

2009/10

PREMIER LEAGUE OF SWAZILAND

MTN FIRST DIVISION

RULES & REGULATIONS

Compiled and Presented by:

THE PREMIER LEAGUE OF SWAZILAND

Approved by the PLS BOARD OF GOVERNORS –August 2009

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PREAMBLE	PAGE 3
ARTICLE 1	DEFINITIONS & ABBREVIATIONS	PAGE 3
ARTICLE 2	REGISTRATIONS & TRANSFERS	PAGE 4
ARTICLE 3	PARTICIPATION	PAGE 6
ARTICLE 4	STARTING TIMES	PAGE 7
ARTICLE 5	THE REFEREE & PLAY	PAGE 10
ARTICLE 6	SERIOUS PLAYER MISCONDUCT	PAGE 11
ARTICLE 7	OTHER UNSPORTING BEHAVIOUR	PAGE 13
ARTICLE 8	POWERS OF THE DC	PAGE 15
ARTICLE 9	SPONSORSHIP TERMS	PAGE 15
ARTICLE 10	PROTESTS, APPEALS & FEES	PAGE 16
ARTICLE 11	RELEGATION & PROMOTION	PAGE 17
ARTICLE 12	PRIZES AND AWARDS	PAGE 18
ARTICLE 13	PRESS STATEMENTS	PAGE 19
ARTICLE 14	AFRICA CUP PARTICIPATION	PAGE 19
ARTICLE 15	GENERAL	PAGE 19
ARTICLE 16	PAYMENTS TO THE PLS	PAGE 20

THE PREMIER LEAGUE OF SWAZILAND MTN FIRST DIVISION – 2009/10

PREAMBLE TO THE RULES OF THE COMPETITION

The above competition shall be managed and administered by the office of the Chief Executive Office of the Premier League of Swaziland.

This document lays out the Rules & Regulations of the 2009/10 MTN Premier League (hereafter referred to as the Rules).

All Premier League Clubs participating in this competition undertake to observe and be bound by these rules.

ARTICLE 1

DEFINITIONS & ABBREVIATIONS OF TERMS USED IN THIS DOCUMENT

1. An Official or Premier League of Swaziland Official is:
 - (a) Any member of the office of the Premier League and/or any member of the Sub-Committees of the Premier League of Swaziland.
 - (b) Any person designated by the Premier League of Swaziland Chief Executive Officer to act in a representative capacity during matches, e.g. a Stadium Representative, etc.
 - (c) Invited dignitaries and or guests, members of the Royal Swazi Police

2. A Match Commissioner is:

The person appointed to have sole authority for ensuring that a match is officiated according to the rules of the game as well as those down in this document and who shall be responsible for preparing a report of the match, for the relevant authorities. He shall further be the final arbiter of whether or not a game shall be called off under any circumstances.

3. Unsporting Behaviour & Misconduct shall include amongst others:

- (a) Improper registration of a player(s), double registration, and fielding of a defaulter. It also includes disobedience of instruction by-

- (i) the Premier League of Swaziland Official,
 - (ii) Match Commissioner or Referee.
- (b) Invading the field of play, throwing of any object(s) into the field of play or its surroundings or unto persons thus assaulting or attempting to assault, use of threatening words, and physical manhandling with intent to cause bodily harm.
 - (c) Uttering abusive or obscene or derogatory words, spitting or emission of saliva onto a person or directed towards a person, use of provocative or insulting hand gestures/signals, and includes any incitement, conspiracy or attempt to engage in an act to bring football into disrepute.
 - (d) Failure by a club(s) to control their official(s) or player(s) or supporter(s) or fan(s).
 - (e) Disregard of the constitution and rules governing the League.
5. A Defaulter is defined as:
- (a) A player who is not eligible to play in a particular game for any reason such as suspension, improper registration, double registration, etc.
 - (b) Any player as defined shall be considered a defaulter only if he has appeared on the team sheet and remains on such until the beginning of the match in question.
6. A non-Swazi citizen player is:
- (a) A player who is not a Swazi citizen.
 - (b) Non-Swazi citizen players shall be allowed to register with a PLS club upon production of a valid international transfer certificate and a copy filed with the PLS. However the player can only play on production of a valid work permit. In the case of students, a study or student permit shall be required instead of a work permit.
7. The following abbreviations may be consistently used in this document:
- (a) PLS - The Premier League of Swaziland.
 - (b) C.E.O - Chief Executive Officer.
 - (c) DC - The PLS Protest and Disciplinary Committee.
 - (d) NFAS - The National Football Association of Swaziland

ARTICLE 2

AFFILIATION, REGISTRATION AND TRANSFER OF PLAYERS

- 1. (a) All PLS clubs shall be required to affiliate to the PLS by paying an annual affiliation fee amounting to **E 500-** (five hundred Emalangeneni only) per club. Such affiliation fee shall be paid on or before the first registration of players from that club for that season.

