In the event of a discrepancy between unofficial publications and the official match document, the official match document shall take precedence.

If the match was accompanied by a video broadcast and video recording, the video footage may be used as an additional corroborating source when reviewing incidents, protests and disciplinary matters, but does not replace the mandatory match documentation.

#### **5.5. Powers of the referee during the match**

Referees shall have all the powers arising from the FIBA Official Basketball Rules and these Regulations.

Referees are authorised to:

start the match;

suspend the match;

resume the match;

to stop the match definitively if it is impossible or inadmissible to continue;

to record breaches of the rules;

impose game and disciplinary sanctions within the limits of their authority;

ensure order is maintained on the pitch and in the technical areas;

assess the feasibility of continuing the match in the event of medical, technical or disciplinary circumstances;

give binding instructions to the teams within the rules of the game and the match;

record significant game and organisational circumstances in the match documentation.

Decisions made by referees during the match regarding game situations are binding and are not subject to discussion on the court.

Disagreement with a referee's actions may only be addressed through the post-match review procedures established by these Regulations, provided that the nature of the disputed situation permits such a procedure.

#### **5.6. Replacement, inability to participate or recusal of a referee**

The organiser is entitled to replace a referee before the start of the match if:

the referee has failed to attend the match;

the referee is unable to officiate the match due to ill health;

the judge found himself in a situation incompatible with the performance of his duties;

circumstances of an organisational nature have arisen that require a change in the appointment;

there are other valid reasons preventing the referee from officiating the match.

If the need to replace a referee arises immediately before or during a match, the Organiser, in consultation with other officials, shall take a decision ensuring that the match can be played or completed in accordance with the rules and with the minimum acceptable level of refereeing support.

Teams are not entitled to demand the replacement of a referee at their own discretion.

Any complaints regarding bias, improper conduct or other breaches by a referee shall be submitted exclusively after the match in accordance with the procedure set out in these Regulations.

#### **5.7. Interaction between referees and the Organiser**

The Organiser shall provide the organisational conditions for the referees' work, but shall not interfere with the assessment of match situations or the application of the rules of the game during the match.

After the match has ended, the Organiser is entitled to:  
receive the necessary match documentation from the referees;  
request official explanations regarding specific incidents;  
use the referees' materials when considering protests, incidents and disciplinary matters;  
record organisational observations relating to the conduct of the match.

The referees, in turn, are obliged to:

provide match documentation in accordance with established procedures;  
record significant infringements and incidents;  
assist in the organisational conclusion of the match;  
where necessary, provide brief official explanations on issues raised by the Organiser as part of the official review procedure.

#### **5.8. Interaction between referees and the StreamHub Technical Operator**

The StreamHub Technical Operator shall not interfere with:

the interpretation of the rules of the game;  
the recognition or non-recognition of infringements;  
the application of game sanctions;  
the management of the match's refereeing;  
determining the winner of the match;  
taking disciplinary decisions during the match.

The technical operator provides exclusively technical support for the match within the scope of their competence, including video signals, graphics, recording and archiving.

Referees are entitled to take into account organisational signals and technical information necessary for the smooth running of the match, provided such information relates to safety, the technical readiness of the venue or the functioning of the match as an event. However, decisions regarding the game remain the exclusive competence of the refereeing team.

In the event of a dispute arising after the match, the StreamHub video recording may be used as supplementary supporting evidence in accordance with the procedure set out in these Regulations.

#### **5.9. Conduct of players and officials towards referees**

Players, captains, team representatives, coaches and other officials are required to treat the referees with respect and to comply with their lawful instructions.

The following are prohibited:

insults directed at referees;  
demonstrative pressure on referees;  
aggressive behaviour towards referees;  
attempts to disrupt the match due to disagreement with the referees' decisions;  
provocations and other actions that undermine the authority of the referees.

Only the team captain is entitled to address the referee within the limits permitted by the rules of the game and these Regulations.

Violation of the rules governing communication with the referee may result in match sanctions, disciplinary consequences and additional measures taken by the Organiser following the match.

#### **5.10. Controversial situations and post-match review**

If a contentious situation arises during or after the match, it shall be recorded in the match documentation or in a separate official report.

The Organiser is entitled to review such a situation on the basis of:

- the official match report;
- the referees' official explanations;
- the video recording of the match;
- explanations from the teams, if the Organiser deems them necessary;
- other relevant materials.

If the situation relates purely to the referee's on-the-spot decision during the match, the Organiser is not obliged to review such a situation, unless otherwise expressly provided for in these Regulations.

If the situation concerns:

- incorrect identification of a player;
- an error in the completion of the match report;
- the participation of an ineligible player;
- actions outside the referee's field of vision;
- a serious incident confirmed by video footage;
- a serious breach of order or safety;

The organiser is entitled to consider the matter through administrative and disciplinary procedures after the match has concluded.

#### **5.11. Status of the referee's decisions**

The referee's decisions made during the match are binding on the participants.

The referee's decisions on actual game incidents, made during the course of the match, shall be considered final for the purposes of the immediate conduct of the match.

This rule does not preclude the Organiser's right to:

- correct an obvious technical error in the documentation;
- to consider a post-match incident through disciplinary proceedings;
- use video footage to confirm circumstances not properly reflected in the official documents;
- take an administrative decision on matters of eligibility, safety or gross violation of the Regulations.

#### **5.12. Storage of Refereeing Materials and Archives**

Match documentation, referees' working materials and other documents relating to refereeing shall be stored by the Organiser as part of the Tournament archive.

Such materials may be used:

- for the internal administration of the Tournament;
- to consider protests and appeals;
- for disciplinary proceedings;

to prepare the final report on the Tournament;

to be provided to the Malta Basketball Association upon request, should such provision be required.

The Organiser shall be entitled to determine the procedure, timeframes and format for the storage of these materials.

### **5.13. Final provisions regarding refereeing**

Refereeing is a mandatory and independent element of the Tournament's organisational model.

All participants are obliged to recognise the authority of the refereeing team and to conduct themselves in accordance with the principles of sporting respect, discipline and adherence to the rules of the game.

The Organiser shall be entitled to clarify the technical and administrative procedures relating to the refereeing of matches, provided that such clarifications do not conflict with these Regulations and the FIBA Official Basketball Rules.

## **Section 6. Medical Support**

### **6.1. General requirements**

The Organiser shall ensure the minimum necessary level of medical preparedness at every match of the Tournament, sufficient for the conduct of basketball competitions at the **Basketball Complex, Ta' Qali, RBT 13, Malta**, and in accordance with the safety requirements of the participants.

Medical support is a mandatory element of the organisation of each match and is intended to:

responding promptly to injuries, illness and other medical incidents;

reducing the risk of harm to the health of players and officials;

ensuring that first aid can be administered directly at the venue;

ensuring the safe transport of an injured participant where necessary;

recording medical incidents to the extent necessary for organisational, disciplinary and reporting purposes.

Medical support for the match includes:

the presence of medical staff;

the availability of basic medical equipment;

readiness to carry out initial examinations and provide first aid;

readiness to respond to emergencies;

an organisational procedure for transporting the injured person to a medical facility.

### **6.2. Medical staff**

At least one medical professional or other person authorised by the Organiser to perform medical support functions must be present at every match of the Tournament, to the extent necessary to provide first aid and an initial assessment of the casualty's condition.

Depending on the organisational model of the specific match, medical support may include:

a doctor;

a paramedic;

a medical technician;

a sports medicine specialist;

another authorised person with sufficient qualifications to perform medical support functions.

The organiser is entitled to additionally provide support staff to transport the injured person, liaise with venue security, coordinate access to the vehicle and ensure safe passage through the venue.

Medical staff must be available throughout the entire duration of the match, including pre-match preparation, the playing period, half-time breaks and a reasonable period after the end of the match.

### **6.3. Duties of medical staff**

Medical staff shall perform the following duties:

conduct an initial examination of a player or other participant in the event of an injury or deterioration in condition;

decide whether a player is fit to continue playing in the match;

provide first aid for minor and moderate injuries;

assess the need for emergency transport of the injured person to a medical facility;

cooperate with the referee, the Organiser and the teams' officials in cases where a medical situation affects the course of the match;

records significant medical incidents in accordance with the procedure determined by the Organiser.

The decision by medical staff regarding the need for examination, temporary withdrawal of a player, termination of a player's participation in the match, or the need for transport is made based on the priority of the injured person's health and safety.

### **6.4. Medical equipment**

Basic medical supplies and equipment sufficient to respond promptly to potential incidents must be available at every match.

The minimum kit includes:

a first-aid kit;

dressing materials;

cold packs;

antiseptics;

elastic bandages;

disposable gloves;

scissors and other basic first-aid equipment;

immobilisation devices, if required by the nature of the injury;

a stretcher or other means of safely transporting the casualty within the premises;

means of communication for calling external medical assistance and coordinating transport.

If an automated external defibrillator (AED) or other fixed medical equipment is provided at the **Basketball Complex, Ta' Qali, RBT 13, Malta**, the Organiser must ensure that it can be used in an emergency.

The Organiser is entitled to supplement the mandatory list of medical equipment depending on the specific characteristics of the venue, the composition of participants and the level of organisational risk.

### **6.5. Transport of the injured person**

If the condition of the injured person requires removal from the venue, medical observation outside the playing area, or transport to a medical facility, the Organiser is obliged to ensure the organisational arrangements for such transport.

Transportation may be carried out:

using a stretcher or other means of removal from the site;

using a vehicle available for emergency evacuation from the site;

by engaging specialist external medical assistance, if the condition of the injured person so requires.

The Organiser is obliged to ensure the availability of a clear and feasible transport mechanism, including:

a route for moving the casualty within the site;

access to an exit from the site;

access for vehicles;

coordination with security and site staff;

liaison with external medical services where necessary.

#### **6.6. Minor, moderate and severe injuries**

In the event of a minor injury, a player may receive treatment without being definitively withdrawn from the match, provided that the medical staff deem that continued participation does not pose an obvious risk to health.

In the event of a moderate injury, medical staff shall conduct an examination and decide on:

temporarily removing the player from the court;

terminating the player's participation in the current match;

the need for further observation;

the need for transport.

In the event of a serious injury, suspected fracture, concussion, loss of consciousness, head injury, significant impairment of mobility, bleeding or any other condition posing a significant risk, the match must be stopped immediately by the referee until medical assistance is provided.

The medical staff will then assess the injured person's condition and determine the next steps.

If the medical staff decide that transport is required, this decision is binding on all those involved in terms of providing organisational assistance.

#### **6.7. Restrictions on participation for medical reasons**

Medical staff are entitled to:

prevent a player from taking part in a match if there are obvious contraindications;

recommend or require the player to withdraw from the match;

prohibit a player from returning to the court following an examination;

require further observation before making a final decision;

inform the Organiser that the player cannot participate in subsequent matches until further clearance is granted.

If there is reasonable suspicion that the player's continued participation may lead to a deterioration in their condition, the medical staff and the Organiser are obliged to prioritise the participant's health over sporting interests.

The team, captain, team representative or the player themselves shall not be entitled to demand permission to play contrary to a medical ban, provided such a ban is imposed within the competence of the medical staff and supported by the Organiser.

#### **6.8. Infectious diseases and general state of health**

A player or other official exhibiting symptoms of a condition that is potentially dangerous to themselves or to other participants in the match may be temporarily barred from participation.

Such circumstances may include:

severe fever;

vomiting;

severe breathing difficulties;

suspicion of an infectious disease;

a condition in which participation in the match is clearly unsafe.

The organiser is entitled to request additional confirmation of the player's condition, a medical certificate or other reasonable confirmation of their fitness to participate, if this is necessary to ensure the safety of the Tournament.

#### **6.9. Documentation and recording of medical incidents**

Medical staff and the Organiser shall record significant medical incidents to the extent necessary for organisational purposes.

