

### **ESWATINI FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION NOVEMBER 2025** NEWSLETTER



TOP NEWS TRI-NATIONAL FRIENDLY

**GAMES** 

**BUILD IT NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP 2025** 

**EFA/PC SYSTEMS SCHOOL GIRLS' FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME** 

**EFA ANNUAL PROGRESS &** ACHIEVEMENTS WITH EFA **GENERAL SECRETARY** 

REFEREES DEVELOPMENT **ACROSS THE COUNTRY** 

# ESWATINI HOSTS SUCCESSFUL TRI-NATIONS MATCHES

The Eswatini Football Association (EFA) successfully hosted Tri-Nations matches on Saturday 22 to Sunday 23 November, welcoming Lesotho

and Mozambique for competitive fixtures involving both the Senior Women's National Teams and the U20

Men's National Teams from the three

participating nations. These matches were held from Saturday to Sunday, aimed at providing players valuable international exposure and preparation ahead of next

year's official international competitions.



#### Saturday's action at Somhlolo National Stadium began with Sitsebe



SaMhlekazi playing to a 1-1 draw against Lesotho. After trailing at halftime, Sitsebe dominated the second half and deservedly found the equalizer in a tightly contested match.





Eswatini's U20 Men's National Team then faced Mozambique in an impressive display, winning 2-0 by scoring in both halves and controlling the match throughout. Later, they played their second game of the day against Lesotho. Despite a determined fight from Eswatini, Lesotho claimed a 2-0 victory

On Sunday, there was more action at the EFA Lobamba Technical Centre, where Sitsebe played against a fast and dominant Mozambican Senior Women's National Team. Although Eswatini created several chances and enjoyed more possession, Mozambique won the match 1-0.



## REFEREES DEVELOPMENT ACROSS THE COUNTRY

From 15 to 21 November, The EFA rolled out a series of refereeing development activities aimed at strengthening officiating standards across the country. The program began on 15 November with a Referees **Assessors** workshop held at Sigwaca House, aimed on improving the reporting skills of assessors to constructive accurate and evaluations of referee performances.

On 16 November, during the FIFA break, international all referees assembled at Mayuso **Sports Centre for their mandatory** test, an assessment designed to maintain high physical standards and ensure readiness for both domestic and international assignments. The week concluded with the referees basic Course hosted from 17 to 21 November at His Majesty's Correctional Services in Matsapha.



Led by instructor Mr Mbongeni Fakudze, the five-day program equipped inmates and correctional officers with foundational refereeing knowledge and techniques, supporting ongoing football activities within the correctional facilities while also broadening future opportunities for inmates once they complete their sentences. This initiative strengthens football development both inside and outside correctional environments and reflects FIFA's guiding message that "Football Unites The World", ensuring that the sport's impact reaches every member of society.



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# EFA UNDER 15 SCHOOL GIRLS FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

A season of determination and growth reached pinnacle on the 14<sup>th</sup> of as Ezulwini November. Catholic Primary School stood tall at Lobamba Technical Centre. officially crowned champions of the Schools Girls' **EFA** U15 Football Development Programme 2025.

The ceremony marked more than just silverware. It celebrated a transformative journey in grassroots

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women's football, recognizing schools that have committed to building the sport from the ground up. Ms. Sibongile Skaggel, Head of Women's Football, praised the season as living proof that unity and resilience deliver triumphs. She thanked the EFA for establishing a clear development pathway that connects young players at U15 level all the way to the senior national team, Sitsebe SaMhlekazi.





Speaking on behalf of the champions, Head Teacher Mr. Mdluli expressed deep gratitude the Eswatini **Football** Association while calling for sustained support from the Education. His Ministry of highlighted the message ongoing challenges schools face in nurturing young talent.



He emphasized the programme's direct impact on national development, noting that it feeds into the U15 squad set to represent Eswatini at the CAF African Schools Championship in Cape Town this December. Mr. Mngomezulu reaffirmed the Association's commitment to expanding participation, enhancing training quality, and addressing equipment shortages through partnerships with government ministries.

navigating

school for

demanding season.

# EFA/PC SYSTEMS SCHOOL GIRLS FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME 2025 CONCLUDES

On the 4th of November, Pc Systems, the official sponsor of the EFA/PC Systems U19 Girls' Schools **Football** Development Programme, awarded a total of E51,000 in cash prizes to the 17 participating schools following the successful conclusion of the 2025 inaugural edition under the partnership of the **EFA and Pc Systems.** 





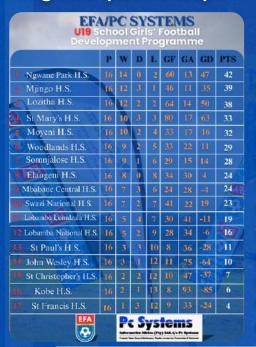
Ngwane Park High School emerged the as champions, receiving E6,000, the championship trophy, and 25 gold medals. Mjingo High School earned second place with E5,000 and 25 silver medals. while Lozitha High School

secured third place with E4,000 and 25 bronze medals. The remaining 14 schools were also recognized for their commitment and dedication, each receiving E2,000 as a token of appreciation.

