



To Members of the EFA

*Circular No. 149*

Mbabane, 16<sup>th</sup> October 2020

## **Participation in CAF Interclubs competitions 2020/2021**

Pursuant to the decision of the 20<sup>th</sup> August 2020, to conclude the 2019/2020 football season as of that date, a decision which was articulated in detail through an EFA Circular No.147 dated 10<sup>th</sup> September 2020, and the decision of the EFA Executive Committee of the 10<sup>th</sup> September 2020, on the subject of participation of football clubs in the 2020/2021 CAF Interclubs competitions, EFA hereby directs as follows:

### **Principle in terms of participation in the CAF Interclubs competitions**

As a principle, and in terms of the existent rules and regulations, including the rules and regulations for the 2019/2020 football season, the MTN Premier League champions qualify to participate in the CAF Champions League, with the Swazi Bank Cup (*now Eswatini Bank Cup*) champions qualifying to participate in the CAF Confederation Cup. These, are therefore the only two (2) domestic competitions that qualify football clubs for participation in the CAF Interclubs competitions in the territory of EFA.

Eswatini, currently and more particularly, in terms of the gradation by CAF on the number of teams that can participate in the CAF Interclubs' competitions; only qualifies one (1) football club for each of the two (2) CAF Interclubs competitions (*i.e. one football club in the CAF Champions League and one and one football club in the CAF Confederation Club*). This gradation depends on the performance of football clubs from each participating member association in the CAF Interclubs competitions over a period of five (5) years. This is published by CAF on a yearly basis, when extending an invitation for participation in the CAF Interclubs Competitions.

CAF has for this 2020/2021 edition stipulated that Eswatini is still eligible to engage one football club in each of the two above mentioned CAF Interclubs Competitions, subject to the football clubs in the participation, conforming to the requirements of the CAF Club Licensing System Regulations on: Sporting; Infrastructure; Personnel and administrative; Legal; and Finance Criteria, and any other regulations that CAF or FIFA may prescribe from time to time.

### **Further direction and principle on the participation in the CAF Interclubs competitions**

In the event the respective champion of each of the two (2) domestic competitions that qualify football clubs to participate in the CAF Interclubs competitions (*i.e. the MTN Premier League and Eswatini Bank Cup*), is unable to participate on account of: 1) a suspension; 2) failure to meet the required licensing regulations for participation in the CAF Interclubs competitions; 3) other regulations or decisions or directives or whatsoever reason, the respective runner-up football club of the domestic competition, subject to conformity with above applicable conditions and/or

CAF regulations, may participate in the place of the respective champion. All applicable available assistance or aid towards the participation in the respective CAF Interclub competition will be directed to this football club.

Where, the runner-up football club is also unable to participate in the respective CAF Interclub competition for the reasons mentioned above (*i.e. in this circular*), there will be no football club engaged for participation in the respective CAF Interclub competition.

### **Participation in the 2020/2021 CAF Interclubs competitions**

Following the decision of the conclusion of the 2019/2020 football season competitions, the EFA hereby directs as hereunder:

- The champion of the 2019/2020 MTN League, as determined in conformity with Circular No.147 on the conclusion of the 2019/2020 football season, will participate in the CAF Champions League.
- EFA has noted that Eswatini Bank Cup 2020 Edition, could not conclude and as such there was no winner. In this respect, it is also noted that the time limits with respect to the engagement of football clubs for participation in the CAF Confederation Cup (*i.e. 20<sup>th</sup> October 2020*) and the start of the CAF Confederation Cup 2020/2021 edition (*i.e. November 2020*), does not even allow for conclusion of the competition to determine the winners of the Eswatini Bank Cup 2020 edition, in the light of the COVID-19 requirements for a safe return to football competitions matches. In this regard, the Eswatini Bank 2019 Edition Champions will qualify for participation in the CAF Confederation Cup 2020/2021 edition.
- In the case if any of the above champions are unable to participate for the reasons stated in this circular directing on the principle and participation in the CAF Interclubs competitions, the respective runner-up may be engaged subject to conformity with the CAF licensing regulations for the 2020/2021 edition of the CAF Interclubs competitions and/or any other regulations, decisions and directives on the subject.
- In the event, the runner-up football clubs, where applicable, are also unable to be engaged, there will be no football club in the participation of the respective CAF Interclubs 2020/2021 competition.

EFA, as always, remain fully open and available, whilst counting on your usual good cooperation which has always been held in the highest esteem.

Yours in Football,

**Eswatini Football Association,**

  
**Frederick Mngomezulu**  
Chief Executive Officer

