

PLE MASTER RULES & REGULATIONS



Compiled and Presented by
THE PREMIER LEAGUE OF ESWATINI

Approved by
ESWATINI FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION
on the
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DEFINITIONS

DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS OF TERMS USED IN THIS DOCUMENT

1. ***An Official or Premier League of Eswatini Official*** is:
 - a) Any member of the office of the Premier League of Eswatini and/or any member of the Sub-Committees of the Premier League of Eswatini.
 - b) Any person designated by the Premier League of Eswatini's 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, Health Compliance Officer etc.
 - c) Invited dignitaries and/or guests, members of the Royal Eswatini Police.
2. ***A Match Commissioner is:*** The match official appointed by the Referees Committee that has an authority for ensuring that a match is officiated according to the rules of the game as well as those 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.
3. ***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, invading the field of play by supporters, throwing any objects onto the field of play or the surrounding areas, etc.
4. ***Violent misconduct:*** 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.
 - a) 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.
 - b) 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.
 - c) Failure by club(s) to control their official(s) or player(s) or supporter(s) or fan(s).
5. ***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.
6. ***"International player"*** means a 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.

7. **“Match Coordinator”** means an official allotted and entitled by the PLE or the Management Committee for the devotions of the administration of the competition 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.
8. **“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.
9. The following abbreviations may be consistently used in this document:

a) PLE	-	Premier League of Eswatini.
b) CEO	-	Chief Executive Officer
c) FM	-	Football Manager
d) DC	-	EFA Protest and Disciplinary Committee
e) EFA		Eswatini Football Association
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 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.
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.

INTRODUCTION

1. SCOPE OF APPLICATION: SUBSTANTIVE LAW

These Rules apply to every match and competition organized by the Premier League of Eswatini (the “**PLE / League**”) and to any act or conduct required by the PLE Rules & Regulations; Football Compliance Manual; PLE Circulars; EFA Statutes, regulations, decisions and directives; CAF and FIFA Statutes & Regulations and to any breach thereof.

2. SCOPE OF APPLICATION: NATURAL AND LEGAL PERSONS

The following are subject to this code: -

- 2.1 Member Clubs;
- 2.2 Member Club Officials;
- 2.3. Players;
- 2.4 Match Officials;
- 2.5 Media
- 2.6 Intermediaries;
- 2.7. PLE Officials and anyone with an authorization from the League or a Member Club, in particular with regard to a match, competition or other event organized by the League;
- 2.8. Supporters and Spectators.

CHAPTER 1: STRUCTURE AND PARTICIPATION

3. COMPOSITION

The League comprises the Premier Division and the National First Division Clubs.

4. LEAGUE STRUCTURE

- 4.1 The Premier Division consists of 16 (Sixteen) Member Clubs (the “Premiership”) that compete nationally each season with one another.
- 4.2 The National First Division consists of 16 (Sixteen) Member Clubs that compete nationally each season with one another.
- 4.3 The PLE organises national U17 Development Leagues, with the U15 Leagues organized at the Regional Football Associations Level.

5. PARTICIPATION AND ENTRY

- 5.1. Member Clubs must submit their membership application or membership renewal form and other information required by the League on or before 30 July of each year or such other date to be determined by the PLE.
- 5.2. On acceptance as a Member Club and by entering or participating in the League and any of its Competitions, Member Clubs voluntarily and irrevocably undertake to observe and be bound by these Rules and those of particular Competitions, and to accept that all administrative, disciplinary and refereeing decisions connected with the League or its Competitions will be dealt with in terms of the PLE Rules & Regulations and/or the applicable Competition Rules, and that no recourse to any Court of law shall be permitted unless and until all internal/domestic and applicable football procedures in terms of the EFA and FIFA Statutes have been exhausted.

- 5.3 Eligible players to participate in this Competition shall be players registered with Member Clubs who have satisfied all the requirements of registration as prescribed by the EFA including the payment of the registration fee of One Hundred Emalangeni (**E100.00**) per player.
- 5.4 Each Member Club shall be allowed to register a maximum of thirty (30) players inclusive of a maximum of five (5) foreign players.
- 5.5 Any player who participates in any competition under the auspices of this league without fulfilling the requirements of registration as prescribed in the registration regulations and directives of EFA shall be considered a defaulter and the club fielding a defaulter shall be guilty of misconduct and liable to lose the game and forfeit three points and three goals to the opposing club. However, if the goal difference in the field of play is greater than three (3), the result in the field shall be maintained. The offending player may be suspended for a period not more than six (6) official matches.
- 5.6 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 **E20, 000-00** by the D.C.
- 5.3 All PLE Clubs shall affiliate to the PLE by paying:-
- a) An annual affiliation fee, as may be determined from time to time, shall be paid to the PLE on or before the first registration of players by the Club;
 - b) An annual match officiating fee payable before the first game of the season which shall be determined by the PLE;
 - c) An accreditation fee to be determined by the PLE at least seven (7) working days before their first game of the Season.
- 5.4 Should a Member Club withdraw or be expelled from the League before the start of the Season, the Executive Committee will determine the appropriate arrangements or measures that may be required to deal with the matter, considering all applicable regulations as promulgated by the EFA.
- 5.5 Should a Member Club withdraw or be expelled from the League after the start of the Season but before the Member Club concerned has played against every other Member Club in its Division at least once and has not completed the first round, then all results of that Member Club will be expunged from the League as if the Member Club had not participated at all.
- 5.6 Should a Member Club withdraw or be expelled from the League after the start of the Season and after the Member Club concerned has played against every Member Club in its Division at least once and completed the first round, then all second-round results of that Member Club will be expunged from the League.
- 5.7 It is compulsory for all Member Clubs affiliated to the League to participate in all Competitions organised by the League for which they qualify save when excused in writing by the League from participation.
- 5.8 A Member Club that withdraws or is expelled from the League before it plays against every Member Club in its Division at least twice shall forfeit all prizes that it would have otherwise been eligible to receive.

6. TROPHIES AND AWARDS

- 6.1. The winner of the Premiership in each Season will:-
- a) Be presented with the Premier League trophy. The trophy will be retained by the Member Club and must be returned to the League office, in the same condition it was presented, by no later than 30 March of the year following the year in which it was presented;
 - b) A Member Club that is unable to fulfil the requirements in 6.1(a) above shall be summarily charged with the costs of replacing the Premier League trophy.
 - c) Be presented with a miniature trophy which it will retain permanently;
 - d) Be presented with 35 (thirty-five) winners' gold medals.
- 6.2. The Runners Up of the Premiership in each Season will be presented with 35 (thirty-five) silver medals.
- 6.3. The Premiership trophy is a floating trophy where in a Club that wins the Premiership Trophy for three (3) years in a row shall keep the Trophy permanently.
- 6.4. The winner of the National First Division league in each Season will:-
- a) Be presented with the National First Division League trophy. The trophy will be retained by the Member Club and must be returned to the League office, in the same condition it was presented, by no later than 30 March of the year following the year in which it was presented;
 - b) Be presented with a miniature trophy which it will retain permanently;
 - c) Be presented with 35 (thirty-five) winners' gold medals.
- 6.5. The Runners Up of the National First Division League in each Season will be presented with 35 (thirty-five) Silver medals.
- 6.6. In other competitions of the League the applicable competition rules will deal with the award of trophies and medals.

7. DATES AND VENUES OF MATCHES

- 7.1. Except on special games as determined by the PLE, the onus of providing a Home Venue for each match that meets the League's requirements will be on the home Member Club at least 14 fourteen days before the date of the match . The Home Club's failure to do so will result:-
- a) in the League selecting the venue or postponing the match;
 - b) the Member Club being liable for all costs of all affected parties occasioned by the non-compliance with this Rule; and
 - c) the Member Club being charged with misconduct.

- 7.2 The Home Club is responsible for staging every match in compliance with the PLE Rules & Regulations, PLE Compliance Manual and all applicable legislation.
- 7.3 The dates, times, and venues of matches will be scheduled by the League.
- 7.4 When Member Clubs are provided with information regarding fixtures in each instance, it is very important that they respond to the PLE immediately (within 72 hours of receiving the fixture) raising any issues or concerns they may have so that these can be considered by the PLE.
- 7.5 A Member Club seeking approval for a fixture change must submit a written application for the fixture change to the League at least 7 days from receipt of the fixture accompanied by all the supporting documents required. The League has the discretion to grant or refuse the request.
- 7.6 Under extraordinary circumstances, the League may postpone a match at any time prior to the start of the match.
- 7.7 Fixtures may be changed by the League provided that proper notification of the rescheduled fixture is given to the participating Member Clubs in terms of this Rule.
- 7.8 Member Clubs will be notified by the League of all amendments to fixtures in writing by no later than 72 (seventy-two) hours prior to kick-off of the match except that in the following circumstances the notice period may be shorter at the discretion of the League:-
- a) where the League and both Member Clubs participating in the match agree to a shorter notice period;
 - b) where a match is abandoned by the referee whether the match had commenced or not;
 - c) where a match is postponed by the League in terms of Rule 7.5.
- 7.9 The last three (3) fixtures of the 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 28th week.

8. TECHNICAL RULES

- 8.1. The Premier Division and National First Division leagues shall be run on a 2 (two) round home and away basis, with 3 (three) points being allocated for a win, 1 (one) point for a draw and 0 (zero) points for a loss.
- 8.2. For the Premier Division and National First Division leagues:-
- a) The log position of each Member Club in the League shall be determined in the first instance by the number of points obtained in all matches, with the Member Club obtaining the most points occupying the higher log position;
 - b) Where 2 (two) or more Member Clubs have an equal number of points or fail to determine a winner, the direct results (head-to-head) between the tied Member Clubs will be used to determine the log position following the procedures in Rule 8.2(a) above, but considering only the results between the tied Member Clubs. The head-to-head rule also has as an inherent rule the away goal rule, in the away goal 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 standing 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 have played a single match.
 - c) Where Rule 8.2(a), Rule 8.2(b) and Rule above fail to determine a winner, then the goal difference (the number of goals scored minus the number of goals conceded in all matches) shall be used to determine the log position, with the Member Club having the higher goal difference occupying the higher log position;
 - d) Where Rule 8.2(a), Rule 8.2(b), Rule 8.2(c) and above fail to determine a winner, then the most number of goals scored shall be used to determine the log position, with the Member Club having the most number of goals scored occupying the higher log position;
 - e) Where Member Clubs remain tied after applying all of the above Rules, there will be a play-off between the two Member Clubs at a neutral venue as determined by the League. In the event the playoff does not determine a winner after full time, there shall be no extra time, the playoff will proceed to penalties until a winner is determined.