The EFA Technical Director, Mr. Bhekisisa Mkhonta, expressed profound gratitude to the teachers who served as coaches, the players, and Pc Systems for their invaluable support.



Mandla Mr. Zulu, sponsor's representative, praised the girl child for participating in this football development programme, as they are ambassadors of football, school and reaffirmed Pc Systems' dedication to youth development, gender equality, fostering and long-term partnerships.





**EFA** General Secretary, Mr. Frederick Mngomezulu, emphasized how the programme reflects the inclusive spirit of sport for everyone. He football as a commended the collaboration between the schools, EFA, and Pc Systems, revealing that the top talent identified through the programme will represent Eswatini at the upcoming CAF African Schools Football Championships scheduled for December in Cape Town.





Mr. Mngomezulu challenged all stakeholders to pursue continuous improvement and wished the learners success in their academic examinations while encouraging excellence in both academics and football. "The Eswatini Football Association extends heartfelt congratulations to all participants and salutes Pc Systems for their visionary investment," he concluded.

## EFA BASIC & INTERMEDIATE COACHING



The Eswatini Football Association, through the Office the Technical Director, officially launched the 2025 Basic and **Intermediate** Coaching Courses on November. The programme, which will run until January 2026, is designed to strengthen the foundation of football

development in the country by equipping coaches with the essential knowledge and practical skills required in the modern game.

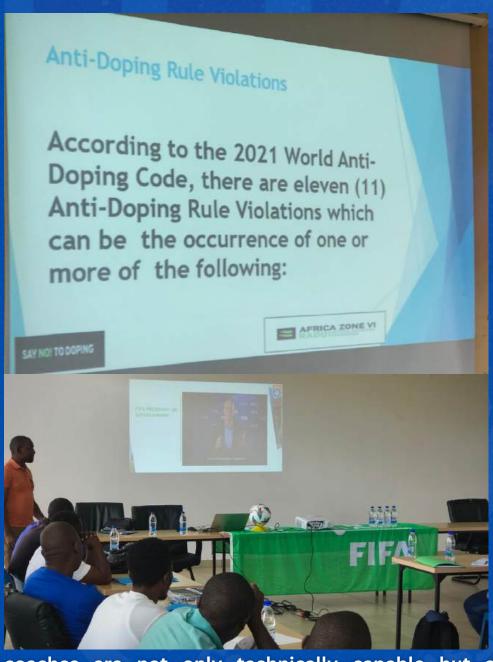
The Basic Course focuses on preparing fresh coaches for the realities of leading teams, teaching them how to develop players, plan training sessions, manage team dynamics and understand the broader responsibilities that define effective coaching. This continuous investment in



coach education is critical, as the growth of the sport does not only rely on the players on the field but also on the quality of the coaches guiding them. Coaches influence performance, decision-making, discipline and long-term player development, making their role central to the success of any team.



Those who have completed the Basic Course are now advancing to the Intermediate stage, which offers a deeper and more advanced level of training, positioned just below the CAF License pathway. With the CAF License expected to be rolled out locally next year, as promised by the Technical Director, the timing of this programme ensures that more coaches will be eligible and adequately prepared to take that step when the opportunity arrives.



football As standards continue to evolve globally, the 2025 course also integrates **important** modern requirements such as **Safeguarding** training, now mandatory for all professional coaches and **Anti-Doping** education, which provides a clear understanding of prohibited substances. risks, and the consequences of violations. These components that ensure Eswatini's

coaches are not only technically capable but also professionally responsible and aligned with international best practices.

# EFA HOSTS MEDICAL WORKSHOP TO STRENGTHEN CLUB MEDICAL STANDARDS



The Eswatini Football Association (EFA), through its Medical Committee, hosted a full-day Medical Workshop on 16 November 2025 at Lobamba Technical Centre. The session brought together team doctors from the Premier League of Eswatini and the National First Division, focusing strengthening medical standards within local football.



Despite the cold and rainy weather, team doctors showed remarkable commitment, attending in impressive numbers. The timing of the workshop aligned well with the FIFA international break, allowing medical personnel to dedicate their full attention to the training without match-day disruptions.



#### Key Focus Areas of the Workshop

### The Role of Team Doctors in Modern Football

The EFA Medical Committee highlighted the crucial responsibilities team doctors hold in safeguarding player welfare and supporting high-performance environments. Doctors were briefed on what

is expected from them, both on and off the pitch, in ensuring players remain medically fit throughout the season.

