2026



PLE CHARITY CUP

RULES AND REGULATIONS

Compiled and Presented by:

THE PREMIER LEAGUE OF ESWATINI/MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

PREAMBLE

1. The PLE Charity (tournament) shall be managed and administered by the PLE Charity Cup Management Committee hereinafter called the (MC) duly appointed by the PLE Executive Committee .

2. The tournament shall be run and administered in accordance with the Rules and Regulations (Rules) contained herein, made by EFA.

3. Clubs voluntarily and irrevocably undertake to be bound by and to observe these Tournament rules, the PLE Legal Handbook

ARTICLE 1 RULES

These Rules shall be called the "**2026 PLE Charity Cup Rules and Regulations "**.

ARTICLE 2 PARTICIPATION

2.1 All Clubs in the Premier and National First Division Leagues are eligible to participate in the PLE Televoting System to be run by the PLE.

2.2 The **Top 6 clubs** in the PLE Televoting shall participate in the tournament.

2.2.1 The **Top 2 clubs** will qualify directly for the **semifinals**.

2.2.2 The **remaining 4 clubs** will contest in playoff matches.

2.2.3 The **winners of the playoff matches** will qualify for the semifinals.

2.2.4 To enter the **Top 6**, clubs must have accumulated a **minimum of 20,000 votes**

2.3 **National First Division Clubs:**

2.3.1 The **Top 2 clubs** from the National First Division shall contest in the **PLE Charity Cup NFD Final**.

2.3.2 to qualify for the **NFD Charity Slot**, clubs must have accumulated a **minimum of 10,000 votes**

2.4 The tournament shall be played in a knockout system.

2.5 The Management Committee will be responsible for the management of the competition.

2.6 At the end of the Televoting period the MC shall conduct a draw for the playoffs. The teams shall adhere to the Fixture dates and kick-off times as set out

2.7 The fixtures of all play-offs matches to be played, giving the starting times of each match except where the finals will be played a draw will be conducted by the MC.

2.7.1 This schedule of the fixtures of the matches shall be communicated to all the participating clubs.

2.8 The participating clubs and the MC shall strictly adhere to the schedule of fixtures.

2.8.1 No variations from the scheduled fixtures shall be allowed except in unforeseen or extra-ordinary circumstances or emergencies as determined by the MC.

2.9 In instances where the starting times change, the clubs will be advised of the new starting times.

2.10 In the unlikely event that a match has to be replayed on a different time from the time of the initial fixture as determined by the MC, the affected clubs shall be advised of such changes and the clubs shall strictly adhere to such fixtures.

ARTICLE 3 PLAYERS REGISTRATION AND QUALIFICATION

3.1 All participating clubs shall use their registered players for the 2026/2027 soccer season.

3.2 A club which uses a defaulter or a player who is not eligible to play in the match for whatever the reason e.g. defaulter of any kind, if found guilty shall be liable to lose the match to the opposing club and be fined by the DC a fine of not less than **E15,000-00.**

3.3 Players called for national teams' duties are not eligible to play in the tournament until after the conclusion of the national team's responsibilities, unless expressly stated by EFA, that players will participate and conditions of participation therein, in line with the regulations governing players called-up for national teams' duties.

ARTICLE 4 STARTING TIME

4.1 Each club shall arrive at the venue of the match at least ninety (90) minutes before the scheduled start of the match.

4.1.1 Each club shall report at the card checking point sixty (60) minutes before the scheduled start of the match.

4.1.2 The card checking point shall be the dressing rooms of the stadium where the match is played otherwise the referee shall determine the checking point.

4.1.3 Failure to report as stated in 4.1.1, the offending club(s) shall be summarily fined **E10,000.00** by the MC.

4.2 If after fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled start of the match, a club fails to take the field of play, the match shall be called off unless the MC officials at the stadium decides otherwise as per Article 2.5 above.

4.3 A club that contravenes Article 4.2, provided that the game is not called off, shall be summarily fined an amount equivalent to 50% of its share of Prize Money at the stage of the competition by the MC.

4.4 In the event that the game is called off as a result of late arrival of a club(s), the offending club(s) shall forfeit the match to the opposing team and in addition to any applicable fine as outlined in Article 4.1, the club shall forfeit all monies paid and due to them according to these rules. In addition, the club shall be charged and if found guilty be fined an amount not less than **E50, 000.00** by the MC.

4.5 The referee's report shall provide conclusive proof as to when a club reported at the card checking point.

4.6 When taking the field of play at any stadium whether at the start of the first or the second half a club shall always use and enter through the official entrance as directed by the referee. Any club that contravenes this rule shall be summarily fined by the MC a sum of **E15,000-00.**

4.7 A club which abandons or causes the abandonment of a match shall forfeit the match to the opposing team and in addition to any other applicable fine as outlined in these rules, the club shall forfeit all monies paid and due to them according to these rules. Further the club shall be liable to disciplinary action, and if found guilty, it shall be liable to a fine not less than **E50,000.**

4.8 The referee's report and/or that of the Match Commissioner and/or Match Coordinator shall provide conclusive proof as to which club abandoned or caused abandonment of the match.