- (b) Before the beginning of the league, each club shall furnish the PLS office with a list of their officials for the year, with addresses, E-mail, telephone and fax numbers, of 2 (two) persons who shall receive the club's correspondence. Officials will only be allowed to represent one team per season. Should they resign from the team they are representing in the season, they can only represent another team in a new season.
 - (c) All participating players shall be registered with a PLS club.
 - (d) The registration fee shall be E50 (Fifty Emalangeneni only) per player.
 - (e) Each club shall be required to pay an amount of **E7, 500.00** to cover the allowances of four (4) Referees, one (1) PLS Official, and one (1) Match Commissioner. Half of the amount due **E5, 000.00** shall be payable before the start of the league while the remainder (**E 2,500.00**) is payable before the beginning of the second round. These amounts are subject to review after first half of the season.
2. Any player who changes or intends transferring from his previous club to another club, shall submit the following documents for the purposes of registration:-
- (a) A new Player's registration Form D,
 - (b) Certificate of Transfer from his previous club
 - (c) International Transfer certificate (in case of foreign players),
 - (d) Player's registration Form D from the previous club,
 - (e) Player's registration Card from the previous club,
 - (f) A work permit or temporary work permit (with current employer) or study/student permit in the case of a non-Swazi citizen player.
 - (g) A complete and current medical report signed by a practising doctor who is also a member of the Medical And Dental Association of Swaziland
3. Each club shall submit **certified** copies of signed contract that they have entered into with their individual players.
4. Each club shall submit to the Chief Executive Officer of the PLS a list of not more than thirty (30) players inclusive of a maximum of 5 (five) International players for registration.
5. The deadline for the final registration of players shall be in accordance with the instructions or circulars issued by the NFAS from time to time, and comply with the regulations governing Free Agents.
6. Transfers and registration of players shall be in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the NFAS Constitution.
7. Transfers of non-Swazi citizen players from associations in membership with FIFA shall comply with the FIFA Regulations for the Status and Transfer of Players, and shall be done through the NFAS.
8. A player not registered with any club in the membership of NFAS or Associations in FIFA members at any level in the past 30 months shall be permitted to register for a new club without a Clearance Certificate. Such a player shall be required to complete the Free

Agency Form, in addition to the Registration Form. In addition, attach an affidavit indicating that he has never played/not played in the past 30 months.

9. Any player not fulfilling the requirements of registration outlined in the Rules and Regulations of the NFAS Constitution shall not be considered a properly PLS registered player, thus a defaulter.
10. a) Any club fielding a defaulter shall be guilty of misconduct and shall be liable to lose the game and forfeit three points and three goals to the opposing club. However if the goal difference in the field of play is greater than three, the result in the field shall be maintained. The offending player may be suspended for three months.

b) Any club wishing to secure registration with the League using fraudulent documents shall be guilty of misconduct. The League having information availed to it will institute investigations and if the club is found guilty shall summarily fined an amount not less than E 8, 000- by the C.E.O. The club if found guilty shall be liable to lose all matches where the player whose documents we fraudulently sought for the purpose of registration.
11. All PLS clubs shall only be allowed to register once they have produced or shown evidence of their Youth Development Categories in line with the Pigg's Peak Declaration of 27th June 2009, with respect to U13, 15. Clubs that do not satisfy this requirement should not be allowed to register.
12. All PLS clubs must register alongside the team a name of an individual or individuals who shall be (a) coach (es) of the club for the season, alongside their qualifications, as per local coaches' policy for the season. All coaches doing duty are expected to be fully subscribed members of the NFAS.

ARTICLE 3

PARTICIPATION IN THE TOURNAMENT

1. The tournament shall be played as a two legged league with clubs playing each other on a home and away basis.
2. The club shown first on each fixture shall be the home and/or host club.
3. Points for the tournament shall be awarded as follows:-
 - (a) 3 (three) points for a win.
 - (b) 1 (one) point for a draw.
 - (c) 0 (zero) for a loss.
4. A fixture programme, stating dates, venues and starting times of all matches, shall be prepared and issued to the clubs by the C.E.O. The fixture programme issued by the PLS shall be adhered to by all clubs unless prior and written permission has been granted by the PLS for a club to deviate.

