**Dear School Principals,**

**Subject: Schools Olympic Program 2019-2020 – 13th edition**

**Football competitions for girls (Primary, Preparatory, Secondary): rules and regulations**

The Organizing Committee of the Schools Olympic Program (SOPOC) and Qatar Sports School Association extend their warm greetings and best wishes for continued success to all the schools participating in the program.

We are pleased to announce the dates of the girls’ football competitions for all the educational stages in the 13th edition of the Schools Olympic Program (see file attached). In order to help PE Teachers & SOP Coordinators manage participating students’ school attendance on the days of the competitions SOPOC kindly asks you to check the above-mentioned schedules beforehand to avoid any possible inconvenience or misunderstanding.

**All the participants must follow the rules & regulations set out by the SOPOC in 2019-2020:**

* Comply with the Schools Olympic Program’s registration procedure & age categories requirements and all the instructions including the rule of a minimum and maximum number of players in each competition;
* Abide by a Fair Play code of conduct: principles of fair competition, friendship, team spirit, equality, tolerance must be respected;
* Supervisors and participating students must wear full sports uniform; goalkeepers must wear uniforms of a different color;
* All players must have a visible number on the front & back sides of the T-Shirts;
* Before the competition make sure medical examination for all the competing students is done, sealed, stamped and approved by the SOPOC;
* Start time of the competitions is 8:30 AM; teams compete in the order of their arrival at the venue;
* Disqualified players are ineligible to take further part in any competitions;
* The minimum and maximum number of participants in each competition is ten (10) and fourteen (14) respectively;
* Length of periods & Team requirements. The length of a game varies depending on the age of the players:

1. Primary stage: the competition will be played in two nine (9) minute halves with a two-minute interval between periods. Each team shall consist of six (6) players, including a goalkeeper and four (4) reserve team players who are to replace first half players in the second half.
2. Preparatory & Secondary stages: the competition will be played in two ten-minute (10) halves with a two (2) minute interval between them. Each team shall consist of five (5) players, including a goalkeeper and four (4) reserve team players who are to replace first half players in the second half.

* The substitutes are allowed to enter the field of play only after those players who are to be replaced had left the pitch; the incoming player may only enter the field at the half-way line.
* Players are cautioned in case of misconduct violations during the substitution process;
* Football competitions are based on a single-elimination (knockout) system;
* 1st & 2nd place holders in each group qualify for the next round of competitions;
* The winning team will be informed about the next match’s venue later;
* Each school is allowed to participate with no more two (2) Qatar National Team/club players registered in a team starting list; they may participate in the official match but only one (1) can be on the field of play at a time;
* Fouls and misconduct:

1. A second caution results in the player being dismissed;
2. The player who is sent off from the field of play is ineligible to play the next game.

For any inquiries, please contact Mrs. Faten Al Bakheet, SOP Girls’ Competition Manager: 33231863

**Best wishes to all the participating teams!**

**Sincerely yours,**