### 2. Training on the PCMA (Pre-Competition Medical Assessment) Form

One of the main learning components of the workshop was a detailed session on the PCMA form, a mandatory document designed to capture and store essential medical information for every registered player.

Doctors were trained on how to properly complete, update, and utilize the form, which plays a vital role in early detection of health risks and ensuring players meet the medical standards required for competition.

This workshop directly supports the broader goal of professionalizing football in Eswatini, a vision echoed in last -month's newsletter message the CEO. from PLE who emphasized that raising club standards on and off the field is essential for the future success of the game. By empowering medical personnel with the right knowledge, tools. expectations, the EFA is taking strategic steps toward elevating administration football player welfare in the country.



#### **BUILD IT NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP 2025**

On the  $15^{TH}$  of November, in a spectacular display of skill and determination, Manzini Build It clinched their first-ever national title with a commanding 4-1 victory that will be remembered as a defining moment in youth football.



On that memorable evening at Somhlolo National Stadium, Manzini Build It U13 Pick Team transformed years of near-misses into a moment of pure triumph. The young warriors dismantled Mbabane Build It U13 Pick Team with a performance that was nothing short of extraordinary, securing a resounding 4-1 victory in the finals.



The final match was more than just a game, it was a statement. Manzini's players demonstrated a maturity beyond their years, combining technical prowess with an unbreakable team spirit that left spectators in awe. Every pass, every tackle, and every goal spoke of a team that had prepared meticulously and believed unwaveringly in their potential.

The 2025 Build It U13 National Championship once again proved why it remains the premier platform for youth football development Eswatini. With teams showcasing remarkable talent. the tournament highlighted the incredible depth of young footballing talent waiting to be discovered.







This championship is not just about winning; it's about nurturing the next generation of football stars who will one day represent Eswatini at the highest levels of the sport. It's about building character, discipline, and a love for the beautiful game. To every young player who stepped onto the field, to

every team that competed with passion, this is your moment. The journey to greatness continues, and today, Manzini Build It stands as a testament to what can be achieved through hard work, belief, and teamwork.



The Eswatini Football Association extends heartfelt thanks to:

- Build It, the title sponsor, for unwavering support
  Local retailers committed to grassroots development

- Dedicated coaches and parents
   Media partners who amplify youth sports

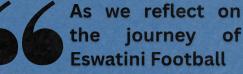
For making this year's Build it under-13, yet another memorable one, from the stores tournaments to the National Championship.

EFA ANNUAL PROGRESS &

FROM EFA GS MR. FREDERICK MNGOMEZULU



establishment of youth competitions in schools. Our women's teams senior, U20, U17, and U15, now compete regularly at COSAFA, CAF, and FIFA levels, while initiatives such as Women in Football Leadership Programme and futsal for girls are helping us build both numbers and quality in the women's game.



Association (EFA), I am proud to share the progress and milestones we have achieved together. The development of women's football has been one of our most inspiring successes. Since the launch of the Women's Football Strategy (2022–2025), we have seen remarkable growth, from the appointment of a full-time operations officer to the



Equally important has been the nurturing of young talent through the Build it U13 competitions. which have become a cornerstone for identifying and developing stars. **Exceptional** players are integrated into the Talent Development Scheme and gradually progress into national teams, while plans are

underway to transform these tournaments into nationwide leagues to ensure consistent competition and growth. International exchange programs, such as our cooperation with the Durban Central Football Association, further strengthen foundation for youth development and international exposure.

**Education remains** central to our **Through** vision. **Build** it's bursary programme, football not only shaping players but also supporting their academic growth. This partnership highlights our



commitment to professionalism, intelligence, and preparing young athletes for life beyond the pitch.



At the senior level, recruitment for a new national team coach is already underway. Guided by transparency and merit, both local and international

candidates are being considered, with emphasis on qualifications, experience, and alignment with our long-term goals.

The past year has also been marked by significant achievements across the association. We successfully amended the EFA Statutes and hosted the elective General Assembly, ushering in a new Executive Committee. Our teams participated in all planned international competitions, while the return of Somhlolo National Stadium promises fiscal relief and improved preparations for future matches.



Cooperation
agreements with
Morocco have
opened doors for
technical and
administrative
exchange, and
grassroots

programs from CAF and FIFA have been introduced in schools to strengthen player pathways. Referee and coach education

initiatives, including the young referees development programme, are already bearing fruit, with a LiSwati referee set to officiate at AFCON 2025,a historic milestone for our nation.





Domestically, our Premier League matches are now broadcast globally on the FIFA+ Digital Platform, creating commercial opportunities and raising

the standards of local football. Women in Leadership programs and FIFA Club Professionalization initiatives are equipping our clubs with strategies for sustainable growth, while new development programs such as Football for Schools and the Talent Development Scheme are consolidating the foundations of grassroots and elite football.