9. PROMOTION AND RELEGATION

9.1. Automatic Relegation from the Premier Division

The Member Clubs that end the Season in the positions 14, 15, 16 on the log table will be automatically relegated to the NFD league. The club at position 13 will also be relegated but granted an opportunity to contest the last slot in play offs with positions 3, 4 and 5 in the NFD league.

9.2. Automatic Promotion from National First Division

The Member Clubs that end the Season in the top 2 (two) positions of the National First Division league table shall be promoted to the Premier Division.

9.3. **Automatic Relegation from and Promotion to the National First Division**

The Member Clubs finishing the Season in the last 4 (four) positions of the National First Division league table shall be relegated to their respective EFA Regional Super leagues, while the 4 (four) EFA Regional Super League Champions will be promoted to the National First Division of the League.

9.4 **Playoff Promotion to Premiership Division**

The clubs at position 3,4 and 5 in the NFD will contest for a slot into the Premiership in playoffs with relegated positions 13 from the Premiership league. The two teams topping the log will be promoted into the Premiership.

10. **PLAYERS SELECTED FOR REPRESENTATIVE MATCHES**

- 10.1. Players will be released to EFA or to the national association of another country for which the Players are eligible when such release is obligatory in terms of the FIFA Statutes and the EFA regulations governing the calling of players for national teams.
- 10.2. Should more than three (3) registered Players not be available for a Member Club due to an obligatory call-up to a national squad in terms of this Rule 10.1, then League matches scheduled to take place during the period of such obligatory call-up as defined in the FIFA Statutes and/or EFA regulations governing such, will be postponed if the Member Club concerned applies in writing to the League for a postponement by no later than midday of the 5th (fifth) day prior to the match in question, or within 24 (twenty-four) hours of the Member Club being officially informed of the call-up, whichever is the later.
- 10.3. The obligatory period of the call-up will include the FIFA and/or EFA defined period before the match for preparation and a period of 2 (two) calendar days after the last match of the call-up.

11. **MATCHES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAWS OF THE GAME**

All matches will be played according to the Laws of the Game in force.

12. **DURATION OF MATCHES**

- 12.1. All matches will consist of 2 (two) periods of 45 (forty-five) minutes each plus referee's optional time. The referee shall be the sole adjudicator of time, inclusive of additional time.
- 12.2. An interval of 15 (fifteen) minutes will separate the 2 (two) periods.

13. MEMBER CLUB OFFICIALS WITHIN THE PERIMETER DEMARCATION

- 13.1. Not more than 5 (five) Member Club Officials in possession of Valid Registration and/or Officiation Licences and listed on the team sheet, including the head coach, may be seated on the team bench during a match.
- 13.2. A maximum of 2 (two) other Member Club Officials in possession of Valid Registration Licences and listed on the team sheet may be seated on the additional 2 (two) seats provided alongside the team bench.
- 13.3. These Member Club Officials must produce their Valid Registration and/or Officiation Licences when called upon to do so by a Match Official.
- 13.4. No other Member Club Official may be within the perimeter demarcation during the match.
- 13.5. In the event of non-compliance with this Rule, a Member Club Official will be asked by the match commissioner to reduce the numbers accordingly, failing which those in excess of the allowed number or those who may not be licensed to sit in the technical area, shall be removed by security and the Member Club and Member Club Officials concerned will be charged with misconduct.

14. GROUNDS, EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES

Grounds

- 14.1. All Member Clubs will, by 30th July each year or any other such date as determined by the PLE, register with the League a Home Venue and an Alternative Home Venue where the Member Club intends to play its home matches.
- 14.2. Member Clubs will not be permitted to change venues without the prior written consent of the League.
- 14.3. No match will take place at a ground unless it has been inspected and certified as suitable by the League.
- 14.4. The League may, at its discretion, inspect the venue of a Member Club during the season and may withdraw its certification.
- 14.5. For safety reasons and under exceptional circumstances, the League may direct that a match must be played without the presence of spectators, or in a neutral stadium, or a stadium may be closed, without an infringement having been committed.
- 14.6. The dimensions of the pitch (excluding the technical area) will be as follows:-
 - a) Maximum length 110 (one hundred and ten) metres; minimum length 100 (one hundred) metres;
 - b) Maximum width 75 (seventy-five) metres; minimum width 64 (sixty-four) metres.
- 14.7. Member Clubs must register their pitch dimensions with the League prior to 1st August of each Season. A Member Club may not alter its pitch dimensions during the Season except with the prior written consent of the League. The League may at any time require a

Member Club to submit a report from a qualified independent expert certifying the pitch dimensions.

- 14.8. Each Member Club will ensure that its home ground, rented or owned, is maintained in good condition. The Member Club must comply with any directive issued by the League in respect of the ground.
- 14.9 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, where applicable floodlights are functional at least two (2) hours before the scheduled commencement of the match. 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 offence, it shall lose the match, with three (3) points and three (3) goals awarded to their opponents and further be fined as stipulated in the schedule of sanctions.
- 14.9. The home Member Club will demarcate technical areas adjacent to the pitch for the sole use of Member Club Officials and substitute registered Players. These technical areas will be located equidistant from the halfway line and be capable of seating 12 (twelve) persons from each Member Club.
- 14.10 The Home Team shall use the Dressing room and Technical Bench on the Left unless prior arrangements that are approved by the League in writing have been made. The Home Team Supporters shall use the grand-stand behind their Team Bench.
- 14.11 At all stadiums, clubs 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 as stipulated in the schedule of sanctions.
- 14.12 Failure to comply with the match officials' directive of using the dressing room shall render the club guilty of contravening this rule and liable to a summary fine as stipulated in the schedule of sanctions.
- 14.13 The Seating arrangements for double headers will be discussed and finalised with the League during the Pre-Match Meeting to be held at least seventy-two (72) hours before kick-off.
- 14.14. Home Member Clubs that do not comply with any or all of the above requirements may be summarily fine as stipulated in the schedule of sanctions.

15. MEDICAL

Medical personnel, equipment and services must be provided at every match as follows:-

- 15.1 The home Club shall ensure that, as a minimum requirement, A qualified medical personnel (Paramedic, Nurse, Doctor) is in attendance and available from the time that the team arrives at the venue until the team leaves. The home Member Club team doctor and any other medical expert must be registered by the Member Club with the League and must occupy the home Member Club's team bench during the match;

- 15.2 The League will procure the attendance of at least two (2) fully qualified and appropriately insured paramedics who must be available from the time that the gates to the venue are opened until one (1) hour after the match;
- 15.3 The paramedic must be equipped and qualified to use a fully stocked emergency care response bag, oxygen, rigid neck brace and an automatic external defibrillator and be available to assist with on-field medical incidents;
- 15.4 The home Member Club shall be assisted by the League to procure the attendance of medical personnel, equipment and facilities for the care of all persons at the ground in compliance with all relevant legislation. Save for National First Division league matches and National First Division, such medical personnel must include a doctor for the spectators;
- 15.5 A visiting Member Club is not precluded from having its own team doctor, Physiotherapist or paramedic in attendance at the match;
- 15.6 The home Member Club must arrange with stadium or facilities owners to provide a minimum of 2 (two) stretchers, 2 (two) spinal immobilisation boards and 8 (eight) appropriately trained stretcher bearers who must be at least basic life support providers to remove injured registered Players or Member Club Officials or Match Officials from the field of play;
- 15.7 Each Member Club must ensure that throughout a match, a dedicated vehicle which is suitable to transport any person requiring emergency treatment to hospital from their side is readily available;
- 15.8 All medical personnel rendering medical/clinical services to all PLE matches must be screened/vetted by the PLE through the EFA Medical committee for professional compliance and accredited to offer the services they are registered for on the Team Lists. Teams that do not comply with this rule will summarily fine as stipulated in the schedule of sanctions.

16. FOOTBALLS

Unless contrary stated, the footballs used will be supplied by the League and will comply with the Laws of the Game, and will be “FIFA approved” or “International Match Ball Standard”.

17. FLOODLIGHTS

- 17.1 A match may be played partly or wholly under floodlights. The minimum horizontal illumination necessary for night matches will be an average of 600 (six hundred) lux with no individual point measuring less than 500 (five hundred) lux.
- 17.2 Any home team that chooses or insists on playing under floodlights shall have the responsibility for ensuring that the minimum lighting level is provided at least 90 (ninety) minutes before kick-off and maintained throughout the match is on.
- 17.3 Despite any other provision in these Rules, should a match be abandoned by the referee due to insufficient illumination from the floodlights, then the remaining minutes of the match will be resumed on a date and at a time and venue agreed upon between the participating Member Clubs immediately upon the abandonment of the match. The agreed date, time and venue must be within 72 (seventy-two) hours of the time of the abandoned match subject to the approval of the League.

- 17.4 If the participating Member Clubs are not able to reach agreement on a date, time, and venue, or if the agreed date is not suitable to the League then the League will determine the date, time and venue and inform the participating Member Clubs within 14 days.
- 17.5 The resumed match will be a continuation of the abandoned match and it will be as if the match had not been abandoned so that the abandoned match and the resumed match will constitute one (1), single match which will only be completed upon the final whistle being blown.
- 17.6 The failure to provide adequate lighting in terms of this Rule will result in:-
- a) The home Member Club being liable for all costs of all affected parties occasioned by the non-compliance with this Rule; and
 - b) The Member Club being charged with misconduct,
 - c) However, if the match was scheduled to play under floodlights at the discretion of the League, article 17.6(a) and 17.6(b) shall not apply.

18. SAFETY AND SECURITY

- 18.1 The Home Club shall be required to provide adequate safety and security in terms of the Safety Manual. Failure to provide adequate safety or security will result in:-
- a) The home Member Club being liable for all costs of all affected parties occasioned by the non-compliance with this Rule; and
 - b) The Member Club being charged with misconduct.

