

**2017 / 2018
REGIONAL SUPER LEAGUE**

**RULES
AND
REGULATIONS**

Compiled and Presented by
**THE MANZINI REGIONAL FOOTBALL
ASSOCIATION**

Approved by
**THE NATIONAL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION OF
SWAZILAND**

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PREAMBLE

In conformity with the requirements of the management of competitions within its realms as per the statutes and its regulatory frameworks, the Executive Committee has drawn these exceptional rules and regulations for the administration and management of the Regional Super League competition for the 2017/2018 football season.

The Regional Super League competition shall be managed and administered by the Regional Football Association through its Competitions Committee. The Competitions Committee being a standing committee of the Regional Football Association Executive Committee is entrusted with the implementation of the rules and regulations governing the competition and the organization of the competition.

This document lays out the Rules and Regulations for the administration and management of the Regional Super League (*hereafter referred to as the Rules*).

All Football Clubs/Teams participating in the Regional Super League (RSL) competition shall undertake to observe and be bound by these Rules. The RSL competition shall be competed for by the teams in the Super League division, being the supreme league of the Regional Football Association.

The implementation of these rules and regulations is subject to any regulations that may be promulgated by the NFAS from time to time with respect to the principle of promotions and relegation and any applicable regulations on Club Licensing.

ARTICLE 1: Definitions

The following terms denote the following as may be consistently used in this document:

1. **FIFA:** Federation Internationale de Football Association
2. **NFAS:** National Football Association of Swaziland
3. **IFAB:** International Football Association Board
4. **DC:** The Protest and Disciplinary Committee.
5. **RFA:** Regional Football Association
6. **REC:** Regional Executive Committee
7. **RSL:** Regional Super League
8. **Official:**
 - a. Any member of the Match Supervisors or Competitions Committee of the Regional League **OR**
 - b. Any person designated by the Regional Executive Committee (REC) to act in its capacity for match supervision e.g. a match commissioner, match supervisor, stadium representative, etc. **OR**
 - c. Any member of the REC, the Regional Football Association (RFA) Office and its Standing and/or Adhoc committees.
9. **A Match Commissioner / Match Official:** The person appointed to have sole authority for ensuring that a match is officiated according to the rules laid down in this document who is responsible for preparing a report of the match and to forward same to the relevant authorities in terms of these rules.
10. **Defaulter:** A player who is not eligible to play in a particular game for any reason such as;
 - a. suspension, expulsion, improper registration, double registration, or
 - b. registered with more than one football club,
 - c. unregistered,
 - d. Declared ineligible in accordance with the regulations in force, etc.
 - e. Any player as defined, shall be considered a defaulter if his name appears on the team list presented to the match officials at checking point for that particular game **OR** shall be considered a defaulter if he has played in the game in question.

11. **Free agent:** A player who is registering for the first time; or who has not been registered in the past 30 months; or who is deregistered, or whose football club/team has been expelled or is defunct.

12. **Player:** any football player licensed by an association.

13. **International player:** A player who is transferring from another association in the membership of FIFA into the territory of the NFAS. International players shall be allowed to register with a RSL club upon production of a valid Clearance, a valid International Transfer Certificate (*ITC*), a valid contract (*where applicable*) with the football club he intends to join, duly signed Registration Form, Medical Certificate (*where applicable*) and two passport sized photos. However the player can only play on production of a valid work permit. In the case of students, a study or student permit shall be required instead of a work permit.

14. ***Unsporting Behaviour and Misconduct:***

- a. An improper registration of a player(s), double registration, and fielding of a defaulter; **OR**
- b. 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; **OR**
- c. 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; **OR**
- d. Failure by the football club(s) to control their official(s) or player(s) or supporter(s) or fan(s); **OR**
- e. Disregard of the Statutes of the RFA and rules governing this competition. It also includes disobedience of instruction by; the RFA Official; Match Commissioner or Referee or the Stadium Representative.

ARTICLE 2: Affiliation and Playing Season

1. All RSL clubs shall be affiliated to the RFA by paying an annual affiliation fee as determined by the RFA.
2. Such affiliation fee shall be paid on or before the first registration of players or the last working day before the start of a competition from that football club for the season, subject to a deadline of 31st August in the case where a competition is scheduled to kick-off at a later date than the 31st August.
3. The club shall also be expected to pay any other fees with regards to their participation in the football season under the league, as determined by the RFA, save for fees that are exclusively paid with the NFAS, e.g. *registration fees*.
4. The playing season and registration periods shall be determined by the NFAS.
5. The NFAS has issued other complementary and supplementary mandatory requirements that shall be observed on the registration of clubs and players as contained in Circular No. 106; contents of which shall be observed in full for the 2017/2018 season. Details on the registration of coaches and the coach licensing system are contained in a Circular of the NFAS, contents of which have to be observed in full..

ARTICLE 3: Registration, Registration Periods and Transfer of Players, including officials

1. All RSL players shall be registered exclusively with the NFAS electronically in line with the regulations, decisions and or directives as may be issued by the NFAS, in terms of the prevailing regulations for the Status and Transfer of Players and any other Club, Coach or Officials licensing regulations as directed by the NFAS, from time to time.
2. The fee for registration for the 2017/2018 football season shall be **E50.00** per player, which shall be exclusively paid with the NFAS. *This also includes coaches of the Super League teams who shall also have License cards for the 2017/2018 season.*
3. Each RSL club shall be entitled to register up to a maximum of thirty (30) players, including a maximum of up to five (5) foreign players.
 - a) This shall be subject to restrictions, as may be pronounced from time to time by the NFAS in line with FIFA regulations.

