

2022/2023
MTN NATIONAL FIRST DIVISION LEAGUE
ESWATINI



Official Sponsor

RULES AND REGULATIONS

Compiled by PLE
Recommended by the
EFA Competitions Committee
and
Approved by EFA

NFDL 2022/2023

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PREAMBLE

This document lays out the Rules and Regulations of the 2022/2023 MTN National First Division League of Eswatini (*hereinafter referred to as the MTN NFD Rules & Regulations*).

The Secretariat of this league competition shall be at the PLE Offices at Sigwaca House, Ground Floor, Mbabane and all notices or correspondence must be served to the Chief Executive Officer at this location.

Any regulations, circulars, directives and decisions issued by EFA and/or the Government, intended to modify or supplement the COVID-19 Protocols shall be binding on the PLE and its NFD members.

All PLE Member Clubs participating in the MTN National First Division League competition shall be deemed to have:-

- Given their irrevocable assent to abide and be bound by these Rules and Regulations;
- undertaken to abide and be bound by these rules and any regulations, circulars, directives and decisions issued to modify the COVID-19 Protocols.

Article 1: DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS OF TERMS USED IN THIS DOCUMENT

1.0 **An Official or Premier League of Eswatini Official** is:

- 1.0.1 Any member of the office of the PLE and/or any member of the Sub-Committees of the PLE.
- 1.0.2 Any person designated by the PLE Chief Executive Officer or designated officer in his/her absence, to act in an official capacity during matches to include a Match Coordinator, Security Officer, COVID-19 Compliance Officer etc.
- 1.0.3 Invited dignitaries and/or guests, members of the Royal Eswatini Police.

1.1 **A Match Commissioner** is:

The match official appointed by the Referees Committee that has the authority for ensuring that a match is officiated according to the Laws of the Game as well as the Rules and Regulations laid down in this document and who shall be responsible for preparing a report of the match in his/her area of responsibility, for the relevant authorities.

1.2 **Unsporting Behavior**:

means the infringement of the Laws of the Game such as foul play, simulation, and denying an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by an offence which was an attempt to play the ball and the referee awards a penalty kick, dissent by word or action directed to an official, delaying the restart of play, improper registration of players, fielding of a defaulter, invasion of the field of play by Club/Team officials and/or supporters, throwing any objects onto the field of play or the surrounding areas, etc.

1.3 **Violent Conduct**:

is when a player, official, match spectator or supporter uses or attempts to use force or excessive force or brutality against another person who may be an opponent, a Team-mate, Team official, match official, spectator or any other person, regardless of whether contact is made and will include the use of abusive or obscene words or conduct with the intention to insult, demean and provoke another person.

- 1.3.1 Invading the field of play, throwing of any object(s) into the field of play or its surrounding or onto persons thus assaulting or attempting to assault, use of threatening words and physical manhandling with intent to assault or to cause bodily harm.
- 1.3.2 Uttering abusive or obscene or derogatory words, spitting or emission of saliva onto a person or directed towards a person, use of provocative or insulting hand gestures/signals, and includes any incitement, conspiracy or attempt to engage in an act to bring football into disrepute.
- 1.3.3 Failure by Club(s) to control their official(s) or player(s) or supporter(s) or fan(s).

1.4 **Match Categories**

- 1.4.1 A “**Category A**” match is a fixture with a history of full stadium attendance which is deemed high risk.
- 1.4.2 A “**Category B**” match is a fixture with a history of 60% or less stadium attendance which is deemed medium risk

1.5 **A Free Agent**

There are 2 categories of free Agents:-

- 1.5.1 a player with a 1 Season contract becomes a free agent at the end of the playing season, 30 June of each year.
- 1.5.2 a player who has been out of contract for 30 months becomes a free agent.

1.6 **A Defaulter**

means a player who is not eligible to play in a particular game for any reason such as suspension, improper registration, double registration who has played in the game in question.

- 1.7 **“International player”**
means a foreign player who is transferring from another association in the membership of FIFA into the territory of the EFA and has satisfied all the requirements of registration and is in possession of a valid work permit or a study permit. Unless in possession of an existing working permit, study permit, residence permit, international players should have a minimum of 5 national caps from their association of origin (these caps may be from different age groups).
- 1.8 **“Match Coordinator”**
means an official allotted and entitled by the PLE or the Management Committee for the administration of the PLE matches at the match venue or stadium, who shall also have the accountability of generating a report for the MC or PLE with respect to the organizational issues around the match, where applicable in terms of the rules and regulations of the competition. The Match Coordinator’s report shall be accepted by EFA/PLE judicial bodies as conclusive evidence of what transpired at a match.
- 1.9 **“Match Official”**
Means any official appointed to a PLE Match e.g., Members of the Competitions Committee, the Referee, Match Commissioner, the Match Coordinator, Security officers, paramedical officials etc.
- 1.10 **“IFAB”**
means the International Football Association Board being the body authorized to develop, amend and prescribe the Laws of the Game, which govern the constitutive practice of football matches.
- 1.11 The following abbreviations may be consistently used in this document:
- 1.11.1 PLE - Premier League of Eswatini.
 - 1.11.2 NFD - National First Division
 - 1.10.3 CEO - Chief Executive Officer
 - 1.10.4 COO - Chief Operations Officer / Football Manager
 - 1.10.5 DC - EFA/PLE Protest and Disciplinary Committee
 - 1.10.6 EFA - Eswatini Football Association
 - 1.10.7 CAF - Confederation of African Football
 - 1.10.8 FIFA - International Federation of Football Association
- 1.10 **“Head-to-head Rule”:**
It is a rule of breaking ties in association football, when at least two (2) Teams in a league competition or qualifying group or championship are level on points, where in order to separate them, the match or matches in which they played are considered. The Team that has won the head-to-head encounter (match between the two or more tying Teams) is placed higher than the other Team. Where the competition is played on a home-and-away basis such as the league, the head-to-head rule, has an inherent rule; the away-goal rule. In the case where only one match was played at a central or neutral venue, especially venues appointed by the competition organizing body or committee, the head-to-head rule does not have the inherent rule, of an away-goal-rule.
- 1.11 **“Away-Goal-Rule”:**
It is a rule for breaking ties in association football, where the Team that has scored more goals “away from home” wins, if the total number of goals scored by each Team are otherwise equal. This away-goal-rule is also utilized in the determination of the log standings under the head-to-head rule at any point of the procession of the league matches, irrespective of whether the league has finished or not or the teams tying on points have played a single match or more.

Article 2: AFFILIATION AND LICENSING OF CLUBS

- 2.0 All PLE Clubs shall affiliate to the PLE by paying: -
- 2.0.1 An annual affiliation fee of Three Thousand Emalangeni (E3,000.00) per Club. Such affiliation fee shall be paid to the PLE on or before the first registration of players by the Club for the 2022/2023 Season;
 - 2.0.2 An annual match officiating fee of Twenty thousand Emalangeni (E20,000.00) per Club. Such match officiating fee shall be before they play their first game of the 2022/2023 Season.
 - 2.0.3 An accreditation fee of One Thousand Five Hundred Emalangeni (E1,500.00) at least seven (7) working days before their first game of the 2022/2023 Season.
- 2.1 All affiliated NFD Clubs shall apply for and be granted a License by EFA for the 2022/2023 Season.
- 2.2 Only PLE NFD Clubs affiliated with the PLE and granted a License by EFA for the 2022/2023 Season may register players.
- 2.3 All PLE NFD Clubs shall submit duly completed, signed and stamped PLE Club Legal Membership forms by the 31 August 2022 that will confirm:-
- 2.3.1 Trade and Registered Name(s) of the Club
 - 2.3.2 Registration and Tax Numbers
 - 2.3.3 VAT and PAYE Numbers
 - 2.3.4 Club's Physical Address
 - 2.3.5 Club's Postal Address
 - 2.3.6 Clubs' Email Address
 - 2.3.7 Club's Contact Numbers
 - 2.3.8 Confirmation of when and where the Club was formed
 - 2.3.9 Match Venues:-
 - 2.3.9.1 Primary Home Venue
 - 2.3.9.2 Alternative Home Venue
 - 2.3.9.3 3rd Home Venue
 - 2.3.10 **Club Colours:-**
 - 2.3.10.1 Official Home infield Colours – Jersey / Shorts / Socks
 - 2.3.10.2 Alt. Home infield Colours – Jersey/Shorts/Socks
 - 2.3.10.3 3rd Kit Jersey Colours – Jersey/Shorts/Socks
 - 2.3.10.4 Official GK Kit Colours – Jersey/Shorts/Socks
 - 2.3.10.5 Alt. GK Kit Colours – Jersey/Shorts/Socks
 - 2.3.10.6 3rd GK Kit Colours – Jersey/Shorts/Socks
 - 2.3.11 **Directors/Officials of the Club:-**
 - 2.3.11.1 Full Names
 - 2.3.11.2 ID or Passport Numbers
 - 2.3.11.3 2 x Passport Size colour photographs
 - 2.3.11.4 Official Position
 - 2.3.11.5 Home Address
 - 2.3.11.6 Contact Number(s)
 - 2.3.11.7 Email address
 - 2.3.11.8 Club Authorisation Level for each Director/Official – signing of Club documents

