



ESWATINI FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

JULY 2026 NEWSLETTER



WHAT'S INSIDE ?

WOMEN'S FOOTBALL STARS
HONOURED AS EFA COMMITS TO
INCREASED PRIZE MONEY

SPANISH COACH TO LEAD
ESWATINI'S FIFA TALENT
DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

EFA | FIFA TALENT DEVELOPMENT
SCHEME

EFA CELEBRATE BUILD IT MILESTONE OF
ESTABLISHING A NEW STORE AT THE
JUNCTION IN MANZINI

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LIVING THE FOOTBALL SPIRIT AND OUR PRIDE

EFA LAUNCHES eSIGWACA TO REVOLUTIONISE FOOTBALL ADMINISTRATION

The Eswatini Football Association (EFA) has officially launched eSigwaca, a digital platform set to transform football administration by making player registration and other key services faster, more accessible, and paperless.

FOOTBALL REGISTRATION HAS GONE DIGITAL

The EFA's new digital platform for player, official and club registration

BENEFITS

- Mobile Friendly
- Access Anywhere
- Faster Registration
- No Paperwork
- Accurate Records
- Secure Platform



INTRODUCING eSIGWACA



VISIT <http://efaonline.org.sz/eSigwaca>

The launch, held on Tuesday, 28 July 2026, coincided with the opening of the First Registration Window for the 2026/2027 football season, marking another significant step in the Association's commitment to modernising football governance through technology. Speaking during the launch, EFA General Secretary Mr Frederick Mngomezulu described e-Sigwaca as a landmark achievement in the Association's digital transformation journey.





directly to the needs of the football community.

The General Secretary further noted that the new platform will significantly improve service delivery by reducing travelling costs, saving time, and making EFA services readily available to football stakeholders across the country. Mr Mngomezulu also commended the Association's Information Technology Department for developing the system in-house, describing it as an excellent example of local innovation that responds

The Association's IT Officer, Mr Mduduzi Bhembé, provided a live demonstration of the platform, showcasing its user-friendly features and explaining how stakeholders can access it either directly through <http://efaonline.org.sz/eSigwaca> or via the EFA website by visiting <http://www.nfas.org.sz> and selecting the e-Sigwaca portal.



Mr Bhembé explained that the platform enables users to complete several administrative processes online, including electronic signatures, automatic generation of correctly formatted registration forms for upload to the FIFA Connect system, and applications for domestic transfer certificates. He added that payments will be processed securely through MTN Mobile Money, with future plans to integrate payments directly into the FIFA Connect platform.

According to Mr Bhembé, the platform has been designed to reduce paperwork, eliminate common data-capturing errors, shorten processing times, and improve the overall efficiency of football administration.

The introduction of e-Sigwaca represents a major milestone in the EFA's vision of embracing digital innovation to improve the experience of clubs, players and other football stakeholders. By bringing essential administrative services online, the Association is making football governance more efficient, accessible and transparent while supporting the continued growth and professionalisation of the game in Eswatini.

As the 2026/2027 registration period gets underway, the EFA has encouraged all affiliated clubs to take advantage of the new platform and experience a simpler, faster and more convenient way of accessing football services.

EFA REPRESENTED AT CAF/COSAFA SAFE STADIUM INITIATIVE WORKSHOP

As part of ongoing efforts to strengthen safety, security and safeguarding standards in football, the Eswatini Football Association (EFA) was represented at the CAF/COSAFA Safe Stadium Initiative Workshop held in Johannesburg, South Africa. ON THE 27TH-29TH of July.

Representing the EFA was the Chairperson of the EFA Safety, Security and Safeguarding Committee, Mr Vusi Hall, who joined delegates from COSAFA Member Associations for the intensive capacity-building programme focused on enhancing matchday safety and stadium security. Facilitated by the Confederation of African Football (CAF) in partnership with COSAFA, the three-day workshop equipped participants with the latest knowledge and best practices in stadium safety management.



took part in practical stadium exercises designed to strengthen the implementation of safety protocols during football matches.

