



To Members of the EFA

Circular No. 172

Mbabane, 13th September 2021

Registration of Players and Clubs for the 2021/2022 Football Season

All registration offices of the Members of the Eswatini Football Association (EFA) and football clubs are hereby informed that the two Registration Periods for the forthcoming 2021/2022 football season shall be as follows:

First Window Registration Period

The first window registration period, being the main period for registration for the season, commenced on Monday, 13th September 2021 and will close on Friday, 19th November 2021. Players who may qualify to be registered outside the First Window Registration Period shall have registered by the 10th December 2021, at the latest.

In view of the first window registration period and in terms of the provisions of the FIFA Regulations for the Status and Transfer of Players, on the authority of the EFA as a member association of FIFA, relating to this subject and to safeguard the integrity of competitions under the auspices of the EFA, no player shall be allowed to register after the 10th December 2021, even if the player qualifies to be registered outside the first window registration period. This implies that the final date for registration of players, even if they meet all the criteria to be registered outside the first window registration period shall be Friday, 10th December 2021; unless on account of the exceptional circumstances outlined in this circular, under the section exceptional circumstances for the registration of a player or players outside the registration window period.

Second Window Registration Period

The second window registration period shall commence on Monday, 7th March 2022 and close on Friday, 1st April 2022. Like in the case of the first window registration period, no registration of players shall be allowed after Friday, 22nd April 2022, even if the player qualifies to be registered outside the registration period; unless on account of the exceptional circumstances outlined in this circular.

No new football clubs Registration of Football clubs

New clubs are still not allowed to register as per the directive of the EFA at the instance of the abolishment of sister teams or clubs under a common ownership. Only applications by zones may be allowed and such applications must be sent to the office of the EFA and in this respect EFA reserves the right for granting membership to a league or new club to participate in competitions under the auspices of the EFA.

This also applies to clubs that may wish to apply for change of names, whose approval shall only be the preserve of the EFA, in conformity with the principle of promotion and relegation as prescribed in the regulations governing the application of EFA Statutes.

Football clubs registration only confined to within the registration period

As a principle, the registration of football clubs shall only be confined to within the first window registration period, i.e. in the 2021/2022 football season; from 13th September 2021 until the eve of the first weekend or first round of matches marking commencement of the 2021/2022 first competition, for the respective league, at the latest, but not later than the last day of the first window registration period, even if the first competition in that particular league or region is scheduled to commence after the last day of the first window registration period.

No club shall therefore be allowed to register for the current season after this period; unless on exceptional cases prescribed in this circular.

Staggered reintroduction of football leagues competitions across all football leagues countrywide in response to the Covid-19 evolution

The 2021/2022 football season will commence on a staggered reintroduction of football leagues and competitions of the 2021/2022 football season, as a response to the current engagements with the Government of the Kingdom of Eswatini on the COVID-19 evolution and mitigation strategy on assuring a safe return of football.

Registration of Premier League and National First Division League football clubs for the 2021/2022 football season

Premier League and National First Division League football clubs must have fully registered for participation in the 2021/2022 football season by the 7th October 2021, at the latest. Premier League and National First Division League clubs, must fully comply with the CAF and EFA club licensing regulations and timelines to qualify to participate in football competitions of the forthcoming football season, domestically and internationally, as have been communicated by EFA. In this regard, EFA through the Licensing and International Affairs Department has already implemented extensive workshops on the club licensing requirements expected of football clubs in the forthcoming 2021/2022 football season.

No club at the Premier League and National First Division therefore, will be allowed to play in the 2021/2022 football season without having complied with the club licensing regulations.

Registration of other leagues football clubs for the 2021/2022 football season

As a principle, all football leagues, irrespective of whether they campaign or affiliate in national or regional leagues are expected to register within the prescribed registration dates, as articulated in this circular, *i.e. the eve of the first weekend or first round of matches marking commencement of the 2021/2022 season first competition, for the respective league, at the latest, but not later than the last day of the first window registration period, even if the first competition in that particular region is scheduled to commence after the last day of the first window registration period.*

Exceptional circumstances for the registration of football clubs outside or later than stipulated period

As a principle, all football clubs must have registered or affiliated before the first official match under that league or regional association, as regulated in this circular. In exceptional cases, where a football club would be having a case within the EFA, Regional Football Association or League or judicial structures of the EFA, that affects its status in terms of the league in which it has to register, such a club shall be required to pay its affiliation, membership or subscription fees to allow it to be a member of the respective football league for the current season, in observance of the timeframes given in this paragraph.