Article 3: REGISTRATION AND TRANSFER OF PLAYERS

- 3.1 All registration of players shall be done electronically and exclusively by EFA in terms of the prevailing regulations for the Status and Transfer of Players, the Clubs Licensing Regulations, Coach Licensing Regulations and any other Club or Official Licensing Regulations as directed by EFA.
- 3.2 Eligible players to participate in this Competition shall be players registered with Affiliated Member Clubs with a valid EFA License including the payment of the registration fee of One Hundred Emalangeni (E100.00) per player.
- 3.3 Each Member Club shall be allowed to register a maximum of thirty (30) players inclusive of **a maximum of five (5) foreign players.**
- 3.4 The Club shall allocate a single jersey number for each registered player per Season.
- 3.4.1 A Team that contravenes this rule shall be penalized with a summary fine not less than E1,000.00 per player at the first instance.
- 3.4.2 A second occurrence will incur a summary fine not less than E2,000.00 per player.
- 3.4.3 A third occurrence will be charged with misconduct before the DC.
- 3.5 The deadline for the final registration of players shall be in accordance with the instruction or Circular issued by EFA from time to time, and comply with the regulation governing free agents.
- 3.6 Transfer and registration of players shall be in accordance with the rules and regulations of EFA statutes and any other regulations as may be directed by EFA, CAF or FIFA from time to time.
- 3.7 Transfer of non-Swazi citizen players from associations in membership with FIFA shall comply with FIFA regulations for the Status and Transfer of players, and shall be done through EFA.
- 3.8 A player not registered with any Club in membership of EFA or association in FIFA membership, at any level in the past 30 months shall be permitted to register with a PLE Club without a clearance certificate provided international players satisfy the requirements of Art.1.6 above.
- 3.9 Such shall be required to complete the Free Agency Form in addition to the Registration Form.
- 3.10 In addition, must attached an affidavit indicating the he has never played and/or registered with any Club in the past thirty (30) months.
- 3.11 Any player who changes or intends transferring from his previous Club to another Club shall submit, electronically, the following documents for the purpose of registration:-
- 3.11.1 New player's registration form
- 3.11.2 Certificate of Transfer from his previous Club
- 3.11.3 International Transfer Certificate (in case of a foreign player)
- 3.11.4 Player's Registration Form from his previous Club
- 3.11.5 Player's Registration Card from his previous Club
- 3.11.6 Work Permit/Temporary Work Permit/Study or Student Permit in case of a student (where applicable)
- 3.11.7 Medical Report issued by a recognized Medical Practitioner/Institution
- 3.11.8 Loan Agreement, where applicable
- 3.11.9 Contract between a player and a Club
- 3.11.10 Any other document in terms of the requirements of the Club, Coach and Official Licensing system as may be communicated by EFA from time to time
- 3.12 Any Club that fields a defaulter shall be guilty of misconduct and liable to:-
- 3.12.1 lose the game and
- 3.12.2 forfeit three points and three goals to the opposing Club.
- 3.13 The offending player may be suspended for a period not more than four (4) official matches.
- 3.14 Any Club that submits fraudulent documents to secure registration and/or accreditation of a player shall be guilty of misconduct and the PLE shall institute investigations and fine the offending Team an amount not less than Twenty thousand Emalangeni (**E10,000-00**) by the D.C.

Article 4: PARTICIPATION IN THE LEAGUE COMPETITION

- 4.1 Each participating football Club shall be responsible throughout the competition for:
- 4.1.1 The conduct of all accredited players, coaches, managers, officials, media officers, representatives and guests of its delegation (hereinafter: **Team** delegation members), and of any person carrying out duties on its behalf throughout the competition;
 - 4.1.2 Ensuring the provision of adequate insurance to cover its Team members and any other persons carrying out duties on its behalf against all risks, including but not limited to: injury, accident, disease, death and travel, in consideration of the relevant rules and regulations.
 - 4.2.3 Paying for incidental expenses and for any costs incurred by its Team delegation members;
 - 4.2.4 Attending media conferences and other official media activities organized by the PLE and/or EFA or organizing body in accordance with the applicable regulations and instructions issued by the PLE and/or EFA;
 - 4.2.5 Ensuring that every member of its delegation complies with the FIFA, CAF, EFA and PLE Statutes, the applicable FIFA, CAF, EFA and PLE rules and regulations, directives, guidelines and circulars and decisions taken by EFA bodies, in particular the Executive Committee, the Competitions Committee, the Referees Committee, the Disciplinary Committee, the Ethics Committee and Appeals Committee.
- 4.3 All Team delegation members shall comply with the Laws of the Game and the FIFA, CAF, EFA and PLE Statutes and all applicable EFA rules and regulations (including these rules and regulations), in particular the EFA Disciplinary Code, the EFA Stadium Safety and Security regulations, the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations, the EFA Code of Ethics, the EFA and/or PLE Media and Marketing regulations and the FIFA, EFA and PLE equipment regulations as well as all circulars, directives and decisions of FIFA, CAF and EFA bodies, unless these regulations state otherwise, and all further EFA guidelines that have any significance regarding this competition;
- 4.4 Each Club commits to:-
- 4.4.1 participate with the best possible Team in all matches of the competition in which their Team is scheduled to take part;
 - 4.4.2 Play all matches until conclusion of the competition.
 - 4.4.3 Observe the principles of fair play.
- 4.5 A Club that is considered to be in breach of Article 4.4 above will be charged with misconduct and referred to the appropriate EFA/PLE Judicial body(ies).
- 4.6 The league competition shall be played as a two-legged league with Clubs playing each other on a home-and-away basis and the Club shown first (*left side*) on each fixture shall be the home and/or host Club.
- 4.7 Points for the league shall be awarded as follows:
- 4.7.1 Three (3) points for a win.
 - 4.7.2 One (1) point for a draw.
 - 4.7.3 Zero (0) for a loss.
- 4.8 A fixture program of all matches shall be prepared and issued to properly licensed Clubs only, by the PLE and shall be adhered to by all Clubs unless prior written permission has been granted by the PLE for a Club to deviate therefrom.
- 4.9 A provisional Club License issued by EFA shall expire after 30 days from date of issue.
- 4.9.1 Upon the expiry of the EFA Provisional License, the Club shall not be eligible to participate in official PLE competitions until it submits a valid EFA Club License to the PLE.
 - 4.9.2 The opponent of a Club with an expired Provisional License shall be granted a win, 3 points and 3 goals for each fixture the Club is unable to provide a valid EFA Club license.
- 4.10 The host Club shall confirm to the PLE office, the venue, date, and starting time of their match at least four (4) days before the date of the match, failing which the PLE Office may apply its own discretion to fixture

the said game. Provided that the host Team shall still carry out hosting obligations where the match or competitions organizers or relevant authorities have decided to change some or all of the provisions herein.

- 4.11 In turn, the PLE office shall ensure that the away Club is aware of the fixture (date, venue, and starting time). Such information shall be communicated to the Clubs by telephone or facsimile or e-mail to the designated Club official, at least two (2) days before kick-off of their respective matches.
- 4.12. The home Club shall be responsible for ensuring that the field of play is ready, the grass or turf is properly cut, the lines are properly marked, the nets are secured and flag poles are in place.
 - 4.12.1 Where applicable, floodlights are functional at least two (2) hours before the scheduled commencement of the match.
 - 4.12.2 Failure to comply shall mean that the Team would have failed to fulfill its fixture and therefore shall be deemed to have caused the abandonment of the game, shall, if found guilty of such an offence lose the match, with three (3) points and three (3) goals awarded to their opponents and further be fined not less than **E20,000.00** by the DC.
 - 4.12.3 The Match Officials reports shall be conclusive proof of whether or not the field of play was ready for the game.
- 4.13. The Stadium Management shall deliver to the Match Coordinator representative or Match Commissioner the keys to all facilities such as the visiting Club's dressing rooms, referees changing rooms, etc. at least Ninety minutes (**1h30m**) before the scheduled commencement of the match.
- 4.14 The Match Officials shall conduct a pre-match inspection of the facilities including the pitch, dressing rooms, at least Eighty minutes (**1h20m**) before the scheduled commencement of a match with the hosting Club or as may be determined by the official match countdown protocol.
- 4.15 The Match Officials shall conduct a toss for the Teams to select a Change room.
- 4.16 The host Club shall ensure that all points of entry or as may be designated by the Match Coordinator are operational two hours before the scheduled commencement of the match; and a violation shall be punishable by a summary fine of **E10,000.00**.
- 4.17. The home Club shall ensure that the sitting arrangement for fans and/or supporters of both Clubs is properly demarcated and marked.
- 4.18. Failure by the hosting Club to comply with any of the requirements outlined in 4.5 and 4.10, above, the Club shall be summarily fined by the PLE for each violation, a fine of at least **E5,000-00** for each violation.