The programme covered key areas including crowd management, risk assessment, emergency and contingency planning, stewarding, access control, ticketing, stadium safe capacity, and the protection of players, match officials, supporters and other stakeholders. Delegates also



EFA CELEBRATE BUILD IT MILESTONE OF ESTABLISHING A NEW STORE AT THE JUNCTION IN MANZINI

The opening of the new Build it Plus Manzini store marks more than a business expansion it represents a growing investment in the future of Eswatini, both economically and socially. As the company officially establishes its newest outlet in the commercial hub of the Kingdom, the Eswatini Football Association (EFA) has welcomed the milestone as further evidence of Build it Plus Manzini's long-term commitment to socio-economic development.

Beyond creating employment opportunities and stimulating local economic growth, Build it has distinguished itself as a valued partner in youth development through its sponsorship of the Build it U13 Football Development Programme. The initiative has become one of the country's leading grassroots football platforms, providing hundreds of boys with the opportunity to learn, compete and develop in a structured football environment.





The EFA believes the opening of the new store strengthens the partnership between football and the business community, demonstrating how corporate investment can extend beyond commerce to create meaningful social impact. The Build it U13 Football Development Programme has played an instrumental role in identifying and nurturing young talent while

instilling values such as discipline, teamwork, respect and perseverance. Many participants are taking their first steps in organized football through the programme, creating a sustainable pathway for the next generation of Eswatini footballers.

As customers begin to experience the new retail outlet, the impact of Build it will also continue to be felt on football fields across the country, where young players are developing their skills and chasing their dreams through the Build it U13 Football Development Programme.



The Eswatini Football Association congratulates Build it Plus Manzini on this significant achievement and looks forward to strengthening a partnership that continues to build not only homes and businesses, but also brighter futures for Eswatini's young footballers.



SPANISH COACH TO LEAD ESWATINI'S FIFA TALENT DEVELOPMENT SCHEME



The Eswatini Football Association (EFA) has reinforced its commitment to building a stronger football future through a significant development initiative that promises to leave a lasting impact on the local game. The appointment of Spanish coach Tomeu Perelló Palou as the country's FIFA Talent Development Scheme (TDS) Coach, signals the Association's continued investment in developing grassroots football in the country.

The arrival of Perelló Palou marks an important milestone in Eswatini's football development journey. The experienced Spanish coach has been entrusted with leading the implementation of FIFA's Talent Development Scheme, a global programme designed to identify, nurture and prepare the country's most promising young footballers for the demands of elite football. His appointment demonstrates FIFA's confidence in Eswatini's long-term football vision and provides local players and coaches with access to international expertise.



Through the Talent Development Scheme, Perelló Palou will work closely with the EFA Technical Department, regional structures, clubs and schools to establish a structured player development pathway based on modern coaching methodologies and internationally recognised standards.



The programme is expected to strengthen talent identification processes while ensuring that gifted players receive quality coaching from an early age. By introducing consistent training principles and performance monitoring systems, the initiative seeks to bridge the gap between grassroots football and the national teams. For Eswatini, where football remains the country's most popular sport, the programme offers renewed hope that talented young players can be developed in a more systematic environment capable of producing future professionals and national team stars.



REFEREES INSTRUCTOR SEMINAR

The EFA successfully hosted the FIFA Referees Instructors' Seminar, at the EFA Technical Centre in Lobamba from 20 to 23 July 2026. Facilitated by FIFA, CAF and COSAFA Refereeing Instructor Felix Tangawarima of Zimbabwe, the intensive programme brought together Eswatini's Referees Instructors and Assessors for advanced technical training aimed at improving referee education across the country.



Rather than focusing solely on the Laws of the Game, the seminar equipped instructors with modern teaching methodologies, assessment techniques and practical tools required to develop referees capable of officiating at higher levels. Participants described the seminar as one of the most demanding yet rewarding programmes they had attended, highlighting the depth of learning and practical application involved. The rigorous nature of the course reflected FIFA's emphasis on continuous education and maintaining high refereeing standards.





