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NOTICE TO ALL SAFA MEMBERS

To: All SAFA Regions
The Special Member
All Associate Members
HOD's: SAFA Head Office
Relevant Standing Committee Members
National Executive Committee Members

From: Chief Executive Officer (Acting)

Date: Tuesday, August 30, 2011

Subject: SAFA COMPETITIONS RULES & REGULATIONS

Dear Members,

Find here attached the following SAFA Competitions Rules and Regulations, as approved by the NEC at its meeting held on the 26 August 2011. The said documents were recommended by the Competitions and Legal & Constitutional Affairs Committees, following their Workshop on these Rules & Regulations held on the 24 July 2011:

1. SAFA Competitions Uniform Rules
2. Vodacom League Regulations
3. Sasol League Regulations
4. SAB Regional League Regulations
5. ABSA Women's League Regulations
6. Nedbank Cup Regulations – SAFA Level
7. SAFA U17 National Championship Regulations

Yours Sincerely

Dennis Mumble
Chief Executive Officer (Acting)

Kirsten NEMATANDANI (President), Mwelo NONKONYANA (VP), Irvin KHOZA (VP), Mandla MAZIBUKO (VP), Danny JORDAAN (VP), Pinky LEHOKO (CEO/GS)
National List Members: Alpha MCHUNU, Sam MASITENYANE, Motebang MOSESE, Truman PRINCE, Nomsa MAHLANGU, Aubrey BAARTMAN, Eric MTSHATSHA, Poobalan GOVINDASAMY, Abel RAKOMA, Morris TSHABALALA
Provincial List Members: Velaphi KUBEKA, Jeremiah MDLALOSE, Fanyana SIBANYONI, David ZULU, Lucas NHLAPO, Nemavhola KHOROMMBI, Xolani MTUMTUM, Anthony REEVES, Mzwandile MAFORVANE, Vincent TSEKA, Jan KOOPMAN, Theodore KHUPE, Elvis SHISHANA, Gerald DON, Andile NDENGEZI, Mzimkhulu NDLELO, Lefore LEREFOLO, Paseka NKONE
League Members: Mato MADLALA, Stanley MATTHEWS, Kaizer MOTAUNG
Honorary Members: Molefi OLIPHANT (Honorary Life President), Lesole GADINABOKAO (Honorary President), Leepile TAUNYANE (Honorary Life Member)

SAB REGIONAL LEAGUE REGULATIONS.

1. Title

The competition is sponsored by SAB (Pty) Ltd, and shall be known as the SAB Regional League (*"the League"*).

2. Format of the competition

2.1 The League shall be played in a single Regional stream of a maximum of sixteen (16) teams per Region affiliated to SAFA.

2.2 The Competitions Committee shall be authorised to increase the number of teams participating in a stream based on an appropriately motivated application and request to participate in a particular stream.

2.3 The League shall be played over two (2) rounds commencing on **August/September** of each season or as soon as possible thereafter. It shall be played on a home-and-away basis; with the winner of each League match allocated three (3) points; one (1) point for a drawn match; and, no points for a loss.

2.4 The competition shall be played in accordance with the following phases:

2.4.1 Phase 1 – a Club League Championship played at Regional level;

2.4.2 Phase 2 – all the respective Regional League winners shall participate in an Inter-Regional (Provincial) play-off to determine the two (2) teams to be promoted to the Vodacom League. (At this stage, the respective nine (9) Provincial U-21 squads will be selected, (selection not limited to play-offs only) and proceed to Phase 3);

2.4.3 Phase 3 – this is an Inter-Provincial Tournament/National Championship.

2.4.3.1 The selected Provincial U-21 squads shall be entitled to earn Provincial colours when they represent their respective Provinces at this Tournament/National Championship.

2.4.3.2 The tenth (10) team shall be the University Sports of South Africa (USSA) – Football team.

2.5 Each Region shall register their participating teams prior to the start of the competition, and shall confirm these participating teams by no later than **August**. The teams shall submit the prescribed entry and competition forms on or before the prescribed deadline which, unless otherwise stated.

2.6 The Competition shall be open for all players provided that a minimum of five (5) players under the age of 21 shall at all times be on the field during matches (including play-offs). Failure to comply with this provision shall constituter a breach of the regulation and if a team is found guilty by the Disciplinary Committee, it shall result in a loss of points. This restriction will not be applicable during a match in any competitions where SAB Regional League teams, Vodacom League teams, National First Division teams and Premier Division teams participate in the same tournament.

2.7 An Under 21 player shall be a player who will attain his Twenty (20^{th}) birthday on or after 1 January of the year during which that season commences. For the sake of clarity, for the 2011-2012 season, such a player must be Nineteen (19) or younger on or after 1 January 2011. He may turn twenty (20) on or after 1 January 2012.