Such recording may include:

the date and time of the incident;

the name of the match;

details of the affected participant;

a brief description of the circumstances;

an initial medical assessment;

indication of whether the player's participation has been terminated or continued;

indication of the need for transport;

details of communication with the referee and the Organiser.

The Organiser is entitled to approve a separate template for the medical incident report as an annex to these Regulations.

If a medical incident has affected the course of the match, such information must also be recorded in the official match documentation.

#### **6.10. Responsibilities of medical staff and the Organiser**

Medical staff shall be responsible, within the scope of their professional duties, for:

responding promptly to incidents;

correct initial assessment of the participant's condition;

using available medical supplies and equipment as intended;

informing the Organiser and the referee of any medical circumstances affecting the match.

The Organiser is responsible for:

ensuring a medical presence at the match;

ensuring basic medical readiness;

organising safe logistics for the transport of the injured person;

integrating the medical unit into the overall match safety framework;

recording significant incidents and providing organisational support for them.

However, the Organiser shall not be liable for any hidden individual health conditions of a participant which were not known and could not reasonably have been identified during the standard admission procedure for the Tournament.

#### **6.11. Interaction with referees and the StreamHub Technical Operator**

In the event of a medical incident, the referee is obliged to ensure the immediate suspension of play or any other procedural action necessary to provide medical assistance, within the rules of the game.

The **StreamHub** Technical Operator does not make medical decisions, but is obliged not to obstruct the work of medical staff and, where necessary, to ensure the safety of the technical area, equipment and passageways.

Video footage of the match may be used as supporting evidence when analysing a medical incident, if required for an internal report, disciplinary proceedings or the final documentation of the Tournament.

#### **6.12. Final provisions on medical support**

All Tournament participants must recognise that health and safety take precedence over sporting results.

Players and officials must comply with the instructions of medical staff regarding the provision of assistance, withdrawal from participation, temporary removal from the pitch and transport.

The Organiser reserves the right to amend or supplement medical procedures, provided such amendments do not conflict with these Regulations, if such amendments are necessary to ensure the safe conduct of the Tournament matches at the **Basketball Complex, Ta' Qali, RBT 13, Malta**.

## **Section 7. Safety and Access to the Venue**

### **7.1. General safety provisions**

The Organiser is responsible for ensuring safe conditions for the conduct of Tournament matches at the **Basketball Complex, Ta' Qali, RBT 13, Malta**.

All Tournament participants, including players, captains, team officials, referees, medical staff, Organiser staff, **StreamHub** Technical Operator staff and other authorised persons, are required to comply with the established rules of conduct, access and presence at the venue.

The Tournament's security system covers:

the procedure for admitting participants to the venue;

control of access to the playing area and technical zones;

maintaining order within the venue;

the demarcation of playing, technical, service and working areas;

prevention of conflicts, provocations and breaches of discipline;

ensuring the safety of **StreamHub**'s technical equipment;  
ensuring medical response and evacuation capabilities are available if necessary;  
ensuring the safe conclusion of the match and the participants' departure from the venue.

All safety measures must be based on the priority of:

the health and lives of participants;  
personal integrity;  
the smooth running of the match;  
the safety of infrastructure and equipment;  
the preservation of the sporting and organisational integrity of the Tournament.

## **7.2. Closed nature of the Tournament**

The Tournament is held in a closed format.

This means that access to the premises of the **Basketball Complex, Ta' Qali, RBT 13, Malta** is restricted to a group of persons designated by the Organiser.

The closed nature of the Tournament implies that there is no free access to the venue for an unlimited number of spectators, and the unauthorised presence of outsiders not included in the approved access lists is not permitted.

If the Organiser, by separate decision, permits the presence of individual guests, representatives of partners, photographers, media personnel or other persons, such presence must be agreed in advance and must not disrupt the order, safety or operational flow of the match.

The closed-door format is also applied for the purposes of:

ensuring discipline;  
monitoring the composition of those present;  
protecting players and officials from external pressure;  
ensuring the uninterrupted operation of the **StreamHub** technical operator;  
preventing unauthorised photography and video recording;  
reducing the risk of conflicts, provocations and interference with the match.

## **7.3. Access control to the venue**

Access to the **Basketball Complex, Ta' Qali, RBT 13, Malta** is granted exclusively in accordance with the procedure established by the Organiser.

The Organiser shall draw up and maintain access lists, which may include:

players authorised to participate in the match;  
team captains;  
official team representatives;  
referees and match officials;  
medical staff;  
the Organiser's staff;  
**StreamHub** technical operator staff;  
other persons admitted by separate decision of the Organiser.

At the entrance to the venue or at a checkpoint inside the venue, the following may be carried out:  
visual identity checks;  
cross-checking against access lists;  
verification of accreditation, if required by the Organiser;  
inspection of bags, equipment and technical devices where reasonably necessary;  
refusal of admission to any person who does not comply with the established procedures.

The Organiser is entitled to restrict or completely prohibit a person's admission if:

their presence has not been confirmed;  
they are not included on the admission list;  
there are signs of aggressive, inappropriate or dangerous behaviour;  
there are grounds to believe that their presence will disrupt order, safety or the normal conduct of the match.

#### **7.4. Rules of conduct at the venue**

All persons admitted to the **Basketball Complex, Ta' Qali, RBT 13, Malta**, are required to comply with the established rules of conduct.

The following are prohibited:

aggressive behaviour;  
insults, threats and provocations;  
attempts to exert pressure on referees, the Organiser, medical staff or employees of the technical operator **StreamHub**;  
deliberate damage to the venue's property;  
deliberate damage to **StreamHub** technical operator equipment;  
unauthorised entry into work areas and restricted zones;  
use of prohibited substances;  
being in a state incompatible with safe presence on the premises;  
any actions that pose a threat to others or hinder the conduct of the match.

Players, team representatives and other officials are required to:

treat venue staff with respect;  
observe sporting and organisational discipline;  
comply with the instructions of the referees and the Organiser in a timely manner;  
maintain order in the technical area and adjacent spaces;  
not to leave designated areas unless necessary;  
treat the venue's property and the Tournament's technical infrastructure with care.

#### **7.5. Security of StreamHub Technical Operator's Equipment**

**StreamHub** Technical Operator's equipment forms part of the Tournament's official infrastructure and is subject to special protection.

The Technical Operator's equipment may include:

cameras;  
tripods;  
cable connections;  
power supplies;  
workstations;  
laptops;  
signal transmission equipment;  
accessories and other technical components.

Such equipment is located in designated areas, which must ensure:

a clear view of the site;  
minimal risk of accidental contact;  
minimal risk of deliberate interference;  
unimpeded movement of technical operators.

It is prohibited to:

touching the equipment without permission;  
changing its position;  
obstructing the camera's view;  
interfering with the work of the Technical Operator's staff;  
entering the work area without authorisation;  
damage the equipment intentionally or through gross negligence.

Any damage to equipment must be recorded by the Organiser. Such incidents may result in disciplinary, organisational or other measures, including the obligation to compensate for the damage caused in accordance with a separate procedure.

#### **7.6. Procedure for admitting teams to the venue**

Teams shall be admitted to the venue and to their technical areas in accordance with the procedure determined by the Organiser.

Teams shall be granted access after:

completion of the general admission procedure for the venue;  
confirmation of the squad;  
pre-match verification of players;  
inspection of kits and equipment;  
permission from the Organiser and the refereeing team.

Players and team officials are required to remain only in those areas designated for their presence.

The Organiser is entitled to regulate the timing of teams' entry onto the court, entry into the playing and technical areas, and the procedure for vacating these areas after the match.

#### **7.7. Rules for the technical area**

Only persons who are officially affiliated with the team or the match and have been expressly authorised by the Organiser are permitted in the technical area and on the team bench.

Such persons may include:

players in the match squad;

substitutes;

the captain;

the team's official representative;

the coach, if listed in the team documentation;

the team's medical staff member, if their presence is specifically authorised;

other persons approved by the Organiser.

The following is prohibited:

the presence in the technical area of persons not included in the team or not admitted by the Organiser;

unauthorised increase in the number of persons on the bench;

leaving the technical area unnecessarily;

interfering with the refereeing team, the **StreamHub** technical operator and venue staff;

using the technical area for purposes not related to the match.

The Organiser reserves the right to limit the number of persons present in the technical area at any one time if this is necessary to maintain order, safety and the specific requirements of the venue.

#### **7.8. Procedure for responding to security breaches**

If a breach of order or security occurs at the venue, the Organiser and the refereeing team are entitled to take immediate action.

Such measures may include:

a verbal warning;

a demand to cease the breach;

removal of the person from the technical area;

removal of the person from the venue premises;

temporary suspension of the match;

permanent suspension of the match;

drawing up an official report;

disciplinary proceedings following the match.

If necessary, the Organiser is entitled to call upon venue security or other authorised personnel to restore order.

If an infringement is committed by a player, an official representative of the team or any other person associated with the team, liability may be imposed on both the individual concerned and the relevant team, within the limits set out in these Regulations and as determined by the Organiser.

#### **7.9. Emergencies**

In the event of an emergency at the **Basketball Complex, Ta' Qali, RBT 13, Malta**, the Organiser is obliged to coordinate actions aimed at protecting participants and minimising the consequences.

Emergencies may include:

a critical medical incident;

a fire;  
a power cut;  
threat of violence;  
mass disturbance;  
threat of damage to property;  
criminal incident;  
failure of utility systems;  
other circumstances posing a significant danger.

In the event of an emergency, the match may be stopped immediately.

The organiser, together with the refereeing team, medical staff and other relevant parties, shall determine:

the need for evacuation;  
the procedure for removing participants from the danger zone;  
whether the match can continue once the circumstances have been resolved;  
the need to definitively cancel or reschedule the match.

If the situation precludes the safe continuation of the match, the Organiser shall decide on the further fate of the match in accordance with these Regulations.

#### **7.10. Restriction of access to video footage and working documents**

In order to ensure integrity, organisational security and the protection of confidential information, access to video footage, technical reports, internal access lists and other working materials is restricted.

Access to such materials shall be granted only to:

The Organiser;

The **StreamHub** technical operator;

the judging panel, if necessary for official purposes;

medical staff — to the extent necessary for the handling of a medical incident;

**the Malta Basketball Association** — upon receipt of an official request or where organisational confirmation is required;

other persons only by separate decision of the Organiser.

Teams do not automatically receive unrestricted access to the full video archive, technical documentation or working materials. Access may be granted upon written request and to the extent deemed acceptable by the Organiser.

#### **7.11. Procedure for the departure of teams and officials after the match**

Upon completion of the match, teams, officials, referees, medical staff and employees of the Technical Operator **StreamHub** are required to act in accordance with the procedure established by the Organiser.

The Organiser shall be entitled to:

regulate exit routes from the venue;

separate the flow of participants;

restrict access to certain areas after the match;

ensure priority exit for the refereeing team, medical staff and staff of the technical operator;

introduce additional measures where there is a risk of conflict or a breach of order.

Teams are required to vacate technical areas, benches and adjacent spaces within a reasonable time after the end of the match, unless otherwise required for medical, disciplinary or organisational procedures.

### **7.12. Final provisions on safety**

Compliance with safety regulations is a mandatory condition for participation in the Tournament.

Any person admitted to the **Basketball Complex, Ta' Qali, RBT 13, Malta**, is deemed to be aware that:

The Organiser has the right to regulate access to and conduct within the venue;

the safety of participants and the smooth running of the match take priority;

immediate action may be taken in the event of a breach of order;

access to the venue may be restricted or terminated without prior consultation with the offender if circumstances so require.

The Organiser reserves the right to introduce additional instructions, access plans, internal rules of conduct and other local safety measures that do not conflict with these Regulations and are aimed at ensuring the safe conduct of the Tournament.