5. The host club will advise the PLS office and their opponents of the venue, date, and starting time of their match at least five (5) days before the date of the match, failing which the PLS shall apply its own discretion to fixture the said game.
6. In turn, the PLS office shall ensure that the away club is aware of the fixture (date, venue, and starting time). Such information shall be communicated to the clubs by telephone and further confirmed by facsimile or in writing or e-mail to the designated club official, at least three (3) days/ 72 hours before kick-off of their respective matches.
7. The home club shall be responsible for ensuring that the field of play is ready i.e. the grass is properly cut, the lines are properly marked, the nets are secure and flag poles are in place, where applicable floodlights are functional two hours before the scheduled commencement of the match. Failure to comply shall mean that the team would have failed to fulfil its fixture and therefore shall be deemed to have caused the abandonment of the game. Article 4.18 will be invoked therein.
8. The Referees/Match Commissioner shall conduct a pre-match inspection of the facilities including the pitch, dressing rooms, lights (where applicable) one and a half hours before the scheduled commencement of a match with the hosting club.
9. The home club/host club shall ensure that the stadium owner delivers to the PLS Official or Match Commissioner the keys to all facilities such as the visiting club's dressing rooms, referees changing rooms, etc two hours before the scheduled commencement of the match.
10. The host club shall ensure that all points of entry or as may be designated by the PLS Official or Stadium Representative are operational two hours before the scheduled commencement of the match.
11. The home club shall ensure that the sitting arrangement for fans and/or supporters of both clubs is properly demarcated and marked.
12. Failure by the hosting club to comply with any of the requirements outlined in 9, 10 and 11, above, the club shall be summarily fined by the Office for each violation, a fine of **E1, 600.00** for each violation.

ARTICLE 4

STARTING TIMES OF MATCHES

- 4.1 The dates and venues of matches shall be fixed by the Chief Executive Officer of the League who may delegate this power in writing to any League official, using such policies as may be resolved by the Board of Governors from time to time.
- 4.2 Clubs shall be notified by the League of all fixtures and fixture changes in writing by no later than midday of the second day prior to the match. Such notification shall include the date, time and venue when the said fixture will be played.

- 4.3 Should any club wish to request a change to a fixture, such request must be submitted in writing by midday of the fourth day prior to the match. Fixtures will only be amended in extreme circumstances, at the discretion of the Chief Executive Officer.
- 4.4 Save and except where permission to change a fixture has been applied for and given in terms of Article 4.2 and 4.3 above, no fixture may be changed in any manner whatsoever with the exception that the League shall have the right to alter fixtures in this discretion subject to the provisions of Article 4.2 or where contemplated in Article 4.5 and 4.6.
- 4.5 In its application to the League for affiliation, a club shall name the ground at which it prefers to play its home fixtures, as well as an alternative home ground. In this regard, if the League is of the opinion that it may be impractical to play a match at that venue, for any reason whatsoever then the League may at any time prior to any match under its auspices, fixture such match at an alternative venue or alternatively postpone such fixture.
- 4.6 If for any reason a club is unable to play its home fixture at its home ground, the League may order the clubs to play a fixture at a ground selected by the club as its alternative home ground or at an alternative venue determined by the League. All reasonable costs of whatsoever nature occasioned by the change shall be paid by the original home club.
- 4.7 The onus of securing a venue shall be on the home club, and save and except for Force Majeure, the club's failure to secure a venue shall be regarded as misconduct, and the club shall be deemed to have failed to fulfil its fixture/s. and shall be deemed to have caused abandonment of the game and Article 4.18 will be invoked therein.
- 4.8 Should a match be abandoned by the Referee due to an electricity power failure in a match played under floodlights or due to Force Majeure, then in such event the 90 minutes match will be replayed at a date, venue and time stipulated by the League. The gate takings of the replayed match shall be shared between the two clubs having deducted the percentage due to the League, stadium and Match Officials' costs.
- 4.9 The team manager from each club shall report to the PLS Official at the venue of the match at least 45 (forty-five) minutes before the scheduled start of the game to enable a pre-match meeting. Failure to report to the PLS Official, a club shall be summarily fined an amount of **E 800.00** by the C.E.O.
- 4.10 Each club shall be at the card checking point ready for checking 30 (Thirty) minutes before the scheduled start of the match. The PLS Official will inform the clubs of any delay and further inform them of the new card checking time.
- 4.11 Failure of a club to report, as in 4.10 above, shall be summarily fined an amount of **E4,000.00** by the C.E.O.
- 4.12 The card checking point shall normally be the dressing rooms of the stadium, and all clubs shall use such dressing rooms as directed by the PLS Official/Match Commissioner/Referee. Failure to comply with the officials' directive of using the dressing room shall render the club guilty of contravening this rule and liable to a summary fine of **E1,600.00** by the C.E.O.