ARTICLE 5 THE REFEREE AND PLAY

5.1 The referees committee shall appoint the referees to officiate at a match.

5.2 In the event of one or two referees failing to show up, the Match Commissioner shall appoint substitutes.

5.3 In the event that a Match Commissioner fails to show up, the PLE Official appointed as a Stadium Representative shall appoint a substitute Match Commissioner for the match.

5.4 The referee(s) for each match shall report at the field of play at least ninety (90) minutes before the scheduled start of the match.

5.5 Any referee who reports to the field of play less than thirty (30) minutes before the scheduled start of the match shall be subject to disciplinary action in terms of the Referees Code of Conduct, and without awaiting any verdict for the same, shall be summarily fined an amount equivalent to 50% of the match allowance by the MC.

5.6 Any referee who reports to the field of play, one (1) to fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled start of the match and/or thereafter shall be subject to disciplinary action in terms of the Referees Code of Conduct, and without awaiting any verdict for the same shall be summarily fined an amount equivalent to 60% of the match allowance by the MC.

5.7 The report of the Match Commissioner and/or MC official officiating at the game shall be conclusive proof as to when the referee took the field of play and/or reported to the stadium for the match.

5.8 Before the commencement of each match, the referee together with the Match Commissioner officiating at the game shall perform the checking formalities for each club.

5.9 Under no circumstances shall the referee allow onto the field of play, a player who does not appear on the club's list of players submitted before the start of the game.

5.10 After the completion of the club checking formalities, the Match Officials shall formally lead the two teams into the field of play. It shall be an offence for a team to refuse to

follow match official's instructions. Any team that refuses to follow the match official's instructions shall be summarily fined an amount not less than 20% of its prize money remaining after any deductions that may have been made and owing to the PLE in respect of this tournament.

5.11 Immediately after the end of each match, the Referee shall write a report of the match, giving as much details as possible of all occurrences before, during and immediately after the match, such as:-

5.11.1 When the club reported in the stadium, reported for card checking, took the field of play, etc.
5.11.2 Misconduct of players leading to the caution or expulsion of such players.
5.11.3 Unsporting behaviour of the official, member and/supporter of a club, such as not following referees' instructions, etc.
5.11.4 Number of goals by each club as well as the names of players who scored.
5.11.5 The number of substitutes introduced by each club and their names.
5.11.6 Any other incident that in his opinion are worth reporting.
5.11.7 Any protest or objections by a club.

5.12 The Referee shall compile his report and hand it over to the MC within one (1) hour after the match at which he was officiating. Failure to adhere to this time frame the Referee shall be summarily fined an amount equivalent to 50% of the match allowance by the MC.

5.13 The Referee shall conduct the match according to IFAB Regulations

5.14 No team shall refuse a referee that has been appointed to officiate in a match.

5.15 The 4th Official shall check details of substitute players against the team list when the substitute(s) is/are introduced during a match.

5.16 Each club shall be allowed a maximum of seven (7) substitutes, inclusive of the goalkeeper, per match.

5.17 The Laws of the Game shall be those currently in force and as published by FIFA.

5.18 The Referee's report and/or that of the Match Commissioner and/or match coordinator PLE official shall provide conclusive proof pertaining to any circumstance/s regarding the match. The report, either the original or duplicate (bearing the PLE received stamp shall be admissible as proof during the DC hearing(s).

ARTICLE 6 COLOURS AND SHIRT NUMBERING

6.1 Each team shall be issued with a set of jersey in its registered colours to use in the tournament. The two clubs that qualify for the finals shall be provided with two contrasting sets of jerseys on the day of the competition to use in the finals.

6.2 The players shall wear number on their jerseys.

ARTICLE 7 PLAYERS SENT-OFF FIELD OF PLAY

7.1 Players that are red carded will be automatically suspended from participating in any one immediate official match following their being sent-off and may be liable to further disciplinary action.

7.2 Cards accumulated during the progress of the tournament shall have no bearing on other tournaments organized and run by the PLE.

ARTICLE 8 MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR

The MC shall decide upon any matters not provided for under the present Rules and Regulations in line with the PLE Legal Handbook, EFA, CAF and FIFA Statutes. Its decision shall be final and binding to all Clubs taking part in this tournament.

ARTICLE 9 PROTESTS, APPEALS AND FEES

9.1 Any protest regarding defaulters must be lodged with the referee during the card checking process otherwise it shall be rendered null and void.

9.2 Any other protest shall be lodged with the referee at the time it occurs otherwise it shall be rendered null and void. A decision taken by the referee during the course of the match shall not be subject to protest.

9.3 Both captains and referee must sign the protest for acknowledgement. Should any captain refuse to sign the protest, the referee and/or Match commissioner shall indicate that in his report, otherwise the protest will be rendered null and void.