## **Section 8. Match broadcasts**

### **8.1. General Provisions**

The broadcasting of Tournament matches is an integral part of the **Southern Development Basketball League's** sporting, technical and informational product.

Broadcasts of Tournament matches are carried out by the technical operator **StreamHub** (hereinafter in this section — **the Technical Operator**), which provides the technical organisation of the video signal, match recording, graphic support for the broadcast and other elements of the broadcast chain within the scope of its competence.

The Organiser and the Technical Operator ensure the joint operation of a model under which:

The Organiser is responsible for organising the match, the official status of the event, team line-ups, the refereeing and administrative framework, as well as maintaining statistics on the Organiser's side;

The Technical Operator is responsible for the technical production of the video signal, graphic support for the broadcast, recording of matches, storage of video material and other functions directly related to the broadcast.

Players, teams, official team representatives and other participants in the Tournament, by taking part in the Tournament, agree that matches may:

be recorded on video;

be broadcast in real time;

be archived;

be used for organisational, informational, disciplinary, technical and marketing purposes within the scope of the Organiser's and Technical Operator's rights and powers.

### **8.2. Broadcast format and parameters**

The Technical Operator shall ensure the broadcast of the Tournament matches in a technical format determined by the conditions of the **Basketball Complex, Ta' Qali, RBT 13, Malta**, the equipment used, the communication channel and the internal signal production model.

The broadcast package may include:

- video recording of the match;
- live broadcast in real time;
- graphic commentary of the match;
- display of the score, team names, playing time and other data available for output;
- archival recording of the match;
- technical recording of broadcast parameters.

Expected technical broadcast parameters may include:

- image quality up to 1080p, if permitted by the equipment and venue conditions;
- a frame rate of 30–60 fps depending on the model used and technical conditions;
- a fixed or semi-fixed camera position with a view of the playing area;
- transmission of the video signal to a platform specified by the Technical Operator and/or the Organiser.

The technical parameters of the broadcast do not constitute a separate sporting element of the match and may vary depending on the venue conditions, availability of connectivity, lighting, equipment configuration and other technical circumstances.

### **8.3. Technical Operator's Equipment**

To facilitate the broadcast at the **Basketball Complex, Ta' Qali, RBT 13, Malta**, the Technical Operator's equipment shall be installed, which may include:

- cameras;
- tripods and other mounting equipment;
- power supplies;
- signal transmission devices;
- laptops, workstations or other computing devices;
- monitors, cables, adapters and other accessories;
- workstations for operators or technical staff;
- additional elements of the technical infrastructure.

The exact quantity and configuration of the equipment shall be determined by the Technical Operator based on the technical model of the broadcast.

The Organiser is obliged to provide reasonable conditions for the placement of such equipment, including:

- a clear view of the playing area;
- safe positioning of the equipment;
- no disruption to players, referees and officials;
- the ability for technical staff to work without disruption;
- access to a power supply, if required;

access to a communications network or the ability to operate via an independent data transmission channel.

#### **8.4. Broadcast preparation procedure**

Before the start of each match, the Technical Operator shall prepare the broadcast, which may include:

setting up and positioning equipment;

checking the viewing angle and visibility of the venue;

checking the power supply;

checking the communication channel;

checking the functionality of the software and technical systems;

verification of team names, scores, starting data and other elements of the graphics;

testing the launch of the broadcast and the archive recording.

The organiser is obliged to ensure that, by the start of the match:

the venue is ready;

the technical areas are clear of unauthorised persons;

the team line-ups have been confirmed;

the refereeing team is ready for the start of the match;

the technical operator has been able to complete the pre-match preparations.

The Referee and the Organiser are entitled to take into account the Technical Operator's signal regarding the technical readiness of the match in terms of starting the broadcast, if this is necessary for the match to commence under normal organisational conditions.

#### **8.5. Graphics and display of information**

The broadcast may display graphic elements, including:

the name of the Tournament;

team names;

the match score;

the match time;

the stage of the Tournament;

administrative and other data available for display.

Statistical and match data for the schedule are provided or confirmed within the Tournament's organisational framework and cannot be considered official unless confirmed by the Organiser and/or official match documentation.

In the event of a discrepancy between the broadcast graphics and the official match documentation, the official match documentation shall take precedence.

The Organiser shall be entitled to determine the list of mandatory and permissible elements of the broadcast graphics.

#### **8.6. Rights to the video signal and broadcast materials**

Rights to the video signal, match recording, graphic design elements, broadcast archive, technical highlights, recording clips and other derivative audiovisual materials shall be allocated between the

Organiser and the Technical Operator in accordance with separate agreements and the Tournament's organisational model.

Unless otherwise provided for in a separate agreement, the Technical Operator shall have the right to:

record matches;

maintain an archive of recordings;

use technical clips and demonstration materials within the scope of its activities;

provide access to the materials to the Organiser in the manner agreed between the parties;

use video materials for technical, demonstration, archival and other purposes not contrary to the agreements.

The Organiser shall be entitled to use the broadcast materials for:

official media coverage of the Tournament;

verification of sporting and organisational matters;

preparation of press materials;

preparation of reports;

handling protests, disciplinary matters and other incidents;

maintaining the official Tournament website **sdbl-malta.com** and other official information channels.

Players and teams do not acquire any independent rights to the Tournament's video content by virtue of their mere participation in a match.

#### **8.7. Use of match statistics and data**

Match statistics are maintained by the Organiser.

This means that:

the official statistical feed is generated not by the Technical Operator, but by the Organiser;

the Technical Operator may use and display statistical data in the broadcast within the limits permitted by the Tournament model;

the official status of the statistics is determined by the Organiser;

in the event of a discrepancy between the broadcast data and the official statistical record, the official record, confirmed by the Organiser and match documentation, shall take precedence.

The Organiser shall be entitled to determine the list of statistical indicators to be recorded, published and used in the official Tournament materials.

#### **8.8. Technical faults and temporary loss of signal**

In the event of technical problems relating to the broadcast, including:

temporary loss of signal;

equipment failure;

an unstable connection;

interruption of the video stream;

graphics failure;

loss of part of the recording;

the match shall not be automatically stopped unless the technical fault affects the safety of participants or prevents the match from taking place.

In such cases, the Technical Operator and the Organiser shall act according to the situation and are entitled to:

- continue the match without a live broadcast;
- save a partial recording;
- resume the broadcast once the fault has been rectified;
- use backup technical solutions, if available;
- record the technical incident in the official log.

A technical fault does not in itself automatically result in the match being declared void and does not constitute an unconditional basis for a replay.

If a technical incident has affected the ability to verify the material facts of the match, the Organiser shall consider such facts separately, taking into account all available evidence.

### **8.9. Prohibition of alternative and unauthorised filming**

On the premises of **the Basketball Complex, Ta' Qali, RBT 13, Malta**, the following is prohibited without the prior written consent of the Organiser:

- carry out a parallel official broadcast of the match;
- install third-party cameras, tripods, lighting or other filming equipment;
- to carry out professional filming for the purpose of subsequent distribution as official match content;
- use drones, mobile platforms or other specialised video recording equipment;
- interfere with the official broadcast by the Technical Operator **StreamHub**.

Occasional use of a mobile phone by a participant or an authorised person for personal, unofficial purposes shall not be considered an official broadcast, unless the Organiser has specifically prohibited such actions as part of the security and integrity regime. However, the Organiser reserves the right to impose stricter filming restrictions at the venue if necessary.

### **8.10. Use of video recordings for disciplinary and organisational purposes**

Video recordings of the match and other broadcast material may be used by the Organiser as supporting evidence in:

- the consideration of protests;
- the consideration of appeals;
- the consideration of disciplinary incidents;
- confirming breaches of order or safety;
- verifying disputed organisational matters;
- preparing the final tournament documentation.

Video recordings do not replace the official match report, but may be used as supplementary evidence.

The Organiser shall determine the permissible scope and procedure for the use of video recordings in each specific case.

### **8.11. Access to broadcasts and the archive**

The procedure for accessing live broadcasts, match recordings and the archive is determined by the Organiser and the Technical Operator.

Access may be granted:

the Organiser;

**the StreamHub** Technical Operator;

the refereeing team — to the extent necessary for official purposes;

**the Malta Basketball Association** — upon receipt of an official request or where there is an organisational need;

teams — to a limited extent and upon written request, if the Organiser deems such access permissible;

other persons only by separate decision of the Organiser.

The publication of links to broadcasts, the use of archived recordings and the posting of video material on the Tournament's official website, **sdbl-malta.com**, shall be carried out in accordance with the procedure determined by the Organiser.

### **8.12. Information exchange between the Organiser and the Technical Operator**

The Organiser and the Technical Operator shall cooperate to ensure a uniform match operating model.

Such cooperation may include:

reconciliation of the calendar and schedule;

confirmation of match slots;

verification of the teams and match line-ups;

confirmation of the venue conditions;

exchange of operational information regarding technical readiness;

exchange of materials required for reporting;

coordination in the event of a match being rescheduled, delayed or cancelled.

However, the Technical Operator shall not have the authority to alter the sporting result, a referee's decision, the line-up of participants or the official status of the match.

### **8.13. Final provisions regarding broadcasts**

The official broadcast of a match forms part of the overall organisational framework of the Tournament and is subject to protection on a par with other elements of the infrastructure and documentation.

All persons admitted to participate in the Tournament acknowledge that:

matches may be broadcast and recorded;

broadcast material may be used within the framework of the Tournament's official activities;

interference with the work of the Technical Operator **StreamHub** is not permitted;

rights to the broadcast product are determined not by the fact of participation in a match, but by the current organisational and contractual framework of the Tournament.

The Organiser reserves the right to clarify technical, organisational and informational procedures relating to broadcasts, provided such clarifications do not conflict with these Regulations.

# Section 9. Marketing, press releases and information policy

## 9.1. General Provisions

Marketing, communications and public relations for the Tournament shall be carried out by the Organiser in conjunction with the Technical Operator **StreamHub** within the scope of their respective powers and rights.

Notwithstanding the closed-door format of the matches at the **Basketball Complex, Ta' Qali, RBT 13, Malta**, the Tournament requires an official communications framework necessary for:

- ensuring organisational transparency;
- publishing the schedule, results and official announcements;
- maintaining the Tournament's media and statistics database;
- preparing materials for participants, partners and interested organisations;
- compiling the official history of the Tournament;
- providing information support for broadcasts and match results.

The Tournament's official information policy is based on the principles of:

- accuracy;
- timeliness;
- a single source of official information;
- controlled use of the Tournament's brand, name and visual materials;
- protection of the rights of the Organiser and the Technical Operator **StreamHub**;
- compliance with a closed and controlled competition format.

## 9.2. Official communication channels

The official website of the Tournament is:

**sdbl-malta.com**

The official Tournament website, **sdbl-malta.com**, is the main public digital resource for the Tournament and is used to publish:

- the match schedule;
- match results;
- the league table;
- official announcements;
- notifications of postponements and schedule changes;
- information about teams and participants to the extent determined by the Organiser;
- information and press materials;
- final materials relating to the Tournament.

In addition to the official website **sdbl-malta.com**, the Organiser is entitled to use other official communication channels, including:

email;  
messaging apps for communication with team representatives;  
official social media pages or channels;  
official PDF notifications;  
other digital tools as determined by the Organiser.

If there is a discrepancy between different communication channels, the information posted on the Tournament's official website, **sdbl-malta.com**, shall take precedence, unless otherwise specified separately by the Organiser.

### **9.3. Tournament News and Information Feed**

The Organiser shall ensure the creation and maintenance of the official Tournament news feed.

This feed may include:

match announcements;  
match day results;  
live results;  
updates to the tournament table;  
information on the play-off stages;  
official decisions on organisational and disciplinary matters;  
materials on the progress of the Tournament;  
photos and videos;  
final reports following the conclusion of individual stages and the Tournament as a whole.

