



COMPETITION RULES

2022-2023

Draft

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INTRODUCTION

1. SCOPE OF APPLICATION: SUBSTANTIVE LAW

These Rules apply to every match and competition organised by the League and to any act or conduct required by these Rules, and to any breach thereof.

2. SCOPE OF APPLICATION: NATURAL AND LEGAL PERSONS

The following are subject to these rules:

- 2.1** Member Clubs;
- 2.2** Member Club Officials;
- 2.3** Players;
- 2.4** Match Officials;
- 2.5** Intermediaries;
- 2.6** anyone with an authorisation from the League or a Member Club, in particular with regard to a match, competition or other event organised by the League;
- 2.7** Spectators.

CHAPTER 1: STRUCTURE AND PARTICIPATION

3. COMPOSITION

- 3.1** The League comprises the Premier League and the National First Division.

4. LEAGUE STRUCTURE

- 4.1** The Premier League consists of sixteen (16) Member Clubs that compete nationally each season with one another.
- 4.2** The National First Division League (divided into two streams of First Division North and First Division South having 12 teams each) consists of twenty four (24) Member Clubs that compete nationally each season with one another.

5. PARTICIPATION AND ENTRY

- 5.1** 5.1 Member Clubs shall submit the membership application or membership renewal form and other information required by the League by the prescribed dates.
- 5.2** On acceptance as a Member Club and by entering or participating in the League and any of its Competitions, Member Clubs undertake to observe these Rules and those of particular Competitions, and to accept that all

administrative, disciplinary, dispute resolution, and refereeing decisions connected with the League or its Competitions shall be dealt with in terms of the League Rules, or the applicable Competitions rules, and that no recourse to any Court of law shall be permitted.

- 5.3** Should a Member Club withdraw or be expelled from the League before the start of the Season, the Board of Directors shall determine the appropriate arrangements or measures that may be required to deal with the matter.
- 5.4** Should a Member Club withdraw or be expelled from the League after the start of the Season but before the Member Club concerned has played against every other Member Club in its Division at least once, then all results of that Member Club shall be expunged from the League as if the Member Club had not participated at all.
- 5.5** Should a Member Club withdraw or be expelled from the League after the start of the Season and after the Member Club concerned has played against every Member Club in its Division at least once, then all second round results of that Member Club shall be expunged from the League.
- 5.6** It shall be compulsory for all Member Clubs affiliated to the League to participate in all Competitions organised by the League for which they qualify save when excused in writing by the League from participation.

6. TROPHIES AND AWARDS

- 6.1** The winner of the Premier League in each Season will:-
 - 6.1.1** Be presented with the Premier League trophy. The trophy shall be retained by the Member Club and must be returned to the League office, in the same condition it was presented, by no later than 28 April of the year following the year in which it was presented;
 - 6.1.2** Be presented with a Duplicate trophy which it shall retain permanently;
 - 6.1.3** Be presented with Forty five (45) winners' gold medals.
- 6.2** The winner of the National First Division league in each Season will:-
 - 6.2.1** Be presented with the National First Division League trophy. The trophy shall be retained by the Member Club and must be returned to the League office, in the same condition it was presented, by no later than 28 April of the year following the year in which it was presented;
 - 6.2.2** Be presented with Forty five (45) winners' gold medals.
- 6.3** In other competitions of the League the applicable competition rules shall deal with the award of trophies and medals.

7. PROMOTION AND RELEGATION

7.1 Automatic Relegation

The Member Club that ends the Season in the bottom, at position 14 , 15 and 16 on the Premier League table shall be relegated to the National First Division Leagues.

7.2 Automatic Promotion

7.2.1 The Member Club that ends the Season in the top position of the National First Division league table shall be promoted to the Premier League

7.3 Promotion Play-Off

7.3.1 The winner of the Promotion Play-Off shall participate in the Premier league in the following Season while the other two (2) Member Clubs shall take part in the National First Division league in the following Season.

7.3.2 The rules for the Promotion Play-Off shall be promulgated in the form of Competition rules.

7.4 Relegation from the League

7.4.1 The Member Clubs finishing the Season in the last two positions of the National First Division league table shall be relegated to the BFA Regional Leagues, while two (2) clubs from the BFA promotional Play Offs shall be promoted to the National First Division Leagues of the League.

7.4.2 The Winners of the Northern Zone and the Eastern Zone shall be automatically promoted to First Division North League.

7.4.3 The Winners of the Southern Zone and the Western Zone shall be automatically be promoted to First Division South League.