- 4.13 At all stadiums, clubs shall adhere to instructions given by the PLS official/Match Commissioner/Referee regarding the use of facilities. It shall be deemed an offence for clubs to ignore or not follow the instructions of the officials on this matter. Any club found guilty of contravening this rule shall be liable to a summary fine of **E1, 600.00** by the C.E.O.
- 4.14 Each registered club shall have two sets of contrasting uniforms, for home and away fixtures. The (home and away) colours must be registered with the PLS office and be adhered to by all clubs. In cases of colour clashes, the away or visiting club shall be required to change uniform. Failure to comply with this rule resulting in the game being abandoned, the offending club shall be summarily fined an amount of **E 1, 600.00** by the C.E.O, and further lose the match with three points and three goals awarded to their opponents.
- 4.15 Any club reporting for checking within fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled start of the match, shall be summarily fined an amount of **E5, 000.00** by the C.E.O.
- 4.16 Any club reporting for checking after fifteen minutes (15) minutes after the scheduled start of the match will result in the match being called off. The offending club shall be summarily fined an amount of **E16, 000.00** and be liable to further disciplinary action. The offending team shall be deemed to have caused the abandonment of the match and lose the match, with three points and three goals awarded to their opponents.
- 4.17 After the card checking formalities have been completed, clubs will be led into the field of play by the referees and/or match officials. A club contravening this rule shall be summarily fined an amount of **E1, 600.00** by the C.E.O.
- 4.18 Any club walking out, refusing to play a match, contravenes Articles 3.7, 4.7, 4.14 4.16, 9 .1 (a & b), whose fan(s), supporter(s), official(s) invade the field of play and/or throw missiles/objects into the field of play which would result in the match officials stopping the game shall be deemed to have caused the abandonment of the match, and shall, if found guilty of such an offence lose the match, with the three points and three goals awarded to their opponents, and a suspension of three (3) months imposed on them plus a fine of not less than **E12, 000.00** by the DC.
- 4.19 The referee's report, in the event that the match had already kicked-off, shall provide conclusive proof as to which club abandoned or caused abandonment of the match. However, the Match Commissioner's report shall provide conclusive proof as to which club abandoned or caused abandonment of the match, if the match had not kicked-off.
- 4.20 Week 20, 21, and 22 of the second round fixtures will be scheduled by the C.E.O, in consultation with the PLS Executive Committee. However all timeline on communicating fixtures to teams still hold, as defined in article 3. Depending on the state and to safeguard the integrity of the competition, the period of controlled fixtures can be extended such that they start earlier than the 20th week.

ARTICLE 5

THE REFEREE AND PLAY

1. The Swaziland Referee's Committee shall appoint referees and assistant referees for all matches. The roster of referees must be known to the PLS for the whole league, and no changes may be made to this roster unless written confirmation with reasons is provided to the PLS at least seven (7) days before the affected fixtures.
2. Referees shall report to the venue of the match they are officiating one and a half hours before the scheduled start of the match. In the event of one or two of the referees failing to show up thirty (30) minutes before the commencement of the match, the Match Commissioner or PLS official shall appoint substitute referees. The report of the Match Commissioner or PLS official shall provide conclusive proof as to the time of arrival of the referee. Failure to comply shall lead to the C.E.O. deducting 30% of the match official's allowances due for the match. The PLS Official's report shall provide conclusive proof as to the time of arrival of the Match Commissioner.
3. If 15 (fifteen) minutes after the scheduled start of the match, all referees fail to arrive, and the Match Commissioner or PLS official cannot provide substitute referees, the Match Commissioner/PLS Official shall call off the match. The referees scheduled for this match shall be subject to disciplinary conduct in terms of the referee's code of conduct.
4. The Referee, Assistant Referees, Match Commissioner or PLS official and the club captains, shall before the match, inspect the clubs and check the line-ups.
5. The Referee, Assistant Referees and the Match Commissioner or PLS official, on completion of the inspection, shall lead the clubs into the field of play.
6. The Referee may allow the clubs a period of warm up, if time and circumstances permit. It must be noted that clubs can go into the field of play for warm-up before inspection by the referees.
7. The Referee shall, at the end of the match, compile a match report in duplicate for the C.E.O.
8. The following details should be included in the report:
 - (a) Name of the competition,
 - (b) Date and venue of the match,
 - (c) Names of the referee and assistants,
 - (d) Names of clubs,
 - (e) Names of club captains,
 - (f) Times of the start, half time and full time,
 - (g) Half time and full time score,
 - (h) Substitutes used,
 - (i) Cards (red and yellow) issued to players during the match,
 - (j) Any event that the referee considers worth reporting, i.e. misconduct by any club/s, player/s, club official/s, fan/s etc.
 - (k) Signature of the referee.

9. The Referee's report is to reach the offices of the PLS by 4'oclock the next working day following the match in question. Failure to adhere to this timeframe shall NOT render the contents of the reports null and void.
10. Any Referee that fails to submit his report within the period as stated in Article 5 (9) shall have 30% of his/her allowance for that match deducted and paid to the PLS. Further delays in submitting the report will result in a further 10% deduction for each day that the report is delayed.
11. Persistent incompetent and inadequate performance by a Referee(s), including incomplete, inconsistent and ambiguous reports and/or consistent late reports shall lead to suspension and/or dismissal of such referee(s) from officiating in all PLS organized matches, as determined by the C.E.O. in consultation with the Referees Committee.
12. Article 5.10 and 5.11 apply to Match Commissioner's reports equally.
13. The Referee's report and/or that of the Match Commissioner shall provide conclusive proof pertaining to any circumstance(s) regarding the match. The reports, either the original or duplicate (bearing the PLS received stamp) shall be admissible as proof during the DC hearings.
14. The C.E.O. shall require the PLS Official to provide a report regarding any occurrence(s) at the stadium in addition to the reports referred in Article 5.12 of the Rules.