19. UNSUITABILITY OF THE GROUND

- 19.1 If a match is stopped due to the unsuitability of the ground and/or danger weather conditions caused by inclement weather, the referee shall delay the restart of the match in consultation with the match commissioner.
- 19.2 If a match is postponed or abandoned due to the unsuitability of the ground caused by inclement weather, the state of the pitch or for any other reason, but not because of insufficient illumination from floodlights or safety and security, the League will set another date on which the match will be replayed. In such an event all records of an abandoned match will be expunged.
- 19.3 In the event of a replay for a reason other than inclement weather the League has the right to institute disciplinary action against any Member Club responsible for the abandonment. In addition to any other sanction it may impose, the Disciplinary Committee may order any Member Club to pay all costs of all affected parties occasioned by the non-compliance with this Rule.

20. ARRIVAL AT THE GROUND

20.1 The Match day running order will be as tabulated below:

a) **4 hours before kickoff:-**

- i) The PLE Coordinator will supervise inspection of the Stadium and hand-over of dressing-room keys to the visiting Club.
- ii) Home Clubs must ensure that the dressing-room is clean and habitable.
- iii) Home Clubs that fail to comply with this Rules shall be summarily fined as stipulated in the schedule of sanctions.
- iv) The Home and Away Clubs are obliged to use the appropriate dressing-room.

b) **3 hours / 2hours**

Pre-match Meeting

c) **120 (one hundred & twenty) minutes**

Deadline: Uploading Team List on FCMS

d) **90 (ninety) minutes**

Final team list to the Match Commissioner

e) **60 (sixty) Minutes**

Teams' inspection in Dressing rooms

f) **60 (sixty) minutes**

Inspection of cards, Home team first

g) **60 (sixty) minutes**

Interviews of the coaches on the field

h) **55 (fifty-five)minutes**

Warm-up commences

i) **30 (thirty)minutes**

Meeting of match commissioner and doctors

Teams to leave the field to the dressing rooms

j) **15 (fifteen)minutes**

rooms

k) **8 (eight)minutes**

Team to be called from dressing rooms

l) **5 (five) minutes**

Teams to be ready in the tunnel for inspection

m) **4 (four) minutes**

Walkout of teams

n) **2 (two) minutes**

Team photos

o) **1 (one) minute**

Coin toss

p) **0 (zero) minutes**

Kick-off

20.2 The Referee shall consult with the Match Commissioner and the PLE Official before a decision to cancel or abandon a match is taken. Any decision to cancel or abandon a match must be stated in the Match Reports together with the circumstances and/or reasons leading to such decision.

20.3 After the card checking formalities have been completed, clubs will be led into the field of play by the match officials.

- a) 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 Match Official's instruction. Any club that refuses to follow the referees' instruction shall be summarily fined as stipulated in the schedule of sanctions.
 - b) No club will enter the field of play without being led into the field by the match officials and any club contravening this rule shall be summarily fined as stipulated in the schedule of sanctions.
 - c) Any Club entering the field of play from an entrance other than the official match entrance/tunnel shall be summarily fined as stipulated in the schedule of sanctions.
 - d) The Match Commissioner or Referees shall allow and lead teams to return into field of play during half time of the match. It shall be an offence for a Premier League team to return into the field of play without the referee's or match commissioner's permission and the club shall be summarily fined as stipulated in the schedule of sanctions. The club shall enter the field of play to their own half that the team will defend during the second half of the game.
- 20.4 Any club that delays the kick-off up to fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled start of the match, shall be summarily fined an amount as stipulated in the schedule of sanctions.
- 20.5 The referee may call-off a match after a waiting period of fifteen (15) minutes from the scheduled start of the match where the delay is due to the non-arrival of or due to any other cause attributed to a Member Club. The offending club shall be charged for causing abandonment of the game and if found guilty, shall lose 3 points and 3 goals to the opposing club.
- 20.6 The late or non-arrival of a Member Club team as a result of a vehicle breakdown, logistical problem, or that the Member Club team was unable to locate the match venue, will not be a defence to this charge.
- 20.7 Where a Member Club is found guilty in terms of Rule 20.5 it shall be liable to a fine as stipulated in the schedule of sanctions. The opponent in that match will receive a "walk-over" (a 3-0 (three-nil) win).
- 20.8 Where both Member Clubs are found guilty in terms of Rule 20.5 both Member Clubs shall be liable to a fine as stipulated in the schedule of sanctions and 0 (zero) points and 3 (three) goals will be awarded against them.
- 20.9 In the event of force majeure, the Disciplinary Committee may decide that the match be replayed.
- 20.10 The Valid Registration Licences of the Players and Member Club Officials of each team will be inspected by the referee and/or match commissioner and a representative of the other team in the dressing room 60 (sixty) minutes before the scheduled start of the match.
- 20.11 A Member Club which does not produce the Valid Registration Licence for a Player or fields a Player without an identity Valid Registration Licence shall be summarily fined 1000 (one thousand) Emalangenis per player.

- 20.12 The two Member Club teams will have access to the pitch two (2) hours prior to kick-off.

21. TEAM SHEETS

- 21.1. Member Clubs will upload duly completed team sheets on the FIFA/EFA CMS least 120 (One Hundred and Twenty) minutes prior to the start of the match.
- 21.2. Each Club shall present an electronic (digital) Player License for each player on the team sheet to the match commissioner for checking, at the checking point.
- 22.3 If a team does not bring the Player's License barcode/ link at the checking point. The offending club shall be summarily fined One Thousand Five Hundred Emalangeni (**E10,000.00**) and the game shall continue.
- 22.3.1 Players from the offending club shall be expected to take photos with the match official (Referee/ Match Commissioner/Match Coordinator) together with the captain of the offending club. These photos shall be taken to the office for verification within 3 working days, if upon verification; it is found that the players are not eligible, the office shall charge the team and if found guilty by the DC, the club shall forfeit the match to the opposing team with 3 points and 3 goals, further be fined as stipulated in the schedule of sanctions .
- 21.4 The team sheet will record the following information:-
- a) The full names of the 11 (eleven) registered Players starting the match;
 - b) The full names of the 11 (eleven) substitutes registered Players who may be utilised during the match;
 - c) The full names of the 5 (five) Member Club Officials entitled to sit on the team bench;
 - d) The full names of the 2 (two) Member Club Officials entitled to sit on the additional two seats alongside the team bench.
- 21.5 Changes to the starting list on the team sheet may be made at any time prior to the start of the match provided that these are in compliance with the FIFA/EFA CMS Rules and Regulations.
- 21.6 A maximum of five (5) substitutes are allowed for each match, substitutions which must be done within three (3) substitution opportunities. A substitution done at half time does not count as part of the three (3) opportunities, and as such, it becomes an additional opportunity.
- 21.7 If a named substitute enters the field of play instead of a named starting Player at the start of the match and the requirements of Rule 21.2 have not been complied with the Member Club will be summarily fined as stipulated in the schedule of sanctions .
- 21.8 If a Player's name appears on the final team sheet he will be deemed, for the purposes of these Rules, to have participated in the match.

22. COLOURS AND NUMBERS OF TEAM OUTFITS

- 22.1. Every Club must allocate 1 (one) Jersey number to be registered on the FIFA/EFA CMS to be used by a player for the duration of the Season. This number must be no more than 2 digits from 1 – 99.
- 22.2. A number must appear on the back of the shirt. This number must be between 25 cm (twenty-five centimetres) and 35 (thirty-five centimetres) in height and positioned in the centre of the back of the shirt.
- a) The colour, contrast and design of the number must be such that it is clearly legible to the match officials, the spectators in the stadium and the TV viewer.
 - b) Where the team wears a striped jersey, the number must be on a solid background which contrasts with the colours of the jersey.
- 22.4. Each Member Club will declare on its initial or annual Legal Membership renewal form, the colours of its official team outfit (home and away kit) and the colours of its alternative team outfit, which will be subject to approval by the League. Member Clubs may be allowed to use additional colours with the prior permission of the League in circumstances where both the official and alternative colours clash with those of the opposition. Failure to adhere to this Rule shall result in a summary fine as stipulated in the schedule of sanctions .
- 22.5. Both Member Clubs must take their official team outfit as well as their alternative team outfit to all matches.
- 22.6. The onus is on the visiting team to ascertain the colours of the home team for a particular match.
- 22.7. If in the opinion of the referee the colours of the 2 (two) opposing teams may lead to confusion, the visiting team will change into the alternative outfit or a combination of the 2 (two) outfits save that in exceptional circumstances the referee may order the home team to change all or part of its outfit. 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 brought before the DC and if found guilty shall be fined as stipulated in the schedule of sanctions and further lose the match with three points and three goals awarded to their opponents.
- 22.8. The outfits of the 2 (two) goalkeepers will be clearly distinguishable from those worn by the 2 (two) sets of outfield Players. In case of colour clashes of infield outfit and that of the goalkeeper, the goalkeeper shall change his outfit.
- 22.9. Member Club teams will be obliged to wear the following advertising on their playing jerseys:-
- a) The name of the sponsor, if any, of the Member Club on the front of the jersey and the Player's name and the initial, if necessary, on the back of the jersey;
 - b) The logo of the technical sponsor, if any, of the Member Club and the Member Club crest on the right and left breast of the front of the jersey respectively;
 - c) The logo of the sponsor of the League on the right arm sleeve; and

- d) The logo of the sponsor, if any, of the Member Club on the left arm sleeve;
- 22.10 The sizes of logos will not exceed the dimensions as laid down by the League.
- 22.11 Teams may wear the advertising of their Member Club sponsor subject to the following conditions:-
 - a) Such sponsor will not be in conflict with the sponsor of the League or other official suppliers of the League without prior written permission of the League which will not be unreasonably withheld;
 - b) Such sponsor's advertising will not be considered to bring the League or its sponsors into disrepute or be against public policy.
- 22.12 If the League procures a new sponsorship which conflicts with an existing approved Member Club's sponsorship, the League will take all reasonable steps to ensure that the rights of Member Club are not adversely affected.
- 22.13 No additional advertising may be permitted on the Member Club's team outfit except with the prior written approval of the League.
- 22.14 The Player's jerseys and shorts will be clearly and appropriately numbered, and the numbers will correspond with those shown on the team sheet.
- 22.15 In respect of competitions other than the league competitions, the competition rules may specify additional or alternative requirements.