8. The League Competition

8.1 8.1. Both the Premier Division and National First Division leagues shall be run on a two (2) round home and away basis, with three (3) points being allocated for a win, one (1) for a draw and none for a loss.

8.2 For the Premier League and National First Division leagues:

8.2.1 the log position of each Member Club in the League shall be determined in the first instance by the number of points obtained in all matches, with the Member Club obtaining the most points occupying the higher log position;

8.2.2 where Member Clubs have equal points, the goal difference (the number of goals scored minus the number of goals conceded in all matches) shall be used to determine the log position, with the Member Club having the higher goal difference occupying the higher log position;

8.2.3 where Member Clubs have equal points and equal goal difference, the number of goals scored by the Member Clubs in all league matches shall

be used to determine the log position, with the Member Club scoring the higher number of goals occupying the higher log position;

8.2.4 where two (2) or more Member Clubs have an equal number of points and the same goals scored by and against the Member Clubs concerned, the direct results (head to head) between the tied Member Clubs shall be used to determine the log position following the procedures in Rule 8.2.1 to Rule 8.2.3 above, but considering only the results between the tied Member Clubs;

8.2.5 where the application of Rule 8.2.4 above resolves the tie between some Member Clubs but leaves other Member Clubs still tied, Rule 8.2.4 shall be applied again by only considering the results between those Member Clubs that remain tied. This shall be done repeatedly until the ties are resolved or it is no longer possible to resolve the ties any further;

8.2.6 where Member Clubs remain tied after applying all of the above Rules, there shall be a play-off between the two Member Clubs at a neutral venue as determined by the League.

8.3 The League organizes, administers and controls a number of knockout, promotion play-off and qualification competitions.

8.4 Subject to Rules 8.1 and 8.4 each Club shall play two League Matches against each other Club each Season, being the Home Club in respect of one such League Match and the Visiting Club in respect of the other.

8.5 In respect of all League Matches in Season 2022/23 , the Match Day Protocol (Behind Closed Doors) shall apply to each League Match where, in accordance with the Health Protection (Covid 19 Health Protocols) and related Regulations for 2022 (or any replacement applicable legislation or regulation), it is not permitted to admit spectators to the Stadium.

8.6 Where a League Match is to be played in accordance with the Match Day Protocol (Behind Closed Doors) and the Home Club is unable to secure a safety certificate in respect of that specific League Match, that League Match shall be played on a neutral ground, the date, the time and the venue of which shall be determined by the League.

8.7 Determination and Accreditation of Goals

8.7.1 Goal Line Technology may be utilised at League Matches (save that, for the avoidance of doubt, a League Match shall proceed even if Goal Line Technology is unavailable for part or all of it). The referee's decision as to whether a goal has been scored shall be final.

8.8 The League shall keep a record of the scorer of each goal in each League Match.

8.9 The BFA Referees Review Board shall review all goals scored , cautions and sending off and any form of violence in every League Match, and if there

are any in respect of which the identity of the scoring Player is in doubt, then the issue shall be resolved by such means as the Board determines in advance of each Season.

9. DATES AND VENUES OF MATCHES

9.1 The onus of providing a Home Venue for each match that meets the League's requirements shall be on the home Member Club and its failure to do so shall result:

9.1.1 in the League selecting the venue or postponing the match;

9.1.2 the Member Club being liable for all costs of all affected parties occasioned by the non-compliance with this Rule; and

9.1.3 the Member Club being charged with misconduct.

9.2 The Home Club is responsible for staging every match in compliance with the League Rules and all applicable legislation.

9.3 The dates, times and venues of matches shall be scheduled by the League.

9.4 In extraordinary circumstances the League may postpone a match at any time prior to the start of the match.

9.5 Fixtures may be changed by the League provided that proper notification of the rescheduled fixture is given to the participating Member Clubs in terms of this Rule.

9.6 Member Clubs shall be notified by the League of all fixtures and fixture changes in writing by no later than one hundred and twenty (120) hours prior to kick-off of the match except that in the following circumstances the notice period may be shorter at the discretion of the League:

9.6.1 where the League and both Member Clubs participating in the match agree to a shorter notice period;

9.6.2 where a match is abandoned by the referee whether the match had commenced or not;

9.6.3 where a match is postponed by the League in terms of Rule 9.4; or

9.7 A Member Club seeking approval for a fixture change must submit a written request for the fixture change to the League at least ten (10) days prior to the match in question on the prescribed form issued by the League accompanied by all the supporting documents required. The League has the discretion to grant or refuse the request.