Article 5: INDEMNITY

- 5.1 All participating football Clubs shall indemnify, defend and hold EFA or PLE, and all of its officers, directors, employees, representatives, agents and other auxiliary persons free and harmless against any and all liabilities, obligations, losses, damages, penalties, claims, actions, fines, expenses (including reasonable legal expenses) of whatsoever kind or nature resulting from, arising out of, or attributable to, any non-compliance with these Rules and Regulations by the participating football Clubs, their Team delegation members, their affiliates and any third parties contracted to the participating football Clubs.
- 5.2 Unless otherwise stated in these rules and regulations, each participating football Club hosting a match upon registering to participate in the competition voluntarily, irrevocably and automatically undertakes to be responsible for, amongst other things:
 - 5.2.1 Guaranteeing, planning and implementing law and order, as well as safety and security, in stadiums and other relevant locations, in conjunction with the relevant authorities. The applicable stadium safety and security regulations shall apply;

- 5.2.2 Ensuring that all measures taken in relation to Team travel, transport, accommodation (where applicable), logistics, match preparation and the match itself are in line with the requirements set by the relevant authority(ies) and Government;
- 5.2.3 Accepting that all administrative, disciplinary and refereeing matters related to the competition shall be dealt with by PLE or EFA in compliance with the relevant EFA and/or FIFA regulations;

Article 6: IMAGE AND AUTOGRAPH RIGHTS

- 6.1 Each participating Club irrevocably commits to fully comply with EFA's and/or the PLE's right to sub-license the right to use on a non-exclusive basis, in perpetuity and free of any charge, any of their records, names, photographs and images (*including still and moving representation thereof*), which may appear or be generated in connection with the participation of the Team delegation members of all participating football Clubs in accordance with the relevant Media and Marketing regulations for competitions. To the extent that EFA's and/or the PLE's right to use and/or EFA's and/or the PLE's right to sub-license the right to use any of the records, names, photographs and images may fall in the ownership and/or control of a third party, the participating football Club and their Team delegation members shall ensure that such third party waives, pledges and unconditionally assigns and/or transfers to EFA and/or the PLE with immediate effect, with full title guarantee in perpetuity and without any restriction, any such rights to ensure EFA's and/or the PLE's unfettered use as set out above;

Article 7: STARTING TIMES OF MATCHES

- 7.1 The dates and venues of matches shall be fixed by the Chief Executive Officer or designated officer in his/her absence, of the League who may delegate his powers to any League official.
- 7.2 Clubs shall be notified by the League of all fixtures changes through the FIFA /EFA Competition Management System (FCMS) and in writing by no later than Seventy-Two (72) hours before the schedule start of the match. Such notification shall include the date, time and venue when the said fixture will be played.
- 7.3 Should any Club wish to request a change to a fixture, such request must be submitted at least Seven (7) days before the scheduled start of the match. Fixtures will only be amended under extreme circumstances and at the discretion of the PLE.
- 7.4 Save and except where permission to change a fixture has been applied for and given in terms of Article 7.2 and 7.3 above. No fixture may be changed in any manner whatsoever with the exception that the CEO of PLE shall have the right to alter fixtures in his sole discretion.
- 7.5 A Club shall register the ground at which it prefers to play its home fixtures, as well as an alternative home ground in compliance with Article 2.3.9 above. In this regard, if the League is of the opinion that it may be impractical to play a match at that venue, for any reason whatsoever, then the League may at any time prior to any match under its auspices, fixture such match at an alternative venue or alternatively postpone such fixture.
- 7.6 If for any reason a Club is unable to play its home fixture at its home ground, the League may order the Club to play a fixture at a ground selected by the Club as its alternative home ground or at an alternative venue determined by the League. All reasonable costs of whatsoever nature occasioned by the change shall be paid by the original home Club.
- 7.7 The onus of securing a venue shall be on the home Club.
 - 7.7.1 Save and except for Force Majeure, the Club's failure to secure a venue shall be regarded as misconduct, the Club shall be deemed to have failed to fulfill its fixture/s obligations and shall be deemed to have caused the abandonment of the game.

- 7.7.2 The Club shall, if found guilty of such an offence, lose the match, with three (3) points and three (3) goals awarded to their opponents and further fined not less than **E30,000.00** by the DC.
- 7.7.3 For their chosen home venue and before their first 2022/2023 Season home game, the PLE Club must furnish the PLE with copies of:-
- 7.7.3.1 Lease agreement with Stadium Owner for the whole 2022/2023 Season
- 7.7.3.2 The following Certificates are required for each Stadium venue:-**
- 7.7.3.2.1 *a Stadium Structural Safety Certificate;*
- 7.7.3.2.2 *a Stadium Completion Certificate, including in respect of any improvements;*
- 7.7.3.2.3 *a Stadium Public Liability Certificate;*
- 7.7.3.2.4 *a certificate certifying the official capacity of the Stadium;*
- 7.7.3.2.5 *a Fire Safety Certificate and Disaster Management Standard Certificate;*
- 7.7.3.2.6 *an Electrical Safety Certificate;*
- 7.7.3.2.7 *a Water & Sanitation Certificate*
- 7.7.3.3. MATCH RELATED CERTIFICATION/PLANS**
- 7.7.3.3.1 *The following match/event related certificate/plans must be provided through email at least three (3) days prior to the date of the event:-*
- i). Environmental Health Certificate;*
 - ii) Waste Management Plan/Certificate;*
 - iii) Evacuation Plan;*
 - iv) Disaster Management Plan;*
 - v) Emergency Procedure Plan;*
 - vi) Safety and Security Plan;*
 - vii) Traffic Management Plan;*
- 7.8 The home Club shall host a planning meeting for each and every home game to be attended by the following stakeholders:-
- 7.8.1 the event manager (Club Official registered with the PLE);
- 7.8.2 the police;
- 7.8.3 disaster management;
- 7.8.4 the fire department;
- 7.8.5 the security service provider/s;
- 7.8.6 the traffic authorities;
- 7.8.7 the medical emergency service provider;
- 7.8.8 the stadium authority or manager;
- 7.8.9 the broadcaster/s;
- 7.9 The Event manager of the Home Club shall host the planning meeting in order to be able to submit the Security plan to the PLE Office 72 hours or more before the kick-off time.
- 7.10 Should a match be abandoned by the Referee due to an electricity power failure in a match played under floodlights or due to Force Majeure, then the match will be replayed at a date, venue and time stipulated by the PLE. The gate takings of the replayed match shall be shared between the two Clubs having deducted the percentage due to the League, stadium and Match Officials' costs.
- 7.11 Each Club shall complete, sign and return a **pre-match phone meeting form** to be provided by the PLE, 72hrs before the scheduled time of the match and shall be submitted to the PLE Office upon completion of the phone meeting by both Clubs.
- 7.11.1 The CEO or official designated, in his/her absentia, has the authority to instruct the Away Team to change its playing colours in the event the playing kits are deemed not to contrast sufficiently.
- 7.11.2 Any Club that does not comply with the Colours they confirmed during the Phone meeting shall be penalized with a summary fine of **E5,000.00**.

- 7.11.3 Furthermore, the Team official from each Club shall report to the PLE official at the venue of the match at least 120 minutes before the scheduled start of the game to attend a pre-match meeting. Failure to report to the PLE Official shall be penalized with a summary fine of **E5,000.00** by the PLE.
- 7.12 Each Team shall arrive at the stadium 80 minutes before the scheduled kick-off time.
- 7.12.1 Each Team shall submit their Team List online on the FIFA/EFA Competition Management System (FCMS) and to the Match Commissioner not later than 65 minutes (1h05m) before the Match kickoff time.
- 7.12.2 The Match coordinator shall conduct a toss for the Changerooms 75 minutes before kickoff.
- 7.12.3 Each Team shall be ready for inspection by the 4th Official and Match Commissioner no later than 55 minutes. The PLE official will inform the Teams of any delay and further inform them of the new card checking time. The card checking point shall normally be the dressing room at the stadium, and all Teams shall use such dressing rooms as directed by the Match Coordinator or Match Officials.
- 7.12.4 Failure to comply with the officials' directive of using the dressing room shall render the Team guilty of contravening this rule and liable to a summary fine of **E10 000-00** by the PLE.
- 7.12.5 Each Team shall end its warm up and return to its dressing room at least 15 minutes before the Match kick-off time.
- 7.12.6 Each Team shall be in the tunnel for pre-kick-off formalities at least 8 minutes before the Match Kick-off time.
- 7.12.7 Failure by a Team to comply as above, shall be summarily fined an amount of **E10, 000.00** by the PLE.
- 7.13 At all stadiums, Teams shall adhere to instructions given by the Match Coordinator or Match Officials regarding the use of facilities. It shall be deemed an offence for Clubs to ignore or not follow the instructions of the officials on this matter. Any Club found guilty of contravening this rule shall be liable to a summary fine of **E20 000.00** by the PLE.
- 7.14 Each registered Club shall have three sets of contrasting uniforms for its Teams, registered in compliance with **Article 2.3.10**, for home and away fixtures and a neutral kit that shall be branded with the PLE and League Sponsor's Logos.
- 7.14.1 Clubs are allowed to use playing kits branded with the old Swazi MTN logo for the 2022/23 Season
- 7.15 The Club kit colours registered with the PLE office shall be adhered to by all its Teams.
- 7.16 In cases of colour clashes, the away or visiting Team shall be required to change uniform.
- 7.16.1 The two competing Clubs must always travel with an alternative playing kit.
- 7.16.2 Failure to comply with this rule may result in the game being abandoned or called off and if the game is abandoned or called off, the offending Club shall be charged with misconduct and brought before the DC. If found guilty, shall be fined an amount of not less than **E20 000-00** and further lose the match with three points and three goals awarded to their opponents.
- 7.17 Any Team that delays the kickoff up to fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled start of the match, shall be summarily fined an amount of **E15 000-00** by the PLE.
- 7.18 An MTN Premiership match shall be abandoned 15 minutes after the scheduled kick-off time. The offending Club shall be liable for a disciplinary hearing and if found guilty shall be fined an amount not less than **E15 000-00** and shall further be deemed to have caused the abandonment of the match and shall lose the match, with three points and three goals awarded to their opponents.
- 7.19 After the card checking formalities have been completed, Teams will be led into the field of play by the match officials.
- 7.20 No Team will enter the field of play without being led into the field and any Team contravening this rule shall be summarily fined an amount of **E10 000-00** by the PLE.
- 7.21 Any Team entering the field of play from an entrance other than the official match entrance/tunnel shall be summarily fined an amount of **E10,000-00** by the PLE