ARTICLE 6

SERIOUS PLAYER/CLUB MISCONDUCT

DISMISSALS

- 6.1 Any player dismissed from the field of play by the referee (i.e." red carded" or sent off, including dismissal as a result of two (2) yellow cards awarded in the same match) for the first time in any season shall be suspended from participation in the next one (1) match to be played by his team in any official competition under the auspices of the League and this Rule shall duly be affected by any subsequent amendment by FIFA as the case may be.
- 6.2 For each subsequent occasion that a player is suspended during the same season the period of suspension shall be increased by one (1) match from the suspension previously served.
- 6.3 Any period of suspension or part thereof which remains outstanding at the end of a season must be served at the commencement of the next season, irrespective of the club for which the player may be doing duty.
- 6.4 The League shall be responsible for keeping all records relating to dismissals and suspensions, and only the League's records shall be considered accurate and binding. Such records shall be sent to clubs after every match in which they participate and the League shall inform clubs when a suspension falls due.

- 6.5 This Rule shall only be applicable to dismissals that occur in a match forming part of an official competition of the League. For the purposes of this Rule, "official competition" shall not include Charity Cup fixtures.
- 6.6 The provisions of Rule 6.1 to 6.5 above shall also apply to club officials who are dismissed from the field of play, including the technical area. When under suspension club officials may not enter the confines of the field, including the technical area or official area. The Referee will be the sole judge of what constitutes the technical area in question while the PLS Official at a match or the Match Commissioner shall determine what constitutes the official area at any given match.
- 6.7 Where a player or official transfers to a new club during a period of suspension the counting of matches missed shall also transfer to the new club from the time when the player or official becomes eligible for the new club.

CAUTIONS

- 6.8 Any player who accumulates three (3) cautions (i.e. "yellow cards") in any season shall be suspended from participation in the next one (1) match to be played by his team in any official competition under the auspices of the League.
- 6.9 Where a player receives a red card in a match any yellow cards received by the player in such match shall not be counted for the purposes of this Rule.
- 6.10 Once the player has served the suspension the player's total number of accumulated cautions will revert to zero (0) and counting will resume again. The cycle of counting of cautions and the resulting suspension may be repeated any number of times in a season. Irrespective of club for which player may be doing duty in the following season
- 6.11 Any period of suspension or part thereof, which remains outstanding at the end of a season, must be served at the commencement of the next season. Any cautions accumulated during a season shall not be carried to the next season.
- 6.12 The League shall be responsible for keeping all records relating to cautions and suspensions, and only the League's records shall be considered accurate and binding. Such records shall be sent to clubs after every match in which they participate and the League shall inform clubs when a suspension falls due.
- 6.13 This Rule shall only be applicable to cautions that occur in a match forming part of an official competition of the League. For the purposes of this Rule, "official competition" shall not include Charity fixtures.
- 6.14 Where a player transfers to a new club during a period of suspension the counting of match missed shall also transfer to the new club from the time when the player becomes eligible for the new club.

- 6.15 Players who have accumulated cautions and are transferred to a new club within the same playing season shall carry over such cautions to the new club.
- 6.16 A player who has received a red card will automatically have his Registration Card withdrawn by the C.E.O. The officiating referee shall be responsible to collect the player's registration card and submit it to the C.E.O together with his match report. The registration card will only be returned on completion of the period of suspension to his club upon production of an authentic Bank deposit slip for payment of the retrieval fee of **E 100.00 (Hundred Emalangeneni only)** to the PLS.
- 6.17 It is the responsibility of each club and the office of the C.E.O to ensure that all its players are eligible to play in this competition. Any club contravening this rule shall be prosecuted and if found guilty, Article 2 (10) shall be invoked.
- 6.18 Notwithstanding any provision in these rules, the C.E.O reserves the right to charge any player and/or club that contravenes Article 2 (10), and if found guilty the offending club lose three points and three goals from the total number of points accumulated by the offending club. The offending player may be further suspended up to three months.
- 6.19 Any club who knowingly utilise players that are not eligible for a competition, if found guilty, shall be liable to lose all matches in which the player in question featured. The player, if found guilty shall be suspended for all matches until he is eligible to play. Further sanctions can be imposed.

