

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)



VODACOM LEAGUE REGULATIONS

1. Title

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

2. Format of the competition

2.1 The League shall be played in streams of a maximum of sixteen (16) teams per stream within each of the nine (9) Provinces within the Republic of South Africa.

2.2 The Competitions Committee shall be empowered to increase the number of teams participating in a stream based on properly and fully motivated submissions received, in writing together with a request to participate.

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 administered on a home-and-away basis, with the winner of each League match allocated three (3) points, one (1) for a draw, and no points for a loss.

- 2.4 SAFA shall register each participating team prior to the start of the competition. The team shall submit the prescribed entry and information documents on or before the prescribed deadline which, unless otherwise stated, shall be the **30 July** in each year.
- 2.5 The League shall be open for all players provided that a minimum of five (5) players under the age of 23 shall at all times be on the field during matches (including National Play-offs). Failure to comply with this provision shall constitute a breach of the regulation and if the team is found guilty by a 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.
- 2.6 An Under 23 player shall be a player who will attain his Twenty Second (22nd) 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 twenty one (21) or younger on or after 1 January 2011. He may turn twenty two (22) on or after 1 January 2012.
- 2.7 The League shall be played in accordance with the SAFA Uniform Rules, and these Vodacom 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 National team. 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 they 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 two (2) teams ending last on the log in each Province shall be relegated to the SAB Regional League in the designated Region where the club is originally based.
- 3.2 The remaining teams shall be added to the promoted teams from the SAB Regional League in a particular Province after the Inter-Regional play-offs (conducted in terms of the SAB Regional League Regulations) have been finalised.

4. National Championships

- 4.1 The National Championships shall take place under the auspices and the authority of the SAFA Competitions Committee which shall appoint the host centre, and a Local Organising Committee (“LOC”) which shall be coordinated by the Provincial Executive Committee (“PEC”) or the person designated by them to do so, in the relevant Province.
- 4.2 The Competitions Committee member of the relevant Province shall be the chairperson of the LOC and the host Region President shall be the vice-chairperson of the LOC, and they shall be responsible for overseeing preparations for the National play-offs at LOC level.

- 4.3 At the end of the season, and after each Provincial League winner has been verified by the SAFA Competitions Committee, the National play-offs shall be held for the nine (9) League winners at one (1) central venue to determine the National Champions.

5. Format of the National Championships

- 5.1 The National Championships shall consist of a round-robin Group Phase divided into Group A and Group B streams.
- 5.2 The top team in each Group shall qualify for Promotion to the National First Division (NFD) and also the finals to determine the National champion.
- 5.3 Each team shall consist of twenty-two (22) players and three (3) officials representing their particular Provincial team at the National Championships.
- 5.4 Three (3) points shall be awarded for a win, one (1) for a draw, and no points for a loss.
- 5.5 The Group winner shall be determined by the team with the most number of points. If two 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 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.

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

5.6.1 player registration cards as issued by SAFA;

5.6.2 South African green identity documents or valid passports.

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

- 5.8 During the finals when the score is a draw, then penalties shall be taken to determine the winner. **(There shall be no Extra Time Played)**

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

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

- 5.11 The SAFA Referees' Committee shall nominate the referees as well as referees' convenor for the National Championship.

6. **Discipline and disputes at the National Championships**

- 6.1 All disciplinary matters at the National play-offs shall be dealt with by the National Disciplinary Committee (“NDC”) sitting in the relevant host Province.
- 6.2 A player ordered off the field shall serve an automatic two (2)-match suspension, and a player accumulating three (3) yellow cards shall serve an automatic one (1)-match suspension.
- 6.3 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 not be entertained. The NDC shall convene a hearing before the end of the day to adjudicate any protest/complaint.
- 6.4 Any team aggrieved with the outcome of the NDC may appeal directly to an arbitrator who shall conduct the arbitration in terms of the SAFA Uniform Rules and Regulations, subject to the payment of the relevant arbitration fee.
- 6.5 The arbitration shall be convened and shall determine the matter within twenty-four (24) hours of the appeal.

The outcome of the arbitration shall be final and binding, and there shall be no further appeal.

7. Administration of the Competition

- 7.1 The League shall be governed in terms of the SAFA Competition Uniform Rules and Regulations, and these Regulations at National level by the Director of Competitions, and shall be administered in each Province by a person designated to do so.
- 7.2 The person designated to do so, shall prepare all the fixtures, collate all results, and forward these to the Director of Competitions with copies to all participating clubs, on a weekly basis.
- 7.3 The person designated to do so shall coordinate all disciplinary matters, and shall ensure that all such matters are finalised within twenty-one (21) days within the particular Province.
- 7.4 The person designated to do so shall assist all participating clubs with the registration of players.
- 7.5 The person designated to do so shall conduct all correspondence with clubs in a particular Province.

8. Registration of teams and players

- 8.1 The entry form to register a team must be submitted along with the affiliation fee to be paid by each team by the prescribed deadline in terms of the SAFA Competitions Uniform Rules, unless otherwise

stated. Teams failing to pay the stipulated fee on or before the due date shall not be permitted to participate in the competition.

- 8.2 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), at no cost. After the initial twenty-two (22) is registered, any player who is registered thereafter shall be liable to pay a fee of R60.00 (sixty rand) per player.
- 8.3 Each team shall ensure that five (5) officials are registered at no cost.
- 8.4 Three (3) foreign players may be registered per team only at this level as indicated above.
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