



SIGWACA FORTNIGHTLY

NATIONAL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION OF SWAZILAND

2017 SCHOOLS' WOMEN FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME



The Champions, Elangeni High School

The 2017 NFAS School's Women Development

Programme has showed some signs of growth as compared to 2016 which was the initial year of this football development programme. In 2016, a total of six (6) zones

participated with a sum of twenty-four (24) schools. This reflected a total of three hundred and eight- four (384) girls compared to six hundred and eight (608) in 2017 were able to showcase their talent in as far as the beautiful game is concerned.

This Schools' Women Development Programme commences at the zonal phase, then the regional phase and finally the national phase. The zonal and regional phases are played in a round robin format with the top two (2) schools on the log qualifying for the regional championships. The same format applies to the regional championship. The national championship acts as the climax of this Women's football development programme which is a one (1) day event.

ELANGENI HIGH SCHOOL IS THE 2017 NFAS SCHOOLS' WOMEN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP.

The round robin format is also used at this level with the top two (2) team in each of the 2 groups qualifying for the knockout stage that will finally produce the national champions. In this

year's edition, a total of ten (10) schools participated in the national championships, with each region represented by 2 schools.

In this year's edition, the NFAS partnered with Ocean Basket and Mandla Mahewu with the former sponsoring the champions with a soccer kit and the latter sponsored the event with 250 units of Mandla Mahewu.

The other 2 schools were filled by 2 private schools as National Football Association of Swaziland (NFAS) introduces Women's in private schools as well. This year's participation schools in the national championships were, Njabulweni, Elangeni, Phonjwane, Moyeni, Hluthi Central, Hillside, Koberamokgadi, Makhosini, Ntfontjeni and Nkalashane High Schools. The 2017 Schools'

SCHOOLS' WOMEN FOOTBALL IS GOOD FOR THE BEAUTIFUL GAME- NFAS PRESIDENT



The President of the NFAS, Senator Adam Mthethwa

The President of the National Football Association of Swaziland (NFAS), Senator Adam Mthethwa is positive that the Schools' Women Football Development Programme will have a meaningful contribution towards the development of Women football in the country. "This football development programme will have a meaningful contribution towards the development of Women's football in the country", he said.

The President of the NFAS also highlighted that football can be used as a vehicle to counteract the challenges that the girl child faces more especially in the continent of Africa. In some parts of Africa, the girl child is still given limited opportunities to express her talent and desire that can contribute a lot in her life. Lastly, he urged the stakeholders of the NFAS to come on board by partnering with the NFAS in developing the Swazi girl child through football.

Women Championships was Elangeni High school after winning against Hillside High school by 3-0. The Champions got a Trophy, gold medals and they are yet to receive their soccer kit courtesy of Ocean Basket. The runners- ups got silver medals whilst the third (3rd) place school got bronze medals. The 3rd placed school was Makhosini High school after winning against Nkalashane High School by 2-0.

There were also individual prizes which were the best player of the competition, best goalkeeper and the top goal scorer. All the individual prize winners got trophies. The best player was Nonkululeko Sibandze from hillside High School, the best goalkeeper was Nokulunga Lukhele from Elangeni High School and the top goal scorer was Siboniso Dlamini from Elangeni High School.



Runners ups: Hillside High School



Best Player: Nonkululeko Sibandze



Action: Elangeni High School playing against Hillside High school in the national championship finals

THE QUALITY OF PLAY IS IMPROVING- TD

The Technical Director (TD) of the National Football Association of Swaziland (NFAS) is pleased with the improvement of the quality of play in as far as the schools' Women football is concerned. "This is a good initiative by the NFAS as the quality of play is improving, however; the limiting factor is the short period of time in which this championships are being played", said the TD.

More opportunities are needed for the Swazi girl child to play football thus the NFAS urges its stakeholders to partner with it in order to develop Women's' football in the country. With more partners, more platforms can be available for the development of the Swazi girl child to be developed through football.



Best Goalkeeper: Nokulunga Lukhele

THE NFAS WORKSHOPS ITS AFFILIATES' MEMBERS ON FIFA CONNECT REGISTRATION PLATFORM

As from the 2017/2018 football season, there will be a change in as far as the registration of players is concerned, for the Premier League; National First Division and Super Leagues football clubs. Previously, the registration of players was done manually which involved a lot of paper work. This modernized platform has come with some benefits which includes more efficiency and information about players just to mention a few. Players can be registered anywhere, anytime as long as there is a laptop /desktop that is connected to the internet. Less paperwork will also be used as the data will be filled in soft copies.



CEO of the NFAS: Mr Frederick Mngomezulu

"As a way of facilitating this exercise, the National Football Association of Swaziland (NFAS) has workshoped the affected affiliates' members", said the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the NFAS. The CEO also stressed that, this was a vital exercise as the FIFA Connect Registration Platform is the only registration

process applicable to Premier League; National First Division and Super League football clubs.