9.8 TRANSMISSION OF LEAGUE MATCHES

9.8.1 No Television Transmission shall be made of any League Match except:

9.8.1.1 in accordance with Broadcast Rights Contract

9.8.1.2 as permitted by Terms of the Broadcast Rights Contract or

9.8.1.3 in accordance with the terms of any express license or permission issued in writing by the League.

9.9 No Radio Transmission shall be made of any League Match except in accordance with:

9.9.1 any Radio Contract;

9.9.2 any Club Radio Contract; or

9.9.3 the terms of any express license or permission issued in writing by the League.

10. PLAYERS SELECTED FOR REPRESENTATIVE MATCHES

10.1 Players shall be released to BFA or to the national association of another country for which the Players are eligible when such release is obligatory in terms of the FIFA Statutes.

10.2 Where the release of Players is not obligatory in terms of the FIFA Statutes a Member Club has the discretion to release Players.

10.3 Should three (3) or more registered Players not be available for a Member Club due to an obligatory call-up to a national squad in terms of this Rule in any category other than under twenty (20), then any match scheduled to take place during the period of such obligatory call-up as defined in the FIFA Statutes shall be postponed if the Member Club concerned applies in writing to the League for a postponement by no later than midday of the fifth day prior to the match in question, or within twenty four (24) hours of the Member Club being officially informed of the call-up, whichever is the later.

10.4 The obligatory period of the call-up shall include the FIFA defined period before the match for preparation and a period of two calendar days after the last match of the call-up.

10.5 If a Member Club elects to release registered Players for a call-up which is not obligatory, or the Member Club releases the Players earlier than is required, or the Player delays his return to his Member Club, the Member Club shall not be entitled to a postponement of a match in terms of this Rule.

11. MATCHES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAWS OF THE GAME

11.1 Where the play rules are silent on any matter the BFA Laws of the Game shall take precedent.

12. MEMBER CLUB OFFICIALS WITHIN THE PERIMETER DEMARCATION

12.1 Not more than five (7) Member Club Officials in possession of registration cards and listed on the team sheet may be seated on the team bench during a match.

- Head Coach
- Assistant 1

- Assistant 2
- Goalkeeper Coach
- Medics x 2
- Physical Trainer

12.2 A maximum of two (2) other Member Club Officials in possession of registration cards and listed on the team sheet may be seated on the additional two seats provided alongside the team bench.

12.3 These Member Club Officials must produce their registration cards when called upon to do so by a Match Official.

12.4 No other Member Club Official may be within the perimeter demarcation during the match.

12.5 In the event of non-compliance with this Rule, a Member Club Official shall be asked by the match commissioner to reduce the numbers accordingly, failing which those in excess of the allowed number may be removed by security and the Member Club and Member Club Officials concerned shall be charged with misconduct.

13. DURATION OF MATCHES

13.1 All matches shall consist of two (2) periods of forty five (45) minutes each plus referee's optional time. The referee shall be the sole adjudicator of time, inclusive of time added on, if any.

13.2 An interval of fifteen (15) minutes shall separate the two periods.

14. GROUNDS, EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES

14.1 Grounds

14.1.1 All Member Clubs will, by 15 July each year, register with the League a Home Venue and two (2) Alternative Home Venues where the Member Club intends to play its home matches.

14.1.2 Member Clubs shall not be permitted to change venues without the prior written consent of the League.

14.1.3 No match shall take place at a ground unless it has been inspected and certified as suitable by the League.

14.1.4 The League may, at its discretion, inspect the venue of a Member Club during the season and may withdraw its certification.

14.1.5 For safety reasons and in exceptional circumstances, the League may direct that a match must be played without the presence of spectators or in a neutral stadium or a stadium may be closed, without an infringement having been committed.

14.1.6 The dimensions of the pitch (excluding the technical area) shall be as follows:

14.1.6.1 maximum length one hundred and ten (110) meters and maximum width seventy five (75) meters;

14.1.6.2 Minimum length one hundred (100) meters and minimum width sixty four (64) meters,

14.1.7 Member Clubs must register their pitch dimensions with the League prior to 15 July each Season. A Member Club may not alter its pitch dimensions during the Season except with the prior written consent of the League. The League may at any time require a Member Club to submit a report from a qualified independent expert certifying the pitch dimensions.

14.1.8 Each Member Club shall ensure that its ground is maintained in good condition. The Member Club must comply with any directive issued by the League in respect of the ground.