The Organiser shall independently determine the scope, frequency and format of publications.

The absence of a publication regarding a specific match, team, player or incident does not imply that the event did not take place, provided that such an event is confirmed by the Tournament's official documents.

### **9.4. Press releases and official announcements**

The Organiser shall be entitled to issue official press releases and other public announcements relating to the Tournament.

Such materials may cover:

Start of the tournament;  
publication of the calendar;  
changes to the format or schedule;  
the transition to the play-off stage;  
key matches;  
final results;  
organisational decisions;  
disciplinary decisions;  
final conclusions regarding the Tournament.

Official press releases may be published on the Tournament's official website, **sdbl-malta.com**, as well as on other official channels determined by the Organiser.

Only communications published or confirmed by the Organiser via official channels shall be considered the official position of the Tournament.

#### **9.5. Marketing materials and StreamHub content**

The technical operator **StreamHub** is entitled to create, store and use materials related to the broadcast and technical support of matches, within the limits of its rights and powers.

Such materials may include:

technical clips from broadcasts;

highlights;

graphic elements of matches;

archival material;

screenshots, short video clips and other derivative materials created using the official video feed.

The use of such materials is permitted for the following purposes:

demonstrating technical capabilities;

archiving;

providing information support for the Tournament;

preparing internal, presentation and demonstration materials;

verifying the technical history of the matches.

The Organiser and the Technical Operator shall be entitled to coordinate the use of such materials in the interests of the Tournament's unified public and visual policy.

#### **9.6. Use of the Tournament's name, logo and visual identity**

The name **Southern Development Basketball League**, abbreviations, logos, graphic elements, official visual symbols, tournament templates and other elements of the Tournament's identity shall be used only in the manner prescribed by the Organiser.

The Organiser shall have the right to:

approve the Tournament logo;

approve the Tournament's graphic style;

approve templates for publications, visual cards, match posters and tables;

determine the rules for using the Tournament name in official and unofficial materials.

Teams, players and other persons are not entitled to use the official name and visual elements of the Tournament in a manner that:

creates a false impression that they are authorised to act on behalf of the Tournament;

distorts the official status of the Tournament;

substitutes official sources of information;

discredits the reputation of the Tournament, the Organiser or the Technical Operator **StreamHub**.

The use of the Tournament's official branding in third-party commercial or public materials is permitted only with the Organiser's consent.

### **9.7. Use of images of players, teams and officials**

Players, captains, official team representatives, referees and other officials, by participating in the Tournament, confirm their consent to the use of their image, name, team affiliation and other Tournament-related data in official materials.

Such use is permitted for the following purposes:

- broadcasting of matches;
- publishing news and results;
- posting materials on the Tournament's official website, **sdbl-malta.com**;
- preparation of photo and video materials;
- creating highlights, previews and post-match content;
- archiving;
- preparation of the final report on the Tournament;
- providing organisational, disciplinary and informational support.

The use of a participant's image in third-party commercial advertising not directly related to the Tournament is permitted only with the appropriate consent, if such consent is required by the nature of the use.

### **9.8. Publication of the schedule, results and tournament table**

The Organiser shall ensure the official publication of key tournament data.

Such data includes:

- match schedule;
- schedule updates;
- match results;
- regular season table;
- play-off brackets and series details;
- final standings.

A publication is considered official if it is posted on the Tournament's official website, **sdbl-malta.com**, or on another official channel explicitly designated by the Organiser.

The Organiser is entitled to publish the schedule, results and tables within the timeframe it deems organisationally feasible, taking into account:

- the verification of match documentation;
- the completion of broadcasts and technical processing of materials;
- the review of disputed incidents;
- the preparation of final, confirmed data.

Until the official match documentation has been confirmed, individual results, tables and publications may be provisional.

### **9.9. Communication with teams and official representatives**

For operational communication with the teams, the Organiser shall use the official contact details provided by the captains, official representatives or other authorised persons of the team.

Such communication may include:

- sending notifications regarding the schedule;
- confirmation of line-ups;
- notifications of rescheduling;
- sending disciplinary decisions;
- sending requests for clarification;
- sending official and organisational documents.

Teams are required to:

- respond promptly to official communications from the Organiser;
- keep their contact details up to date;
- acknowledge receipt of critical notifications, if required by the Organiser;
- not to claim non-receipt of a notification if it was sent to the contact details provided and/or posted on the Tournament's official website, **sdbl-malta.com**.

#### **9.10. Restrictions on false, unauthorised and misleading information**

It is prohibited to:

- disseminating false information about the Tournament;
- creating fake pages, accounts, advertisements or posts on behalf of the Tournament;
- publishing false schedules, results, statements or decisions;
- disseminating knowingly distorted information about teams, players, referees, the Organiser or the Technical Operator **StreamHub**;
- publishing material that may undermine the organisational or reputational integrity of the Tournament.

If the Organiser identifies such actions, it is entitled to:

- publish an official rebuttal;
- demand the removal of the material;
- take disciplinary action against a Tournament participant if the violation is committed by a person associated with the Tournament;
- take protective measures provided for by law and internal documents.

#### **9.11. Advertising restrictions and sponsorship policy**

The Organiser shall have the right to determine which partnership, advertising and sponsorship materials may be associated with the Tournament.

Without separate written consent, it is not permitted to place, on behalf of the Tournament or in an official association with the Tournament, any advertising that:

- contravenes applicable legislation;
- misrepresents the official status of the Tournament;
- is misleading regarding official partners;
- has not been agreed with the Organiser;
- uses the Tournament's name for commercial purposes without permission.

The Organiser reserves the right to independently determine the list of permitted official partners, logos, mentions and formats for their display on the Tournament's official website **sdbl-malta.com**, in broadcasts and in other official materials.

#### **9.12. Final and archived information materials**

Upon completion of the Tournament, the Organiser shall be entitled to prepare final information materials, which may include:

- a final table and ranking;
- an overview of the results of the regular season and play-offs;
- the official results of the Tournament;
- details of the prize fund and its distribution;
- key statistical data;
- reports and archived publications;
- summary visual and text materials.

Such materials may be posted on the Tournament's official website, **sdbl-malta.com**, and used as part of the Tournament's official archive.

#### **9.13. Final provisions on marketing and information policy**

The Organiser reserves the right to determine the Tournament's public, information and visual policy to the extent necessary for its proper conduct and management.

All Tournament participants must assume that:

- only information from the Tournament's official channels is considered official;
- the use of the Tournament's name and visual identity is controlled by the Organiser;
- broadcast and information materials may be used within the framework of the Tournament's official model;
- public communication must be conducted without distorting the official status, results and decisions of the Tournament.

The Organiser reserves the right to introduce additional editorial, visual, informational and communication rules, provided such rules do not conflict with these Regulations.

## **Section 10. Prize Fund and Distribution System**

### **10.1. General provisions regarding the prize fund**

To incentivise sporting performance, maintain the teams' competitive motivation and establish a comprehensive sporting model for the Tournament, a prize fund of **10,000 (ten thousand) euros** is established within the **Southern Development Basketball League**.

The prize fund is formed and paid out by the Organiser — **Valletta Dream Basketball Club, affiliated with the Malta Basketball Association under affiliation number VO2557**.

The technical operator **StreamHub** shall not be involved in the formation, distribution or payment of the prize fund, unless otherwise specifically provided for in a written agreement between the Organiser and the Technical Operator.

The prize fund forms part of the official organisational model of the Tournament and is subject to distribution in accordance with these Regulations.

## **10.2. Legal status of prize payments**

Prize payments following the Tournament:

do not constitute wages;

are not payment for work;

do not establish an employment relationship between players, teams, the Organiser and the Technical Operator **StreamHub**;

are not recognised as regular remuneration for participation;

are in the nature of a sporting incentive reward linked exclusively to the final position achieved in the Tournament.

The Organiser shall not be liable for the internal distribution of prize money within a team, unless otherwise specifically stipulated in additional internal Tournament regulations.

Prize payments shall be made following the conclusion of the Tournament in accordance with the ranking established by these Regulations and confirmed by the official final documentation of the Tournament.

## **10.3. Teams eligible for prize payments**

Teams that finish in places 1 to 4 at the conclusion of the Tournament are eligible for the prize fund.

Final placings are determined as follows:

1st and 2nd places — based on the results of the final play-off series;

3rd and 4th places — based on the results of the third-place play-off series;

## **10.4. Prize fund distribution structure**

The Tournament prize fund of **€10,000** is distributed as follows:

1st place — **€5,000**

2nd place — **€2,500**

3rd place — **€1,500**

4th place — **€1,000**

**TOTAL — €10,000**

This prize fund distribution model is considered official and applies to all teams eligible for the prize fund, unless otherwise separately and officially approved by the Organiser prior to the start of the Tournament.

Within the framework of this Tournament, individual seasonal awards based on the results of the competition shall not be established, unless otherwise specifically approved by the Organiser prior to the start of the play-off stage.

## **10.5. Conditions for receiving a prize**

A team shall be entitled to a prize payment only if it simultaneously meets the following requirements:

completion of participation in the Tournament in the relevant final position;

the Organiser has not decided to exclude the team from the Tournament;

no gross violation of these Regulations which, in the Organiser's opinion, disqualifies the team from receiving the prize money;

no outstanding disciplinary decision that directly affects the sporting result or the team's right to retain its final position;

provision of the necessary details and contact information for the payment to be made;

compliance with other reasonable organisational requirements of the Organiser relating to the processing of the payment.

If a team has breached these Regulations, the Organiser shall be entitled to:

suspend the payment;

request additional information;

reduce the prize payment, provided that such a right is directly justified by the nature of the breach and confirmed by a separate decision;

refuse payment in full in exceptional cases where the breach has materially affected the sporting, disciplinary or organisational integrity of the Tournament.

Any decision to refuse payment in full or in part must be made by the Organiser in writing and brought to the team's attention.

#### **10.6. Procedure for the payment of prizes**

Prize payments shall be made by the Organiser following the official conclusion of the Tournament and the confirmation of the final standings.

The standard payment period is within **7 calendar days** of the official conclusion of the Tournament, unless the Organiser specifies a different period in a written notice.

Payment shall be made by bank transfer to the details provided by the authorised representative of the relevant team, or in any other form permitted under applicable law and separately confirmed by the Organiser.

In order for the payment to be made, the team must provide the following within a reasonable timeframe:

the name of the payee;

payment details;

a contact person;

other information necessary for the correct transfer of funds.

If the team fails to provide the necessary details within the specified timeframe, the Organiser is entitled to defer the payment until sufficient information has been received.

#### **10.7. Taxation and financial liability**

The taxation of prize payments is determined by the applicable law governing the recipient of the payment, the Organiser and the method of transfer used.

The Organiser shall make the payment in a manner it deems lawful and sufficient, taking into account the information available to it and the applicable requirements.

If legislation requires withholding, declaration, documentary evidence or any other tax-related action, the relevant procedure shall be carried out in accordance with the procedure provided for by applicable law.

The team and/or the payee are responsible for the accuracy of the details provided, the payee's status and any other information affecting the correctness of the payment.

The Organiser shall not be liable for any tax, banking or other consequences arising from inaccurate or incomplete data provided by the recipient.

#### **10.8. Internal distribution of prize money within the team**

The Organiser does not regulate the internal distribution of the prize fund received by the team amongst the players, captain, coach, official team representative or other persons.

Once the prize money has been transferred to the authorised recipient of the relevant team, all responsibility for the subsequent internal distribution of the funds lies with the team itself and its authorised representatives.

The Organiser shall not consider disputes regarding the internal distribution of prize money amongst team members, unless such disputes directly affect the implementation of these Regulations or the official obligations of the Tournament.