- 7.22 Where a game is abandoned by the conduct of a Team participating in this competition or its players, fans, officials and/or supporters and after a disciplinary hearing the Team is found guilty of having caused the abandonment of the game, then such Team shall lose the match, with Three (3) points and Three (3) goals awarded to their opponents. Further, the Team shall be liable to pay a fine of not less than **E30,000.00** if the Team is a first offender and a fine of not less than **E60,000.00** if the Team is a second offender.
- 7.23 The referee's report, where a match had already kicked-off or the Match Commissioner's and/or Match Coordinator's report in the event that the match had not kicked-off, shall provide conclusive proof as to which Team abandoned or caused the abandonment of the match.
- 7.24 All three (3) Match Officials' Reports shall be considered as conclusive proof of what happened in a match.
- 7.25 The last three (3) fixtures of second-round will be scheduled by the PLE in its sole discretion. However, all other timelines on communicating fixtures to Clubs still hold, as defined in these rules, depending on the state and to safeguard the integrity of the competition, the period of controlled fixtures may be extended such that it starts earlier than the 24th week.
- 7.26 Any match which is not played or which is abandoned or any withdrawal – except in cases of force majeure recognized by EFA – may lead to the imposition of sanctions against the relevant football Club(s) by the EFA Disciplinary Committee in accordance with the EFA Disciplinary Code or any other applicable or equivalent code, over and above those provided for in these regulations.
- 7.27 In any case, all matches scheduled to be played or replayed (*where applicable*) shall be executed in compliance with the COVID-19 regulations, protocols and any other directives and decisions in force at that time.

Article 8: MATCH OFFICIALS AND PLAY

- 8.1 The EFA Referees Committee shall appoint the match officials to officiate in an official PLE fixture.
- 8.1.1. The PLE shall issue the PLE fixture to the Referees Committee at least 7 days before kick-off.
- 8.1.2 The Referees Committee shall inform the PLE at least 48 hours before kickoff if there will be no referees available for the PLE fixture(s).
- 8.2 In the event of the non-availability of the Match Commissioner to discharge such a function, the Referee of the match in question, shall facilitate.
- 8.3 The match officials of each match shall arrive at the field of play Eighty minutes(1h20m) before the scheduled start of the match and if a match official does not comply, he/she shall be subjected to disciplinary action in terms of the Referees Code of Conduct.
- 8.3.1 The PLE Official's report shall provide conclusive proof as to the time of arrival of the Match Commissioner and the Match Referees.
- 8.4 Any referee who takes the field of play, one to fifteen minutes after the scheduled start of the match, shall be subject to disciplinary action in terms of the Referees Code of Conduct.
- 8.5 If fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled start of the match, all referees fail to arrive and The Match Commissioner cannot provide substitute referees, the Match Commissioner shall call off the match. The referees scheduled for this match shall be subject to disciplinary conduct in terms of the Referee's Code of conduct.
- 8.6 If fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled start of the match, all referees and the Match Commissioner fail to arrive, the Match Coordinator is unable to get substitute referees through the relevant authorities, the Match Coordinator shall call off the match. The Referees and Match Commissioner scheduled for this match shall be subject to disciplinary action in terms of the Referee's Code of conduct.
- 8.7 Before the commencement of each match, the Match Commissioner, the Fourth (4th) official and the captains of both Clubs shall check the players' licenses (*i.e., playing cards*), against their identity cards and Team lists.
- 8.7.1 Where a Team cannot present the player's license the game shall proceed provided a photograph of each player standing in between the match commissioner and the referee is taken for verification and confirmation by the licensing office that the player was eligible to play for that

- particular Team. The defaulting Team shall be liable to pay a sum of **E 500.00** for each missing license.
- 8.6.2 In the event the player is deemed not to have been eligible to play, the player's Team will lose the match in question to the opposing Club by three points, three goals. If the score in the field of play was such that the goal difference was superior than three (3) goals in favor of the opposing Club, the score in the field of play shall be maintained.
- 8.6.3 The defaulting Club shall further be summarily fined **E10,000.00**.
- 8.7 After a completion of the card checking formalities, the Match Commissioner and the Referees shall formally lead the two Clubs into the field of play. It shall be an offence for a Club to refuse to follow the Match Official's instruction. Any Club that refuses to follow the Match Officials' instruction shall be summarily fined an amount not less than **E10, 000.00**.
- 8.8 The Match Officials may allow the Clubs a period of warm up, if time and circumstances permit. It must be noted that Clubs cannot go into the field of play for warm-up before inspection by the referees.
- 8.9 The Match Commissioner or Referees shall allow and lead Teams to return into field of play during each half time of the match. It shall be an offence for a Team to return into the field of play without the referee's or match commissioner's permission and the Club shall be summarily fined **E10, 000.00**. The Club shall enter the field of play to their own half that the Team will defend during the second half of the game.
- 8.10 The Referee shall at the end of the match, compile and up load a match report to the FCMS and submit same to the PLE which should contain the following:
- 8.10.1 Name of the competition;
 - 8.10.2 Date and venue of the match;
 - 8.10.3 Names of the referee and assistant referees;
 - 8.10.4 Names of Clubs;
 - 8.10.5 Names of Club captains;
 - 8.10.6 Times of the start, half time and full time;
 - 8.10.7 Half time and full-time score;
 - 8.10.8 Substitutes used by each Team;
 - 8.10.9 Cards (red and yellow) issued to players or officials during the match for misconduct;
 - 8.10.10 Any event that the referee considers worth reporting such as misconduct or violent behavior by any Club/s, player/s, Club official/s, fan/s etc.
 - 8.10.11 Signature of the referee.
- 8.11 The Referee's report presented in hard copy or through electronic means, is to reach the offices of the PLE by 1600hrs (4:00pm), 2 days following the match in question. Failure to adhere to this time frame and to comply with **Article 8.10** above shall NOT render the contents of the report null and void.
- 8.12 Any Referee that fails to submit his report within the period as stated in Article 8.10 or to write a report as prescribed in Article 8.11 shall have 30% of his/her allowance for that match deducted and paid to the PLE. Further delays in submitting the report will result in a further 10% deduction for each day that the report is delayed.
- 8.13 The Match Commissioner shall also prepare a match report and submit same to the PLE within the timelines prescribed in Article 8 (11) above stating any relevant material facts regarding the match. Both the Referee's report and that of the Match Commissioner shall provide conclusive proof pertaining to any circumstance(s) regarding the match. The reports, either the original or duplicate (bearing the PLE received stamp) shall be admissible evidence during the DC hearings.
- 8.14 The PLE Match Coordinator shall submit a report regarding any occurrence(s) at the stadium in addition to the reports referred in this Article of the Rules. The Match Commissioner, referee, Match Coordinator, shall

report all occurrences of misbehavior by Club(s), player(s), official(s) fans(s) etc. during and after the game and such report shall be conclusive proof pertaining to any circumstance (s) regarding the match.

