



To Members of the EFA

Circular No. 156

Mbabane, 21st December 2020

Postponement of the hosting of Regional Football Associations General Assemblies to the end of the 2020/2021 football season

EFA Regional Football Associations and Leagues are hereby informed that, following the suspension the persistent COVID-19 health catastrophe, which has severely compromised the discharge the various regional football competitions and activities countrywide, with regional football competitions set to resume in a staggered fashion at a later date, including the hosting of Ordinary General Assemblies (OGAs) or Annual General Meetings (AGMs) for the Regional Football Associations, in the light of the large numbers required statutory to have such executed, the respective Regional Football Associations' Ordinary General Assemblies (OGAs) are hereby deferred to the end of the 2020/2021 football season.

Rationale for the deferment

This decision, has judiciously taken into meticulous reflection amid others, the following;

- The prevailing and/or prescribed COVID-19 pandemic restrictions on the discharge of the normal and statutory business of the Regional Football Associations during the COVID-19 pandemic period.
- The COVID-19 health threat has remained precarious over this period and as such the EFA is mindful of the objective of organizing OGAs or AGMs where all affected members are able to attend and optimally discharge their statutory business.

Direction on the implementation of Registration of regional football clubs for 2020/2021 football season and football competitions

The circumstance of the COVID-19 (*Coronavirus*) constitutes a situation of force majeure, and the EFA Executive Committee, in observance of the EFA Statutes, is statutorily tasked with the supreme authority in the implementation of measures under its auspices. This is implemented, obviously, in compliance with the dictates of FIFA and associated statutory structures and provisions.

In this regard, all statutory provisions that relate to timelines of hosting and the business of OGAs or AGMs of the Regional Football Associations, including issues of promotions and relegations which are normally presented at the OGAs are hereby accordingly waived.

In view of the above decisions of EFA, Regional Associations are hereby directed to implement their football clubs and players registrations, promotions, relegations, and competitions as follows:

- The effect of promotions and relegations was accordingly directed through EFA Circular No.147 of the 10th September 2020, and this must be accordingly complied with. In this regard, any statutory provision, if applicable, requiring the approval by the OGA of a Regional Football Association, is accordingly waived, such that the decided promoted football clubs are accordingly promoted to their next higher leagues.
- All football clubs in the respective leagues of regional associations must accordingly affiliate with their respective regional football associations and register their football clubs and players within the provided registration period, as pronounced by EFA that the first window registration period will close on the 15th January 2021. In this regard, all football clubs must therefore continue to register within this timeframe, in readiness for the start of football competitions as will be directed by EFA in the light of the staggered return of football competitions at various levels.

Implementation of the core business of football competitions

It must be noted that football has a wider responsibility to deliver on its mandate to its various stakeholders which include principally, over and above its members and their own members, its sponsors and the football fans, at all levels, from grassroots to national, amateur to professional, and as such, would have to implement measures that will also protect and assure that the lifeblood of football, being the football competitions are implemented.

Conclusion

EFA would like to take this opportunity to thank its members associations for their cooperation and tolerance during this challenging period. The spirit of solidarity and cooperation already exhibited by many in the face of this unprecedented crisis will ensure that the EFA together with its members and own respective members, clubs and players overcome this unique challenge and emerge stronger than ever before.

EFA, as always, remain fully open and available, whilst counting on your usual good cooperation which has always been held in the highest esteem.

Yours in Football,
Eswatini Football Association,


Frederick Mngomezulu
Chief Executive Officer