- b) If the number of players exceeds 30, the extra player(s) shall not be registered unless some players in the existing list are transferred to other clubs or are deregistered to conform to the maximum of 30.
 - c) The deregistration of a player shall be made in writing by the club wishing to deregister a player, expressing the status of the player, the reasons for deregistration and citing conformity with the conditions as stipulated in the provisions of these rules.
 - d) Deregistered players shall be declared free to join football clubs of their choice, unless they are still contracted, wherein the club shall be expected to honour their contracts or terminate their contracts to allow the player to transfer to another club.
4. All players wishing to register shall fill in their registration forms which should be accompanied by certified copies of their National ID's or Valid Passport and coloured Passport sized photos on a white background before they are eligible for registration. Failure to comply will result in that player not being registered.
5. On completion of a registration, a player will be issued with a registration card bearing his coloured photograph, player's particulars and the NFAS signature on the rear side.
6. The registration card shall bear the players identity number which shall be used as the players' card number.
7. The registration card remains the property of the association hence tampering with the card is strictly prohibited. If found to have tampered or committed such an offence, the club or player shall be summarily fined not less than two hundred (E200.00) emalangeni and the card will be confiscated by the office.
- 8. The Registration periods for the 2017/2018 season are:**
- a) The First Window Registration Period commences from the 10th July 2017 and closes on the 22nd September 2017;
 - b) The Second Window Registration Period commences from the 8th January 2018 and closes on the 2nd February 2018.
 - c) The closing of registration for players who qualify to register after the closure of the First Window Registration Period for 2017/2018 football season is the 20th October 2017;

- d) The closing of registration for players who qualify to register after the closure of the Second Window Registration Period is the 2nd March 2018.
 - e) No player shall be allowed to be registered outside the stated timelines, in Article 3 (8) (a-c), even if the player qualifies to register outside a particular registration window period.
9. If a player transfers to a new club, the new club shall be expected to have in its possession the following documents (*duly completed*) for the purpose of registration:
- a) A signed resignation letter by the player who intends changing teams (*where applicable*).
 - b) A written clearance from his previous club
 - c) A player's registration Form from his new club.
 - d) A player's registration Form from his previous club.
 - e) A player's registration card from his previous club.
 - f) Transfer Certificate from the registration office
 - g) International transfer certificate (*in case of an international player*)
 - h) In case of a missing card or any documentation, a validated affidavit must be made.
 - i) Loan agreements (*for professional players. Please note that amateur players cannot be loaned, as they are cleared outright*)
 - j) Contract between a player and club (*where applicable*)
 - k) Any other documentation in terms of the requirements of the club, coach and officials licensing system as may be communicated by the NFAS from time to time.
 - l) A Work Permit or Temporary Work Permit or Study/Student Permit in the case of a student (*where applicable*).
 - m) In case of a New Registration; there shall be a declaration that the player in question is a free agent, accompanying the above stated requirements, where they are applicable.
10. The transfer of an International player from FIFA affiliated Associations shall be in accordance with the FIFA Regulations for the status and transfer of players as may be communicated, by the NFAS from time to time.
11. A player may be allowed up to a maximum of three (3) transfers per season but can only play for up to a maximum of **two teams per season**.

12. A player may be allowed to transfer twice only in the main registration period (*First Window Registration Period*), however, such is allowed on condition the player has not featured in an official match of the club. Should the player feature in an official match, the transfer to another club shall not be allowed, until the next registration window period (*i.e. if the player and club still wish to implement the said transfer*).
13. A maximum of only one transfer may be allowed in the Second Window Registration Period. This is principally not the main window registration period hence one transfer shall be allowed on both players and clubs.
14. Loaning of amateur players is strictly prohibited (*i.e. it shall not be allowed*) in terms of the Status and Transfer of Players. Amateur players are only subject to a full transfer, with loaning of players only restricted to professional players (*i.e. players on contract*).
15. If a player and/or club are found to have made false declarations on registration, both the player and the club shall be charged with misconduct and if found guilty, the player shall be suspended for not less than six official matches, and the club shall be fined not less than One Thousand Emalangi (E1, 000.00).
16. Any player not fulfilling the requirements of registration outlined above; in Article 3 (9) shall not be considered a registered player, thus a defaulter.
 - a) 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 E1, 000.00 (One Thousand Emalangi) payable within 21 days.**
 - b) The offending player may be suspended for **six (6) official matches** unless it can be proven on balance of probabilities that he did not directly contribute to his being a defaulter.
17. All teams participating in the RSL shall be obliged to have registered junior teams under the junior leagues structure being either the 13, Under 15 and Under 17 junior leagues prior to commencement of league matches (*if not yet available in the RFA, at the beginning of the season when they fall due or at any time as may be determined by the NFAS and/or RFA*).

ARTICLE 4: Participation in the Competition

1. The competition shall be played on a two legged league with clubs playing each other home and away basis on all rounds.
2. The club shown first on each fixture on the left shall be home or host club.
3. Each match shall last ninety (90) minutes, as stated down in the FIFA Laws of the Game.
4. Points for the competition shall be awarded as follows-:
 - a) Three (3) points for a win
 - b) One(1) point for a draw
 - c) Zero (0) points for a loss
5. It shall be the sole prerogative of the office to prepare, approve and amend fixtures of matches.
6. The office shall prepare a schedule of fixtures, which shall contain: the dates of matches, venues where matches are to be played and starting times of such matches.
7. The office shall prepare and make available the schedule of fixtures to club officials not later than **two (2) working** days before the date of such scheduled matches.
8. It shall be the duty and sole responsibility of all teams to collect their schedule of fixtures. Failure to collect a fixture shall not exonerate a club or team from sanction in the case it arrives late or fails to honour a match.
9. The office may in certain circumstances change or reschedule the fixture. Clubs affected by these changes shall be informed of a revised or amended fixture in writing, electronically or telephonically through the General Secretary or any designated member. Clubs shall be obliged to collect the amended fixture.
10. Clubs affected by any amended fixtures shall be informed not later than two (2) working days before the date at which the matches are to be played.
11. The referee/match commissioner/official(s) shall conduct a pre-match inspection of facilities including the pitch, dressing rooms if any, (where applicable) at least sixty (60) minutes before the schedule commencement of a match with the hosting club.