9.4 Confirmation of protest must reach the MC secretary not later than fifteen (15) minutes after the match. A protest fee amounting to *E5000* in cash with evidence shall accompany the confirmation, otherwise the protest shall be rendered null and void. NB;(any protesting club that fails to confirm its protest or abandons the protest shall be summarily fine an amount of E 10 000).

9.5 The EFA Protest & Disciplinary Committee (DC) shall have power to consider and deal with the protest lodged by a club or League, and make the necessary decision. The decision of the DC shall be binding and final on all parties. No appeal

9.6 Parties to a protest shall be afforded an opportunity to make written submissions to substantiate or defend their case to the DC for consideration in their hearing of the matter. The written submissions must reach the MC at the stadium immediately after the match and before the expiry of thirty (30) minutes after the match where the protest has been lodged, otherwise the submission shall be rendered null and void.

9.7 The DC shall consider the Referees Report and/or the Match Commissioner's Report, and the written submissions from the clubs to arrive at a decision.

9.8 The DC shall have power to sit over a case even if a party has not made any written submission to the DC. The decision of the DC shall be final and binding to all parties concerned.

9.9 A club may be represented by a person of their choice .

ARTICLE 10 PARTICIPATION IN THE COMPETITION

10.1 Each match shall last ninety minutes, i.e. two periods of forty-five minutes with an interval as laid down in the Laws of the Games.

10.2 If no winner is decided within the 90 minutes in the play-offs, semi-finals and finals penalty shoot-outs shall take place; up to the sudden death penalties if still no winner is decided after the normal five (5) penalties from each club have been taken.

ARTICLE 11 GENERAL

11.1 In the event of a conflict between any rule(s) of this tournament and a provision of the Constitution of the PLE or EFA, the Rules shall take precedence.

11.2 Every club shall ensure that none of its members, players, officials, supporters or fans engages in any form of unsporting behaviour. Unsporting behaviour shall include amongst others, throwing missiles of any kind onto the pitch either, after or whilst a match is in progress, assaulting or attempting to assault or threatening the officials, members, or supporters of the opposing club, members of the public or anyone regardless of which team he/she follows, etc.

11.3 A club which contravenes the above rule shall be subject to disciplinary hearing, and if found guilty it shall be liable to a fine not less than E15, 000. In addition to the fine aforementioned, the MC may pass summary judgement for the convicted club to compensate an official who suffered financial loss as result of misconduct by a club or its fans/supporters while on official duty.

11.4 Members, players, officials, supporters or fans include the following-

11.4.1 Any person who is wearing articles of a colour that is normally associated with the colours of the offending club e.g. scarf, badge etc.

11.4.2 Any person who is seated at a stand or section of stadium that is occupied by the follower or fans of the offending club when the offence is committed.

11.4.3 Any person who commits the offence in the furtherance or support of the offending club's interest or favour.

11.4.4 Any person who is known to the officiating league official or referee to be a follower or fan of the offending club when the offence is committed.

ARTICLE 12 SPONSORSHIP TERMS

12.1 All participating PLE clubs shall ensure that their members and/or officials do not bring the tournament or the sponsor of the tournament or EFA or PLE into disrepute, before, during or after the match, including and beyond the day of the tournament. A club whose member(s) and/or official(s), fans, supporter or any person acting in furtherance or support of the offending club that contravenes this rule shall on conviction be fined an amount of not less than E25, 000-00 and be further suspended from football activities for a period of not less than three months (3 months).

12.2 The participating clubs undertake to make visits to nominated communities and or various centres at the direction and order of the MC. Any club that fails to make the visit shall be summarily fined an amount not less than E5,000 by the MC.

12.3 All stadium arena merchandizing shall be exclusive to PLE; which reserves the right to sell the merchandizing rights to any interested party or parties.

12.4 No club shall have direct communication with the sponsors. If a club breaches this rule, shall be summoned to appear the DC and if found guilty shall be fined an amount not less than E40,000.00.

ARTICLE 13 PRESS STATEMENTS AND REPORTS

13.1 The Secretary shall be entitled to publish in the press, or in any other media, reports of activities related to the tournament.

13.2 Clubs and/or club officials shall not publish or make statements that may bring the tournament or PLE into disrepute. A club(s) and/or club official(s) that commit(s) such offence shall be summarily fined an amount not less than E5, 000 by the MC.

ARTICLE 14 SPONSORSHIP PRIZES

The breakdown of Prizes will appear as follows:

Champions plus Trophy	E400,000.00
Runners up	E200,000.00
Semifinalist Losers (E100,000.00 X2)	E200,000.00
Play Offs Losers (E50,000.00 X2)	E100,000.00
Teams Uniform	E60,000.00
Participation Fee (E15,000.00 x8)	E120,000.00
Player of the series	E9,000.00
Top goal scorer	E6,000.00
Best Goalkeeper	E5,000.00
Best Coach	E5,000.00
Best Pro	E5,000.00
NFD CHARITY	
Winners	E120,000.00
Runners -Up	E80,000.00