2.8 The competition shall be played in accordance with the SAFA Uniform Rules, and these SAB Regional League Regulations, each

team shall be limited to registering only three (3) foreign players per team if they so wish. However, no foreign players will be eligible or selection for any of the Provincial U-21 squads selected at the conclusion of Phase 2 of the competition, and no team shall be allowed to participate at the Inter-Provincial Tournament/National Championships with any foreign players. A *"foreign player"* is defined as a footballer who is neither a South African citizen nor a foreign-born national who acquired permanent residence status in terms of section 25 of the Immigration Act, 2002 (Act 13 of 2002).

The eligibility of players shall otherwise be determined in accordance with the SAFA Uniform Rules and Regulations, and in the case of foreign players, such foreign players shall be eligible to participate in the competition provided the comply with the eligibility requirements prescribed in the SAFA Uniform Rules and Regulations, and in addition will be required to produce a valid passport document, a valid temporary residence permit as contemplated in sections 11 – 23 of the Immigration Act, i.e. a visitor's permit, a study permit, business permit, a relative's permit, work permit, a corporate permit, an exchange permit, an asylum seeker's permit or a permanent residence permit. No registration or participation of foreign players shall be permitted without compliance with these requirements.

The foreign players concerned who are duly and properly registered may either be on the bench, or participate on the field of play.

3. **Promotion/relegation**

3.1 The promotion of teams to the Vodacom League shall be determined at the Inter-Regional/Provincial play-offs at the end of the season.

3.2 The team ending last on the log shall be relegated to the relevant Men's League of the particular LFA where the club is affiliated.

3.3 The team ending second and/or third last on the log may also be relegated depending on the relegation and promotion to, or from, the Vodacom League.

4. **Inter-Regional/Provincial play-offs**

4.1 At the end of the season and after Regional League winner has been verified by SAFA, Inter-Regional play-offs shall be held to determine the two (2) teams to be promoted to the Vodacom League.

4.2 Prior to the commencement of the Inter-Regional/Provincial play-offs, the Provincial Executive Committee (*"PEC"*) of the relevant

Province shall confirm that the SAB Regional Leagues have been duly completed in all the Regions, and that all disputes have been settled.

4.3 The Inter-Regional/Provincial play-offs shall be co-ordinated by the PEC or the person delegated by them to do so, in consultation with the SAFA Head Office in accordance with the SAFA Uniform Competition Rules and Regulations, and these Regulations.

4.4 The venue for the play-offs shall be determined by the PEC in consultation with the Competitions Committee.

5. **Format of the Inter-Regional/Provincial play-offs**

5.1 After certifying and confirming the respective Regional winners for the Province concerned, the PEC in a particular Province shall determine the format, in consultation with the Competitions Committee, to determine the two (2) Regional teams which will be promoted to the Vodacom League, and the overall Regional winner in that particular Province.

5.2 The winner of the Inter-Regional finals shall be confirmed as the Provincial Winner of the SAB Regional League in that particular Province.

6. **Discipline at Inter-Regional/Provincial play-offs**

6.1 All disciplinary matters at the Inter-Regional/Provincial play-offs shall be dealt with by the duly constituted Provincial Disciplinary Committee (*"PDC"*) of the relevant host Province.

6.2 A player ordered off the field of play by the referee shall serve an automatic two (2)-match suspension; and, a player accumulating three (3)-yellow card cautions shall serve an automatic one (1)-match suspension.

6.3 Protests and complaints must be lodged with the PEC or the person duly appointed by the PEC to deal with these matters, within two (2) hours of the completion of the match with the necessary relevant protest fee. Protests received after the two (2)-hour deadline will not be entertained. The PDC shall convene a hearing before the end of the day to adjudicate on any protest.

Any complaints lodged must be lodged timeously, and before the next round of matches. Should any complaint be lodged later than two (2) hours before the next round of matches, such complaint will not be entertained.

6.4 Where any team challenges the decision of the PDC, such challenge shall be lodged immediately with the PEC or the person nominated by the PEC, and the PEC or such nominated person

shall immediately direct that the matter proceed to arbitration, subject to the payment of the relevant arbitration fee.

6.5 The arbitration shall be conducted in accordance with the SAFA Rules and Regulations, and the arbitrator shall hear and finalise the matter within twenty-four (24) hours of the referral. The arbitrator may be any attorney or advocate who has been in practice for no less than ten (10) years.

For the avoidance of any doubt, a PEC must constitute a panel of arbitrators for its particular Province as soon as possible, and, in any event, by no later than a week prior to the Inter-Regional/Provincial play-offs. Any ruling of the appointed arbitrator shall be final and binding on all parties, and shall not be subject to an appeal.

7. National Championships

7.1 The National Championships shall be held under the auspices of the SAFA Competitions Committee which shall appoint a host centre, and a Local Organising Committee (*"LOC"*) which shall be co-ordinated by the PEC or a person nominated by the PEC to do so.

7.2 The Competitions Committee member of the relevant Province shall be the chairperson of the LOC, and the President of the host Region shall be the vice-chairperson of the LOC, and they shall be responsible for ensuring that preparations for the National Championships proceed smoothly.