12. It shall be the duty of the hosting club to make sure that its Home ground is lined or marked properly, has soccer nets and in good and playable condition.
13. The host club shall ensure that its home/host ground Marked/lined properly, in good and playable condition with soccer nets at least 60 (sixty) minutes before the schedule kick off time of the match.
14. Failure to comply with **the provisions** above, the referee shall call off the match and the hosting team or club shall be subjected to a disciplinary hearing and if found guilty it shall forfeit the match with three (3) points and three (3) goals awarded to the visiting team and further fined a sum of not less than E 500.00 by the NFAS DC.
15. Week 20, 21, and 22 of the second round fixtures will be scheduled by the PLS in its sole discretion. However all other timelines on communicating fixtures to teams still hold, as defined in these rules, depending on the state and to safeguard the integrity of the competition, the period of controlled fixture may be extended such that it starts earlier than the 20th week.

ARTICLE 5: Starting Times of Matches

1. Each club shall report to the designated official at the venue of the match at least sixty (60) minutes before the schedule start of the match.
2. Each club shall be at the card checking point twenty (20) minutes before the schedule start the match. The official shall inform the clubs of any delay and inform them of the new card checking time.
3. Failure of a club to respond as in 1 and 2 above shall result in a summary fine of not less than **E 200.00**
4. The card checking point shall normally be the dressing rooms of the stadiums in the absence of dressing rooms the match official shall determine the checking point. It shall be deemed an offence for the club to ignore or not follow the instructions of the match official on this matter. Any club found guilty of contravening this rule shall be summarily fined not less than **E 200.00**.
5. Each registered club shall bring two sets of contrasting uniforms in its registered colours so as to effect change in case of colour clashes. The visiting or away club shall be required to change uniform in case of colour clashes; provided the home team is in its registered colours.

6. Failure by a visiting team to effect a colour change in its uniform within 15 minutes after the scheduled start of the match will result in the match being called off. The offending club shall, if found guilty forfeit the match with three (3) points and three (3) goals awarded to the opposing club and be fined not less than E1,000.00.
7. Each club shall bring a size five (5) FIFA APPROVED soccer ball at the commencement of the game. The referee will choose one of the two balls for use in the match. The other ball will be kept in the custody of the ground official until the match is over.
 - a) Failure to provide the soccer ball by a club shall render the club to a summary fine of **E 300.00 (Three Hundred Emalangeni only)**.
 - b) If a match is abandoned due to a team's failure to provide a soccer ball which is fit to play; the offending team will be charged for causing the abandonment of the match and if found guilty will be fined not less than **E1, 000.00** and will further forfeit the game to the opposing team with 3 points and 3 goals awarded to the opposing team.
 - c) It shall therefore be the responsibility of each team/club to ensure that a soccerball that has been kicked out in the course of a match, is returned to the match or match officials, in a case where a substitute ball is in use. If a soccerball is lost during a match; the team/club from which the last player kicked the soccerball out shall be liable to a fine of E1, 000.00; unless proven that the loss of the soccerball was by the other club, or any individual(s) and/or official(s), who shall also be liable to a similar fine.
8. Any club reporting between one (1) minute and fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled starting time of the match shall be summarily fined a sum of three hundred (E300.00).
9. Any club reporting more than fifteen minutes (15) after the schedule starting time or not at all, shall result in the match being called off and the offending club be liable to disciplinary action and if found guilty shall forfeit the match to the opposing club, as well as three (3) points and three (3) goals. The club shall be fined an amount of not less than one thousand (E1000.00) emalangeni.
10. Any club entering the field of play other than through the official entrance, including the utilization of (a) vehicle(s) shall be liable to a fine of Five Hundred Emalangeni (E 500.00).

11. Any club entering the stadium/dressing rooms other than the designated points of entry shall be guilty of an misconduct and shall be summarily fined one thousand emalangeni (E1000.00).
12. Any club “walking out” or refusing to play a match, or causing abandonment of a match shall if found guilty shall lose the match, with three (3) points and three (3) goals awarded to their opponents, and a fine of not less than E 1,000.00 (one thousand emalangeni) imposed on them.
13. The referee’s report and/or that of the match official shall be conclusive proof as to which club abandoned or caused the abandonment of the match.
14. A club which fails to honour three (3) consecutive matches (*unless officially suspended*) shall automatically lose its membership with the association, including the forfeiture of all rights and entitlements that accrued to participating in the competitions of the association, with its expulsion ratified at the next general assembly.
 - a) All matches played by such a club shall be nullified; and no club shall lay claim(s) against such nullified matches.

ARTICLE 6: The Match Officials and Play

1. The referees committee shall appoint match officials for all matches.
2. The match officials shall report at the venue of the match at which they are officiating at least ninety minutes (90) before the scheduled start of the match. In the event that one or two of the referees failing to show up, the present match official shall appoint substitute referees.
3. The report of the match officials shall be conclusive prove to the time of referees arrival. The referees scheduled for this match shall be subject to disciplinary conduct in terms of the referee’s code of conduct.
4. If 30 (thirty) minutes after the schedule start of the match, all referees fail to arrive, and the match commissioner or supervisor cannot provide substitute referees, he/she 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.
5. No club shall refuse a match official that has been assigned to officiate a match. A club that refuses shall be subjected to disciplinary action and if found guilty shall

forfeit the match, and be liable to a fine of not less than one thousand (E1000.00) emalangeni.