ARTICLE 7

OTHER UNSPORTING BEHAVIOUR AND MISCONDUCT

1. Any club whose member(s), player(s), official(s) marshal(s) or supporter(s) engage in unsporting or violent misconduct either before, during or after a match shall be liable to punishment. The following offences shall be punishable in the following ways:
 - (a) Invading the pitch during a game by a supporter(s), fan(s), a marshal(s) or spectator(s) (unless authorized by the referee) in celebration of a goal(s) – a summary fine of **E1, 600.00** by the C.E.O.
 - (b) Threatening by conduct or words to assault or attempt to assault a referee, PLS official, player, club official, marshal, supporter, fan, spectator – a fine of not less than **E4, 000.00** by the DC.
 - (c) Uttering abusive or obscene or derogatory words, spitting or emission of saliva onto any person or directed towards a person - a fine of not less than **E4, 000.00** by the DC. This should also include players where players can incite fans, opposing players and officials etc.
 - (d) Use of provocative or insulting gestures/signals, unbecoming behaviour or conspiracy or attempt to act to bring football into disrepute or inciting people to behave in a manner that brings the game of football into disrepute - a fine of not less than **E4, 000.00** by the DC.

- (e) Throwing objects of any kind onto the field of play or its surroundings or unto any person(s) thus assaulting or attempting to assault and invading the field of play - a fine of not less than **E4, 000.00** by the DC.
 - (f) Assaulting a referee, PLS official, player, club official, marshal, supporter, fan, and spectator – a fine of not less than **E6, 000.00** by the DC. In addition, the offending club shall be ordered to compensate the victim for any financial loss incurred due to the assault.
 - (g) Failure to control fan(s), supporter(s), official(s), marshal(s)- a fine not less than **E4, 000.00** by the DC.
2. Notwithstanding, the provisions of Article 7 (1) above, the C.E.O reserves the right to charge any player, official, marshal, supporter, fan, spectator positively identified by the Referee or Match Commissioner or PLS Official to have contravened any of Article 7(1) (c), (d), (e), (f) and (g) if found guilty he/shall be liable to suspension as provided in the PLS constitution as well as NFAS constitution and disciplinary code.
3. Member(s), player(s), official(s), supporter(s), fan(s), spectator(s) shall include the following:
- (a) Any person wearing articles of a colour commonly associated with the colour of the offending club, e.g. scarf, badge, etc., and/or,
 - (b) Any person who is seated at a stand or section of a stadium that is occupied by the followers of the offending club when the offence is committed and/or,
 - (c) Any person known to the PLS to be a member, player, marshal, official, supporter or fan of one of the clubs and/or,
 - (d) Any person who commits the offence in furtherance or support of the offending club's interest or favour.
4. Clubs are expected to post marshals in the stands to control their crowds and the marshals should police the proceedings and submit any offender to the police for criminal prosecution if they misbehave. Such incidents must be brought to the attention of the PLS official to serve as a mitigating factor in the case that the club is charged for misbehaviour of its supporters, fans or members.
5. Use of any substance that is alien to, or is foreign to, a football field or stadium is not allowed, and:-
- (a) It shall be an offence for a club, as represented by its supporters, fans, officials and players, to be seen using any substance that is alien to, or is foreign to, a football field or stadium. Any club convicted of this offence shall be summarily fined an amount of **E1, 600.00** by the C.E.O.
 - (b) The Referee's report or Match Commissioner's report shall provide conclusive proof regarding the use of substance as outlined in Article 7 (5) (a) above.
 - (c) Only material and equipment as allowed by the referee or as prescribed.

6. If a club appears before the DC for a second time on the similar charges of violence and, and if found guilty, the DC shall double the fine. Further to that a club shall lose six (6) points the laws of the game can be allowed into the field of play.

ARTICLE 8

POWERS OF THE PROTEST AND DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

Notwithstanding the above mentioned disciplinary procedures, the DC shall have the liberty to use the disciplinary measures as outlined in the Rules and Regulations of the Constitution Article 55.6.

ARTICLE 9

SPONSORSHIP TERMS

1. All participating clubs shall wear outfits or soccer jerseys with the appropriate markings of the MTN logo, i.e. on one sleeve of the soccer jerseys and on the shorts, during all matches of this tournament. The badges shall be those designed and specified by MTN, and obtainable from the PLS office in Mbabane.
2. Any club(s) that contravenes Article 9 (1) above shall not be allowed to go into the field of play, and the referee shall allow the offending club(s) to rectify the anomaly. If the anomaly is not rectified within fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled start of the match, the referee shall call off the match in question and:-
 - (a) The offending club(s) shall be deemed to have caused the abandonment of the game, and shall lose the match and Article 4.18 be invoked therein.
 - (b) In the event that both clubs have contravened Article 9 (1), the match shall be called off by the referee and both clubs shall receive no points for such match which shall be considered to have been played, and further summarily fined an amount not less than **E8, 000.00** each by the C.E.O.
3. All participating clubs shall be precluded from negotiating and concluding any agreement with any competitor(s) of the MTN Group, or its affiliates. This includes the wearing of outfits with brand markings of the MTN Group competitors and the branding of any MTN group competitors to be displayed at the match venues during the League competition.
4. All participating clubs shall avail any of their members/players to MTN for advertising campaigns at no cost to MTN Group. **The use of players from the premier league by the sponsor for advertising purposes shall be negotiated via the PLS office on a case by case bases, including appropriate compensation.**
5. A club that contravenes Article 9 (3) and/or Article 9 (4) shall be summarily fined an amount of **E2, 400.00** by the C.E.O