23. COMPLIANCE MANUAL AND DIRECTIVES

- 23.1. The Compliance Manual and directives that are issued or amended by the Executive Committee will be binding on all Member Clubs, Member Club Officials, directors, full-time or part-time employees, duly authorized representatives, Players, Supporters and Spectators or any party to whom any obligation in terms of the PLE Rules & Regulations has been delegated by a Member Club.
- 23.2. Should any provisions of the Compliance Manual or directives be inconsistent with the PLE Rules & Regulations then the PLE Rules & Regulations prevail.

24. CLUB LICENSING REGULATIONS

- 24.1. The Club Licensing Regulations that are issued or amended by CAF/EFA and supplemented by the relevant FIFA Regulations, will be binding on all Member Clubs, Member Club Officials, directors, full or part-time employees, duly authorised representatives, Players or any party to whom any obligation in terms of the PLE Rules & Regulations has been delegated by a Member Club.
- 24.2. The objectives of the CAF/EFA Club Licensing Regulations read together with those issued by FIFA are:-
 - a) to ensure that Member Clubs develop the game;
 - b) to improve the level of professionalism of Member Clubs;
 - c) to promote sporting values in accordance with the principles of fair play;
 - d) to provide safe and secure match environments;

- e) to ensure that Member Clubs are adequately staffed and that staff members are developed;
 - f) to promote transparency in the finances, ownership and control of Member Clubs.
- 24.3 Applications for Club Licensing shall be done exclusively on the CAF Club Licensing Online Platform (CLOP). No manual application shall be accepted. Clubs are obligated to submit their applications early enough to allow for all the processes of approval and/or appeals, where applicable, to be implemented before the deadlines as communicated by CAF or the EFA.
- 24.4 Club Licensing is regulated by the EFA Club Licensing Regulations which set out precisely what Member Clubs must submit to EFA in order to obtain an EFA license to participate in professional football each season, and the process and timing that applies.
- 24.5 The Club Licensing Regulations set core minimum mandatory standards that PLE Member Clubs must meet to be granted an EFA License and best practice measures aimed at improving levels of professionalism that may become mandatory in future.
- 24.6 The standards set for the Premiership differ from those set for the NFD, and it is important that each Member Club understands the obligations imposed in their particular division and also the procedural requirements that must be met to obtain a License.
- 24.7 Premier clubs apply online platform through CLOP while NFD applications are submitted in hard copies to the EFA Club Licensing Manager.
- 24.8 Club Licensing applications are submitted to and dealt with by the EFA Club Licensing Manager who is bound by a strict confidentiality undertaking and does not permit any person, other than the EFA Club Licensing Committee who are similarly bound to confidentiality, to have access to any information that is provided.
- 24.9 The EFA Club Licensing Committee considers applications in terms of the Club Licensing Regulations and has the power to issue or refuse Licenses and to refer matters to the EFA ExCo, if necessary.
- 24.10 Member Clubs shall provide copies of all club licensing application documents to the PLE.

25. COACHING

- 25.1 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.
- 25.2 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 as stipulated in the schedule of sanctions, 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.
- a) A repeat of a violation by a club for the second and subsequent times in a season carries a fine as stipulated in the schedule of sanctions, 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.

- b) A club losing the head coach or coach during the course of the season will be given a grace period of four games/matches or a period equivalent to 28 days 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 EFA 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. After the grace period, failure by the club to have an appropriately licensed coach rule 25.2 and 25.2(a) shall apply.
- 25.3 At the end of every game, the clubs' coaches shall give Media an interview and such place will be identified by the Fourth official or the Match Commissioner or the Match Coordinator. For failure or refusal by a Coach to give an interview, a club shall be summarily fined as stipulated in the schedule of sanctions.
- 25.4 The clubs' coaches' dress code shall be either formal, smart casual or clubs' tracksuits. Any Club Coach who fails to comply with this provision together with the Club whose coach has violated this provision, shall be fined as stipulated in the schedule of sanctions.
- 25.5 Any Club Coach who fails to comply with this provision for a second time together with the Club whose coach has violated this provision, shall be summarily fined as stipulated in the schedule of sanctions.
- 25.6 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 as stipulated in the schedule of sanctions as well as suspended for a period not less than 6 months and the club whose coach has violated this provision shall also be fined as stipulated in the schedule of sanctions.
- 25.7 All people in the technical area shall be qualified or licensed in terms of the prevailing qualifications and applicable licenses, as determined by the EFA. A summary of as stipulated in the schedule of sanctions per individual having violated this provision shall be effected.

26. MATCH OFFICIALS

- 26.1. Match officials will be appointed to each match, namely a PLE Match Coordinator, an EFA/PLE Safety and Security Officer, a Match Commissioner, a Referee, 2 (two) Assistant Referees and a 4th (fourth) official.
- 26.2. The match commissioner, 4th official, referees and assistant referees will be appointed by the EFA Referees Committee from the Panel of suitably qualified and licensed referees for the matches organized.
- 26.3. If a referee or assistant referee does not arrive at least 45 (forty-five) minutes before the starting time of the match, then the match commissioner may appoint a replacement official to officiate as a referee or assistant referee.
- 26.4. If it is not possible for the match commissioner to ensure that the match has a referee and 2 (two) assistant referees then the match will be abandoned.

- 26.5. A protest on the grounds that a substitute official was used in a match will not be entertained by the League.
- 26.6 The Match Officials shall compile match reports detailing the occurrence of any circumstance regarding the match, detailing the occurrence of any circumstance regarding the match. The reports shall provide conclusive proof pertaining to any circumstance regarding the match.
- 26.7 The match officials will:-
- a) have authority to act on behalf of the League to ensure that Member Clubs comply with the PLE Rules & Regulations, PLE Compliance Manual and the Laws of the game in respect of every match;
 - b) inspect the facilities and instruct the home Member Club to take the necessary remedial action;
 - c) chair the match meeting which takes place before the match;
 - d) coordinate the activities specified in the match meeting document;
 - e) report on each match to the League and EFA detailing his assessment of the Match Officials, whether the Member Club teams complied with the PLE Rules & Regulations or not, the state of the pitch, the infrastructure at the ground, the security arrangements for the match, misconduct by member Clubs or their Supporters and any matter that he may wish to bring to the attention of the League or EFA. The report shall provide conclusive proof pertaining to any circumstance regarding the match.
- 26.8 The report of the match officials will be sent to the League within 48 (forty-eight) hours after the match.
- 26.9 The participating clubs may upon written request be furnished with copies of the match report(s).
- 26.10 Should it appear from the match official's reports that there was a transgression of the PLE Rules & Regulations and/or the PLE Compliance Manual, the Chief Executive Officer or his delegate will refer the matter to the Prosecutor for consideration.
- 26.11 All match officials must be accorded the utmost courtesy, respect and assistance whilst performing their duties for and on behalf of the League.

27. COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

- 27.1 The following statutory deductions shall be made from the total gate collections of a match, after which the remaining balance will be claimed by the host football club:
- a) A portion of 20% (twenty percent) of the total gate collections shall be deducted by the PLE for administration expenses;
 - b) Stadium levy;
 - c) Security expenses;

- d) any other applicable statutory levies, if any.
- 27.2 Where there will be more than one fixture of matches in a venue (e.g. double header, etc), the co-hosting clubs shall agree on a sharing formula, which must be submitted in writing and duly co-signed by the co-hosting clubs, to the PLE office (i.e. Football Manager or designated officer), at least 48 hours before the day of the match.
- a) Co-hosting clubs shall at all times comply with the agreed-upon sharing formula for the balance of gate collections after the statutory deductions.
- 27.3 The allocation of perimeter advertising boards will be that as formulated by the Executive Committee of the League, as articulated in the PLE Marketing Manual, provided that should there be any change in this arrangement, Member Clubs will be advised in good time.
- 27.4 Television and radio rights for all matches of the League will belong to the League, and no matches may be televised, filmed and broadcasted, either through TV, Radio or Streamed online, without the consent of the League.
- a) Media employees are prohibited from capturing games for their personal gain.
- 27.5. It will be misconduct for a Member Club to enter into a contractual agreement with a broadcaster, whether television, radio or any other online media or format, without the written permission of the League.
- 27.6. Prize money will be awarded according to the schedule of prize money allocation, which will be distributed by the League prior to the competition each year.

28. CONTACT WITH SPONSORS

- 28.1 A Member Club, Member Club Official or Player will not make direct contact with any Sponsor or Supplier of the League without the prior written permission of the League.
- 28.2 A Member Club, Member Club Official or Player who makes direct contact with a Sponsor or Supplier of the League without the prior written permission of the League may be sanctioned and/or summarily fined an amount not less than 5% (five percent) of the value of the Sponsorship or Supplier Agreement on the first instance.
- 28.3 Any Member Club, Member Club Official or Player who breaches this rule for a second time or more shall be charged with misconduct and if found guilty shall be fined at least 10% (ten percent) of the Sponsorship or Supplier Agreement.

29. LOCAL FRIENDLIES

- 29.1 Member Clubs or registered Players may not play in any match other than official matches under the auspices of the League without the prior written permission of the League.
- 29.2 A training match between 2 (two) Member Clubs which is not open to the public will not be considered as a friendly match in terms of this Rule.
- 29.3 Requests for permission to play a friendly must be submitted in writing at least 14 (fourteen) days prior to the match. The League may condone a late application on good cause shown.
- 29.4 The League may refuse permission on the grounds that the friendly match may interfere with the League's programme or its marketing.

30. INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLIES

- 30.1 Member Clubs and/or Players may not play in any match against a team from another National Association without the written permission of the League and EFA.
- 30.2 A training match which is not open to the public will be considered as a friendly match in terms of this Rule.
- 30.3 Requests for permission to play a friendly must be submitted in writing at least 14 (fourteen) days prior to the match. The prescribed documentation as laid down by FIFA must be completed and submitted to the League. The League may condone a late application on good cause shown.
- 30.4 Clubs that travel out of the country must submit an application to the League for permission to travel 7 (seven) days before the date of travel. Clubs shall submit the list of the travelling delegation and their passport details to the League prior to their departure. A Club that does not comply will be charged with misconduct.
- 30.5 Friendly matches may not be played during the period 1st August until 5 (five) days after the final official match of the Season except during an official break in the League's fixtures.
- 30.6 The League may refuse permission on the grounds that the friendly match may interfere with the League's programme or its marketing.

31. UNDERTAKING BY CLUBS, CLUB OFFICIALS AND PLAYERS

- 31.1 All Member Clubs must obtain a written undertaking from their Member Club Officials and Players that they will not talk to the press, television, radio, electronic and/or online media without the permission of the Member Club.
- 31.2 It is the responsibility of the Member Club to ensure that its Member Club Officials or Players do not bring the League, its sponsors or its Member Clubs into disrepute.
- 31.3 All member club officials shall sign the Code of Ethics every beginning of the season or at the time of their appointment as an official of a Member Club.

CHAPTER 2: PROTESTS AND COMPLAINTS

32. PROTESTS

- 32.1 A Member Club may lodge a protest with the League against another Member Club in respect of any match in which they played each other under the auspices of the League.
- 32.2 A protest will not be entertained if it relates to a decision of the referee or assistant referee made during the match as these decisions are final.
- 32.3 Where the protest relates to a Player who is alleged to be an ineligible Player, the protesting Member Club will lodge a written objection to the fielding of the Player detailing the reasons for the objection, with the referee and the opposing captain in the presence of an assistant referee before the start of the match.
- 32.4 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.
- 32.5 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.
- 32.6 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).
- 32.7 Club captains shall not refuse to sign a protest lodged by another Club. Offending Clubs shall be summarily fined by the PLE as stipulated in the schedule of sanctions.
- 32.8 Where the protest concerns any other alleged contravention of the PLE Rules & Regulations by a Member Club, Member Club Official, Player or Match Official in a particular match, the protest must:-
 - a) be made to the referee and the opposing captain in the presence of an assistant referee or match commissioner;
 - b) be made before the final whistle; and
 - c) set out the reasons for the protest.
- 32.9 A detailed written protest with evidence ("the written protest") accompanied by proof of payment of a non-refundable protest fee of **E5, 000.00** (five thousand Emalangeni) for the Premier League and **E2,000** (two thousand Emalangeni) for the NFD must be lodged with the League within 48 (forty-eight) hours after the match (excluding the day of the match itself, Saturdays, Sundays or public holidays).
- 32.10 The written protest must set out the reasons for the protest including the facts on which it is based and must refer to the relevant Article of these Rules and/or Statutes and/or Compliance Manual and/or EFA, CAF, FIFA Statutes or Football Rule or Law allegedly contravened by the alleged offender inclusive of national laws.

- 32.11 The onus is on the protesting Member Club to ensure that the provisions of this Rule are complied with, failing which the protest will be dismissed by the Disciplinary Committee.
- 32.12 If a protesting Member Club lodges a protest at the match but does not confirm the Protest, it will automatically be fined as stipulated in the schedule of sanctions.
- 32.13 If a written protest is lodged but withdrawn by the protesting Member Club after the commencement of the hearing, then the protest fee will be forfeited to the League.
- 32.14 Upon receipt of a valid written protest together with proof of payment of the protest fee, the League will convene the protest hearing.
- 32.15 At the hearing, the protest will be tabled by the Prosecutor and thereafter the protesting Member Club will bear the onus to conduct and prove its case.
- 32.16 The Disciplinary Committee will dismiss the protest if it concludes that the provisions of this Rule have not been complied with, the protest is at face value frivolous or vexatious, or the protest does not disclose a *prima facie* case.
- 32.17 If the Disciplinary Committee proceeds:-
- a) the protest will be heard by the Disciplinary Committee in accordance with the procedure applicable to disciplinary proceedings except that the protesting Member Club bears the onus of proving its case it will thus prosecute the protest;
 - b) the alleged offender will have all the rights afforded to parties charged with misconduct as contemplated in the PLE Rules & Regulations;
 - c) either party may request the League to subpoena any party under its jurisdiction to give evidence or produce any book, paper or document at the hearing;
 - d) the Disciplinary Committee may impose any sanction available to it in terms of the PLE Rules & Regulations.
- 32.18 The protesting Member Club, the alleged offender or the League may appeal to the EFA Appeal Board against any decision of the Disciplinary Committee.

CHAPTER 3: DISCIPLINARY MATTERS

33. DISMISSALS

- 33.1 A Player dismissed by the referee (i.e. “red carded” or sent off, including dismissal as a result of 2 (two) yellow cards given in the same match) will, for the first occasion in a Season, be suspended from participation in the next 1 (one) matches to be played by his team in any Competition under the auspices of the League.
- 33.2 For each subsequent occasion that a Player is dismissed during the same Season the period of suspension will be increased by 1 (one) match from the suspension previously served.
- 33.3 Any period of suspension or part thereof which remains outstanding at the end of a Season must be served at the commencement of the next Season.

- 33.4 Any dismissal that occurs during a match stopped or abandoned before the end of regular time will be maintained.
- a) red cards will not be expunged in the case a replayed match and/or any subsequent fixture.
- 33.5 The League will be responsible for keeping all records relating to dismissals and suspensions, and only the League's records will be considered accurate and binding. These records will be sent to Member Clubs after every match in which they participate and the League will inform Member Clubs when a suspension falls due.
- 33.6 This Rule will only be applicable to dismissals that occur in a match forming part of an official Competition of the League.
- 33.7 This Rule also applies to Member Club Officials who are dismissed by the referee. When under suspension Member Club Officials may not enter the perimeter demarcation or the tunnel.
- 33.8 Where a Player or Member Club Official transfers to a new Member Club during a period of suspension the suspension will transfer concomitantly to the new Member Club.
- 33.9 A Member Club may request a review in writing on the grounds of mistaken identity. The review will be to the EFA Referees' Review Committee.

34. CAUTIONS

- 34.1 Any Player who accumulates 3 (three) cautions (i.e. "yellow cards") for the first occasion in a Season will be suspended from participation in the next 1 (one) match to be played by his team in that competition of the league
- 34.2 Any Player who accumulates an additional 3 (three) cautions (i.e. "6 yellow cards" for the season) in the same Season will be suspended from participation in the next 2 (two) matches to be played by his team in that competition of the league .
- 34.3 For each additional 3 (three) cautions received by the same Player in the same Season, the suspension will be increased by 1 (one) match from the suspension previously served.
- 34.4 Where a Player receives a red card in a match any yellow cards received by the Player in such match will not be counted for the purposes of this Rule.
- 34.5 Any caution that occurs during an abandoned match will not be maintained unless specific provision is made therefor in terms of this PLE Rules & Regulations.
- 34.6 Any period of suspension or part thereof, which remains outstanding at the end of a Season, must be served at the commencement of the next Season. Cautions accumulated during a Season will not be carried to the next Season.
- 34.7 The League will be responsible for keeping all records relating to cautions and suspensions, and only the League's records will be considered accurate and binding. Such records will be sent to Member Clubs after every match in which they participate and the League will inform Member Clubs when a suspension falls due.

- 34.8 This Rule will only be applicable to cautions that occur in a match forming part of a Competition of the League.
- 34.9 Where a Player transfers to a new Member Club during a period of suspension the counting of matches missed will also transfer to the new Member Club from the time when the Player becomes eligible to play for the new Member Club.
- 34.10 Players who have accumulated cautions and are transferred to a new Member Club will carry over such cautions to the new Member Club.
- 34.11 A Member Club may request a review in writing on the grounds of mistaken identity only. The review will be to the EFA Referees' Review Committee.

35. MISCONDUCT

- 35.1 Misconduct is a breach or infringement of any of the following:-
- a) The Laws of the Game;
 - b) The Compliance Manual of the League;
 - c) The PLE Rules & Regulations ;
 - d) The Statutes of FIFA;
 - e) The Statutes of CAF;
 - f) The Statutes of EFA;
 - g) An order, requirement or instruction of the EFA and/or the League.
- 35.2 Unless otherwise specified: -
- a) a breach or an attempted breach of the provisions of the PLE Rules & Regulations, deliberate or otherwise, is misconduct;
 - b) anyone who is a participant in a breach whether as an instigator or accomplice, may be charged with misconduct;
- 35.3 Without derogating from the generality of what constitutes an act of misconduct, the following are specifically declared to be acts of misconduct on the part of any person or body falling under the jurisdiction of the League:-
- a) By the home Member Club if it fails to provide adequate security at its Home Venue or at any ground at which a home match is played. In this regard, it will be presumed that a Member Club failed to provide adequate security where the spectators at this venue, irrespective of their affiliation, are responsible for improper conduct;
 - b) Notwithstanding the provisions of Rule 35.3(a) above, the League has a discretion to prosecute the visiting Member Club where its spectators are responsible for improper conduct.
 - c) Improper conduct includes but is not limited to invading or attempting to invade the demarcated area, throwing or attempting to throw projectiles or bottles, damage or attempted damage to property, letting off or attempting to let off incendiary devices, displaying insulting or political slogans, uttering insulting words or sounds, smoking or contravening any statute, regulation or bylaw;
 - d) By a home Member Club if it fails to protect Match Officials against acts or attempted acts of violence, intimidation or any other form of abuse before, during

or after a match at its Home Venue or any ground at which a home match is played;