6. The match officials and the club captains, shall before the match inspect the teams and check registration cards of participating players. The match commissioner and the referees shall lead the clubs into the field of play.
7. **Under no circumstances shall the match officials allow a player or any other person from the participating clubs who according to the Laws of the Game and these rules, are not allowed into the field of play. The offending parties shall be charged and hauled before the DC.**
8. Any player whose identity is questionable and continues to play, shall be expected to take a photo with the match official (referee/match commissioner/match supervisor) together with the captain of the team whose identity is in question. This photo shall be taken to the office for verification and if upon verification, the player is found guilty, the players club shall forfeit the match.
9. The referee may allow the teams a period of warm up, if time and circumstances permit.
10. The referee and match commissioner/match supervisor shall at the end of the match each compile a match report for the office.
11. The following details should be included in the report:
 - a) Name of the Competition.
 - b) Date, and venue of matches.
 - c) Name of the referee and assistants.
 - d) Names of the clubs
 - e) Names of the captains
 - f) Times of the start, half time and full time.
 - g) Half time and full time scores.
 - h) Substitutes used.
 - i) Any event, which the referee and/or the match commissioner consider to be disciplinable conduct in terms of these rules and/or the statutes of the association, other than one warranting only a yellow card and a reprimand/caution.
 - j) Name and signature of the referee
 - k) Misconduct of players leading to caution or expulsion of such players.
 - l) Unsporting behaviour of officials, supporters and/or fans and actual utterances used in case of insults.

- m) Number of goals scored by each club as well as the names of players and/or their jersey numbers.
- n) Cards, both yellow and red issued to any player.
- o) Any protest, objections and complaints lodged by the clubs
- p) Number of substitutes introduced by each club.

12. Without restricting the generality of the foregoing paragraph, the event noted shall include the following particulars:

- a) the name (s) / officials (s) / fan (s) member (s)
- b) the jersey and card numbers
- c) actual utterances constituting the offence
- d) Any object used during the commission of such disciplinable conduct.
- e) Any act constituting the reprehensible conduct.
- f) The time in which the conduct occurred.

13. The referee's report and /or that of the match commissioner shall reach the office within two working days and it shall provide conclusive proof pertaining to any circumstance (s) regarding the match.

14. Any referee that fails to submit his/her report within the period as stated in article 5.10 above shall have his/her allowance reduced by half.

15. The laws of the game shall be those currently in force and as published by IFAB

16. The referee's fee shall be adjusted as per NFAS circular

ARTICLE 7: Serious Player's / Club's Misconduct

- 1. Any player who is sent off from the field of play after being issued with a red card before the start of the match, during the course of the match and after the match shall automatically be suspended from participating in the next succeeding official match, and may further be subjected to disciplinary action.
- 2. A player who received a red card will automatically have his registration card withdrawn and forwarded to the office. The officiating referee shall be responsible to collect the player's registration card and submit it to the office with his match report.
- 3. A registration card, taken or confiscated by the office on account of 2 above, will only be returned after completion of the period of suspension to his club upon payment of the retrieval fee of **E50.00** to the bank account and an authentic bank deposit slip is produced to the office.

4. Once a player has accumulated three (3) red cards in the same Season, he **shall be liable to disciplinary action and may be fined up to a maximum of E1, 000, unless the three (3) red cards are a result of assault or violent conduct where the player may be suspended for the rest of the season.**
5. It is the responsibility of each club, and not the office, to ensure that all players are eligible to play in this competition and in any tournament (s) organized by the **Regional Association**. Any club contravening this rule shall be prosecuted and if the team is found guilty, it shall be fined a minimum of five hundred (**E 500.00**) **emalangen**.
6. Notwithstanding any provision in these rules, the office reserves the right to charge any player and / or team that contravenes the rule regarding the playing of defaulting players, with the appropriate penalties/fines being invoked if the player and / or team is found guilty of the offence.
7. Any club fielding a suspended player shall lose the match in which the suspended player featured. Such a case shall be referred to the disciplinary committee and if found guilty may take disciplinary action against the club and the player concerned. If found guilty the club may be fined not less than E1, 000.00, with the player liable to a possible suspension of not less than six (6) official matches.

ARTICLE 8: Other Unsporting Behaviour

1. Any club whose member(s), player(s), or fan(s) or officials engage in unsporting or violent behaviour either before, during or after a match shall be guilty of misconduct and be liable to punishment.
2. Members, players, officials or fans include the following:
 - a) Any person (s) wearing articles of a colour of the offending club, e.g. scarf, badge, etc.
 - b) Any person who is seated at a stand or section of a stadium or ground, which is occupied by the followers of the offending club when the offence is committed.
 - c) Any person known by the match officials to be a supporter, official or fan of one of the clubs.
 - d) Any person who commits the offence in furtherance or support of the offending club's interest or favour.

- e) Clubs are expected to post marshals to control their crowds. These marshals should police the proceedings and submit any offender to be the police for criminal prosecutions if they misbehave. Such incidents must be brought to the attention of the match official to serve as a mitigating factor in the event the said team is charged for misbehaviour of its supporters.
- f) No club is however, allowed to post guards/marshals at the dressing rooms and such conduct is liable for disciplinary action.
- g) It shall be the duty of all officials, clubs and match officials to report to the office cases of misconduct likely to bring the game or administration thereof into disrepute.