These achievements are not the end but stepping stones toward greater ambitions. Our vision remains clear: to elevate Eswatini football at every level, grassroots, youth, women, and elite, while fostering professionalism, education, and international competitiveness. Together, we continue to build a stronger future for football in our nation.

**THANK YOU** 

# OCTOBER PLAYER OF THE MONTH AWARDS SHINE ACROSS ALL DIVISIONS

The month of October produced standout performances across Eswatini football, with three exceptional players earning Player of the Month honours in their respective leagues.



F.C. striker Hleliso Rangers Gamedze was named the MTN Premier League Player of the Month after delivering outstanding run of form, scoring five goals in the first five matches. His consistency in front of goal has also placed him at the top of the 2025/26 MTN PLE goal-scoring chart, reinforcing his status as one of the league's most influential attackers. Rangers F.C. lauded Gamedze for his dedication and drive, noting the inspiration he brings to his teammates supporters.

In the National First Division, Red Rhinos FC midfielder Teboho Dlamini claimed the inaugural MulaSport Player of the Month award of the season. Chosen from a competitive shortlist, Dlamini was recognised for his strong midfield leadership and all-round



all-round contribution to his team's performances. PLE and MulaSport officials praised the initiative for its role in elevating and celebrating talent within the country's second tier.Meanwhile, in women's football, Young Buffaloes and Eswatini international Samukelisiwe Malinga was honoured as the Wanderville Women's Football League Player of the Month. Malinga delivered commanding defensive performances throughout October, contributing to two clean sheets in three matches and standing out as one of the league's most consistent performers.

#### MOYENI SUPERSPORT CROWNED CHAMPIONS OF THE SOUTHERN TRADING MAFUTSENI PROMOTION LEAGUE 2024



Moyeni Supersport have been crowned champions of the Southern Trading **Promotion** Mafutseni League 2024, securing the gold medals. promotion to the Super League Division and a top prize of E11 000 at a colourful ceremony held at Lighaga House, headquarters of the Manzini Regional Football Association.

Jubela Runners-up received silver medals and E8 000, while Khamatfo took third place with bronze medals and E5 000. All fifteen participating clubs shared in the E50 sponsorship 000 package provided by Trading, Southern ensuring every team benefited from the season's efforts.

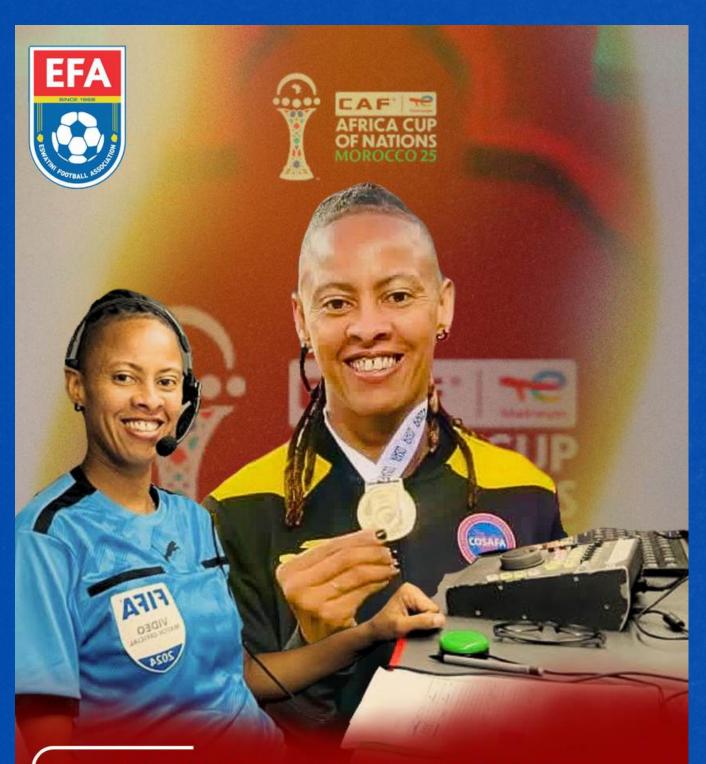


Southern Trading Trade Marketing Manager Qinsile Maphanga praised the improved standard of play and urged continued support for Moyeni Supersport in the higher division. MRFA Chairman Vusie Hall and Mafutseni Promotion League Chairman Patrick Simelane both hailed the partnership as a beacon for regional football development.

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21 DEC 2025 - 18 JAN 2026



The EFA proudly congratulates LETTICIA VIANA on her selection as a Video Match Official for the TOTALENERGIES AFCON 2025, to be hosted in Morocco

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FROM GRASSROOTS TO THE GLOBAL STAGE

Until next time, Stay passionate, Stay proud, Stay Eswatini.

Follow us on our official platforms for daily updates, results, and stories behind the scenes.

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