#### **10.9. No Entitlement to Additional Payments**

Participation in the Tournament does not in itself entitle a team, player or any other person to receive any additional payments, other than those expressly provided for in these Regulations or separately approved by the Organiser.

The following are not subject to automatic payment:

participation bonuses;

daily payments;

match fees;

payments for statistical performance;

bonuses for specific game events;

any other sums of money not provided for in these Regulations.

If the Organiser deems it necessary to establish additional incentives, such incentives must be approved and announced separately.

#### **10.10. Revision of the prize fund allocation**

The distribution of the prize fund may be revised by the Organiser only in exceptional cases, if, following the conclusion of the Tournament, it is established that:

the team's final position has been changed as a result of an official disciplinary or organisational decision;

the team was unjustifiably eligible for a prize payment;

the team has been stripped of its right to the final position by a decision of the Organiser, taken in accordance with these Regulations;

a significant technical or administrative error occurred in the recording of the final standings.

In such a case, the Organiser is entitled to:

adjust the amount of the payment;

suspend payment until the verification is complete;

demand the return of funds transferred in error;

redistribute the relevant amount among the teams in accordance with the updated final ranking.

#### **10.11. Publication of information regarding the prize fund**

The Organiser is entitled to publish information regarding the prize fund and its distribution on the Tournament's official website, **sdbl-malta.com**, and via other official communication channels.

Such publication may include:

the total size of the prize fund;

the distribution structure by place;

confirmation of the final placings;

information regarding the completion of payments, if the Organiser deems such publication appropriate.

The specific details of recipients, bank details and other confidential data shall not be disclosed publicly, unless otherwise required by law.

#### **10.12. Final provisions regarding the prize fund**

All teams participating in the Tournament are deemed to be aware that:

the prize fund is fixed and is distributed only in accordance with the procedure set out in these Rules;

participation in the Tournament does not confer any right to other automatic payments;

entitlement to a prize payment depends on the final placing and compliance with the requirements of these Rules;

The Organiser reserves the right to suspend, adjust or refuse payment in exceptional cases, provided there are grounds for doing so as set out in these Regulations.

The Organiser reserves the right to clarify the administrative and financial procedures relating to the processing and transfer of prize payments, provided such clarifications do not conflict with these Regulations.

## **Section 11. Procedure for handling incidents and disciplinary rules**

### **11.1. General Provisions**

The purpose of the Tournament's disciplinary system is to ensure the safe, controlled, fair and sportsmanlike conduct of **Southern Development Basketball League** matches.

All Tournament participants are required to comply with:

these Regulations;

the Tournament Regulations, if approved by the Organiser;

**the FIBA Official Basketball Rules;**

the lawful instructions of the refereeing team;

the Organiser's lawful instructions;

the rules of conduct at the **Basketball Complex, Ta' Qali, RBT 13, Malta;**

rules relating to safety, technical support and the closed format of the Tournament.

Disciplinary regulations apply to:

players;

captains;  
team officials;  
coaches and other team officials, if they are permitted to attend the match;  
referees in the performance of their duties, if the matter requires an organisational assessment by the Organiser;  
medical staff;  
persons admitted by the Organiser to technical and service areas;  
other persons whose conduct affects the conduct of the match, the safety or the reputation of the Tournament.

### **11.2. Principles of the disciplinary system**

Disciplinary incidents are dealt with on the basis of the following principles:

impartiality — decisions are made without favouring any team or participant;

promptness — incidents are considered without undue delay;

sufficiency of evidence — a decision must be based on a reasonably sufficient amount of supporting evidence;

proportionality — sanctions must be commensurate with the nature, severity and consequences of the breach;

simplicity of procedures — the disciplinary system must not create an excessive bureaucratic burden;

priority of safety — if an incident involves a threat to health, safety or order, appropriate measures shall be taken as a matter of priority;

protection of the integrity of the Tournament — priority is given to maintaining the manageability and sporting integrity of the competition.

### **11.3. Incident Review Bodies**

No separate standing disciplinary committee shall be established for this Tournament.

Disciplinary review functions are allocated as follows:

#### **1. Match officials**

The refereeing team assesses and records infringements directly during the match, within the scope of their authority as set out in the **FIBA Official Basketball Rules** and these Regulations.

A referee is authorised to:

record fouls;

impose game sanctions;

remove a player or other person from the court or the technical area within the limits of the rules of the game and these Regulations;

stop the match in the event of a safety threat or a serious breach of order.

#### **2. Organiser**

The Organiser shall consider:

post-match incidents;

incidents confirmed by video footage;  
organisational breaches;  
breaches not fully resolved during the match;  
issues relating to eligibility, participant status, team conduct, safety, technical integrity and other matters affecting the Tournament.

The Organiser shall be entitled to take disciplinary decisions independently on the basis of the materials provided for in these Regulations.

#### **11.4. Grounds for disciplinary review**

An incident may be subject to disciplinary review if it falls into one or more of the following categories:

rough or dangerous play;  
aggressive behaviour;  
insults, threats, provocation;  
attempts to influence the referee or the Organiser;  
refusal to comply with the lawful instructions of the referee or the Organiser;  
participation of an ineligible or unregistered player;  
deliberate substitution of a player;  
failure to appear for a match;  
refusal to continue the match;  
a team leaving the pitch without permission;  
a mass brawl or fight;  
unsporting behaviour by an official representative of the team;  
damage to venue property;  
damage to **StreamHub**'s technical equipment;  
unauthorised interference with the match's broadcast, statistics or organisational operations;  
a gross breach of security at the **Basketball Complex, Ta' Qali, RBT 13, Malta**;  
the dissemination of false information, if directly related to the conduct of the Tournament;  
any other act or omission which, in the Organiser's opinion, undermines the integrity, security or official order of the Tournament.

#### **11.5. Evidence**

When considering a disciplinary incident, the Organiser is entitled to use any relevant and admissible materials, including:

the official match report;  
the referees' team's official records;  
the referees' statements;  
the Organiser's report;  
the video recording of the match made by the **StreamHub** Technical Operator;  
the report by the **StreamHub** Technical Operator, if such a report has been drawn up;

statements from the team, player or official representative;  
medical information to the extent necessary to understand the nature of the incident;  
photographic evidence, if officially received and deemed suitable for consideration.

The video recording of the match is an important supporting source, but the Organiser is entitled to assess it in conjunction with other materials.

If there is no video recording of a specific incident, or if the quality of the recording does not allow for a clear conclusion to be drawn, the Organiser shall make a decision based on the totality of other materials.

#### **11.6. Procedure for reporting and registering a disciplinary incident**

An incident may be referred for disciplinary review on the initiative of:

a judge;

the Organiser;

an official team representative;

the team captain — via an official representative or in any other manner permitted by the Organiser;

the **StreamHub** technical operator — in relation to incidents affecting equipment, technical infrastructure, working areas or the security of the broadcast.

The incident report must include, as far as possible:

the date and time of the match;

the names of the teams;

a description of the incident;

details of those involved in the incident;

the time or stage of play when the incident occurred;

details of any supporting evidence.

The organiser is entitled to refuse a separate disciplinary review if:

the incident is clearly minor;

the evidence is manifestly insufficient;

the complaint is purely emotional in nature and does not contain a subject for review;

the matter has already been duly resolved by the referee during the match and does not require further intervention.

#### **11.7. Procedure for reviewing an incident**

Upon receiving information about the incident, the Organiser shall:

acknowledges receipt of the materials;

determine whether the situation requires immediate intervention;

examine the official match report;

requests video footage where necessary;

where necessary, requests clarification from referees, teams, the **StreamHub** Technical Operator or other persons;

assesses the severity of the incident and its impact on safety, the result of the match or the integrity of the Tournament;

makes a decision.

The timeframe for the disciplinary review is determined by the Organiser based on the urgency of the matter, but as a general rule must be reasonable and must not create uncertainty regarding the next match of the relevant team or participant.

If a disciplinary incident may affect a player's or team's eligibility for the next match, the Organiser is entitled to make a provisional decision pending the completion of a full review of the evidence.

### **11.8. Types of disciplinary sanctions**

The Organiser is entitled to impose the following disciplinary sanctions.

Individual sanctions:

verbal reprimand;

official warning;

suspension for one match;

suspension for several matches;

suspension until the end of the tournament;

ban from the technical area;

ban from entering the **Basketball Complex, Ta' Qali, RBT 13, Malta** for the duration of the Tournament.

Team sanctions:

an official warning to the team;

technical defeat;

postponement of the match with negative consequences for the offending team;

expulsion of the team from the Tournament;

forfeiture of the right to part or all of the prize fund in cases expressly permitted by these Regulations;

other organisational consequences necessary to protect the integrity of the Tournament.

Financial consequences:

a claim for compensation for damage caused to the property of the venue or to the equipment of the Technical Operator **StreamHub**, provided that the nature of the breach permits this and the relevant claim is made separately.

The Organiser is entitled to combine disciplinary measures if this is necessary and proportionate to the nature of the breach.

### **11.9. Typical violations and guidelines for sanctions**

When determining a sanction, the Organiser is entitled to take into account the following indicative scale.

Rough play without obvious injury to an opponent:

a warning or a one-match suspension.

Rough play with an increased risk of injury:

suspension for one to two matches.

Deliberate physical contact of an aggressive nature:

from two matches to suspension for the remainder of the Tournament, depending on the severity.

Insulting an opponent, referee, Organiser or official:

from a warning to a suspension of several matches, and in serious cases — suspension for the remainder of the Tournament.

Attempting to influence the referee:

from a warning to a suspension of several matches.

Participation of an ineligible or unregistered player:

a technical defeat, as well as an additional sanction against the team and/or player.

Leaving the court without permission, refusal to continue the match:

technical defeat, and depending on the situation, additional sanctions.

Mass brawl or fight:

individual sanctions against the participants, and where there are sufficient grounds, sanctions against the team, up to and including exclusion from the Tournament.

Damage to **StreamHub's** property or equipment:

a disciplinary sanction, as well as a separate claim for compensation for damages.

Repeated violations, demonstrative behaviour, aggression, lack of remorse, threats to safety and disruption to the normal conduct of the Tournament shall be considered aggravating circumstances.

#### **11.10. Review of incidents via video footage**

The Organiser is entitled to use video footage of the match for subsequent review of an incident if:

the incident was not properly recorded in the official match report;

the incident occurred outside the referee's direct view;

there are doubts regarding the identification of a participant;

it is necessary to confirm interference with the technical circuit, safety or order;

it is necessary to assess the degree of roughness or aggression in the behaviour;

it is necessary to compare the official explanations with an objective recording of the incident.

The organiser is entitled to impose a more severe disciplinary penalty for the incident if the video recording confirms a more serious nature of the breach than was apparent from the initial documentation.

The organiser is also entitled not to impose an additional sanction if the video recording does not confirm the existence of a breach or confirms that it is of a significantly lesser severity.

#### **11.11. Failure of a team to appear and refusal to participate in a match**

If a team:

fails to appear at the scheduled match time;

turns up with a squad that does not allow the game to start;

refuses to take to the court;

refuses to continue the match without a recognised valid reason;

leaves the court or venue without authorisation before the completion of mandatory procedures,

The Organiser is entitled to award a technical defeat to the team and impose additional disciplinary measures.

In doing so, the Organiser shall take into account:

the nature of the reason;

whether prior notice was given or not;

whether an attempt was made to cooperate in good faith;

the extent to which the situation affects the Tournament schedule;

the occurrence of repeated breaches by the team.

#### **11.12. Interim measures pending a final decision**

If the incident is serious and there is a risk that the continued participation of a player, official or team until the conclusion of the review may affect the safety, order or integrity of the Tournament, the Organiser is entitled to impose temporary restrictive measures.

Such measures may include:

temporary exclusion from the next match;

a temporary ban from the technical area;

temporary restriction on access to the venue;

temporary suspension of the right to participate pending a final decision.