- 8.15 At the end of every game, the Clubs' Head Coaches shall give Media an interview and such place will be identified by the Match Coordinator and/or the Match Commissioner or. Failure or refusal by a Head Coach to give such interview, the Club shall be summarily fined an amount of **E10, 000.00** by the PLE.
- 8.15.1 The Clubs' coaches' dress code shall be either formal or Clubs' tracksuits. The Match Coordinator's report shall be conclusive proof of the Coaches' dress code.
- 8.15.2 Any Club Coach who fails to comply with this provision, shall be summarily fined **E5, 000.00** and the Club whose coach has violated this provision shall also be fined **E5, 000.00**
- 8.15.3 Any Club Coach who fails to comply with this provision for a second time, shall be summarily fined **E10, 000.00** and the Club whose coach has violated this provision shall also be fined **E10, 000.00**.
- 8.15.4 Any Club Coach who fails to comply with this provision a third time shall be charged with misconduct, and if found guilty shall be fined an amount not less than **E15, 000.00** as well as suspended for a period not less than 1 month and the Club whose coach has violated this provision shall also be fined **E15, 000.00**.
- 8.16 All people in the technical area shall be in possession of the appropriate EFA License. A summary fine of E10,000 per individual shall be effected for any technical person violating this provision.
- 8.17 All matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game in force as laid down by the International Football Association Board (IFAB).
- 8.18 Each match shall last 90 minutes, comprising of two periods of 45 minutes, with a half-time interval of 15 minutes.
- 8.19 The number of substitutions in accordance to Law 3 of the Laws of the Game, as approved by the IFAB, and in respect of the league competition, five (5) substitutions are permitted as follows:
- 8.19.1 During the match, each Team:
- 8.19.1.1 May list a maximum of up 12 registered Substitutes
 - 8.19.1.2 May use a maximum of five (5) substitutes;
 - 8.19.1.3 Has a maximum of three (3) substitution opportunities;
 - 8.19.1.4 May additionally make substitutions at half time.
- 8.19.2 Where both Teams make a substitution at the same time, this will count as a used substitution opportunity for each Team. The use of return substitutes is not allowed.
- 8.20. If the referee is unable to carry out his/her duties, such referee shall be replaced by the fourth official.
- 8.20.1 The same applies for either of the assistant referees if a reserve assistant referee is not appointed. In such a case, a minimum of three match officials are needed to referee the match.

Article 9: SERIOUS PLAYER/CLUB MISCONDUCT

9.1. DISMISSALS

- 9.1.1. Any player dismissed from the field of play by the referee (i.e., "red carded" or sent off, including dismissal as a result of two (2) yellow cards awarded in the same match) for the first time in any season shall be suspended from participation in the next one (1) match to be played by his Team in any official competition under the auspices of the PLE and this Rule shall duly be affected by any subsequent amendment by FIFA as the case may be.
- 9.1.1.1 If a player is dismissed ("red carded") for an incident involving violence the player shall be charged and appear before a DC.
- 9.1.1.2 Any Club fielding a suspended player shall be summarily fined **E10, 000.00** by the PLE, and this shall preclude any affected Club lodging a protest in terms of these rules.
- 9.1.2 For each subsequent occasion that a player is suspended during the same season the period of suspension shall be increased by one (1) match from the suspension previously served.
- 9.1.3 Three (3) or more red cards in any season shall be charged with misconduct and if found guilty by the DC shall be suspended for at least 3 matches of his Club.

- 9.1.4 Any period of suspension or part thereof of which remains outstanding at the end of a season must be served at the start of the following or next season.
- 9.1.5 The PLE Office shall be responsible for keeping all records relating to cautions, dismissals and suspensions shall be publicized and only the League's records shall be considered accurate and binding.
- 9.1.6 This Rule shall only be applicable to cautions and dismissals that occur in a match forming part of an official competition of the League. For the purposes of this Rule, "**official competition**" shall not include the Charity Cup and Pre-Season CSI Cup fixtures.
- 9.1.7 The provisions of Rule 9.1.1 to 9.1.4, above, shall also apply to Club officials who are dismissed from the field of play, including the technical area. When under suspension, Club officials may not enter the confines of the field, including the technical area or official area. The Referee will be the sole judge of what constitutes the technical area in question while the Match Commissioner shall determine what constitutes the official area at any given match.
- 9.1.7 Where a player or official transfers to a new Club during a period of suspension, cautions and dismissals, the counting shall also transfer to the new Club from the time when the player or official becomes eligible for the new Club.
- 9.1.8 A player who has received a red card shall be automatically suspended and recorded as such on the FCMS. The suspension shall be lifted upon:-
 - 9.1.8.1 completion of the suspension period and
 - 9.1.8.2 submission of an authentic Bank deposit slip for payment of the retrieval fee of **E 200.00** to the PLE.

9.2. CAUTIONS

- 9.2.1 Any player and/or Team Official who accumulates:
 - 9.2.1.1 Three (3) cautions (i.e. "yellow cards") in any season shall be suspended from participation in the next one (1) match to be played by his Team in any official competition under the auspices of the PLE.
 - 9.2.1.2 Six (6) cautions (i.e. "yellow cards:") in any season shall result in a suspension from participation in the next two (2) matches to be played by his Team in any official competition under the auspices of the PLE.
 - 9.2.1.3 Nine (9) or more cards in any season shall be charged with misconduct and if found guilty by the DC shall be suspended for at least 3 matches of his Club.
- 9.2.2 Where a player and/or Team Official receives a red card in a match any yellow card received by the player and/or Team Official in that particular match shall not be counted for the purposes of this Rule.
- 9.2.3 Players and /or Team Officials who have accumulated cautions and are transferred to a new Club within the same playing season shall carry over such cautions to the new Club.
- 9.2.4 It is the responsibility of each Club to ensure that all its players and/or Team Officials are eligible to participate in this competition. Any Club contravening this rule shall be deemed to have fielded a defaulter.
- 9.2.5 Notwithstanding any provision in these rules, the PLE reserves the right to charge any player and/or Club that contravenes **Article 9.2.4**, and if found guilty the offending Club shall lose three points and three goals from the total number of points accumulated by the offending Club. The offending player may further be suspended up to three months.
- 9.2.6 As a principle and regulation to the Team List for a match, the following shall be guidelines to the featured players:
 - 9.2.6.1 The starting list must contain a minimum of 14 players and a maximum of 23 players, one of which must be a goalkeeper. If there are fewer than 14 players available, the PLE and/or EFA will consider the matter and may make exceptions on a case-by-case basis.
 - 9.2.6.2 The 11-first named players must start the match, and the remaining players on the start list are designated as substitutes.
 - 9.2.6.3 All goalkeepers and captains must be identified as such. At least one player must be a goalkeeper, up to a maximum of three, with the number 1 shirt reserved for one of them.

- 9.2.6.4 If any of the first 11 players (starting players) named on the start list are not able to start the match for any reason, they may be replaced by any of the available substitutes. The replaced player(s) may no longer take part in the match, and the quota of substitute players shall be reduced accordingly. During the match, up to five (5) substitutes may be replaced.
- 9.2.6.5 If any of the substitutes named on the starting list are not able to be fielded for any reason, the player(s) concerned may not be replaced on the bench by an additional player, which means that the quota of substitutes shall be reduced accordingly. During the match, up to five players may still be replaced.
- 9.2.6.6 Although no longer eligible to play as a substitute, any injured or ill player (*unless it is a COVID-19 related case*) who was removed from the starting list may be seated on the substitute's bench, and if so, would then also be eligible for doping control selection.
- 9.2.6.7 No more than 23 people (11 officials and 12 substitutes) shall be allowed to sit on the substitutes' bench. The names of these officials must be indicated on the "Officials on the Substitutes' Bench" form to be provided to the match commissioner and must include, as a minimum, the head coach, medical doctor, and Team administrator. A suspended player or official will not be allowed to sit on the substitutes' bench.

Article 10: MISCONDUCT, UNSPORTING BEHAVIOUR AND VIOLENT CONDUCT

- 10.1 A Club shall not include a defaulter in its Team List. Any Club including a defaulter in its Team List shall be guilty of misconduct and be charged for such before the DC and if found guilty shall be fined not less than **E10,000.00 (ten thousand emalangeni)** and shall be liable to **lose the game forfeiting three points and three goals to the opposing Club**.
- 10.2 Any Club fielding a defaulter, shall upon protest by the Opposing Team, be found guilty of misconduct and shall be liable to **lose the game forfeiting three points and three goals to the opposing Club and shall further be fined not less than E10, 000.00 (ten thousand Emalangeni) payable within 21 days**. The player, if found guilty, shall be suspended for all matches until he is eligible to play.
- 10.3 All football Clubs of the PLE must utilize the services of qualified football coaches in terms of the requirements laid down in the Coaching regulations or policy and any circular or directive (which are compulsory and binding) from the EFA on the subject. A Club that knowingly utilizes a coach who does not conform to all the licensing requirements shall be liable to a fine of not less than **E10,000.00**.
- 10.4 A repeat of a violation by a Club for the second and subsequent times in a season carries a fine of not less than **E20, 000.00** and further disciplinary action in accordance with these rules, the coaching policy and a circular on such if applicable.
- 10.5 A Club losing the head coach and/or coach, due to hospitalization, death or permanent disability, during the course of the season will be given a grace period of 3 games/matches or 21 days, whichever comes first, to search for a Head Coach. However, during the grace period, the Club must appoint an acting Head Coach, who is a qualified coach in terms of the EFA Coaching Qualifications, whose application to act as a Head Coach for the maximum interim (grace) period, stated in these rules. After the grace period, failure by the Club to have an appropriately licensed Head Coach shall result in the deduction of points from the defaulting Team, until the Club secures an appropriately licensed Head Coach in terms of these rules.
- 10.6 Any Club whose member(s), player(s), official(s) steward(s) or supporter(s) engage in unsporting or violent conduct either before, during or after a match shall be liable to be punished. The following offences shall be punishable in the following ways:
 - 10.6.1 Invading the pitch before, during, and after a game by a supporters), fan(s), a Steward(s) or spectator(s) celebration of a goal(s) - a summary fine of **E15,000.00** by the PLE.
 - 10.6.2 Threatening by conduct or words to assault or attempt to assault a referee, PLE official, player, Club official, Steward, supporter, fan, spectator- a minimum fine of **E10,000.00** and a maximum fine of **E20, 000.00**. In addition, the offending Club shall be ordered to compensate the victim for any financial, medical and any other costs incurred due to the assault by the DC.
 - 10.6.3 Assaulting a referee, PLE official, player, Club official, Steward, supporter, fan, spectator or the use of excessive force shall be punished with a fine of not less than **E30 000-00** by the DC. In addition,