Perhaps the biggest endorsement of the programme came from Tangawarima himself, who revealed that he had identified local instructors with the potential to serve at regional level. His announcement that one or two Eswatini instructors could receive COSAFA appointments before the end of the year represents a

significant vote of confidence in the country's refereeing structures. Such opportunities would not only raise the profile of Eswatini's match officials but also expose them to higher levels of competition, knowledge exchange and professional growth.



The seminar also reinforced the importance of investing in referee educators. Qualified instructors and assessors play a critical role in producing competent referees, ensuring consistency in decision-making and maintaining the integrity of the game from grassroots competitions to elite football.

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ESWATINI WOMEN'S FOOTBALL LEAGUE STARS CELEBRATED

The Eswatini Women's Football Association (WFA) hosted the 2025/2026 EFA Women's Football League Awards Ceremony on Thursday, 2 July 2026, at Sigwaca House in Mbabane, bringing together key stakeholders to celebrate excellence and achievement in women's football.



The glittering ceremony honoured the season's top performers while recognising the collective efforts of players, coaches, administrators, sponsors, and supporters who contributed to another successful women's football campaign.



Speaking during the event, WFA Chairman Bonginkosi Mhlanga expressed his appreciation to the organisations and individuals who continue to drive the growth of the women's game. He also acknowledged the contribution of individual awards sponsor Wanderville for its continued belief in and support of women's football.



Representing Wanderville, Sylvia Mthethwa reaffirmed the company's commitment to the development of the women's game in Eswatini. Mthethwa further commended the players for their dedication and determination throughout the season. EFA President Peter Simelane congratulated the Women's Football Association for successfully organising and managing the league, while also

extending gratitude to Wanderville and, in particular, Her Royal Highness Inkhosikati LaMbikiza for her continued support of women's football. Simelane further announced the Association's intention to continue increasing financial support for the women's game.

The ceremony concluded with the recognition of the season's outstanding performers and teams, highlighting the continued growth and competitiveness of women's football in Eswatini. League champions Nsingizini F.C. will now turn their attention to continental competition as they prepare to represent Eswatini at the CAF Women's Champions



League COSAFA Qualifiers, scheduled to take place in Botswana from 6 - 15 August 2026.



EFA OPENS DOORS TO FOOTBALL CAREERS FOR ESWATINI'S YOUTH AT NATIONAL CAREERS FAIR

The Eswatini Football Association (EFA) has reaffirmed its commitment to developing future football professionals after inspiring hundreds of high school learners during the Waterford Kamhlaba UWC Southern Africa Annual Eswatini Careers Fair held on Wednesday, 29 July 2026.



The national careers exhibition brought together leading universities, government institutions, private sector companies and professional organisations from across the country, providing learners with an opportunity to explore career

pathways and make informed decisions about their futures. Recognising football as one of the fastest-growing industries globally, the EFA used the platform to demonstrate that the beautiful game offers far more than opportunities on the field of play. Learners were introduced to the wide range of professions that drive the sport, including football administration, coaching, refereeing, sports science, sports medicine, communications, marketing, event management, finance, safeguarding, information technology, competitions management and talent development.



Throughout the day, the EFA exhibition stand attracted a steady stream of learners eager to understand how they could build meaningful careers within football. Association officials engaged students through interactive discussions, explaining the structure of football in Eswatini, the organisation's development programmes and the pathways available for aspiring professionals. The engagement also highlighted the EFA's commitment to ensuring that football becomes a platform for education, employment and leadership. Learners were encouraged to pursue academic qualifications and professional skills that could position them for careers in the ever-expanding global football industry.



The Association's participation in the national careers' fair forms part of its broader vision of using football as a catalyst for social and economic development. By exposing learners to the diverse professions within the sport, the EFA continues to invest in the next generation of administrators, coaches, referees, medical practitioners, marketers, analysts and leaders who will shape the future of Eswatini football.

As the event concluded, it was evident that football is increasingly being recognised not only as the world's most popular sport, but also as an industry capable of creating meaningful careers and transforming lives. Through initiatives such as the Waterford Kamhlaba Annual Eswatini Careers Fair, the Eswatini Football Association continues to inspire young people to dream beyond the pitch and to see football as a gateway to lifelong opportunities.