ARTICLE 10

PROTESTS, APPEALS AND FEES

- 10.1 Clubs shall submit duly completed team sheets or list to the referee at least thirty minutes (30) prior to the start of play. Such list shall include:
- 10.1.1 the full names of the eleven players starting the match;
 - 10.1.2 the full names of the seven substitutes which may be utilized during the match;
 - 10.1.3 the five full names of the club officials positioned in the technical areas for the match.
- 10.2 If a player's name appears on the team sheet list he shall be deemed, for the purposes of these Rules, to have participated in the match, save that a club may at any time before kick-off, amend its team sheet or list by substituting any player, if its opponents have lodged a protest in terms of the Rules relating to the use of any player who is allegedly unregistered, suspended, banned, fraudulent or improperly registered, in which case the said substituted player shall not be deemed to have participated in the match.
- 10.3 Any protest involving defaulters shall duly be made immediately after inspection of both teams at the dressing rooms or such other allocated point of inspection in terms of these rules.
- 10.4 Any other protest shall be lodged with the referee at the time when it occurs; otherwise it shall be null and void. A decision taken by the referee during the course of the match shall not be subject to protest.
- 10.5 Both captains and the referee must sign the protest for acknowledgement. Should any captain refuse to sign the protest, the Referee and/or the Match Commissioner shall indicate that in his/their report(s).
- 10.6 Club captains shall not refuse to sign a protest lodged by another club. Offending clubs shall be summarily fined an amount of **E1, 600.00** by the C.E.O.
- 10.7 Confirmation of a protest in writing plus supporting evidence in duplicate must reach the C.E.O. **WITHIN TWO WORKING DAYS**, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays, after the match otherwise it shall be null and void. A bank stamped deposit slip for a **non-refundable protest fee** (should the club win the protest) amounting to **E2, 000.00** shall accompany the confirmation. The team that loses the protest shall be required to pay E 2 000.00 to the PLS. A protesting club that fails to confirm its protest shall be summarily fined **E 2 000.00** by the C.E.O.
- 10.8 Upon receipt of a protest, the Chief Executive Officer of the Premier League shall charge the offending party with committing the offence complained about and institute a disciplinary hearing as soon as possible, wherein the said protest shall be tabled by the Pro Forma Prosecutor and thereafter the protesting club shall bear the onus to prove its case.

- 10.9 The Disciplinary Committee of the Premier League shall dismiss the protest if it is deemed frivolous or vexatious on the face of it, failing which the Disciplinary Hearings shall proceed.
- 10.10 The protesting club shall have the right to appeal against the decision of the Disciplinary Committee of the Premier League not to entertain the protest or dismiss the protest in terms of Rule 48.3.
- 10.11 Any charge/s instituted by the League in terms of Rule 4.3 shall be heard by the Disciplinary Committee in accordance with the Constitution, and these Rules.
- 10.12 The protesting club shall have the right to be present at and give evidence before the Disciplinary Committee hearing the charge/s against the offending party. The Premier League may subpoena any party under its jurisdiction and or request the NFAS to subpoena such person which such subpoena shall lawful to give evidence or produce any book, paper or document at the hearing. The protesting club and the offending party shall have the right of appeal to the NFAS Appeal Board against any decision of the Disciplinary Committee and thereafter to refer such decision to arbitration.
- 10.13 A club may be represented by a person of their choice as per the FIFA and NFAS statues or regulations.
- 10.14 The DC shall have power to sit over a case even if the other party is not represented if the DC is satisfied that such party was informed of the date, time and venue of the hearing. The decision of the DC shall be binding to all parties concerned.
- 10.15 In the event that a party has been properly served with the notice to sit for a hearing, and the matter has to be postponed due to the party's unavailability, the DC may order the said party to pay the costs related to the postponement of the case. Such costs will include the sitting allowances, travelling allowances, etc of all parties concerned.
- 10.16 Any club that is not satisfied with the decision of the DC shall have the right to appeal. An appeal shall be made to the NFAS Appeals Board within **FIVE WORKING DAYS** after the written verdict of the DC; otherwise it shall be null and void. A non-refundable fee amounting to **E2, 000.00** must accompany the appeal.