- the offending Club shall be ordered to compensate the victim for any financial, medical and any other loss incurred due to the assault.
- 10.6.4 Uttering abusive and/or obscene and/or derogatory words, spitting or emission of saliva onto any person or directed towards a person - a minimum of **E15, 000.00** by the DC. This also includes players and/or Team Official(s) where such player(s) and/or Team Official(s) incite fans, opposing players and officials, etc.
- 10.6.5 Use of provocative or insulting gestures or signals, unbecoming behavior or conspiracy or attempt to act to bring football into disrepute or inciting people to behave in a manner that brings the game of football into disrepute - a minimum of **E10, 000.00** by the DC.
- 10.6.6 Throwing objects of any kind onto the field of play and/or its surroundings or unto any person(s) thus assaulting or attempting to assault and invading the field of play - a fine of not less than **E10 000.00** by the DC.
- 10.6.7 Failure to control fan(s), supporter(s), official(s), Steward(s) - a fine not less than **E15,000.00** by the DC.
- 10.6.8 Maliciously damaging or attempting to damage property in the stadium – a fine of not less than **E15,000.00**
- 10.6.9 Committing any act of violence of whatsoever nature not provided for in these Rules – minimum fine of **E 25,000.00**
- 10.6.10 To directly or indirectly interrupt, obstruct or disturb the normal proceedings of a match before, during or after the match – a fine of not less than **E 10,000.00** by the DC
- 10.6.11 Failing to conduct themselves in an orderly fashion and committing any other act of unsporting behaviour – a minimum fine of **E10,000.00**.
- 10.6.12 Refusal to adhere to any directives of the Executive Committee – summary fine of **E 15,000.00**.
- 10.7 Notwithstanding, the provisions of Article 10 above, the PLE reserves the right to charge any player, official, Steward, supporter, fan, spectator positively identified by the Referee or Match Commissioner or PLE Official to have contravened any of Article 10 provisions and if found guilty he/shall be punished in accordance with these Rules and Regulations, the PLE Statues, the EFA Statutes and/or the EFA rules and regulations or the EFA Disciplinary Code.
- 10.8 Member(s), player(s), official(s), supporter(s), fan(s), and spectator(s) shall include the following:
- 10.8.1 Any person wearing articles of a colour commonly associated with the colour of the offending Club, e.g., scarf, badge, etc., and/or,
- 10.8.2 Any person known to the PLE Official to be a member, player, Steward, official, supporter or fan of one of the Clubs and/or,
- 10.8.3 Any person who commits the offence in furtherance or support of the offending Club's interest or favour.
- 10.9 Clubs are expected to post Security Stewards in the stands to control their crowds and the Security Stewards should monitor the proceedings and submit any offender to the police for criminal prosecution if they misbehave. Such incidents must be brought to the attention of the PLE official to serve as a mitigating factor in the case that the Club is charged for the misconduct of its supporters, fans or members.
- 10.9.1 Club stewards shall be limited to the stands only.
- 10.9.2 Club Stewards are prohibited from the Dressing rooms, passages, mixed zone, tunnels and stadium entrances.
- 10.9.3 Only 4 PLE Accredited Security officers from a Club, shall be allowed in the Dressing rooms, passages, mixed zone, tunnels and stadium entrances.
- 10.9.4 A Club shall be allowed a maximum of 20 PLE accredited Security officers for a Category A game, 10 for a Category B and 2 for non-categorised games.
- 10.10 Use of any substance that is alien to, or is foreign to, a football field or stadium is not allowed.

10.10.1 It shall be an offence for a Club, if its supporters, fans, officials, players and/or ball retrievers, are seen using any substance that is alien to, or is foreign to, a football field or stadium. Foreign substances may include, amongst others, liquids poured in the passages, tunnels or fields; salt and/or any powder sprinkled in the passages, tunnels or fields; chalk drawings or painting of walls in the changerooms, passages and tunnels, burning of incense or any substances/materials in the changerooms, passages, tunnels or fields; applying any oil or lotions to match balls and match equipment, digging of the fields, use of mirrors etc.

10.10.2 Any Club identified by the Referee/Match Commissioner or the Match Coordinator committing any of these offence(s) shall be summarily fined an amount of **E20,000.00** by the PLE.

10.10.3 The Referee's/Match Commissioner's/ Match Coordinator report shall provide conclusive proof regarding the use of substance as outlined in Article 10 above.

10.11 The DC shall double the fine, if a Club appears for a second time on similar charges of violence and use of foreign substances and is found guilty. Further to that **a Club shall lose three (3) points and three (3) goals from their accumulated number of points.**

10.12 The PLE shall provide copies of the Rules and Regulations of the Competition to the members of the DC.

10.13 The DC shall have power to sit over a case even if the other party is not represented if the DC is satisfied that such party was informed of the date, time and venue of the hearing. The decision of the DC shall be binding to all parties concerned herein.

10.14 In the event that a party has been properly served with the notice to sit for a hearing, and the matter shall not be postponed due to the party's unavailability.

10.15 The properly served Club shall request a postponement of its hearing:-

10.15.1 provided the Club submits a written request to the PLE Office before 16:30 on the working day before the date of its hearing;

10.15.2 The Club shall be charged the costs of the DC sitting for any requests for postponement submitted in contravention of 10.15.1.

Article 11: POWERS OF THE DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

11.1. Notwithstanding the above-mentioned disciplinary procedures, the DC shall have the liberty to use the disciplinary measures as outlined in these Rules and Regulations, PLE, EFA, CAF and FIFA Statutes.

11.2. Where these Rules do not prescribe any sentence for any transgression, misconduct or unsporting behavior, the DC shall exercise its discretion in meting out an appropriate fine or such other sentence as provided for in the PLE, EFA, CAF and FIFA Statutes. The amount of fine in such instances shall not be less than **E10,000.00**.

Article 12: SPONSORSHIP TERMS AND COMMERCIAL RIGHTS

12.1. As a principle, EFA, in conformity to the EFA Statutes, is the original owner of all rights emanating from all competitions in its territory, as a collective whole, as well as from any other related events coming under its jurisdiction, without any restrictions as to content, time, place and law. These rights include, among others, all kinds of financial rights, audiovisual and radio recording, reproduction and broadcasting rights, multimedia rights, marketing and promotional rights incorporeal rights (such as those pertaining to emblems) as well as rights arising under copyright law whether currently existing or created in the future, subject to any provision as set forth in specific regulations.

12.2 EFA has granted the PLE the commercializing rights for Swazi MTN Premiership.

- 12.3 All participating PLE Clubs must comply with the Media and Marketing regulations, including sponsorship terms and they must ensure that their members, officials, players, delegates and other applicable third parties also comply with these regulations.
- 12.4 All participating Clubs shall wear outfits or soccer jerseys with the appropriate and approved markings of the MTN logo on one sleeve of the soccer jerseys and on the shorts during all matches of this league competition. The badges shall be those designed and specified by Swazi MTN, and obtainable from the PLE Office in Mbabane.
- 12.5 Any Club(s) that contravenes Article 12 herein-above shall be liable to a sanction of a Summary Fine in the amount of a minimum of **E10,000.00**.
- 12.6 All participating Clubs shall avail any of their members/players to Swazi MTN for advertising Campaigns at no cost to the Swazi MTN Group. The use of players from the PLE by the sponsor for advertising purposes shall be negotiated via the PLE office on a case-by-case basis.
- 12.7 No Club shall have direct communication with the sponsor for whatever reason. Any breach of this rule shall be punishable with a summary fine of not less than **E20, 000.00**.