Such measures are provisional in nature and do not replace the final disciplinary decision.

#### **11.13. Recording of decisions and archives**

All disciplinary decisions of the Organiser must be recorded in writing or in another form that can be documented.

Such a decision may contain:

a description of the incident;

a reference to the materials used;

the Organiser's assessment;

the sanction imposed;

the duration of the sanction;

indication of the consequences for the next match, stage of the Tournament or prize fund, if applicable.

Disciplinary decisions are kept by the Organiser in the Tournament archive and may be used:

for internal records;

for reassessment in the event of subsequent breaches;

to prepare the final Tournament report;

to be provided upon official request to **the Malta Basketball Association** or other authorised persons, if necessary.

#### **11.14. Final provisions regarding disciplinary rules**

All Tournament participants must bear in mind that the disciplinary system is not aimed at formal punishment as such, but at safeguarding:

safety;

sporting integrity;  
respect for refereeing;  
organisational manageability;  
the reputation and integrity of the Tournament.

The Organiser shall be entitled to clarify disciplinary procedures, provided that such clarifications do not conflict with these Regulations and serve the interests of the proper conduct of the Tournament.

## Section 12. Procedure for lodging protests and appeals

### 12.1. General Provisions

All protests and appeals within the Tournament shall be considered by the Organiser — **Valletta Dream Basketball Club, affiliated with the Malta Basketball Association under affiliation number VO2557.**

No separate permanent appeals or protests body shall be established within the Tournament.

The procedure for considering protests and appeals is based on the principles of:

expediency;  
sufficiency of evidence;  
procedural simplicity;  
respect for official match documentation;  
consideration of video recordings made by the **StreamHub** Technical Operator;  
preservation of the Tournament's schedule and sporting integrity.

The protest and appeal procedure must not be used to delay the Tournament, undermine the authority of the refereeing team, or create artificial obstacles to the normal conduct of matches.

### 12.2. Who is entitled to lodge a protest

The following are entitled to lodge a protest:

the team's official representative;  
the team captain — through the official representative or in any other manner separately permitted by the Organiser;  
the Organiser — on its own initiative, if it considers that a specific situation requires formal registration as a protest;  
the match referee or the refereeing team — in relation to matters concerning the recording of significant infringements affecting the official status of the match.

The same protest must not be submitted simultaneously by several persons from the same team in different versions.

The organiser is entitled to require that all communications from the team be submitted solely through a single officially designated contact person.

### 12.3. Grounds for lodging a protest

A protest may only be lodged on matters that are subject to administrative or disciplinary review after the conclusion of the match.

Acceptable grounds for a protest include:

an error in the identification of a player;  
the participation of a player who is ineligible, unregistered or improperly included in the match;  
a material error in the official match documentation;  
a breach of the established match procedures capable of affecting the official status of the match;  
a serious incident not properly recorded in the match report;  
conduct by a team, player or official that goes beyond the referee's normal discretion and requires post-match assessment;  
a significant technical or organisational incident, if it could have affected the status of the match and is subject to verification;  
other circumstances which, by their nature, require official administrative review by the Organiser.

Protests shall not be permitted on the following grounds:

disagreement with the referee's normal on-field judgement;  
disagreement with the interpretation of a standard match situation, provided the matter has been definitively resolved by the referee during the match;  
general dissatisfaction with the refereeing without a specific subject;  
complaints based solely on emotions, assumptions or subjective assessment without reference to a specific infringement;  
a request to review the entire match as a whole, without specifying the exact grounds for the protest.

#### **12.4. Form and deadline for lodging a protest**

A protest must be submitted in writing or in another form that can be documented, as permitted by the Organiser.

Acceptable channels for submission may include:

email;  
the official messaging service used for communication with team representatives;  
a separate form, if introduced by the Organiser;  
any other channel expressly designated by the Organiser as official.

A protest must be lodged within a reasonable time after the match has ended.

The basic guideline for lodging a protest is **within 12 hours** of the conclusion of the relevant match, unless the Organiser has set a shorter or longer timeframe for specific categories of issues.

The protest must contain:

the name of the team lodging the protest;  
the date and reference number of the match;  
a description of the disputed situation;  
a specific reason for the protest;  
where possible, the minute of the incident, the phase of play or another identifier of the situation;  
a reference to any available materials or links to them, if available;  
a contact person for feedback.

The organiser reserves the right to disregard the protest if it:

is submitted after the deadline has passed without a valid reason;  
does not contain sufficient detail;  
does not allow the subject matter of the review to be determined;  
clearly does not fall within the permissible grounds for a protest;  
is submitted by an unauthorised person.

#### **12.5. Registration and initial verification of the protest**

Upon receipt of the protest, the Organiser shall carry out its initial registration and review.

At this stage, the Organiser determines:

whether the protest has been submitted in the correct form;  
whether it has been submitted within the prescribed time limit;  
whether there is a specific subject matter for consideration;  
whether the issue raised falls within the permissible grounds for a protest;  
whether an immediate interim decision is required pending full consideration.

If the protest meets the minimum formal requirements, the Organiser shall accept it for consideration.

If the protest does not meet the minimum requirements, the Organiser is entitled to:

reject it without considering the merits;  
request clarification, if appropriate and the schedule permits;  
reclassify the appeal as an information notice or a disciplinary report, if this better reflects its content.

#### **12.6. Procedure for considering a protest**

When considering a protest, the Organiser is entitled to use:

the official match report;  
the referees' team's official records;  
the video recording of the match made by the **StreamHub** Technical Operator;  
the report of the **StreamHub** Technical Operator, if available and relevant to the matter in dispute;  
explanations from team representatives;  
statements from the referees;  
medical records, if the protest concerns a medical incident;  
other relevant materials.

The Organiser shall determine the sufficiency of the evidence at its own discretion.

As a general rule, the time limit for considering a protest is **up to 24 hours** from the moment it is accepted for consideration, unless the complexity of the matter requires otherwise.

In more complex cases, the timeframe may be extended to **48 hours** if necessary to obtain additional materials, review video footage or cross-check documents.

If the protest affects a player's or team's eligibility for the next match, the Organiser is entitled to make a preliminary interim decision pending the completion of the full review.

#### **12.7. Possible decisions on a protest**

Following the review of the protest, the Organiser is entitled to make one of the following decisions:

the protest is upheld in full;  
the protest is upheld in part;  
the protest is rejected on its merits;  
the protest is deemed inadmissible and is dismissed without consideration.

If the protest is upheld in full or in part, the Organiser is entitled to:

correct the error in the official match documentation;  
clarify the status of a player or team;  
impose a disciplinary sanction;  
change the administrative classification of the incident;  
adjust the official result, provided there are sufficient legal and factual grounds for doing so;  
order a further investigation or take another organisational decision.

If the protest is rejected, the Organiser shall record the rejection and maintain the original official status of the match or incident.

The decision on the protest shall be recorded in a documented form and brought to the attention of the parties concerned.

#### **12.8. Procedure for lodging an appeal**

An appeal may only be lodged against a decision of the Organiser made in response to a protest or other officially considered matter if:

there is new material evidence that was not available at the time of the initial consideration;  
there is an obvious error in the documentation or identification;  
there has been a material breach of the review procedure;  
there are other exceptional grounds which, in the Organiser's opinion, justify a re-examination.

An appeal cannot be used as an automatic second stage of any disagreement.

An appeal shall be lodged by the same group of persons entitled to lodge a protest, unless otherwise restricted by the Organiser.

An appeal must be lodged within a short and reasonable period of time after receiving the decision on the protest.

As a general guideline, this should be **within 12 hours** of the decision being communicated to the interested party.

The appeal must contain:

a reference to the decision being appealed;  
a clear description of the grounds for disagreement;  
a reference to new evidence or a procedural irregularity;  
the applicant's contact details;  
attachments, if any.

#### **12.9. Consideration of the appeal**

The appeal shall be considered by the Organiser in an expedited and targeted manner.

The Organiser is entitled to:

uphold the original decision;  
amend the decision in whole or in part;  
set aside the decision and make a new one;  
declare the appeal inadmissible.

When considering an appeal, the Organiser is not obliged to review the entire body of evidence again if the subject of the appeal is limited to a specific error or specific new evidence.

As a general rule, an appeal shall be considered **within 24 hours**, unless the nature of the matter requires otherwise.

The Organiser's decision on the appeal is final within the Tournament, takes effect immediately and applies to all subsequent matches and procedures to which it relates.

#### **12.10. Interim measures pending the consideration of a protest or appeal**

If a protest or appeal concerns a matter that may affect:

a player's eligibility for the next match;  
a team's eligibility for the next match;  
the official status of the match result;  
the safety of participants;  
the integrity of the play-off stage;  
payment of the prize fund;

The Organiser is entitled to impose temporary measures pending a final decision.

Such measures may include:

temporary suspension of a player;  
temporary retention or suspension of a result;  
a temporary ban on access to the technical area;  
temporary suspension of payment;  
other measures aimed at preventing irreversible consequences pending a final decision.

Such measures are strictly provisional in nature and do not replace the final decision.

#### **12.11. Liability for abuse of the protest and appeal procedure**

If a team, player or official:

systematically lodges unfounded protests;  
uses a protest as a means of putting pressure on the referees or the Organiser;  
artificially delays the procedure;  
submits knowingly false information;  
abuses the right of appeal,

The Organiser reserves the right to impose disciplinary measures.

Such measures may include:

an official warning;  
restrictions on further lodging of protests regarding clearly inadmissible categories of issues;

a disciplinary sanction against a specific individual;  
other measures provided for in these Regulations.

The Organiser must distinguish between the bona fide use of the protest procedure and its abuse. The mere fact that a protest is rejected does not in itself constitute abuse.

#### **12.12. Retention of protest and appeal materials**

All protests, appeals, decisions thereon and related materials shall be stored by the Organiser in the Tournament archive.

Such materials may be used:

for internal record-keeping;

to check for repeated violations;

to prepare the final report on the Tournament;

to confirm the procedural history of a specific dispute;

to be provided upon official request to **the Malta Basketball Association**, if required.

The Organiser shall be entitled to establish a uniform internal format for the storage and recording of such materials.

#### **12.13. Final provisions regarding protests and appeals**

All participants in the Tournament must accept that the protests and appeals procedure is intended to rectify substantial and specific breaches, and not to review the normal course of the competition on subjective grounds.

The official position on any protest or appeal shall be determined solely by the Organiser's decision.

The Organiser is entitled to clarify the technical and procedural details of the submission and consideration of protests and appeals, provided that such clarifications do not conflict with these Regulations and are aimed at ensuring the smooth running of the Tournament.

## **Section 13. Requirements for team kit and uniforms**

### **13.1. General requirements for kit**

Each team is obliged to provide its players with safe, uniform basketball kits and equipment suitable for official matches, which comply with:

these Regulations;

**the FIBA Official Basketball Rules;**

safety requirements;

the conditions for holding matches at the **Basketball Complex, Ta' Qali, RBT 13, Malta;**

the requirements for the visual distinguishability of teams in the official broadcast provided by the technical operator **StreamHub**.

Players' kits and equipment must ensure:

the ability to clearly identify the team;

the ability to identify a specific player by their number;

safety for the player and other match participants;

sufficient visual clarity for the referees, the Organiser, the statistics team and the broadcast.

The Organiser is entitled to check that the kit and equipment comply with these Regulations before the start of the match and, if necessary, to require the rectification of any identified breaches.

### **13.2. Main and reserve kits**

Each team must have at least:

a main set of match kit;

a spare set of match kit or the ability to quickly use an alternative, visually distinguishable set.

Teams' kits must be clearly distinguishable from one another by their primary colour scheme.