3. The following shall be the punishment for those found to be guilty:

| TYPES OF MISCONDUT | | FIRST OFFENDER | SECOND OFFENDER | THIRD OFFENDER |
|--------------------|--|---|--|--|
| a) | Invading field of play | Summary fine E200.00 or a suspended sentence | Summary fine E300.00 | Summary fine E600.00 |
| b) | Throwing missiles of any kind onto the field of play | Minimum fine of E 1000.00 | E1000 and 3points, 3goals shall be deducted from the total points | E2000 fine and suspension for three games. |
| c) | Insulting the referee, RFA official, opposing player(s), fan(s)/team-mates/supporters | Minimum fine of E 1000.00 | E1000 and 3 points, 3 goals shall be deducted from the total points | E2000 fine and suspension for three games |
| d) | Threatening to assault the referee, the RFA official, opposing player(s), fans/team-mates/ supporters. | Minimum fine of E 1000.00 | E1000.00 and 3points, 3goals shall be deducted from the total points | E2000 fine and suspension for three games |
| e) | Attempting to assault the ref, RFA official, opposing player(s),fan(s)/ team-mates/supporters | E 1500.00 fine | E2000.00 and forfeit three (3) points and three (3) goals from the offending club's total points | Maximum fine of E 2,500.00 and further forfeit three (3) points and three (3) goals from the offending club's total points |

| | | | | |
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| f) | Assaulting the match official, opposing team's player(s), teammates/officials, fan(s)/supporter(s)/member(s)/referee/ match commissioner | Minimum of E3,000.00 and in addition the club may be ordered to compensate the victim for any loss incurred as a result of the assault and ii)forfeit three (3) points and three (3) goals from the offending club's total points iii)The offending player(s), official(s) or fan(s) shall be suspended for a period of not less than six (6) months | iv) E5000 fine. Suspension of not less than 6 months v)The offending player(s), official(s) or fan(s) shall be suspended for a period of not less than twelve (12) months | vi) E10,000, Suspension of not less than 12 months vii) The offending player(s), official(s) or fan(s) shall be banned from all football activities in the country through approval of the NFAS. |
| g) | Sprinkling of any substance that is believed to command supernatural power in around the field of play | Summary fine of E1000-00 | Summary fine of E2000-00 | Summary fine of E3000-00 |
| h) | Unbecoming behaviour, attempting to act or acting to bring football into disrepute | Minimum of E1,000 | Minimum of E2,000 | Minimum of E3,000 plus suspension |

ARTICLE 9: Protest, Disciplinary Cases, Appeals and Fees

1. Any protest regarding defaulters must be lodged with the referee before the start of the match or at the time the player is introduced into the field of play. The protest must be countersigned by both captains, and acknowledged by the referee, otherwise it shall be null and void. The referee shall take the player's card protested about and submit it to the office. The office shall photocopy the card and return it to the club for the next game.
2. Any other protest shall be lodged with the referee at the time of occurrence otherwise it shall be null and void.
3. Confirmation of a protest plus supporting evidence must reach the secretary of the office not later than 48 hours, excluding Saturday, Sunday and public holidays after the match. A **non-refundable** protest fee amounting to One thousand (E1000.00) Emalangeni shall accompany the confirmation.
4. Failure to confirm the protest within the stipulated time, the club shall be summarily fined a sum of One thousand (E1000.00) Emalangeni. Payable within twenty one (21) days.
5. The DC shall have power to consider and deal with the protest lodged by an individual club or league and make necessary decisions.

6. Parties at a protest shall be afforded an opportunity to present an opportunity to present their case when the protest is being heard, and shall receive at least two working days' notice before the hearing.
7. A party summoned to attend a hearing before the DC shall receive a notice at least two working days before the hearing and shall have a representation of its choice.
8. The Regional Association may subpoena any party under its jurisdiction and/or request the office to subpoena such a person to give evidence at the hearing.
9. A party not satisfied with the verdict of the DC may appeal to the National Football Association of Swaziland's Appeals Committee. Such an Appeal shall be lodged within **five (5)** working days on receipt of a written verdict. A non-refundable fee amounting to **E 2,000.00** (*paid exclusively with the NFAS*) must accompany the appeal.
10. 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 hearing. The decision of the DC shall be binding to all parties.
11. 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 travelling allowances of all concerned or in the event a club requests for postponement.
 - a) 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.
 - b) 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 E1, 000.00 in addition to the costs in question.
12. A club which shall need to produce evidence from the office or any other NFAS Member shall do so through the office and shall request such in writing.
13. Any club that has been found guilty shall pay all costs of the hearing (*e.g. DC sitting, prosecutors and their travelling expenses over and above the fine imposed*).

14. All clubs shall be expected to collect their written verdict from the office.
15. Any team that fails to attend any meeting or event of the association shall be liable to the following fines:
 - a) General Assembly/Extraordinary General Assembly - E 400.00
 - b) Sponsorship Launching and Presentation - E 400-00
 - c) Any other meeting - E 200.00
 - d) A club/team that refuses to honour a competition medals presentation shall automatically forfeit 50% of its prize monies.
 - e) A player or group of players refusing to honour a prize presentation shall be liable for disciplinary action, where they will be liable to be individually fined not less than E500.

ARTICLE 10: SwaziBank Cup Participation and other national competitions

1. The log position at the end of the first round shall be used to determine the top two clubs that will be eligible to participate in the SwaziBank Cup.
2. In a case where the first round would not have been achieved or finished, due to unforeseen circumstances, the teams occupying the first and second log positions on the log as at the third (3rd) week of January or at the time stipulated by the organizers; will be eligible to represent the region in the SwaziBank Cup, provided all teams have played equal number of games or the lower teams i.e. 3rd and below, cannot be in a position to surpass or match the top two teams even if they would have played a fewer number of matches.
3. Any other national competition(s) that may become available shall be determined in accordance with the directives of the NFAS, especially if it is of a national nature.