- e) By a Member Club or its Member Club Officials or Players in the event of their insulting or assaulting any other person whether a Player, Spectator, Match official or supporter, physically or verbally abusing other Member Club Officials, Match Officials or any other person at a match;
- f) By a Member Club, or its Member Club Official, or Players, should any of them commit or fail to take reasonable steps to prevent -
 - i) any act having the effect, directly or indirectly, of causing the delay or disruption of a match;
 - ii) any corrupt, dishonest or unlawful practice in connection with a match or in connection with the affairs of the League;
 - iii) any act of unfair discrimination or harassment;
 - iv) any action which offends the dignity of a person through contemptuous, discriminatory or disparaging words or actions considered discriminatory;
 - v) any act which incites others to hatred or violence;
 - vi) any provocation of the spectators during a match;
 - vii) any act which insults someone in any way, especially by using offensive gestures or language, or by violating the principles of fair play or by behaving in an unsporting way;
 - viii) any act or threat of violence, intimidation or abuse of another person including a Match Official;
 - ix) Uttering abusive or obscene or derogatory words, spitting or emission of saliva onto any person or directed towards a person
- g) the failure to fulfil a fixture or match for which a date, time and venue has been fixed by the League;
- h) the giving, offering, promising or acceptance, whether directly or indirectly, of any inducement, reward or bribe, to anybody in relation to a match, the sport of football or the affairs of the League;
- i) the inducement of Players or Member Club Officials to breach a contract;
- j) the approach by a Member Club, Player, Coach, or Member Club Official, or any person subject to the provisions of this PLE Rules & Regulations 2025/26 to seek recourse in a Court of Law, any administrative tribunal, EFA, CAF or FIFA on any issue that can be determined in terms of this PLE Rules & Regulations before all procedures prescribed in these prescripts have first been exhausted;
- k) the failure to attend a Disciplinary Committee hearing without a valid reason; or
- l) the failure to report any act of alleged misconduct to the League;

- m) any act, statement or conduct considered insulting or which is likely to bring the game, a sponsor, Player, Member Club, Member Club Official, the League, EFA, CAF or FIFA into disrepute.
- 35.4 Where a statement is considered to be improper and is attributable to a Member Club Official or Player, the League will call on that person to admit or deny having made the statement within 5 (five) days of being requested to do so.
 - a) Where the person admits to making the statement, disciplinary action will be taken by the League.
 - b) Where the person denies having made the statement, he must confirm that denial at a press conference arranged by the League at the expense of that person. The League will have the discretion to prosecute the person in circumstances where the denial is untruthful.
 - c) Where the Member Club Official or Player fails to deny the statement, it will be presumed that the statement was made by that Member Club Official or Player and will be referred to the Disciplinary Committee.
- 35.5 Use of any substance that is alien to, or is foreign to, a football field or stadium is not allowed.
 - a) 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 change-rooms, passages and tunnels, burning of incense or any substances/materials in the change-rooms, passages, tunnels or fields; applying any oil or lotions to match balls and match equipment, digging of the fields, use of mirrors etc.
 - b) Any Club identified by the Referee/Match Commissioner or the Match Coordinator committing any of these offence(s) shall be summarily fined by the PLE as stipulated in the schedule of sanctions.
 - c) The Referee's/Match Commissioner's/Match Coordinator/Safety Officer's report shall provide conclusive proof regarding the use of substance.
- 35.6 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.**
- 35.7 The PLE shall provide copies of the Rules and Regulations of the Competition to the members of the DC.
- 35.8 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.
- 35.9 A member club that has been charged for misconduct or any other matter shall be given at least 48 hours' notice to appear before the Disciplinary Committee.

- 35.10 In the event that a party has been properly served with the notice to sit for a hearing, the matter shall not be postponed due to the party's unavailability.
- 35.11 The properly served Club shall request a postponement of its hearing:-
- a) provided the Club submits a written request to the PLE Office before 16:30 on the working day before the date of its hearing;
 - b) The Club shall be charged the costs of the DC sitting for any requests for postponement submitted in contravention of Rule 35.11(a).
- 35.12 It is not a defence to a charge in terms of this Rule to show that the statement was true or in the public interest.

36. JURISDICTION

- 36.1. The League has the authority to take disciplinary measures in respect of any issues in any way connected to a Member Club, Member Club Officials or Players.
- 36.2. Although disciplinary decisions are taken by the Referee during matches, the League may charge a Player or Member Club Official for:-
- a) serious infringements which have escaped the Match Officials' attention;
 - b) serious infringements not sanctioned appropriately by the Match Official;
 - c) serious infringements justifying the extension of the duration of a match suspension incurred automatically by an expulsion.

37. DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

- 37.1. The Disciplinary Committee deals with all cases of alleged misconduct and protests.
- 37.2. In making its determinations the Disciplinary Committee will be guided by the PLE Handbook, the EFA Disciplinary Code, the principles of fairness and equity, the developing jurisprudence of sports tribunals and Eswatini law but will not be bound by any laws relating to procedure or the admissibility of evidence in proceedings before a court of law.
- 37.3. The Disciplinary Committee may permit the proceedings to be conducted using, or including the use of, electronic media such as video or audio conferencing facilities where these are readily available or can be obtained and where it would prevent delay, save cost, be convenient, and be in the interests of justice.
- 37.4 The Disciplinary Committee may of its own accord or on the application of any party to the dispute, including the League, vary any patent error in an order made by it.
- 37.5 Only parties, their representatives and witnesses to the proceedings may attend the proceedings of a Disciplinary Committee.
- 37.6 The Prosecutor will prosecute misconduct matters on the League's behalf before the Disciplinary Committee.

- 37.7 Parties may be represented by any person of their choice and for expediency of the proceedings only one person will be allowed to make oral submissions on behalf of the team.
- 37.8 The onus of proof in cases of alleged misconduct will rest on the League which it will have to discharge on a balance of probabilities.
- 37.9 In hearings before the Disciplinary Committee there will be a rebuttable presumption that audio or video recordings are what they purport to be and can be admitted into evidence without proof.
- 37.10 Facts contained in Match Officials' reports are presumed, unless the contrary is proved, to be accurate. Where a respondent alleges that a report is inaccurate and the presence of the author is required at the hearing, it must advise the League in writing 48 (forty-eight) hours prior to the hearing.
- 37.11 If there is any discrepancy in the reports of Match Officials, the referee, the assistant referee or fourth official's report will be accepted in respect of incidents on the pitch and the match commissioner's report will be accepted for incidents outside the perimeter demarcation.
- 37.12 The PLE Coordinator and Match Safety Officer's Reports will be accepted in respect of incidents outside the perimeter demarcation.
- 37.13 The proceeding will be conducted in English, however, should a party require an interpreter in any of the official Eswatini languages, such request must be made in writing to the Prosecutor at least 48 (forty-eight) hours prior to the hearing.
- 37.14 If misconduct is proved, the Disciplinary Committee will impose any 1 (one) or a combination of the following sanctions on both natural and legal persons:-
- 37.14.1 The following sanctions may be imposed on both natural and legal persons:-
- a) Warning
 - b) Reprimand
 - c) A monetary Fine on any terms decided on by the Disciplinary Committee with a maximum of:-
 - i) E100,000.00 (one hundred thousand Emalangeni) for a Member Club;
 - ii) E10,000.00 (ten thousand Emalangeni) for a Player, Member Club Official and/or natural person
 - d) Return of awards which include the benefits received, in particular, sums of money or symbolic objects;
- 37.14.2 The following sanctions may only be imposed on natural persons:-
- a) Caution;
 - b) Expulsion;
 - c) Match suspension:-

- i) Any person who is suspended, is banned from the dressing rooms, any tunnels or walkways between the dressing room and the pitch, and the area within the perimeter demarcation (including technical areas);
 - ii) The suspension is imposed in terms of matches, days or months and, unless otherwise specified in the Rules, may not exceed 24 (twenty-four) matches or 24 (twenty-four) months;
 - iii) If the suspension is to be served in terms of matches, only those matches actually played to completion count towards execution of the suspension;
 - iv) If a suspension is combined with a Fine, the suspension may be extended until the Fine has been paid in full;
- d) A ban from dressing rooms, any tunnels or walkways between the dressing room and the pitch and the areas within the perimeter demarcation (including technical areas);
- e) A ban from entering one or more stadiums;
- f) A ban on taking part in any football related activity:-
 - i) Any person banned from taking part in any football-related activity is precluded (save for internal meetings with directors, staff and players at Member Club level) from directly or indirectly having any involvement with the League in respect of administrative, deliberative, executive or sporting functions relating to football;
 - ii) Without limiting the general nature of such a ban, such a person may not (save for internal meetings with directors, staff and players at Member Club level);
 - a) conclude, deal with, or sign documents of whatever nature in relation to football;
 - b) Attend football-related meetings or in any manner or fashion represent a football club at such a meeting;
 - c) Make public comments or utterances directly or indirectly relating to football, including addressing press conferences;
 - d) Attend any PLE football matches, including entering any stadium or venue at which a match is being played or is to be played on the day of attendance or entry or attempted entry.

37.14.3 The following sanctions are only applicable to legal persons:-

- a) Playing a match without spectators;
- b) Playing a match in a neutral venue;
- c) A ban on playing in a particular stadium;
- d) The annulment of the result of a match;
- e) Expulsion from a competition or from the League;
- f) Forfeiture of a match:-
 - i) A team sanctioned with a forfeiture of a match is deemed to have lost the match by 3 (three) goals to 0 (zero);

- ii) If the goal difference at the end of the match is greater than 3 (three), the result on the pitch is upheld;
- iii) Deduction of points;
- iv) Relegation to a lower division;
- v) Replay of a match if it could not take place or could not be played in full for reasons other than force majeure.

37.15 Partial suspension of implementation of sanctions;

37.15.1 The Disciplinary Committee may only suspend a sanction wholly or partially in the following instances:-

- a) A match suspension;
- b) A ban on access to dressing rooms or the technical area;
- c) A ban on taking part in any football-related activity;
- d) The obligation to play a match without spectators;
- e) The obligation to play a match on neutral ground; or
- f) A ban on playing in a certain stadium.

37.15.2 Partial suspension is only permissible if the duration of the sanction does not exceed 6 (six) matches or 6 (six) months.

37.15.3 The Disciplinary Committee may suspend a sanction for a period of between 6 (six) months to 2 (two) years.

37.15.4 If the party sanctioned with a suspended sentence commits another similar infringement during the period of the suspension, the suspension is automatically revoked and the suspended portion of the sanction is applied and is added to the sanction pronounced for the new infringement.

37.14.5 This Rule is not applicable in the case of violations of anti-doping rules.

37.16 Sanctions will, unless otherwise stated, be effective immediately on pronouncement by the Disciplinary Committee and are not dependent on the written confirmation by the Prosecutor.