ARTICLE 11

LEAGUE POSITIONS, RELEGATION AND PROMOTION OF CLUBS

1. The number of points scored shall determine positions in this competition. The final and officially completed log, shall be binding on all clubs and officials, and will be used for the purposes of resolving disputes that should arise due to any unforeseen circumstances. A copy of the final and complete log shall be sent to all clubs by the C.E.O.
2. The club scoring the most points on completion of the league shall be declared the winner (League Champions).

3. In the case of equality of points between clubs, positions in the log will be determined by the best goal difference.
4. If 2 and 3 are not decisive, the club having scored the most goals shall be declared the winner.
5. If 2, 3 and 4 still do not give a position, the combined results of the first and second round matches played by the contesting clubs that have tied shall be decisive.
6. If 2, 3, 4 and 5 fail to produce a clear position, and then a play-off match shall be played by the contesting clubs to determine the winner.
7. Only two clubs shall suffer relegation from the NFDL to RSL's, whilst two clubs shall gain promotion from the RSL's to the NFDL at the end of the playing season. Therefore, the two team bottom placed clubs, subject to the 'Principle of Promotion and Relegation' in Article 35 of the Regulations Governing the Application of the NFAS Statues, shall be relegated to the RSL's
8. The four winners of the RSL's having fulfilled the Principle of Promotion and Relegation, shall play-off (NFDL Play-offs) to produce two clubs that shall take the vacant positions left by those relegated from the NFDL.

ARTICLE 12

PRIZES AND AWARDS

1 Premier League **Cash Prizes**

An amount of **E170, 000-** shall be disbursed towards the payment of cash prizes to the winning teams as follows:-

Position	Teams	Prize
1st Position	1	E60,000-
2nd Position	1	E30,000-
3rd Position	1	E12,500-
4th Position	1	E7,500-
Participation Fees (@E5,000-)	12	E 60,000-

2 A total amount of **E 19, 500-** shall be paid to individuals as follows:-

Position	Players	Prize
Player of the month Awards	8	E4,000-
Player of the Year Award	1	E4,000-
Top Goal Scorer Award	1	E4,000-
Coach of the Tournament	1	E2,500-
Fair play award	1	E5,000-

NOTE:

All prizes in respect of club performances shall be presented at the end of the tournament during the prize presentation ceremony.

ARTICLE 13

PRESS STATEMENTS AND REPORTS

1. Each club shall be responsible for advertising its matches through the media. Clubs shall furnish the Office with the names, addresses, E-mail, telephone and fax numbers, of 2 (two) persons who shall act in this capacity.
2. The PLS Chief Executive Officer shall be entitled to publish in the press, or in any other media, reports of activities related to the PLS League.
3. Clubs, officials, supporters, fans shall not publish or make statements that may bring the sponsors, the PLS and all its Sub-Committees into disrepute. Anyone or any club that commits this offence shall be brought before the DC for disciplinary action, and if found guilty, the person(s) or club(s) shall be summarily be fined **E8, 000.00** by the C.E.O.

ARTICLE 14

AFRICA CUP PARTICIPATION

The log positions as at the end of this tournament shall be used to determine the top two clubs that will be eligible to participate in the Africa Cup tournaments.

ARTICLE 15

GENERAL

1. Entrance fees at all matches shall be a minimum of E10 and a maximum of E 20. Children below the age of 12 years will be charged half.
2. The PLS. shall collect 20% of the gross gate takings from all matches played in this tournament.
3. The home clubs shall always provide adequate change at all their matches.
4. The host club shall provide enough personnel to collect gate takings in all their fixture games. These gate men/women must be available at the stadium with the change at least one and a half hours before the start of the game.
5. In the event of any dispute or conflict arising between any rule of this tournament and those laid down in the Constitution of the PLS, the Constitution shall take precedence.

6. The full complement of players as allowed in the registration clause should be allowed free entry and their registered officials for the year. However, only those eligible will be allowed to the dressing areas and Technical/specially demarcated areas of the fields. That is, the additional number over and above the required quota will sit on the stands as demarcated.
7. No free entry to fans would be allowed at any given time during the duration of the game.

ARTICLE 16

PAYMENTS TO THE PLS

1. All clubs are directed to utilize the PLS Current **Account no. 0140037201301** held at Standard Bank, Mbabane Branch when making payments in respect of **all dues** to the PLS for the season. Such payments include registration and affiliation fees, protest fees, fines, etc.
2. After making a deposit, the club should proceed to the PLS office with the stamped Bank deposit slip where they shall be furnished with a PLS receipt by the Accounts/Administration Officer, as acknowledgement of payment/deposit. **CHEQUE DEPOSITS ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE.**
3. Fines imposed by the PLS to clubs are payable within twenty-one (21) days. The C.E.O. shall have power to suspend the defaulting club until the fine/s and or other costs have been paid. Such dues are subject to the normal rates of interest as may be determined by the Office from time to time.