ARTICLE 11: League Positions, Relegation and Promotion of Clubs

1. The number of points accumulated at the end of the second round shall determine positions in this competition. The final and officially 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 PLS.
2. The football club accumulating the most points on completion of the league shall be declared the winner. *This is subject to any regulations that may be promulgated by the NFAS with respect to the principle of promotions and relegation and applicable regulations on Club Licensing.*
3. In the case of equality of points between clubs, positions in the log will be determined by the head to head encounters on the tying teams.
4. In the case of the failure 3 above, the positions on the log will be determined by the best goal difference.
5. If 3 and 4 are not decisive, the club having scored the most goals shall be declared the winner.
6. If 2, 3, 4 and 5 fail to produce a clear position, and then a play-off match which shall proceed straight to penalties, if the game ends in a draw in regulation time (90 minutes) shall be played by the contesting clubs to determine the winner at a neutral venue.
7. **The promotion of football teams from the Zonal Promotion Leagues to the Regional Super League shall be determined as follows:**
 - a) The subsequent Zonal Promotion Leagues shall have a direct promotion of their leading teams to the Regional Super League:
 - i. Manzini Promotion League
 - ii. Kwaluseni Promotion League
 - iii. Malkerns Promotion League

- b) Leading football teams from all the other Zonal Promotion Leagues of the RFA shall participate in a play-off tournament for the determination of promotion to the Regional Super League. *The RFA shall draw special rules and regulations for such regional promotion play-offs tournament.*
- c) The football teams that shall be placed first and second, upon accomplishment of Regional Super League play-off tournament shall be promoted to the Regional Super League, to complement to the ones that would have had a direct promotion, *as articulated in paragraph 7a(i) of this Article 11.*
- d) The determination of the placement of teams, as articulated in Article 11 (7c) above, particularly, the determination of the first and second placed teams to qualify to the RSL shall observe the principle of Article 11 (2 - 6) of these rules.
- e) The RFA shall draw special rules and regulations for such regional promotion play-offs tournament.
- f) The promotion of a team shall be subject to any regulations that may be promulgated by the NFAS from time to time in line with Club Licensing and the principle of promotion and relegation.

8. The relegation of football teams from the Regional Super League to the Zonal Promotion Leagues shall be determined as follows:

- a) For the current football season (2017/2018); the RSL shall have sixteen (16) teams.
- b) The number of teams to be relegated from Super League shall be determined by the number of football teams relegated from National First Division League of the Premier League of Swaziland taking into account the number of teams promoted from the Zonal Promotion Leagues (*i.e. both direct promotions and play-off promotions*), in such a way as to maintain the number of teams at the RSL at 16.
- c) The team(s) relegated from the NFDL shall occupy the top position(s) of the RSL, pushing all teams down wherein depending on the placement of a team, in observance to Article 11 (7a) and Article 11 (8b) above, it may be relegated to its respective promotion league.

9. The promotion of a football team from the Regional Super League to the National First Division League under the Premier League of Swaziland shall be determined as follows:

- a) The number of football teams in the National First Division League shall be determined by the National Football Association of Swaziland.
- b) The football team that shall be declared a winner at the conclusion of the Regional Super League competition shall be promoted to the National First Division League.
- c) The top football team after the conclusion of the league and determined a winner to qualify for the NFDL, shall be determined utilizing the principle of Article 11 (1 - 6) of these rules.
- d) subject to regulations that may be promulgated by the NFAS from time to time in line with Club Licensing and the principle of promotion and relegation.

ARTICLE 12: Prizes and Awards (*Sponsored Leagues*)

Prizes and Awards, in sponsored leagues of the RFA, shall be implemented in terms of the agreements entered into between the RFA and the relevant sponsors and/or partners. In a case where the agreements do not provide for such, the REC will determine the implementation of the prizes and awards. Such will be done taking into account the development and business of objectives of the game of football within the constraints or magnitude or sponsorship.

ARTICLE 13: Press Statement and Reports

1. Each club shall be responsible for advertising its matches through the media. Clubs shall furnish the office with names, addresses, email addresses and contact telephone and fax numbers of two (2) persons who shall act in this capacity. Clubs that do not adequately advertise their matches shall face disciplinary action from the office.
2. The office shall be entitled to publish in the press, or in any other media, reports of activities related to the Regional Football Association.
3. Clubs and/or clubs officials shall not publish or make statements that may bring the Regional Football Association, Regional Executive Committee, and its subcommittees into disrepute. Anyone or any club that commits this offence shall

be brought before the DC for disciplinary action. If found guilty the person(s) or club shall be fined an amount not less than **E 3, 000.00**.

ARTICLE 14: Club Licensing and Coach Licensing

1. Principle

As a principle, all football clubs of the Super league 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 NFAS, regional association and league on the subject.

2. Applicable Coaching Licenses for Super leagues in the 2017/2018 football season

- a. All coaches of the RSL Football Clubs, irrespective of whether the coach is a Head Coach or Assistant Coach, shall possess, **as a minimum requirement, the NFAS D Coaching License and must be members of the NFAS**, to qualify to be licensed and sit in the Technical Area (*bench*) during a football club's official competitions matches for the 2017/2018 football season. Fitness and goalkeeper coaches should possess, as a minimum, basic certificates in physical conditioning or fitness coaching and goalkeeping respectively.
 - i. All Coaches shall submit the coach valid license cards (*Card with License Number*) in the name of the football club in question (*attained from the NFAS in terms of the applicable coaching regulations or directives and payment of a E50.00 license fee with the NFAS*), 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.
 - ii. For the 2017/2018 season Coaches or football clubs/teams whose coaches have not yet attained the minimum D Coaching License may be allowed to coach on condition they fulfil the following exclusive criteria:
 1. The coach is attending or in an ongoing NFAS D-License Coaching Course; or

2. The coach has submitted his/her to the NFAS Technical Director through the Regional Football Association for training towards the attainment of the D License with proof of payment for the course fees, in possession of both the club and coach. A receipt of payment generated from the NFAS Finance Office is the authentic proof of payment.
- iii. Upon satisfaction of the above requirements, coaches shall be accorded licenses to coach as student coaches, licenses which are also attainable from the NFAS Licensing department upon payment of E50.00 license fee.
 - iv. Names submitted for the purposes of training towards the minimum required license must have been received by the NFAS and approved (*with a license card*) before the first match of the club in the current season or the match for which the coach has been engaged to coach the club (*in the case of newly hired or engaged coaches or those coaches engaged in the middle of the season or competition*), at the latest .
- b. 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 this article. The same applies to the coach in question.
 - c. Coaches that do not conform to all of the above mentioned requirements (*i.e. all the provisions of article 14 (2) (a-b) 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.