37.17 The Disciplinary Committee may use Annexure A as a sanctions guide to maintain consistency and predictability.

38. SPECIFIC SANCTIONS

38.1 Ineligibility:-

If a player takes part in a match (he is on the team sheet, the field of play, or on the substitutes bench at any time) despite being ineligible, the Member Club which fielded him will be sanctioned with a forfeiture of the match and a fine as stipulated in the schedule of sanctions. The player may also be personally sanctioned.

38.2 Misconduct against persons other than a Match Official:-

38.2.1 In addition to the automatic suspension which may have been incurred in accordance with these Rules, any person will be charged by the League, and on a conviction will, besides a fine, be suspended for:-

- a) at least 8 (eight) matches for assault;
- b) at least 4 (four) matches for spitting at a person other than a Match Official.

38.3 Misconduct against a Match Official:-

38.3.1 In addition to the automatic suspension which may have been incurred in accordance with these Rules, any person will be charged by the League, and on a conviction will, besides a fine, be suspended for:-

- a) at least 4 (four) matches for unsporting conduct towards a Match Official;
- b) at least 12 (twelve) months for assaulting a Match Official;
- c) at least 6 (six) months for spitting at a Match Official.

38.4. Involvement in a brawl may result in the alleged perpetrators being charged by the League, and on a conviction will be suspended for at least 8 (eight) matches:-

41.4.1 Anyone who attempted to de-escalate the brawl will, at the discretion of the Prosecutor, not be charged.

41.4.2 If it is not possible to identify the perpetrator in a brawl, the League will charge the Member Club or Member Clubs to which the aggressors belong.

38.5 Additional disciplinary measures may be imposed on a Member Club in the following Circumstances:-

41.5.1 Where the referee cautions or expels at least 5 (five) Players of the same team during a match;

41.5.2 Where a Player or Member Club Official from the same team threaten or harass Match Official or other person.

38.6 A Player or Member Club Official who publicly incites others to violence will be sanctioned with match suspension for not less than 12 (twelve) months coupled with a fine. In serious cases, in particular when the infringement is committed using the mass media (such as the press, radio, television, electronic or social media) or if it takes place on a match day in or around a stadium, the minimum fine will be E20,000.00 (twenty thousand Emalangeni).

- 38.7 Any Player or Member Club Official who provokes the general public before, during or after a match will be suspended for a minimum of 2 (two) matches coupled with a fine.

39. COMPLIANCE WITH PENALTIES OR ORDERS IMPOSED

If the defaulting party is a Member Club, Player or a Member Club Official the league will deduct the total outstanding amount from any moneys payable by the League to the Member Club.

40. ANTI-DOPING

All persons under the jurisdiction of the League are obliged to comply with the anti-doping rules promulgated by the World Anti-Doping Agency.

41. PRESS STATEMENTS AND REPORTS

- 41.1 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.
- 41.2 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.
- 41.3 Clubs, officials, supporters, fans shall not publish or make statements that may bring the sponsors, the PLE and all its Sub-Committees into 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 an amount as stipulated in the schedule of sanctions.
- 41.4 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 as stipulated in the schedule of sanctions per incident, which shall be paid by the club. The fine shall increase by sum as stipulated in the schedule for each repeated transgression by the offender.

42. GENERAL

- 42.1 Entrance fees at all premier league matches shall be a minimum of **E30.00** for a Category B or higher single match and a minimum of **E50.00** for a Category A single header. Children below the age of 12 years will be charged half the profile.
- 42.2 Entrance fees at all NFD matches shall be a minimum of **E20.00** for a Category B or higher single match and a minimum of **E30.00** for a Category A single header. Children below the age of 12 years will be charged half the profile.
- 42.3 Entrance fees at double header matches shall be a minimum of **E50.00** for all premier league and a minimum of **E30.00** for all NFD matches.
- 42.4 Red Cards shall be recovered from the PLE office at **E200.00** per premier league player and **E150.00** per NFD player

- 42.5 The PLE shall collect 20% of the gross gate takings from all matches played in this tournament.
- 42.6 The host club shall always provide a security plan for all its matches.
- 42.7 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 4 hours before the start of the game. Offending clubs will be summarily fined **E2,000,00** by the PLE
- 42.8 In the event of any dispute 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.
- 42.9 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 **E1 000.00** (one thousand Emalangeni).
- 42.10 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 **E2000.00** (two thousand Emalangeni).
- 42.11 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 shall result in a summary fine of **E1 000.00** (one thousand Emalangeni).
- 42.12 All Club representatives shall sign the PLE Attendance Register indicating the attendance and departure for the PLE Event, Workshop and/or official meeting.

ANNEXURE 1

MATCH DAY RUNNING ORDER

TIME BEFORE KICK OFF (hr/min)	ACTIVITY	RESPONSIBLE
4hr	Stadium Management Keys to Clubs	PLE Coordinator to supervise handover of Keys to Clubs
2hr	Pre-match Meeting	Match Commissioner
120 (one hundred and twenty)	Deadline of uploading Team List on FCMS	Team Reps
90 (ninety)	Final teams list to the Match Commissioner – Home Team	Home Team Manager
90 (ninety)	Final team list to the Match Commissioner – Away team	Away Team Manager
60 (sixty)	Teams' inspection in Dressing rooms	Team managers
60 (sixty)	Inspection of cards, Home team first	Match commissioner
60 (sixty)	Interviews of the coaches on the field	Team media officers, Broadcaster
55 (fifty-five)	Warm-up commences	
30 (thirty)	Meeting of match commissioner and doctors	Match commissioner, team reps
15 (fifteen)	Teams to leave the field	4th (fourth) official
8 (eight)	Team to be called from dressing rooms	4th (fourth) official
5 (five)	Teams to be ready in the tunnel for inspection	Team managers, match officials
4 (four)	Walkout of teams	Broadcaster, match commissioner
2 (two)	Team photos	
1 (one)	Coin toss	
0 (zero)	Kick-off	Referee

PLE ADMINISTRATION FEES *

	ARTICLE	PREMIER LEAGUE	NATIONAL FIRST DIVISION
AFFILIATION	5 (a)	E5,000.00	E3,000.00
MATCH OFFICIALS	5 (b)	E40,000.00	E20,000.00
ACCREDITATION	5 (c)	E1,500.00	E1,500.00
PLAYER REGISTRATION	5.3	E100.00	E100.00
RED CARD	42.4	E200.00	E150.00

*These fees will be subject to annual amendment by the PLE through a Memorandum to member clubs.

SCHEDULE OF SANCTIONS

OFFENCE	ARTICLE	PREMIER DIVISION	NATIONAL FIRST DIVISION
Failure to Use a Single Jersey Number for Each Player per season	22.1	Summary fine not less than E1,000.00 Second occurrence summary fine not less than E2,000.00	Summary fine not less than E1,000.00 Second occurrence summary fine not less than E2,000.00
Use Fraudulent Documents to Secure Registration/or Accreditation of a Player	5.3	Fine not less than E20,000.00	Fine not less than E10,000.00
Failure To properly Cut Grass, Mark Lines, Secure Nets, and Flag Poles, Where applicable floodlights are functional	14.8 & 9 17.6 19.3	Fine not less than E30,000.00 , lose the match with (3) points and (3) goals awarded to their opponents/ Summary fine not less than E5,000.00	Fine not less than E10,000.00 , lose the match with (3) points and (3) goals awarded to their opponents/ Summary fine not less than E2,000.00
Failure to Provide Safety or Security	18.1	Fine not less than E30,000.00	Fine not less than E15,000.00
Failure to Secure Match Venue	17.1	Fine not less than E30,000.00 , lose the match with (3) points and (3) goals awarded to their opponents	Fine not less than E10,000.00 lose the match with (3) points and (3) goals awarded to their opponents
Failure To Comply with the outfit Colours Confirmed during Phone Meeting and legal membership form	22.4	Summary fine of E5,000.00	Summary fine of E2,000.00
Failure by Officials to Arrive At Match Venue 120 Minutes for Pre Match Meeting	20.1 (b)	Summary fine of E10,000.00	Summary fine of E5,000.00
Failure To Comply With The Officials Directives Of Using The Dressing Rooms	20.1 (iv)	Summary fine of E20,000.00	Summary fine of E10,000.00
Failure to Be in The Tunnels For Pre-Kick Off Formalities 8 Minutes Before Match Kick Off	20.1 (k)	Summary fine of E20,000.00	Summary fine of E10,000.00

Failure to Adhere To Instructions By The Match Coordinator or Match Officials Regarding Use Of Facilities	14.11	Summary fine of E10,000.00	Summary fine of E5,000.00
Failure to Change Uniform Resulting in The Game Being Abandoned or Called off	22.7	Fine not less than E20,000.00 , lose the match with (3) points and (3) goals awarded to their opponents	Fine not less than E10,000.00 , lose the match with (3) points and (3) goals awarded to their opponents

OFFENCE	ARTICLE	PREMIER LEAGUE	NATIONAL FIRST DIVISION
Delaying Kick Off Up To 15 Minutes After the Scheduled Start Of The Match	20.4	Summary fine of E10,000.00	Summary fine of E5,000.00
Abandonment of a Match 15 minutes after the scheduled start of the match due to late arrival or non-arrival of a member club team	20.5	Fine not less than E50,000.00 , lose the match with (3) points and (3) goals awarded to their opponents If both member clubs are found guilty a fine of not less than E50,000.00 and 0 (zero) points and 3 (three) goals will be awarded against them	Fine not less than E15,000.00 , lose the match with (3) points and (3) goals awarded to their opponents If both member clubs are found guilty a fine of not less than E15,000.00 and 0 (zero) points and 3 (three) goals will be awarded against them
Entering The Field of Play without Being Led by Match Officials	20.3 (b)	Summary fine of E20,000.00	Summary fine of E10,000.00
Entering The Field of Play from An Entrance Other Than The Official Entrance/tunnel	20.3 (c)	Summary fine of E20,000.00	Summary fine of E10,000.00
Abandonment Of The Game By The Conduct Of a Team Participating in this Competition or its Players, Fans, Officials or Supporters	35.3	Fine not less than E50,000.00 if the team is a first offender and not less than E100,000.00 is second offender and further lose the match with (3) points and (3) goals awarded to their opponents	Fine not less than E20,000.00 if the team is a first offender and not less than E60,000.00 is second offender and further lose the match with (3) points and (3) goals awarded to their opponents
Failure to Present Players License	20.11	Summarily fined E1,000.00 for each missing license	Summarily fined E1,000.00 for each missing license
Using a Player Deemed not to have Been Eligible to play After Playing Without a License	22.3.1	Summary fine of E20,000.00 and further lose the match with (3) points and (3) goals awarded to their opponents ,if the score in the field of play was such that the goal difference was superior than three goals in favor of the opposing club, the score in the field of play shall be maintained	Summary fine of E10,000.00 and further lose the match with (3) points and (3) goals awarded to their opponents ,if the score in the field of play was such that the goal difference was superior than three goals in favor of the opposing club, the score in the field of play shall be maintained