Once a case has been resolved or concluded; the club shall therefore be expected to settle the rest of the fees, as applicable to the league in which it has to register in terms of the decision.

Timelines for acceptance of exceptional circumstances matters, that may affect the registration of football club

Cases of football clubs that may attract such exceptional considerations on registration are cases that must have been lodged with the EFA secretariat for an address or onward reference to the applicable football judicial structures in terms of the Statutes, within the time frames stated in this paragraph *i.e. by the Friday of the week leading to the weekend or eve (where a competition commences during weekdays) of the first date of commencement of the first competition, in question, but not later than the last day of the first window registration period, even if the first competition in that particular region is scheduled to commence later than the last day of the first window registration period.*

For avoidance of doubt on the time line, formal submission must be by close of business or 4:30pm, at the latest, on the last day of the first window registration period.

This also applies to cases that would have already been in procession at the abovementioned bodies, which would have not been concluded by the closure of the football club registration period. In such circumstances, the abovementioned bodies will stipulate the latest date for the implementation of that specific football club registration.

Where such a date would have not been stipulated, the registration shall be concluded within three (3) working days of receipt of the written decision.

A club that does not conform to the above, shall not be allowed to register and shall have lost its membership to its association or league and ultimately EFA. Such clubs may be re-admitted upon re-applying for membership with the member association or league, which shall be approved by EFA, subject to licensing and registration regulations that may be prevalent at that particular period.

Regulation on the number of players to be registered

All football clubs in the country shall be allowed to register up to a maximum of thirty (30) players, inclusive of up to a maximum of five (5) international or foreign players. All registrations are therefore to be concluded in conformity with the applicable registration regulations; the regulations for the status and transfer of players; this circular; the EFA statutes and associated regulations, decisions and directives.

Exceptional circumstances for the registration of players outside a window registration period

As a principle, any registration activity for players, after the closure of a window registration period, shall thereafter recommence when the next window registration period opens; unless in exceptional circumstances, where a football club or player would have lodged a case within the EFA Players Status Committee or EFA secretariat or a case in the judicial structures of the EFA, that affects the status of the player in terms of the football club in which the player has to register.

In such a circumstance or circumstances, and once a case has been resolved/decided/concluded, the player in question will be allowed to register with the football club, favored by the decision of the bodies mentioned in the above paragraph.

Timelines for acceptance of exceptional circumstances matters, that may affect the registration of a player

Cases of players that may attract such exceptional considerations on registration must have been lodged with the EFA secretariat for an address or onward reference to the EFA Players Status Committee or the EFA judicial structures before the closure of the registration period in question.

For avoidance of doubt on the time line, formal submission must be by close of business or 4:30pm, at the latest, on the last day of the first window registration period.

This also applies to cases that would have already been in procession at the abovementioned bodies, which would have not been concluded by the closure of the registration period. In such circumstances, the abovementioned bodies will stipulate the latest date for the implementation of that specific player registration.

Where such a date would have not been stipulated, the registration shall be concluded within three (3) working days of receipt of the written decision.

Compulsory electronic of all football clubs under the auspices of EFA or organized football under the territory of EFA

FIFA, through the Regulations for the Status and Transfer of Players, March 2020 edition, now requires that all clubs playing football under the auspices of each member association, must be registered electronically through the FIFA/EFA electronic registration system. In view of the Covid-19 evolution and to prepare for the seamless introduction of the electronic registration to the lower leagues the following shall apply for the forthcoming 2021/2022 football season:

- All football players and football clubs of the Premier League, National First Division League, National Women Football League and Youth Football Leagues under the auspices of the Premier League of Eswatini (PLE), as had been the case in the previous seasons, are expected to conform to all requirements for the electronic registration under EFA/FIFA Connect Platform and transfer of their players as articulated in this circular and in the registration regulations for the current 2021/2022 football season, including the conformity to club licensing requirements which are now mandatory in terms of the Sporting; Infrastructure; Administrative and Personnel; Legal; and Financial criteria as prescribed by the EFA and/or CAF Club Licensing Regulations, where applicable. *No player or club shall be allowed to register without satisfying applicable licensing requirements.*
- Clubs in the lower leagues shall at first be registered in their usual system of registration with a gradual integration into the electronic registration system within the 2021/2022 season. In this regard, EFA will accordingly conduct extensive training on the electronic registration of clubs and players in the lower leagues once their respective football leagues have commenced to assure enough time and proper guidance into the integration of their respective players into the electronic registration system.