3. Membership of coaches with the NFAS

- a. As a principle, all coaches practicing as coaches of clubs or teams, irrespective of whether they are student coaches, in competitions under the territory of the NFAS, must be members of the NFAS.
- b. All coaches are therefore expected to have been fully paid up members of the NFAS, through the Swaziland Football Coaches Association (SFCA)

at the instance of the registration of the coach for the 2017/2018 season and License Card (*Coaching License*).

- c. In view of the fact that a body or an organization for coaches, recognized and in membership with the NFAS already exists, in the frame of the Swaziland Football Coaches Association (SFCA), coaches must have subscribed and be up-to-date with their subscriptions or membership by the effective date. The registry of coaches with the SFCA shall provide proof of the status quo on the membership database of coaches in the country.
- d. Coaches who shall be found not to have conformed to this requirement shall not be allowed to sit in their Technical Areas or specific areas in the vicinity of the field of play during their respective clubs' official matches, until the requirement has been met in full. Coaches are liable to further sanctions as may be determined by this circular, the Coaching Regulations and Policy (*once in place*) and/or disciplinary body of the NFAS in view of the NFAS, CAF and FIFA statutes, regulations, directives and disciplinary code as they relate to this subject.

4. Restriction of coaches and ban from the team's Technical Area at the match venue

- a. 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.
- b. 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.
- c. 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.

- d. A suspended coach shall not sit in the the VIP areas of the match venue or any other areas dedicated for such in venues without such demarcations.
- e. 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. The coach shall further 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.
- f. Executive Committee members of the NFAS, member associations and leagues; fulltime employees of the NFAS, 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.

5. Requirements for Foreign Coaches

- a. As a principle, all foreign coaches who are sought or who wish to practice coaching in the country at the level of the Super League shall be expected to possess the minimum applicable License requirements applicable in the Premier League or National First Division League.
- b. Further to the above and as a principle, foreign coaches, are expected to have applied for and obtained work permits from the Government of the Kingdom of Swaziland (*Immigration Department of the Ministry of Home affairs*) before being allowed to practice as coaches of football in the country.
- c. Foreign Coaches, over and above their requirements of obtaining work permits and other immigration requirements in conformity to the laws of the country, shall be expected to abide by all the requirements of these rules and that of the Coaching Policy and directives relating to such.
- d. The NFAS shall not grant permission to a foreign coach who shall not satisfy the requirements of these rules and that of the Coaching policy and applicable directives. In the quest to ascertain the qualifications of a foreign coach, the NFAS, if not satisfied with the qualifications presented before it, may decide to give the coach an Oral, Theoretical and Practical Examination equivalent to the minimum License qualification of the Premier League or National First Division League of the NFAS, to

determine if the coach may be allowed to practice coaching in the territory of the NFAS.

- e. Neither the coach nor the club which seeks services of the coach shall refuse the undertaking of an examination. A coach who refuses shall automatically be banned from practicing as a coach in any league of the country whilst the club, if found guilty, shall be liable to a fine and any further sanctions as may be determined, relating to this subject.

6. License, Validity, Suspension and Withdrawal

- a. A Coaching License (*Card*) is valid for only one football season.
- b. All coaches shall be expected to make an application for a renewal of a License in the following season and at the beginning of every subsequent season.
- c. A license may be suspended or withdrawn on account of a default or a misrepresentation by the coach as may be determined by the disciplinary body or licensing body.
- d. A license shall be automatically suspended on the suspension of a coach, on sanctions relating to football.
- e. A license shall be withdrawn on account of perpetual violation of the provisions of these rules, the coaching regulations and any other applicable directives on the subject.

7. Sanctions to defaulting Coaches and/or Clubs

- a. In principle, all coaches and clubs shall be expected to observe the directives and requirements of these rules, regulations, the Coaching Policy and directives (*circulars*).
- b. The following shall be the sanctions for the violation of the provisions and/or directives of these rules, the coaching policy and applicable directives. Further sanctions shall be contained in the Coaching Policy Document.
 - i. A coach that has been banned from sitting in the Technical Area or banned from coaching his club in a particular match (*as stated in these rules*) shall sit in the general stands. No coach that has been

banned from coaching a club shall sit in the VIP areas of the match venue.

- ii. A banned coach sitting in the general stands shall not be seen to make coaching gestures and/or shouting or communicating instructions to his technical bench or team in the field of play for the duration of the match for which he or she is banned.
- iii. The coach shall further not be allowed into the dressing rooms at half-time nor access to the team at half time, in the cases of venues where there are no dressing rooms nor access to the team at the instance of any recess provided in terms of the Laws of the Game.
- iv. A Coach failing to observe sections 8 (b) (i-ii), of these article rules, shall be liable to a fine of not less than E400.00 (*Four Hundred Emalangeni*) and be further banned for two (2) matches when he or she finally conforms to the requirements. Further sanctions as may be determined by these rules, the Coaching Regulations and Policy and/or disciplinary body of the NFAS in view of the NFAS, CAF and FIFA statutes, regulations, directives and disciplinary code as they relate to this subject may be meted to the coach.
- v. A repeat of a violation by a coach for the second and subsequent times in a season carries a fine of not less than E800.00, a further four (4) match ban once conformed and further disciplinary action as stated in 8 (b) (iii) shall be meted to the coach.
- vi. A club that knowingly utilizes a coach who does not conform to all the licensing requirements applicable to its respective league as stipulated in these rules, the Coaching Policy, circular and/or directives on this subject, shall if found guilty, be liable to a fine of not less than E500.00 (*Five Hundred Emalangeni*), a further two (2) match ban without the services of a properly licensed coach, other than the one banned for and further disciplinary action in accordance with this circular and the coaching regulations.
- vii. A repeat of a violation by a club for the second and subsequent times in a season carries a fine of not less than E1, 000.00 (*One Thousand Emalangeni*), a further four (4) match ban without the services of a properly licensed coach other than the one banned and further disciplinary action in accordance with these rules, the coaching policy and a circular on such if applicable.