8. Format and procedures for the National Championships

8.1 The National Championships shall consist of a round-robin Group Phase divided into Group A and Group B streams followed by a knock-out phase.

8.2 The two (2) top teams in each Group shall qualify for the semi-finals to determine the finalists who shall play in the final to determine the National champion.

8.3 Each team shall consist of eighteen (18) players and two (2) officials representing a particular Provincial team at the National Championships.

8.4 Only players registered to participate in the SAB Regional League, lower Leagues (LFA) and the USSA – Football Leagues shall be permitted to participate in the National Championships. (No Vodacom League players shall be eligible to participate).

8.5 Each player shall be required to produce the following documents for registration at the National Championships:

8.5.1 Player registration cards as issued by the respective SAFA Regions, and student cards for the USSA – Football team.

8.5.2 South African green identity documents or valid passports.

8.6 Three (3) points shall be awarded for a win and one (1) for a draw and no points for a loss at the National Championships.

8.7 The Group winner shall be determined by the team with the most number of points. If two (2) teams end with the same number of points, the Group winner will be determined by goal difference, and thereafter by the highest number of goals, if it is still tied. If still equal after the goal tally, the Group winner shall be determined by a once-off match which shall be decided on penalties if the score is still tied after ninety (90) minutes.

8.8 The match shall be for the duration of two (2) equal periods of forty-five (45) minutes with an interval of fifteen (15) minutes.

8.9 During the knock-out stages when the score is a draw, then penalties shall be taken to determine the winner. **(The shall be no Extra Time Played)**

8.10 Substitutions will be allowed in accordance with the FIFA Rules, i.e. only three (3) substitutes will be allowed.

8.11 A FIFA-approved size five (5) ball shall be used at all times during official matches.

8.12 The SAFA Referees' Committee shall nominate the referees as well as the referees' convenor for the National Championships.

9. Discipline and disputes at the National Championships

9.1 All disciplinary matters at the National Championships shall be dealt with by the National Disciplinary Committee (*"NDC"*) sitting at the relevant host Province.

9.2 A player ordered off the field of play shall serve an automatic two (2)-match suspension, and a player accumulating three (3) yellow cards shall serve an automatic one (1)-match suspension.

9.3 Protests and complaints must be lodged with the Competitions Director within two (2) hours of the completion of the match accompanied by the relevant protest/complaint fee.

Protests/complaints received after the deadline will deem to be invalid, and shall not be entertained. The NDC shall convene a hearing before the end of the day to adjudicate any protest/complaint.

9.4 Where a team is dissatisfied with the outcome of a disciplinary hearing, such an appeal shall be referred directly to arbitration subject to the payment of a relevant arbitration fee.

9.5 The arbitration shall be conducted in accordance with the SAFA Rules and Regulations, and shall be final and binding.

The arbitration shall hear and finalise any appeal within twenty-four (24) hours of the lodging of the appeal. The ruling of the arbitrator shall be final and binding, and shall not be subject to any further appeal.

10. Administration of the SAB Regional League

10.1 Each SAB Regional League shall be governed in terms of the Uniform Rules and Regulations of SAFA, and shall be administered by the Regional Competitions Coordinator who shall be appointed by the Regional Executive Committee.

10.2 The Regional Competitions Coordinator shall prepare all the fixtures, collate all the results, and forward these to the PEC or the

person nominated by the PEC to attend to these matters, and to the Director of Competitions at the SAFA Head Office.

10.3 The Regional Competitions Coordinator shall coordinate all disciplinary matters, and shall ensure that all matters are finalised within twenty-one (21) days within a particular Province.

10.4 The Regional Competitions Coordinator shall assist all participating clubs with the registration of players.

10.5 The Director of Competitions or the person delegated by him/her to do so, shall direct all correspondence to all clubs in a particular Province. The Director of Competitions shall also copy the Regional Competitions Coordinator where he/she communicates directly with a club in a particular Province.

10.6 The PEC or someone nominated by them to do so, shall monitor the administration of each SAB Regional League, and shall render assistance where necessary in order to ensure compliance with these Regulations, and the SAFA Uniform Rules and Regulations.

11. Registration of teams and players

11.1 The entry form to register a team must be submitted along with the affiliation fee to be paid by each team by no later than **August** in each year. Teams failing to pay the stipulated fee on or before the due date may not be permitted to participate in the competition.

11.2 Registration of players shall be effected in accordance with the SAFA Competition Uniform Rules and Regulations. The maximum number of players to be registered per team is twenty-two (22). Where one (1) or more players is/are registered after the initial twenty-two (22), a fee of R40.00 (forty rand) is payable for each additional player so registered.

11.3 Each team shall ensure that five (5) officials are registered. No additional costs will be levied for this.

11.4 Three (3) foreign players may be registered per team only at Regional and Inter-Regional/Provincial level as indicated above.