Compulsory submission of validated Declarations

In addition to the above, it shall be mandatory for all football clubs playing football in all competitions within the territory of the EFA, irrespective of league, to lodge Legal or Validated Declarations in respect of their Participation in Local competitions and associated activities; in international competitions; and other football activities, locally and internationally as well as the ownership and control of the clubs in question.

A club that fails to produce this declaration shall not be allowed to register.

Deregistered players

In the case where a club decides to deregister a player who is surplus to requirements, such a player shall in terms of registration regulations be classified under free agents and shall be allowed to join a club of his/her choice.

The only exception to these are players who are deregistered with respect to long-term injuries; players who have been proven to have retired from football; players who for various reasons have left the country, all of whom, if they were available could be utilized by the club.

International Players registrations and transfers

All international players shall be registered in terms of the Regulations for the Status and Transfer of Players as articulated by FIFA as well as other regulations they may be applicable in terms of the FIFA, CAF, and/or EFA Licensing programmes and laws of the country. No player shall be registered without having satisfied these regulations.

All international players playing football at the Premier League and National First Division League, shall over and above the applicable registration requirements, be employed on contract, a copy of which shall be submitted to the registration office of the EFA before such a player can be registered.

No international player shall be allowed to register with any of the above-mentioned leagues without having satisfied the requirement of a written contract. This written contract shall be authentically signed and initialed on every page by authentic officials of the club and such contracts shall be co-signed and initialed with the player. If a recognized players' agent is involved he/she shall also be required to be signatory to the contract alongside the player in question.

As a principle, the player's signature shall always be available.

Statistics of registered clubs and players

In view of the fact that registration in the first window period shall close on the 19th November 2021, all registration offices shall be expected to forward to the EFA a detail of clubs under their membership by name and league to which they affiliate, a detail of which shall have reached the EFA office by the 10th December 2021, at the latest.

Also included in these statistics will be the number of players with respect to each league level, i.e. Premier League, National First Division league, Regional Super League, Promotional league and the lower league together with the number of international players under registration.

Medical examination of players

All players in the PLE (*i.e. Premier League and National First Division League*) shall not be allowed to register without having undergone a medical examination from recognized Medical practitioners or institutions of the country. In this respect clubs shall be expected to over and above other registration requirements produce a Medical Certificate qualifying the player to be medically fit to play football in the current season. Further regulations may be expected in view of international changes on the subject.

Other member leagues should also encourage their clubs to have their players medically examined too.

Registration fee for players and clubs under the FIFA Connect Platform

The registration fee per player playing in a National First Division League and Premier League shall be E100.00 (*One Hundred Emalangeneni Only per player*); whilst those campaigning in the Regional Super leagues' clubs; Women Football League, U17 and U15 Premier League teams, shall be E50.00 (*Fifty Emalangeneni Only per player*). Registration fees are payable with the EFA Finance Office, after which a club will be accorded a receipt that will allow the player(s) in question to be registered and/or the collection of playing licenses.


No other arrangement shall be acceptable. It is therefore, important for clubs and membership to observe this directive.

Important to note

1. For international players; only registrations whose applications shall be lodged with the EFA office, before or on the last day of a window period, shall be allowed to register outside that window registration period, owing to the processes involved in acquiring other essential and relevant documentation, a situation which is also provided for in the FIFA Regulations for the Status and Transfer of Players.
2. No extension to the registration periods shall be allowed, hence it is expected that all registrations and/or applications should have been concluded by the last day of the registration window period, unless they qualify to be registered under exceptional cases as articulated in this circular and regulations that may be provided to this effect.
3. Registration offices are therefore expected to strictly abide by these regulations and timelines. Clubs are therefore expected to plan in advance for these registration periods to avoid instances of failed registration caused by failure to conform to the regulations and timelines.
4. The EFA Licensing and International Affairs Department will provide the operational requirements and training in scheduled dates; which must be strictly observed by all football clubs and their respective registration offices for the realization of a smooth and adequate registration process.

Your usual good cooperation is solicited.

Yours in Football,
Eswatini Football Association


Frederick Mngomezulu
Chief Executive Officer



Copy to:

- Licensing, and International Affairs
- Players' Status Committee
- Disciplinary committee
- Appeals Committee