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EFA OPENS REGISTRATION PROCESS FOR THE 2026/2027 FOOTBALL SEASON

The Eswatini Football Association (EFA) has announced the registration periods for players and clubs ahead of the 2026/2027 football season, with the First Registration Window set to open on Monday, 27 July 2026 and close on Friday, 2 October 2026.

All registrations will be conducted electronically through the new eSigwaca Registration Platform, in line with the EFA's commitment to maintaining an efficient, transparent, and modern football administration system.

As preparations for the new

season gather momentum, the EFA has reminded Premier League and National First Division clubs that compliance with CAF and EFA Club Licensing Regulations remains a mandatory requirement for participation in the 2026/2027 season. Clubs are therefore encouraged to ensure that all licensing requirements are fulfilled within the prescribed timelines.

The EFA urges all clubs, registration officers, and football administrators to begin preparations early and adhere strictly to the registration timelines and requirements. Timely compliance will contribute to a smooth registration process and support the successful commencement of competitions across all levels of the game.

The Association remains committed to strengthening football governance and administration through the effective implementation of FIFA Connect and the continued enforcement of club licensing standards, which are essential for the sustainable growth and professionalization of football in Eswatini.





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ESWATINI eFOOTBALL NATIONAL TEAM ENDS FIFAE NATIONS LEAGUE CAMPAIGN WITH VALUABLE CONTINENTAL EXPERIENCE

The Eswatini eFootball National Team concluded its participation in the FIFAE Nations League 2026 Qualifiers after an encouraging campaign that showcased the country's growing competitiveness on the African eFootball stage.

Although the team narrowly missed qualification for the inaugural FIFAE Continental Championship, their performances across the three qualification weeks demonstrated significant progress and highlighted the continued development of eFootball in Eswatini. Eswatini finished 15th in the overall consistency rankings after competing against some of Africa's strongest eFootball nations in the highly competitive 2v2 qualification format.

The team's best performance came during Week 3, held from 7–9 July 2026. Eswatini produced an excellent group-stage display, recording four wins and one draw from five matches to finish second in their group and qualify for the knockout phase.

Their qualification hopes were ultimately ended by a formidable Senegal side, which claimed an 8-0 aggregate victory over two matches. Eswatini was then afforded another opportunity through the Losers' Quarter-finals but was defeated 6-0 on aggregate by Tanzania, bringing the nation's FIFAE Nations League journey to a close.

Representing the Kingdom were Siyagcinwa Zulu, Seneme Khumalo, Cedusizi Nkambule, and Mzwakhile Gujam, who displayed commitment and professionalism throughout the competition while gaining invaluable experience against the continent's elite eFootball players.



The screenshot shows the FIFAE Nations League app interface. At the top, there's a banner for 'eFOOTBALL MOBILE FIFAE NATIONS LEAGUE' with a 'SIGWACA' logo. Below this is a section for 'YESTERDAY'S RESULTS & FINAL LOG' for 'WEEK 3'. The results are as follows:

Match	Score
Eswatini vs Congo DR	3-0
Eswatini vs Morocco	1-1
Eswatini vs Ghana	3-1
Eswatini vs Somalia	3-0
Eswatini vs Seychelles	3-0

Below the results is a table for 'PARTICIPANT' rankings:

Rank	Team	GP	GD	Pts
1	Somalia	5	8	13
2	Eswatini	5	5	10
3	Morocco	5	5	9
4	Ghana	5	0	6
5	Seychelles	5	-4	4
6	Congo DR	5	-15	0

At the bottom, there's a section for 'TODAY'S FIXTURE' showing a match between Senegal and Eswatini at 19:00 on JUL 08. The EFA logo is also visible.

EFA CONFIRMS DATES FOR 2026 ORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Eswatini Football Association (EFA) has announced that its 2026 Ordinary General Assembly (OGA) will be held on Sunday, **30 August 2026**.

The Assembly, which serves as the Association's highest decision-making body, will bring together EFA Members and key football stakeholders to deliberate on matters relating to the governance and development of football in Eswatini. The venue and commencement time for the meeting will be communicated in due course.