"The workshops were very important as the FIFA Connect Registration Platform will be the only registration platform that will be applicable to the Premier League; National First Division and Super Leagues football clubs, however; the registration office will be available for assistance whenever football clubs encounter some challenges", said the CEO of the NFAS. This workshop was facilitated by the NFAS Information Technology Specialist, Mr Vusi Khoza and the International Affairs Manager; Miss Ntombifuthi Dlamini. The first window registration period for the 2017/2018 football season commenced on Monday, 10th July and will close on Friday, 22nd September 2017. Football clubs are urged to register their players.



Vusi Khoza lecturing in one of the workshops

SNAP SHOT OF FIFA CONNECT

FIFA connect is a registration platform that is introduced by FIFA to her member associations to adopt and implement in registering their stakeholders. This registration programme will enhance the gathering of data from every corner of the football world. The goals of this registration programme include the systematic registration of players and other stakeholders, the establishment of information systems standards for the exchange of data between member associations, and the promotion of a more fact- based management of football development activities following a global standard.

The FIFA Connect platform will help in keeping track of the stakeholders like players, coaches, referees and administrators wherever they are

in the world. It provides a unique ID code to everyone who has a role in the football association and this code acts like a digital football passport. It has information on the history of each stakeholder on his/her role in football over his/her life.

The information is very important to help on issues like receiving compensation for international transfer, controlling players' ages, enhancing football governance, and protection of minors among others. This platform will further enhance the National Football Association of Swaziland (NFAS) in the organization of competitions.

OFFERS OF THE FIFA CONNECT PLATFORM

- Registration
- Football Clubs at all levels
- Players (both amateur and professional)
- Venues
- Club officials (Coaches, Team Doctors, Team managers etc.).



FIFA President, Honorable Minister; David Ngcamphalala and the NFAS Secretariat

SITSEBE PREPARES FOR COSAFA COMPETITION

The Women's Senior Football National Team (Sitsebe SaMhlelezi) is currently in a full time camp in preparations of the upcoming COSAFA Women Championships to be held in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. This competition will commence on the 13th – 24th September 2017. This will be the 3rd appearance of Sitsebe SaMhlelezi in this competition after making its maiden appearance in 2002. The Women's national team made the other appearances of the COSAFA Women's Championships in 2006 and 2008 respectively.



Sitsebe SaMhlelezi praying after a training session

Since Sitsebe SaMhlelezi went to a full time training camp at the NFAS Technical Centre in Lobamba, they are working very hard as they want to represent the country very well. The spirit is high among the players as they are also happy to be part of the Women's Football National Team. These ladies know the challenge that they are up to in as far as conquering the Southern African nations through football as they will be competing with former champions like South Africa and Zimbabwe just to mention a few.

As part of the preparations, Sitsebe SaMhlelezi has played two (2) international friendly matches against Lesotho in Maseru as most of the countries are keeping their cards very close to their chests in as far as international friendly matches are concerned. The local side won the first match by 2-1 and lost the second match by the same score line. According to the head coach; Mduduzi Nxumalo, the national team is improving fitness wise as the competition draws nearer. "Ever since we started our full time camp, there is progress in terms of the fitness level in as far as the players are concerned", said the head coach. He also

highlighted that the national team is also improving defensively as the major focus will be on transition play.



Sitsebe SaMhlelezi Captain, Sibongile Ngwenya

Speaking on behalf of the players, Sitsebe SaMhlelezi Captain; Sibongile Ngwenya, highlighted that, they are working very hard as players as they want to play very well in Bulawayo. "We are focused and also working very hard here at training as we want to do well for our country in the competition", she said.

Finally, she urged the nation and more especially the different companies in the country to support the Women's National team at it prepares for this vital international assignment.



Sprint: Sitsebe SaMhlelezi players in their paces



Sitsebe SaMhlelezi Head Coach, Mduduzi Nxumalo

COSAFA WOMAN'S CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 2016 COSAFA Women's Championships will be the 5th since the initial competition in 2002. Other COSAFA Women's Championships were in 2002, 2006, 2008 and 2011. The first tournament was held in Zimbabwe and the champions were South Africa after they won against Zimbabwe by 3-1.

South Africa retained their title in 2006 in the same competition that was played in Zambia. In 2008, the COSAFA Women's Championships was played in Angola. Again South Africa defended the title and were crowned Champions for the 3rd time in a row. Zimbabwe became the 2nd nation to win the COSAFA Women's Championships after defeating South Africa by 4-2 after penalty shoot-outs. This was in 2011 where they were also hosting the competition.



South Africa's Women's Senior National Team, has won the COSAFA Women's Championship three times

WHAT'S ON THE NEXT ISSUE

- A snap shot of the 2017 SPTC Charity Cup.
- Preview of the NFAS/Build It U 13's Championships.
- We look at the FIFA Refereeing Course.



Yam' Nawe

UPCOMING FOOTBALL EVENTS

- The 2017 SPTC Charity Cup.
- NFAS/Build it U13's Championships.
- FIFA Refereeing Course.