If the Organiser considers that the colours used by the teams are not sufficiently distinguishable from one another or create a risk of confusion for the referees, participants or broadcast, the Organiser is entitled to require one of the teams to use the reserve kit or another acceptable solution.

Where necessary for organisational reasons, the use of technical alternatives agreed with the Organiser is permitted, including the use of agreed distinguishing features, provided this does not conflict with safety or the rules of the game.

The Organiser is entitled to notify the relevant team in advance of the need to play in the reserve kit.

### **13.3. Basketball player's kit**

A basketball player's kit must include:

a match shirt;

shorts;

basketball shoes;

other permissible items of equipment, provided they do not contravene the rules of the game or safety requirements.

The kit of players on the same team must be uniform in overall appearance and colour scheme, unless otherwise expressly agreed by the Organiser.

The kit must be:

clean;

suitable for participation in the match;

free from dangerous elements;

not create obstacles to the normal conduct of the game.

The organiser has the right to refuse a player entry to the match until the breach is rectified if their kit does not comply with these Regulations or poses a safety risk.

### **13.4. Player Numbering**

Every player must have an individual player number.

The shirt number must:

be displayed on the shirt in a manner that allows the player to be identified;

match the number specified in the official match documentation;

be clearly visible;

not be duplicated with the number of another player from the same team during the same match.

The placement of the number on the shirt shall be in accordance with the applicable basketball rules and accepted practice for official matches.

The organiser is entitled to require:

the rectification of any inconsistencies in numbering;

correction of errors in the entry form or match documentation;

that a player's jersey be replaced if their number is illegible or does not match the match report.

A player may not be permitted to play in a match with a number that is not confirmed in the official match documentation or that causes obvious confusion.

### **13.5. Team captain's kit**

The team captain must be identified in a manner permitted by the rules of the game and the organisational model of the Tournament.

If the Organiser establishes a specific requirement regarding the visual identification of the captain, the team must comply with it.

In the absence of a specific visual element to identify the captain, the designation of the captain in the official match documentation shall take precedence.

The team must clearly identify the captain to the refereeing team and the Organiser before the start of the match.

### **13.6. Footwear and permitted protective equipment**

Players must wear basketball shoes suitable for playing on the surface of the **Basketball Complex, Ta' Qali, RBT 13, Malta**.

Footwear must:

be safe;

not damage the court surface;

not contain any elements that may pose a risk of injury to other participants;

be suitable for play in an indoor sports facility.

The use of reasonable protective and medical equipment is permitted, provided that such items:

do not pose a threat to other participants;

do not provide an unfair advantage;

are not prohibited by the rules of the game;

do not breach safety requirements.

In case of doubt, the question of whether a protective or medical item is permissible shall be decided by the referee and the Organiser based on the rules of the game and safety requirements.

### **13.7. Prohibited items of equipment**

The use of equipment, accessories and other items that may pose a danger to the player or those around them is prohibited.

Prohibited items include, in particular:

chains, pendants, bracelets, rings and other jewellery;

earrings and piercing jewellery, if they pose a risk of injury;

watches;

hard and sharp objects;

unauthorised protective structures;  
items of clothing or accessories containing metal, hard or potentially dangerous parts;  
any items which, in the opinion of the referee or the Organiser, are dangerous for the match.

The referee and the Organiser are entitled to require a player to remove or replace a prohibited item before the start of the match or at any time thereafter if it is discovered later.

If the player refuses to rectify the violation, they shall not be permitted to participate or shall be removed from the playing area until the violation is rectified.

### **13.8. Sleeves, compression garments and additional accessories**

The use of sleeves, compression bandages, tape, knee pads, elbow pads and other similar items is permitted to the extent that it does not conflict with the applicable rules of the game and safety requirements.

Such items must:

be safe;  
not contain any hard or sharp parts;  
not mislead as to the player's team affiliation;  
not pose additional risks to opponents.

If such an element, due to its colour, shape or design, hinders the identification of a player or poses a safety risk, the Organiser and the referee are entitled to demand that it be replaced or removed.

### **13.9. Placement of logos, names and advertising on the kit**

The following may be placed on the match kit:

the team name;  
the team logo;  
the player's number;  
the player's surname, if provided for on the kit;  
authorised partner and sponsor logos, provided they have been agreed with the Organiser;  
official Tournament markings, if their use is permitted by the Organiser.

It is not permitted to place on the kit any materials that:

contravene applicable legislation;  
contain offensive, provocative or disparaging language;  
create a false impression of the existence of unauthorised official Tournament partners;  
use the Tournament's brand without the Organiser's consent;  
do not comply with the Organiser's established policy regarding advertising and visual identity.

The Organiser reserves the right to approve in advance a list of permitted and prohibited markings on the match kit.

### **13.10. Requirements for visual distinguishability in broadcasts**

Given that all Tournament matches are subject to official broadcast by the Technical Operator **StreamHub**, team kits must ensure sufficient visual distinguishability in the video feed.

To improve the clarity of the broadcast, the Organiser recommends:

- using contrasting primary colours;
- avoid excessively similar shades between teams;
- ensure that numbers are clearly legible;
- avoid visually cluttered patterns that make it difficult to recognise players;
- ensure there is a contrast between the colour of the shirt and the colour of the number.

If the Organiser concludes that a team's kit hinders the normal visual identification of players or teams during the broadcast, they are entitled to require the use of an alternative kit or another organisational solution.

### **13.11. Pre-match equipment check**

A check of the players' kits and equipment shall be carried out before the start of the match.

Such a check may include:

- an assessment of the uniformity of the team's kit;
- verification of players' numbers against match documentation;
- checking for prohibited items;
- assessment of the safety of footwear;
- checking the admissibility of additional accessories and medical items;
- assessment of the distinctiveness of team kits from one another.

The check shall be carried out by a referee, the Organiser or other officials authorised to perform this function.

If violations are identified as a result of the check, the Organiser is entitled to:

- demand that the violation be rectified immediately;
- postpone the player's admission to the match until the violation has been rectified;
- require the team to use a spare kit;
- record the violation in the official documentation;
- in the event of a serious or repeated violation — apply additional measures.

### **13.12. Team responsibility for kit and equipment**

The team is responsible for:

- ensuring players have approved kit;
- ensuring that numbers are legible and correct;
- having a spare kit ready, if required;
- rectifying any breaches before the start of the match;
- complying with the Organiser's and the referees' requirements regarding kits and equipment.

If a breach of kit or equipment regulations prevents the match from starting normally and is not rectified within a reasonable time, the Organiser is entitled to classify the situation as the team's organisational unpreparedness for the match and to apply the measures provided for in these Regulations.

### **13.13. Final provisions regarding kit and equipment**

All players and teams participating in the Tournament are deemed to be aware that uniforms and kit are not merely a matter of appearance, but also form part of the official match, broadcast and organisational framework of the Tournament.

The Organiser shall be entitled to specify technical and visual requirements for uniforms and kit, provided that such specifications:

do not conflict with these Regulations;

do not breach the rules of the game;

are aimed at ensuring safety, distinctiveness and the smooth running of matches.

## Section 14. Infrastructure and requirements for sports facilities

### 14.1. General requirements

Matches in the **Southern Development Basketball League** are held exclusively at the sports venue located at:

**Basketball Complex, Ta' Qali, RBT 13, Malta**

The aforementioned sports venue must meet the minimum requirements necessary for:

the safe conduct of basketball matches;

compliance with **the FIBA Official Basketball Rules**;

accommodating teams, referees, medical staff, the Organiser and the Technical Operator **StreamHub**;

providing official video coverage of matches;

ensuring controlled access to the venue under the closed-format conditions of the Tournament;

ensuring that matches can be held in accordance with the approved schedule.

The venue must be used in such a way that all organisational, sporting, technical and medical processes of the Tournament can be carried out without contravening these Regulations.

### 14.2. Type and characteristics of the playing area

Tournament matches shall be played on a basketball court suitable for official matches.

The playing surface must provide:

a level and safe surface;

the necessary markings;

properly installed backboards and hoops;

safe areas around the court;

sufficient space for players, referees and officials to move around;

the absence of hazardous elements that could cause injury to participants.

The court must be prepared in such a way that:

the markings are clearly visible;

the surface does not pose an increased risk of slipping or other circumstances that could cause injury;

the playing structures are stable and in good working order;

the space around the pitch boundaries allows the match to be played safely and for the necessary infrastructure to be installed.

If, during the match or before it begins, it is found that the pitch does not meet the minimum safety or suitability requirements, the Organiser, in conjunction with the refereeing team, is entitled to decide to rectify the deficiencies, delay the start of the match, or postpone or cancel the match.

### **14.3. Lighting**

**The Basketball Complex, Ta' Qali, RBT 13, Malta** sports venue must provide sufficient lighting to ensure:

the safe conduct of the match;

the work of the refereeing team;

the work of medical staff;

the visual identification of players and officials;

official video broadcasting by the technical operator **StreamHub**.

Lighting must be:

sufficiently even;

stable;

not creating sharp dark areas;

not causing critical glare that hinders the game or the broadcast;

sufficient to capture events on the pitch accurately.

The following are not permitted:

sudden changes in brightness;

critical flickering;

partial loss of lighting;

areas of the pitch that are clearly inadequately lit;

other lighting defects that significantly affect safety and the normal conduct of the match.

If lighting problems are identified, the Organiser and the refereeing team must assess whether it is safe to start or continue the match.

If it is not possible to continue the match safely, the match shall be postponed, suspended or cancelled in accordance with the procedure set out in these Regulations.

### **14.4. Fencing, access and perimeter of the venue**

The sports venue must ensure controlled access to the grounds and to the functional areas used for the Tournament.

The Organiser is obliged to ensure:

a clear procedure for the entry and exit of participants;

separation of playing, service and technical areas;

control of access by unauthorised persons;

protection of the closed format of the Tournament;

the ability to respond promptly in the event of a breach of order.

If the venue has separate entry points, internal passageways, staircases, technical corridors or restricted areas, the Organiser shall be entitled to determine the rules for their use and to restrict access to such areas.

Admission to the venue premises shall be granted only in accordance with the procedure set out in Section 7 of these Regulations.

#### **14.5. Area for the placement of StreamHub cameras and equipment**

The Organiser shall provide, at the **Basketball Complex, Ta' Qali, RBT 13, Malta**, an area or areas suitable for the installation of the **StreamHub** Technical Operator's equipment.

Such areas must provide:

- a sufficient view of the playing area;
- stable positioning of the camera and associated equipment;
- a safe distance from players and other match participants;
- minimal risk of accidental or deliberate interference;
- sufficient space for technical staff to work;
- access to a power supply and/or the necessary conditions for the operation of stand-alone equipment, where required.

The equipment area must be arranged in such a way that:

- it does not interfere with the game;
- not interfere with the referees and officials;
- not pose a hazard to participants;
- not disrupt the movement of teams and staff.

The final layout of the equipment shall be determined by the **StreamHub** Technical Operator in consultation with the Organiser.

#### **14.6. Team and official areas**

The sports venue must provide sufficient space to accommodate:

- two teams;
- team benches or other seating for substitute players;
- the refereeing team;
- the secretarial desk and match officials, if appointed;
- the organiser;
- medical staff;
- the StreamHub** technical operator.

Team areas must be organised in such a way that:

- each team has a separate area;
- substitutes and officials do not interfere with the match;
- technical areas are managed and controlled;
- there is no overlap with the **StreamHub** Technical Operator's working area;
- access to the pitch, the medical area and the exit zones from the venue is maintained.

The organiser is entitled to specify the location of each zone and the rules for its use.

#### **14.7. Secretarial desk and match working area**

The venue must provide an area suitable for the secretarial desk, if the relevant organisational model is used in a specific match.

Such an area must allow for:

- maintaining official match documentation;
- recording the score and match events in accordance with the adopted model;
- storing necessary documents and technical equipment;
- interacting with the refereeing team.