Refusing To Follow the Match Officials instruction after Card Checking Formalities into The Field of Play	20.3 (a)	Summary fine not less than E20,000.00	Summary fine not less than E10,000.00
If a named substitute enters the field of play instead of a named starting Player at the start of the match and the requirements of Rule 16.3 have not been complied with the Member Club	21.7	Summary fine of E2,000.00 (two thousand five hundred emalangen)	Summary fine of E1,000.00 (one thousand emalangen)
Returning into the Field of Play for The Second Half Without The referees or Match Commissioners Permission	20.3 (d)	Summary fine not less than E10,000.00	Summary fine not less than E5,000.00

OFFENCE	ARTICLE	PREMIER LEAGUE	NATIONAL FIRST DIVISION
Refusal By Head Coach To Give Media Interviews	25.3	Summary fine of E15,000.00	Summary fine of E10,000.00
Failure By Head Coach To Dress Formal Or Clubs Track Suit	25.4	Summary fine of E10,000 to the Coach and E10,000.00 to the club. Summary fine of E20,000.00 for to the Coach for a second time and E20,000.00 to the club For the Third time the coach shall be fined not less than E30,000.00 and suspension not less than 1 month by the DC and the Club be fined not less than E30,000.00 by the DC	Summary fine of E5,000 to the Coach and E5,000.00 to the club. Summary fine of E10,000.00 for to the Coach for a second time and E10,000.00 to the club For the Third time the coach shall be fined not less than E15,000.00 and suspension not less than 1 month by the DC and the Club be fined not less than E15,000.00 by the DC
Club fielding a suspended player	38.1	a forfeiture of the match and a minimum fine of twenty thousand Emalangen (E20,000.00). The player may also be sanctioned	a forfeiture of the match and a minimum fine of twenty thousand Emalangen (E5,000.00). The player may also be sanctioned
Club Including a defaulter in the team List	38.1	Fine not less than E20,000.00 and lose the game forfeiting three points and three goals to the opposing club.	Fine not less than E5,000.00 and lose the game forfeiting three points and three goals to the opposing club
Club Fielding A Defaulter Upon Protest by the opposing Club	38.1 32.3	Fine not less than E20,000.00 and lose the game forfeiting three points and three goals to the opposing club. Player shall be suspended for all matches until eligible to play	Fine not less than E5,000.00 and lose the game forfeiting three points and three goals to the opposing club. Player shall be suspended for all matches until eligible to play

Utilizing A Coach Who Does not conform to Club Licensing Requirements	25.2	Fine not less than E15,000.00 , a repeat of the violation by the club for the second time and subsequent times in a season a fine not less than E25,000.00	Fine not less than E10,000.00 , a repeat of the violation by the club for the second time and subsequent times in a season a fine not less than E15,000.00
Utilizing unqualified or unlicensed officials in the technical area, in terms of the prevailing qualifications and applicable licenses, as determined by the EFA	15.8 13	A summary of E10, 000 per individual	A summary of E10, 000 per individual
Invading the Pitch Before, during and after game by Supporters, Fans, a Steward, or Spectators in Celebration of a Goal	35.3 (c)	Summary fine of E25,000.00	Summary fine of E15,000.00
Threatening by conduct or words to assault or attempt to assault a referee, PLE official, player, club official, marshal, supporter, fan, spectator	35.3 f (viii)	A minimum fine of E10,000.00 and a maximum fine of E30, 000.00. In addition, the offending club shall be ordered to compensate the victim for any financial loss incurred due to the assault by the DC.	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 loss incurred due to the assault by the DC.

OFFENCE	ARTICLE	PREMIER LEAGUE	NATIONAL FIRST DIVISION
Assaulting a referee, PLE official, player, club official, marshal, supporter, fan, spectator, or the use of excessive force.	35.3 (e)	shall be punished with a fine of not less than E40 000.00 by the DC. In addition, the offending club shall be ordered to compensate the victim for any financial loss incurred due to the assault/ suspended for 13 matches	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 loss incurred due to the assault/ suspended for 13 matches
Uttering abusive or obscene or derogatory words, spitting or emission of saliva onto any person or directed towards a person	35. 3 f (ix)	A minimum of E25, 000.00 and a maximum of E40, 000.00 by the DC. This should also include players where players can incite fans, opposing players and officials, etc. Suspended for 6 matches for spitting at a person	A minimum of E10, 000.00 and a maximum of E20, 000.00 by the DC. This should also include players where players can incite fans, opposing players and officials, etc. Suspended for 6 matches for spitting at a person
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.	35.3 (c)	A minimum of E10, 000.00 and a maximum of E30,000.00 by the DC	A minimum of E10, 000.00 and a maximum of E20,000.00 by the DC

Throwing objects of any kind onto the field of play or its surroundings or unto any person(s) thus assaulting or attempting to assault and invading the field of play -	35.3 (c)	a fine of not less than E20 000.00 by the DC.	a fine of not less than E10 000.00 by the DC.
Failure to control fan(s), supporter(s), official(s), marshal(s) -.	35.3 (a)	a fine not less than E25,000.00 by the DC	a fine not less than E15,000.00 by the DC
Maliciously damaging or attempting to damage property in the stadium	35.3 (c)	A fine of not less than E 30,000.00	A fine of not less than E 15,000.00
Committing any act of violence of whatsoever nature not provided for in these Rules	35.3 f (viii)	A fine of not less than E 25,000.00	A fine of not less than E 25,000.00
To directly or indirectly interrupt, obstruct or disturb the normal proceedings of a match before, during or after the match –	35.3 f (i)	a fine of not less than E 20,000.00 by the DC	a fine of not less than E 10,000.00 by the DC
Failing to conduct themselves in an orderly fashion and committing any other act of unsporting behavior –	35.3 (c)	a minimum fine of E20,000.00.	a minimum fine of E10,000.00.
Refusal to adhere to any directives of the Executive Committee –	23.1	summary fine of E E20,000.00	summary fine of E E10,000.00
Use of any Substance That Is Alien or Foreign to, a football field or stadium	35.5 (a)		

OFFENCE	ARTICLE	PREMIER LEAGUE	NATIONAL FIRST DIVISION
Use of any Substance That Is Alien or Foreign to, a football field or stadium	35.5 (a)	summary fine of E E30,000.00 , If a club appears before the DC for a second time on the similar charges of violence and use of foreign substance, if found guilty, the DC shall double the fine. Further to that a club shall lose three (3) points.	summary fine of E E30,000.00 , If a club appears before the DC for a second time on the similar charges of violence and use of foreign substance, if found guilty, the DC shall double the fine. Further to that a club shall lose three (3) points.

Powers of the DC	37	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 in the PLE and/or EFA Constitution. The amount of fine in such instances shall not be less than E 20,000.00.	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 in the PLE and/or EFA Constitution. The amount of fine in such instances shall not be less than E 10,000.00.
Failure to Wear Outfit with sponsors Logo On One Sleeve and On the Shorts	22.9 (c)	Summary fine of E20,000.00	Summary fine of E5,000.00
Direct Communication with the Sponsor	28.2	Summary fine Not Less Than E40,000.00/ or summarily fined an amount not less than 5% (five percent) of the value of the Sponsorship or Supplier Agreement on the first instance. Any A Member Club, Member Club Official or Player who breaches this rule for a second time or more shall be charged with misconduct and if found guilty shall be fined at least 10% of the Sponsorship or Supplier Agreement.	Summary fine Not Less Than E20,000.00/ or summarily fined an amount not less than 5% (five percent) of the value of the Sponsorship or Supplier Agreement on the first instance. Any A Member Club, Member Club Official or Player who breaches this rule for a second time or more shall be charged with misconduct and if found guilty shall be fined at least 10% of the Sponsorship or Supplier Agreement.
Failure to upload team list on FCMS 2 hours before the game	2.1	Summary fine of E5,000.00	Summary fine of E2,000.00
Refusal to sign protest by Club Captain	32.7	Summary fine of E10,000.00	Summary fine of E5,000.00
Confirmation of Protest	32.9	E5,000.00	E2,000.00
OFFENCE		PREMIER LEAGUE	NATIONAL FIRST DIVISION
Failure to Confirm Protest	32.12	Summary fine of E10,000.00	Summary fine of E4,000.00
Failure to pay case Postponement fees after being properly served	35.11 (b)	Fined E5,000.00	Fined E5,000.00
Making or Publishing Statements by Clubs, officials, supporters, that may bring the sponsors, the PLE and all its Sub-Committees into disrepute.	41.3	Fined an amount not exceeding E20 000-00 by the DC.	Fined an amount not exceeding E10 000-00 by the DC.
Failure by Coach and Captain to attend pre and post-match interviews	41.4	Summary fine of E3,000.00 per individual	Summary fine of E2,000.00 per individual

Arriving late by thirty (30) minutes or more for an official PLE Event, Workshop and/or official meetings of the PLE without advance written notice to the PLE	42.1	Summary Fine of E1,000.00	Summary Fine of E1,000.00
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	42.10	a summary fine of three thousand Emalangen (E3.000.00)	a summary fine of three thousand Emalangen (E3.000.00)
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	42.11	a summary fine of two thousand Emalangen (E2,000.00).	a summary fine of two thousand Emalangen (E2,000.00).