- viii. A club losing the head coach or coach during the course of the season will be given a grace period of two games to search for a coach. However, during the grace period, the club must appoint an acting coach, who is a qualified coach in terms of the NFAS Coaching Qualifications, whose application to act as a coach for the maximum interim (*grace*) period, stated in these rules, must have been similarly done as that of the substantive coach (*i.e. application for acting with the NFAS*). After the grace period, failure by the club to have a appropriately licensed coach shall result in the deduction of points from the defaulting team, until the team secures an appropriately licensed coach in terms of these rules.
- ix. Perpetual defaulting coaches will have their licenses withdrawn, if already in possession, be black listed and face expulsion from all football activities under the auspices of the NFAS.
- x. Perpetual defaulting clubs will have their licenses withdrawn or meted with sanctions as may be decided by the relevant authority, including the deduction of points for matches of a league competition or disqualification in the case of a knockout competition or tournament.

8. Waiver of requirement in a particular match

- a. 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 NFAS, with a communication waiving the possession of the card or applicable requirement for only the specific match(es) affected.
- b. A waiver, may be accompanied by specific conditions which shall be conformed to without fail and shall be binding to all parties.

9. Monitoring and Implementation body

- a. The NFAS has tasked the Regional Association, 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.

- b. 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.
- c. 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.

ARTICLE 15: General

- 10. For matches where entrance fees are applicable; entrance fees shall be between E 10.00 and E20-00. Children will be made to pay half the price, while those that are below 12 years of age shall gain free entry.
- 11. The office shall collect the stadium fee and 20% of the gross gate taking from all matches played in this tournament, unless otherwise decided by the Regional Football Association.
- 12. Clubs shall always provide change amounting to E200.00 (Two hundred emalangeni) for all matches in E10, E5 denominations. Any team that fails to bring the change or arrive with it later than thirty (30) minutes before the starting time of the match or first game (*in case of a double header*), shall an amount equivalent to 25% of the gate taking due to the club deducted. This amount shall be shared equally between the office and fixtured football team(s), excluding the offending club.
- 13. Each club shall provide a reasonable number of people to collect gate takings in all their fixture games. These gate men and women shall arrive at the stadium at least two hours before the start of the game. In the event that a team does not provide the gate personnel, the official officiating at the stadium will employ such personnel and their allowances deducted from the net takings due to the net offending team(s).
- 14. All participating teams shall attend the launching and prize presentation ceremonies of any sponsor of the league.

- a. If a team fails to attend any one of the occasion, shall forfeit E200.00 of its prize money to RFA in each occasion.
- b. In the event a team failing to attend both occasions, shall forfeit all its prize money to the RFA.

15. In the event of any dispute or conflict arising between any rules of this competition, the Regional Association's Statutes and/or the NFAS Statutes and regulations in as far as that particular matter of conflict is concerned, shall take precedence.

ARTICLE 16: Miscellaneous

1. Any team that fails to pay certain fees/fines within the stipulated time shall be suspended and any suspended team shall not participate in all activities organized by the association.
 - a) Games which will be fixtured during the course of the team's suspension will be awarded to their opponents i.e. the suspended team will lose the games to the opposing team.
 - b) If after three (3) games the team still fails to pay it will be summoned to appear before the EC and if still fails it will be expelled from being an affiliate of the association after the final decision has been taken by the association.
2. If two teams are fixtured against each other while they are both suspended; they will both lose the game i.e. three (3) points and three (3) goals thrown away.
3. Any club that fails to pay their fines within the stipulated time of 21 days after pronouncement of the verdict shall be officially suspended from all activities of the RFA. It remains the sole responsibility of any team to collect their correspondence from the office.
4. All correspondence to the office must be written on the teams letterheads, otherwise it is not official and cannot be accepted.
5. Any team writing their team list on any paper other than the team's letterheads shall be summarily fined **E 250.00** by the office.
6. Any changes to be made on the office bearers should be accompanied by minutes of a meeting that was held where the said officials were elected.

7. Any changes can be made within **72 hours** before the team can appear before the Regional Executive Committee.
8. It shall be the responsibility of every club to collect correspondence from the office.
9. Any club shall be expected to sign summons in the office in case they have committed an offence sanctioning that club to appear before the Executive Committee or subcommittees.
10. All payments due to the office shall be deposited to the Regional Associations Bank Account(s).
 - a) All teams are therefore directed to utilize the RFA Bank Account as directed by the RFA, and no other bank shall be allowed.
 - b) After making a deposit, the team should proceed to the RFA office with the stamped bank deposit slip where they will be furnished with a receipt by the secretary/treasurer as acknowledgement of payment/deposit.
11. The fixtures of the competition as well as the matches organized by the Competitions Committee and all data related to them are subject to a “copyright” reserved to the association.
12. If for any reason whatsoever, a team withdraws from the competition or does not report for a match except in cases of force majeure accepted by the Competitions Committee, or if it refuses to play or leaves the ground before the regular end of the match without the authorization of the referee, it shall be considered a loser and shall be eliminated for good from the competition. Further measures may be adopted by the EC.
13. The implementation of these rules and regulations is subject to any regulations that may be promulgated by the NFAS from time to time with respect to the principle of promotions and relegation and any applicable regulations on Club Licensing.

ARTICLE 17: Matters not provided for

Matters not provided for in the present rules and regulations and in terms of Article 14 (6) shall be decided by the Competitions Committee. The Competitions Committee’s decision shall be final and binding to all parties.

ARTICLE 18: Adoption

The present rules and regulations have been adopted and approved by the NFAS on the 10th August 2017 and come into force on the same 10th August 2017.

President
Adam Mthethwa

General Secretary
Frederick Mngomezulu

APPROVED