If the Organiser uses a simplified desk model for a specific match, the facility must still ensure the safe and organised accommodation of personnel responsible for match documentation, timekeeping, score display or other official functions.

#### **14.8. Medical area**

The sports venue must provide a minimum medical area or other functionally suitable space for:

- initial examination of an injured person;
- temporary accommodation of a player off the pitch;
- storing first-aid kits and medical supplies;
- preparing for transport if necessary.

Such a space must be:

- located within a reasonable distance of the playing area;
- sufficiently safe;
- not obstructing the general movement of participants;
- suitable for immediate use by medical staff.

The organiser must ensure that access to this area is not obstructed and that medical staff can operate without undue hindrance.

#### **14.9. Changing rooms and sanitary facilities**

The **Basketball Complex, Ta' Qali, RBT 13, Malta** must provide basic facilities sufficient for the conduct of the Tournament matches.

The minimum requirements include:

- changing rooms or other facilities suitable for teams to prepare for matches;
- sanitary facilities;
- access to water;
- lighting and basic hygiene facilities.

The organiser is entitled to determine the rules for the use of changing rooms and sanitary facilities, including:

- separation between teams;
- access times before and after the match;
- rules of conduct;

procedures for the safekeeping of participants' property.

If the venue does not allow for each team to be provided with a fully separate changing room, the Organiser is obliged to organise the use of the available facilities in such a way that it does not compromise safety and order.

#### **14.10. Power supply, communications and technical reliability**

To host matches and ensure official broadcasts, the venue must possess a sufficient level of technical reliability.

The Organiser must ensure:

a stable power supply;

access to a power supply point, if required for the equipment;

the availability or possibility of using a communication channel for the **StreamHub** Technical Operator;

the stable operation of the venue's internal systems necessary for staging the match.

If the technical setup for the match or broadcast requires a separate connection, the Organiser must ensure reasonable conditions for its implementation.

In the event of technical faults affecting the venue, the Organiser and the **StreamHub** Technical Operator shall cooperate to assess the feasibility of continuing the match and the broadcast.

#### **14.11. Movement routes and evacuation**

The sports venue must provide clear and safe routes for:

teams;

the refereeing team;

medical staff;

**the StreamHub** technical operator;

the organiser;

other authorised persons.

The organiser must be aware of:

entry and exit routes;

routes for evacuating injured participants;

evacuation routes in the event of an emergency;

the location of areas that must remain clear for passage;

the procedure to be followed in the event of a security threat.

If the specific features of the venue require additional traffic restrictions, the Organiser is entitled to impose such restrictions and bring them to the attention of participants.

#### **14.12. Parking, access and arrival logistics**

If the venue has a car park or access area, the Organiser is entitled to allocate the order of their use among:

teams;

judges;

medical transport;

the **StreamHub** technical operator;  
other officials.

Even if parking or access areas are restricted, the Organiser is obliged to ensure that:

the arrival of participants;

the delivery of equipment;

where necessary, access for a vehicle for medical evacuation.

The rules for the use of parking and access areas may be established by the Organiser separately and communicated to interested parties through the official channels of the Tournament.

#### **14.13. Suitability of the venue for hosting the Tournament**

Use of the **Basketball Complex, Ta' Qali, RBT 13, Malta** for Tournament matches is permitted only on condition that the Organiser deems the venue suitable for:

the safe conduct of the match;

accommodating all necessary participants and services;

the work of the **StreamHub** Technical Operator;

the provision of medical and organisational support;

compliance with the closed-door format and access regime.

If, at any point during the Tournament, the venue ceases to meet the minimum suitability requirements, the Organiser shall be entitled to:

suspend the use of the venue;

amend the rules governing its use;

reschedule the match;

use a reserve date;

take any other organisational decision necessary to preserve the integrity of the Tournament.

#### **14.14. Final provisions regarding infrastructure**

All Tournament participants must assume that the infrastructure of the **Basketball Complex, Ta' Qali, RBT 13, Malta** forms part of the official organisational framework of the Tournament.

The Organiser is entitled to:

specify the rules for using the venue;

restrict access to certain areas;

impose additional requirements regarding movement, positioning and use of the facilities;

define operational and restricted zones;

establish local rules for the venue that do not conflict with these Regulations.

Such measures shall be deemed binding on all Tournament participants provided they are communicated to the parties concerned in a reasonable and comprehensible manner.

## **Section 15. Final Provisions**

### **15.1. Status of this document**

These Regulations constitute the primary regulatory, organisational and operational document governing the preparation, organisation and conduct of the **Southern Development Basketball League** tournament.

These Regulations are binding upon:

The Organiser — **Valletta Dream Basketball Club, affiliated with the Malta Basketball Association under affiliation number VO2557;**

the teams formed for the Tournament;

players;

team captains;

official team representatives;

the refereeing team;

medical staff;

the **StreamHub** technical operator — within the scope of their duties;

other persons authorised by the Organiser to participate in the conduct of Tournament matches at the **Basketball Complex, Ta' Qali, RBT 13, Malta.**

These Regulations shall apply in conjunction with:

**the FIBA Official Basketball Rules;**

the official match documentation;

the Organiser's administrative decisions;

other internal documents of the Tournament, provided they have been approved in accordance with the established procedure and do not conflict with these Regulations.

### **15.2. Interpretation and priority of rules**

In interpreting these Regulations, priority shall be given to:

the written text of these Regulations;

the Organiser's official written decisions;

official match documentation;

official publications on the Tournament's official website, **sdbl-malta.com**, where these contain clarifications of an organisational or scheduling nature;

**the FIBA Official Basketball Rules** — in respect of game-related matters not covered by these Regulations;

the applicable requirements of **the Malta Basketball Association**, where the need to apply them arises directly from the status of the Tournament or the organisational situation.

If there is a conflict between verbal clarifications and the written text of these Regulations, the written text shall take precedence.

If a specific matter is not directly covered by these Regulations, the Organiser shall be entitled to issue an official clarification or a separate decision, which shall be binding on all participants in the Tournament.

### **15.3. The Organiser's right to make amendments**

The Organiser is entitled to:

make amendments to these Regulations;  
supplement individual sections;  
clarify the procedure for conducting specific processes;  
adjust the calendar, match schedule and reserve dates;  
clarify requirements regarding security, access, broadcasting, medical support and operations at the **Basketball Complex, Ta' Qali, RBT 13, Malta**;  
approve additional annexes, forms, templates and administrative documents;  
introduce temporary organisational rules in the event of force majeure or other exceptional circumstances.

Such changes are permitted provided that they:

do not undermine the core sporting model of the Tournament without sufficient cause;  
do not conflict with the mandatory requirements of the rules of the game;  
are aimed at ensuring the normal, safe and controlled conduct of the Tournament.

The changes shall come into force upon their official publication or on such other date as may be expressly specified by the Organiser in the relevant notice.

#### **15.4. Validity of these Regulations**

These Regulations shall come into force upon their approval by the Organiser and shall remain in force:

throughout the entire period of preparation and conduct of the Tournament;

throughout all matches of the regular season and the play-off stage;

for the period necessary to complete the consideration of protests, appeals, disciplinary matters and other procedures related to the Tournament;

for the period necessary to finalise the documentation and complete the payment of the prize fund, if such payment has not been completed by the last match day of the Tournament.

Upon the full conclusion of the Tournament and the completion of the main procedures, these Regulations shall be retained as an official archival document of the Tournament.

#### **15.5. Force majeure and exceptional circumstances**

The Organiser shall not be liable for any change in dates, postponement, suspension or cancellation of a match or part of the Tournament if such consequences are caused by circumstances beyond the Organiser's reasonable control.

Such circumstances may include:

serious technical faults at the venue;

unsuitability of the venue;

a power cut or failure of the lighting system;

a medical emergency;

fire;

security threat;

a criminal incident;

restricted access to the premises;

actions of third parties;  
other circumstances of force majeure or exceptional organisational circumstances.

In such cases, the Organiser shall be entitled to:

postpone the match;  
use a reserve date;  
suspend the Tournament;  
change the order of matches;  
temporarily alter the order in which certain procedures are conducted;  
take any other reasoned decision aimed at preserving the integrity of the Tournament.

#### **15.6. Binding nature of the Organiser's decisions**

All official decisions of the Organiser, taken within the scope of its authority, are binding on all participants in the Tournament.

Such decisions include, among others:

decisions regarding the schedule;  
decisions regarding the eligibility of players and teams;  
decisions regarding accommodation and access to the venue;  
decisions regarding security;  
decisions on disciplinary matters;  
decisions regarding protests and appeals;  
decisions regarding the organisation of broadcasts and statistical support;  
decisions regarding the prize fund within the scope of these Regulations;  
other decisions necessary for the smooth running of the Tournament.

Failure to comply with an official decision of the Organiser may result in disciplinary, organisational and other consequences as provided for in these Regulations.

#### **15.7. Acceptance of the Terms and Conditions**

Any person participating in the Tournament or admitted to its official conduct shall be deemed to have read these Regulations and to agree to their application to the extent relevant to their status and role.

A team, player, captain, official team representative, referee, medical staff member, employee of the Technical Operator **StreamHub**, or any other official admitted to the match acknowledges that:

they are aware of the official nature of these Regulations;  
they are required to comply with the provisions of these Regulations;  
they are obliged to comply with the Organiser's lawful decisions;  
they accept the system of disciplinary, protest, organisational and scheduling regulations established by these Regulations;  
they may not invoke ignorance of the Regulations as a ground for exemption from liability.

#### **15.8. Official publications and legally significant notices**

Official publications, announcements, clarifications and notifications relating to the Tournament may be posted:

on the Tournament's official website, [sdbl-malta.com](http://sdbl-malta.com);

via official channels of communication with team representatives;

in the form of official letters, emails, PDF notifications and other forms of communication supported by documentary evidence.

The publication or dispatch of a notification via one of the official channels designated by the Organiser shall be deemed a sufficient means of bringing the information to the attention of interested parties, unless otherwise expressly provided for in these Regulations.

Where necessary, the Organiser shall be entitled to use several notification channels simultaneously.

#### **15.9. Archiving of Tournament documents and materials**

The Organiser shall ensure the storage of the main documents and materials of the Tournament, including:

these Regulations;

the annexes to these Regulations;

the schedule and notifications of changes thereto;

match documentation;

disciplinary decisions;

protests and appeals;

final Tournament materials;

within the scope of its competence — documents relating to broadcasting and technical support.

The Organiser shall be entitled to determine the procedure and duration of storage of such materials, unless otherwise required by applicable law or organisational necessity.

Tournament materials may be stored in both paper and electronic form.

#### **15.10. Relationship with the Annexes to the Regulations**

The Annexes to these Regulations form an integral part thereof, provided they are expressly designated as annexes and approved by the Organiser.

The Annexes may contain:

application forms;

participant cards;

match reports;

protest and appeal forms;

disciplinary decisions;

notifications of match postponements;

non-attendance reports;

team line-up change forms;

medical reports;

**StreamHub** match reports;

notifications of disqualification;

final tournament report;

team information and contact details.

If there is any conflict between the annex and the main text of these Regulations, the main text of the Regulations shall prevail, unless the Organiser has specified otherwise.

#### **15.11. Language of the document and subsequent translation**

These Regulations have been drawn up in English as the working draft of the document.

#### **15.12. Final provision on entry into force**

These Regulations are approved by the Organiser — **Valletta Dream Basketball Club, affiliated with the Malta Basketball Association under affiliation number VO2557** — and shall enter into force on the date of such approval.

These Regulations apply to all matches and organisational procedures of the **Southern Development Basketball League** Tournament held at the **Basketball Complex, Ta' Qali, RBT 13, Malta**, during the period specified in the official calendar of the Southern Development Basketball League Tournament for the April–May 2026 season.