Article 13: PROTESTS, APPEALS AND FEES

- 13.1 Clubs shall upload their completed Team list on FCMS up to **2 hours before kick-off (FCMS will close the Team List upload accessing 2 hours before kickoff)** and shall submit eight (8) printed duplicates to the match officials **65 minutes** before kickoff, at the match venue or stadium prior to the start of play, as regulated in these rules. Such list shall include:
- 13.1.1 The full names of Eleven (11) players starting the match;
 - 13.1.2 The full names of Seven (7) substitutes which may be utilized during the match;
 - 13.1.3 The full names-of seven (7) Club officials positioned in the technical areas for the match.
- 13.2 A Club that does not comply with 13.1 above shall be summarily fined **E10,000.00**.
- 13.3 Any protest involving defaulters shall be submitted immediately after inspection of both Teams at the dressing rooms or at the introduction of the alleged defaulter to the Match Officials in terms of these rules otherwise the protest shall be rendered null and void.
- 13.4 Any other protest shall be lodged with the referee at the time when it occurs, otherwise it shall be null and void. A decision taken by the referee during the course of the match shall not be subject to protest.
- 13.5 Both captains and the referee must sign the protest for acknowledgement. Should any captain refuse to sign the protest, the Referee and/or the Match Commissioner shall indicate that in his/their report(s).
- 13.6 Club captains shall not refuse to sign a protest lodged by another Club. Offending Clubs shall be summarily fined an amount of **E10,000.00** by the PLE.
- 13.7 Confirmation of a protest in writing plus supporting evidence in duplicate must reach the PLE office **WITHIN TWO WORKING DAYS**, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays, after the match otherwise it shall be null and void. A bank stamped deposit slip for a **NON-REFUNDABLE PROTEST FEE** of **E5000-00** shall accompany the confirmation. The Team that loses the protest shall be required to pay costs of the sitting as calculated by the PLE. A protesting Club that fails to confirm its protest or abandons it shall be summarily fined **E5,000.00** by the PLE.

- 13.8. Upon receipt of a protest, the PLE shall charge the offending party with committing the offence complained about and institute a disciplinary hearing as soon as possible, wherein the said protest shall be tabled before the DC for determination. The protesting Club bears the onus to prove its case.
- 13.9. **The DC shall dismiss the protest if it is deemed frivolous or vexatious on the face of it, failing which the Disciplinary hearing shall proceed.**
- 13.10. The protesting Club shall have the right to appeal against the decision of the DC not to entertain the protest or dismiss the protest in terms of these Rules.
- 13.11. The protesting Club shall have the right to be present and give evidence before the Disciplinary Committee hearing the charge/s against the offending party. The PLE may subpoena any party under its jurisdiction and/or request the EFA to subpoena such person to give evidence or produce any book, paper or document at the hearing. The protesting Club and the offending party shall have the right of appeal to the EFA Appeals Committee against any decision of the Disciplinary Committee.
- 13.12. A Club may be represented by a person of their choice as per the FIFA and EFA statutes or regulations, provided the representative is not a current PLE Executive Committee or Sub-Committee Member, former employee of the organization or if a former employee, he/she must have been at least **three years** out of the employment of the organization and/or out of being a Sub-Committee Member.
- 13.13. In the event that a party has been properly served with the notice to sit for a hearing and the matter has to be postponed due to the party's unavailability, the DC is empowered to order the said party to pay the costs related to the postponement of the case; that includes the sitting and traveling allowances of all concerned or in the event a Club requests for postponement.
- 13.13.1 Such costs shall be calculated by the office and shall be payable to the office within seven (7) calendar days unless the next sitting has been set within a period less than the 7 days where the payment shall be made before the next sitting.
- 13.13.2 In the event the party having requested for the postponement fails to pay within the stipulated timeframe the case shall proceed with the Club fined not less than **E5,000.00** in addition to the costs in question.
- 13.14. A Club which shall need to produce evidence from the office or any other EFA Member shall do so through the office and shall submit such request in writing at least 24 hours after receipt of the Charge Sheet.
- 13.15. Any Club that has been found guilty shall pay all costs of the hearing (*e.g., DC sitting, prosecutors, their traveling expenses, over and above the fine imposed*).
- 13.15.1 The guilty Club shall refund the Protesting Club the Protest Fee through the PLE Office.
- 13.16. Any Club that is not satisfied with the decision of the DC shall have the right to appeal. An appeal shall be made to the EFA Appeals Committee within **FIVE WORKING DAYS** after receipt of the written verdict of the DC, otherwise it shall be null and void. A non-refundable appeal fee amounting of **E5,000.00** must accompany the appeal.
- 13.17. A Complaint shall not be treated as a protest nor shall it warrant a hearing as it assists administration as they manage the competition.**

Article 14: LEAGUE POSITIONS, RELEGATION AND PROMOTION OF CLUBS

- 14.1. The number of points accumulated at the end of the second round or at any stage of the season, shall determine positions in this competition. The final and official completed log shall be binding on all Clubs and officials and will be used for the purpose of resolving disputes that should arise due to any unforeseen circumstances. A copy of the final and complete log shall be sent to all Clubs by the PLE.

- 14.2. The football Club accumulating the most points on completion of the league shall be declared the winner.
- 14.3. In the case of failure of 14.2 above, positions in the log will be determined by the head-to-head encounter(s) of the tying teams.
- 14.3.1 The head-to-head rule has as an inherent rule, the away-goal-rule, particularly where the teams have been fixtured to play on a home-and-away basis. In the away-goal-rule, the team that has scored more goals “away from home” wins, if the total number of goals scored by each team are otherwise equal. This away-goal-rule shall also be utilized in the determination of the log standings under the head-to-head rule at any point of the procession of the league matches, irrespective of whether the league has finished or not or the teams tying on points have played a single match. In a centralized or neutral venue, the away-goal-rule does not apply.
- 14.4. In the case of the failure of 14.2 and 14.3 the positions on the log will be determined by the best goal difference.
- 14.5. If 14.2, 14.3 and 14.4 are not able to break the tie, the Club having scored the most goals shall be declared the winner.
- 14.6. If 14.2, 14.3, 14.4 and 14.5 still fail to break the tie, and then a play-off match shall be played by the contesting Clubs at a neutral venue to determine the winner. This match shall proceed straight to penalties, if the game ends in a draw in regulation time (after *90 minutes*).
- 14.7. The **two (2)** Clubs with the most number of points on completion of the league and/or positioned 1st and 2nd in the final log standing will be promoted from the National First Division League into the Premier League. In determining the Clubs to be promoted the format provided in Article 14 herein shall be used.
- 14.8 The **four (4)** Clubs that have the least number of points on completion of the league and/or positioned 11th, 12th, 13th and 14th in the final log standing, shall be relegated from the National First division League. In determining the Clubs to be relegated the format provided in Article 14 herein shall be used.

Article 15: PROVISIONS

The provisions of Article 14 and any other provisions related, is subject to any amendments and/or directives or decisions on the structure of the League as may be pronounced by the PLE and/or EFA, where applicable.

Article 16: PRESS STATEMENTS AND REPORTS

- 16.1. Each Club shall be responsible for advertising its matches through the media. Clubs shall furnish the PLE with the name, addresses, E-mail, telephone and fax numbers of the person who shall act in this capacity.
- 16.2. The PLE Chief Executive Officer shall be entitled to publish in the press, or in any other media, reports of activities related to the PLE League.
- 16.3. Clubs, officials, supporters and fans shall not publish or make statements that may bring the sponsors, the PLE and all its Sub-Committees into dispute and/or disrepute. Anyone or any Club that commits this offence shall be brought before the DC for disciplinary action, and if found guilty, the person(s) and/or the Club(s) shall be fined a minimum amount of **E10 000-00** by the DC.
- 16.4. A Club shall release the coach and the captain to attend a compulsory pre- and post-match interview at a venue determined by the league. Failure to attend by anyone of the two individuals shall attract a summary fine of **E5, 000.00** per incident, which shall be paid by the Club. The fine shall increase by sum of **E5, 000.00**, for each repeated transgression by the offender.

Article 17: CLUB LICENSING AND COACH LICENSING

17.1. Principle

As a principle, all football Clubs of the PLE must conform to the EFA Club Licensing and Coach Licensing Regulations requirements to participate in the 2022/2023 Football Season competitions.

17.2. All Club Licensing application, registration, implementation, monitoring and sanctioning shall be done exclusively by the EFA in terms of the prevailing regulations for Club Licensing in line with the requirements of the CAF Club Licensing System. The PLE may decide to have additional requirements aimed at enhancing the professionalization of Clubs and competitions under its auspices.

17.3. All football Clubs of the PLE must utilize the services of qualified football coaches in terms of the requirements laid down in these rules, the Coaching regulations or policy and any circular or directive (*which are compulsory and binding*) from the EFA on the subject.

17.4. Applicable Coaching Licenses for PLE in the 2022/2023 Football Season

17.4.1 All Coaches of the NFDL Football Clubs, shall possess, **as a minimum requirement, the following:**

17.4.1.1 **All Head Coaches must possess a minimum of a CAF B license, having attended applicable and mandatory refresher courses; and must be members of the EFA (through the recognized Coaches Association),** to qualify to be licensed and sit in the Technical Area (*bench*) during a football Club's official competitions matches for the 2022/2023 football season.