In preparation for the Assembly, EFA has called upon all Members to submit any proposals for consideration by the General Assembly no later than Thursday, **30 July 2026**. All proposals must be submitted in writing to the EFA Secretariat through the General Secretary in accordance with the provisions of the EFA Statutes.

The Association further reminded Members that delegate representation at the Assembly will be governed by the EFA Statutes. A **maximum of six (6) delegates** will be permitted from each of the following Member bodies:

- Premier League of Eswatini (PLE)
- Hhohho Regional Football Association (HRFA)
- Manzini Regional Football Association (MRFA)
- Lubombo Regional Football Association (LRFA)
- Shiselweni Regional Football Association (SRFA)
- Eswatini Referees Association
- Eswatini Coaches Association
- Eswatini Women's Football Association

The EFA encourages all Members to observe the prescribed deadlines and requirements to ensure the successful organisation and conduct of the 2026 Ordinary General Assembly.



8BET RENEWS COMMITMENT TO TRADE FAIR CUP

The 8Bet Trade Fair Cup received another significant boost following the official sponsorship handover, as 8Bet reaffirmed its commitment to Eswatini football through the renewal of its partnership with the Premier League of Eswatini (PLE).

Now entering its third year, the partnership has grown into more than just sponsorship of a football tournament. It reflects a shared vision of using sport as a platform to promote economic growth, tourism, and community



The renewed collaboration between 8Bet, EIPA, and the PLE continues to provide a platform for local football talent to shine while showcasing the country's vibrant business and investment environment. By bringing together sport and commerce, the tournament creates opportunities for

businesses, supporters, and football stakeholders to engage and contribute to the growth of the game.

Speaking during the sponsorship handover, the partners reaffirmed their commitment to building on the success of previous editions and delivering another memorable tournament that celebrates both football excellence and Eswatini's economic aspirations.

The 2026 edition of the 8Bet Trade Fair Cup is scheduled to take place from 30 August to 6 September 2026, promising another week of exciting football action and entertainment.

PLE CHARITY CUP OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED

The Premier League of Eswatini has officially relaunched the PLE Charity Cup after 6 years of absence! Last staged in 2019, the tournament was won by Mbabane Highlanders FC and proudly sponsored by EPTC. Now, the PLE is bringing it back, with a mission to unite communities through football while giving back to those in need.



The tournament kicks off with E1.5 million sponsorship from the PLE, with expectations that more partners will join to grow this impactful initiative.

All 32 PLE clubs are eligible, but only the top 6 most-voted clubs will qualify. Fans must dial *4055# to vote each vote costs just E3 and helps your club secure a spot while supporting communities across Eswatini.



Play-offs: 27 September 2026 | Semi-finals & Final: 4 October 2026

Plus, the top 2 most-voted NFD clubs will face off on the finals day, showcasing football development.



HRFA UNVEILS SCHEDULE FOR CABANA-SPONSORED UNDER-13 TOURNAMENT

The Hhohho Regional Football Association (HRFA) has officially unveiled the fixtures for the highly anticipated Cabana-sponsored Under-13 Tournament, which will see young footballers from across the region showcase their talent in a series of one-day competitions throughout August.



The tournament schedule was announced during a media briefing by HRFA Youth Development Officer Senzo Motsa, who outlined the competition format and expressed gratitude to tournament sponsors Cabana for investing in grassroots football development.

The opening tournament will be held at Ezulwini on 1 August, featuring Lobamba Dynamos, Double Cation F.C., Ntsetse Flyers, and Mdzimba Barcelona. The second tournament will take place in Mbabane on 8 August, with Supersport, Mbabane Swallows F.C., Majotini Citizens, and Billy Ocean F.C. battling for top honours. The action will then move to Piggs Peak on 15 August, where Maguga Cosmos, Piggs Peak City Stars, Twin Stars, and Suncity F.C. will compete. The tournament will conclude at Mkhuzweni on 22 August, featuring Skom Academy, JB Arsenal, Mhlangatane Celtics, and Cetjwayo F.C.



Football Unites - Violence Divides Us



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in Eswatini Football



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GROWTH OF FOOTBALL IN THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI
FROM GRASSROOTS TO THE GLOBAL STAGE**

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