17.4.1.2 **All Assistant Coaches must possess the minimum of a CAF C license having attended applicable and mandatory refresher courses; and must be members of the EFA (through the recognized Coaches Association),** to qualify to be licensed and sit in the Technical Area (*bench*) during a football Club's official competitions matches for the 2022/2023 football season

17.4.1.3 Fitness and goalkeeper coaches should possess, as a minimum, basic certificates in physical conditioning or fitness coaching and goalkeeping respectively, including attendance to **applicable and mandatory refresher courses;**

17.5 Membership of Coaches with the EFA

17.5.1 All Coaches, irrespective of whether they are Head Coaches, Assistant Coaches, Fitness Coaches or Goalkeeper Coaches shall submit their valid Coach License Cards (*Card with License Number*) in the name of the football Club in question (*attained from the EFA in terms of the applicable coaching regulations or directives and payment of a E50.00 license fee with the EFA*), at the card checking point of the Team/Club, as is the case for Team players. It is therefore a must, that all coaches shall carry their Valid License Cards to their Club's respective matches.

For the 2022/2023 season; Coaches or football Clubs whose coaches have not yet attained the minimum CAF A License or Diploma in Coaching Certificate may be allowed to coach on condition they fulfill the following exclusive criteria:

17.5.1.1 **Applicable Coaching Licenses for NFD in the 2022/2023 football season**

i) The coach has CAF B Certificate or higher and

ii) A valid EFA Coaching License card

17.5.1.2 Failure by both the Club and the coach to conform to these directives shall deprive the Club from having the service of its coach at the technical bench and attract further sanctions for any match the Club plays without a qualified licensed coach, or presence of an ineligible coach, sanctions which are articulated in these rules. The same applies to the coach in question.

17.5.1.3 Coaches that do not conform to all of the above-mentioned requirements (*i.e., all the provisions of article 18 (1-5) in full, shall be ineligible*) and that such ineligible coaches and the Club/Team that will utilize such coaches or violate the provisions of these rules shall be sanctioned in terms of these rules and any other sets of regulations and directives as they relate to the subject.

17.6 Restriction of Coaches and Ban from the Team's Technical Area at the Match Venue

- 17.6.1 In principle, the Technical Area is under the control of the Head Coach and only the Head Coach and/or his/her assistant(s) are allowed to make movements or coaching gestures around the Technical Area in line with the Laws of the Game and in pursuit of their professional work.
- 17.6.2 All other personnel, that is, medical attendants, players and other officials and support staff are not allowed to make any movements, unless specifically required to do so in conformity to the Laws of the Game, i.e., players required to warm-up; or medical assistants requested by the referee or match officials to attend to an injury; or officials required to perform a specific function by the referee or match officials in pursuit of the Laws of the Game.
- 17.6.3 No coach and/or his/her assistants who have been banned shall be allowed to sit in the Technical Area or be allowed to make movements or sit in specific areas of the match venue. In this view, a coach who has been banned from coaching his Club in a particular match shall sit in the general stands.
- 17.6.4 A suspended coach shall not sit in the VIP areas of the match venue or any other areas dedicated for such in venues without such demarcations.
- 17.6.5 A coach sitting in the general stands shall not be expected to be seen to make coaching gestures and/or shouting or communicating instructions to his technical bench or Team in the field of play.
- 17.6.6 The banned coach shall not be allowed into the dressing rooms or an area designated for such at half-time or access to the Team at the instance of any recess provided in terms of the Laws of the Game.
- 17.6.7 Executive Committee members of the EFA, member associations and leagues; full-time employees of the EFA, member associations and leagues shall not be allowed to practice as coaches for football Clubs, even if they qualify. No license shall be granted to them.

17.7 Waiver of requirements in a particular match

- 17.7.1 If for reasons beyond the control of the coach, the registration office has not produced a coach license card, the structure responsible for the monitoring and implementation of these directives shall be accorded, by the EFA, with a communication waiving the possession of the card or applicable requirement for only the specific match(es) affected.
- 17.7.2 A waiver, may be accompanied by specific conditions which shall be conformed to without fail and shall be binding to all parties.

17.8 Monitoring and Implementation Body

- 18.8.1 EFA has tasked the PLE, the Referees Committee, the Competitions Committees and Match Officials to monitor the application and observance of these rules, Coaching Regulations and Policy and circular, as they relate to this subject, where all coaches shall be expected to produce their licenses with the Match officials of their respective matches for verification.
- 18.8.2 It shall be the duty of the coach and/or Club in question, to ensure that a coach's license is valid and verified for every match.
- 17.8.3 The match commissioners, match supervisors or equivalent or officials tasked for this purpose, are expected to complete, together with the other match reports, a report on the coaching licensing application and submit it to the regional association office, for use in the disciplinary action on the coaches and Clubs with respect to the subject of Club or coach licensing.
- 17.8.4 EFA reserves the right to do spot checks and/or mete sanctions, where omissions have occurred.

Article 18: GENERAL

- 18.1 Entrance fees at all matches shall be a minimum of **E20-00** for a single header. Children below the age of 12 years will be charged half the profile.
- 18.2 Entrance fees at double header matches shall be a minimum of **E30.00**.
- 18.3 The PLE shall collect **20%** of the gross gate takings from all matches played in this tournament.
- 18.4. The host Club shall always provide a security plan for all its matches.

- 18.5 The host Club shall provide enough personnel to man all entry points for all their home games. These gate men/women must be available at the stadium at least 3 hours before the start of the game.
- 18.6 In the event of any dispute and/or conflict arising from these rules then the Constitution of the PLE shall take precedence and if the PLE Constitution does not assist then the EFA Rules and Regulations and/or the EFA Statutes shall take precedence.
- 18.7 Arriving late by **thirty (30)** minutes or more for an official PLE Event, Workshop and/or official meeting of the PLE without advance written notice to the PLE shall result in a summary fine of **five thousand Emalangeni (E5.000.00)**.
- 18.8 Failure to attend an official PLE Event, Workshop and/or official meeting of the PLE without an **official written apology submitted before the PLE Event, Workshop and/or official meeting** of the PLE shall result in a summary fine of ten thousand Emalangeni (**E10.000.00**).
- 18.9 **Departure from an official PLE Event**, Workshop and/or official meeting of the PLE prior to its official closure without the prior authorization of the **Chairman/CEO** shall result in a summary fine of five thousand Emalangeni (**E5,000.00**).
- 18.10 All Club representatives shall sign the PLE Attendance Register indicating the attendance and departure for the PLE Event, Workshop and/or official meeting.

Article 19: PAYMENTS TO THE PLE

- 19.1 All Clubs are directed to utilize the following PLE Cheque Accounts held at Swazi Bank, Mbabane Branch when making payments;
- 19.1.1 For affiliation and registration - **77022831580**;
 - 19.1.2 for protest fees, - **77022831517**; and
 - 19.1.3 for fines, - **77022831580**.
- 19.2. After making a deposit, electronic transfer the Club should proceed to the PLE office with the proof of payment, where they shall be furnished with a PLE receipt by the Accounts/Administration Officer, as acknowledgement of payment/deposit. **ELECTRONIC TRANSFERS ARE ACCEPTABLE.**
- 19.3. Fines imposed by the PLE to Club (s), player (s) and/or official (s) are payable within Twenty-one (21) days.
- 19.3.1 The PLE shall impose a monthly interest of 15% on all fines in arrears over Thirty (30) days.
 - 19.3.2 The PLE may enter into a written repayment plan with PLE Club(s) in respect of their arrears.
- 19.4 The PLE shall have the authority to deduct any and all monies owing to the PLE from the respective Club(s) Prize Money and any other Money due to the Club from the PLE.
- 19.5 The PLE shall the have power to suspend the defaulting Club (s), player (s) and/or official (s) for non-payment. Such dues are subject to the normal rates of interest as may be determined by the PLE.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: PRIZES AND AWARDS

An amount of E 4,045,000.00 shall be disbursed towards the payment of cash prizes to the winning Teams as follows:-

Position	Teams	Prize (E)
Champions	1	180,000
1st Round Winner	1	50,000
2nd Position	1	80,000
3rd Position	1	50,000
4 th – 10 th Position (7 x E20,000)	7	140,000
11 th – 14 th Position (4 x 10,000)	8	10,000
Participation fee (14 x E20,000)	14	280,000

Appendix 2: 2021/2023 SEASON MATCH COUNT DOWN (Standard Match Day Program)

All Clubs commit to honouring the following Match Program:-

TIME (before kickoff)	ACTIVITY
120 Min (2Hrs)	Deadline for Uploading Team List to FCMS
90 Min (1h30m)	Arrival of Match Officials at the Stadium
80 Min (1h20m)	Arrival of Teams at the Stadium
75 Min (1h15m)	Teams toss for Dressing rooms
65 Min (1h05m)	Submission of Team Lists to Match Commissioner
55 min	Teams' inspection by 4 th Official and Match Commissioner
45 min	Teams and Match Officials warm-up
15 min	End of warm-up and returning to dressing rooms
10 min	Substitute players and match officials leave dressing rooms -
8 min	Teams leave the dressing rooms for the game <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Check players equipment in the tunnels- Pre-kick-off formalities- Team photos
00:00	Match kick-off
120 min (2hrs)	Post-match interviews in designated areas to be done at 5 minutes after the end of the match