14.1.9 The home Member Club shall demarcate technical areas adjacent to the pitch for the sole use of Member Club Officials and substitute registered Players. These technical areas shall be located equidistant from the halfway line, and be capable of seating twelve (12) persons from each Member Club. The home Member Club shall have first choice of which technical area it shall utilize.

14.1.10 The home Member Club shall provide suitable boards, to the satisfaction of the League, to indicate substitutions.

14.2 Medical

14.2.1 Medical personnel, equipment and services must be provided at every match as follows:-

14.2.1.1 the home Member Club shall ensure that its team doctor and physiotherapist are in attendance and available from the time that the team arrives at the venue until the team leaves. The home Member Club team doctor and physiotherapist must be registered by the Member Club with the League and must occupy the home Member Club's team bench during the match;

14.2.1.2 the home Member Club shall procure the attendance of at least one (1) fully qualified and appropriately insured paramedic who must be available from the time that the gates to the venue are opened until one (1) hour after the match;

14.2.1.3 the paramedic must be qualified to Advanced Life Support level or equivalent and must be equipped and qualified to use a fully stocked emergency care response bag, oxygen, rigid neck brace and an automatic external defibrillator and be available to assist with on-field medical incidents;

14.2.1.4 the home Member Club shall procure the attendance of medical personnel, equipment and facilities for the care of all persons at the

ground in compliance with all relevant legislation. Save for National First Division league matches and National First Division Qualification Competition matches, such medical personnel must include a doctor for the spectators;

- 14.2.1.5** where required, the spectator doctor must be available from one (1) hour before the match until thirty (30) minutes after the match;
- 14.2.1.6** a visiting Member Club is not precluded from having its own team doctor, physiotherapist or paramedic in attendance at the match;
- 14.2.1.7** the home Member Club shall provide a minimum of two (2) stretchers, two (2) spinal immobilization boards and eight (8) appropriately trained stretcher bearers who must be at least basic life support providers to remove injured registered Players or Member Club Officials or Match Officials from the field of play;
- 14.2.1.8** the home Member Club shall provide a medical treatment and examination room close to the teams' dressing rooms and shall ensure that the mandatory facilities and equipment as prescribed by the League are available;
- 14.2.1.9** the home Member Club shall ensure that throughout a match, a fully equipped, dedicated and appropriately insured ambulance which is suitable to carry an emergency casualty and is staffed by a person qualified to perform essential emergency care en route, is available at the ground to transport any person requiring emergency treatment to hospital;
- 14.2.1.10** all medical personnel referred to must be registered with the Botswana Health Professionals Council (BHPC) and must be in possession of current registration cards at the match. The term "doctor" shall be limited to include only "physicians" registered with the Botswana Health Professionals Council (BHPC). The term "physiotherapist" shall be limited to include only "physiotherapists" and "chiropractors". Physiotherapists shall be registered with the Botswana Health Professionals Council (BHPC) in terms of the applicable government notice or regulation from time to time.

14.3 Footballs

- 14.3.1** The footballs used must comply with the Laws of the Game, and shall be "FIFA approved", "FIFA inspected", or "International Match Ball Standard".
- 14.3.2** Eleven (11) match footballs shall be supplied by the League, provided that the referee may accept footballs from the playing teams if the League is unable to provide footballs that meet the requirements stated in this Rule.

14.4 Floodlights

- 14.4.1** A match may be played partly or wholly under floodlights. The minimum horizontal illumination necessary for night matches shall be an average of 600 lux with no individual point measuring less than 500 lux.
- 14.4.2** The onus for ensuring that the minimum lighting level is provided at least ninety minutes before kick-off and maintained throughout the match is on the home team.
- 14.4.3** Despite any other provision in these Rules, should a match be abandoned by the referee due to insufficient illumination from the floodlights, then the remaining minutes of the match shall be resumed on a date and at a time and venue agreed upon between the participating Member Clubs immediately upon the abandonment of the match. The agreed date, time and venue must be within forty eight (48) hours of the time of the abandoned match subject to the approval of the League.
- 14.4.4** If the participating Member Clubs are not able to reach agreement on a date, time and venue, or if the agreed date is not suitable to the League then the League shall determine the date, time and venue and inform the participating Member Clubs.
- 14.4.5** The resumed match shall be a continuation of the abandoned match and it shall be as if the match had not been abandoned so that the abandoned match and the resumed match shall constitute one (1), single match which shall only be completed upon the final whistle being blown.
- 14.4.6** The failure to provide adequate lighting in terms of this Rule shall result in:
 - 14.4.6.1** the home Member Club being liable for all costs of all affected parties occasioned by the non-compliance with this Rule; and
 - 14.4.6.2** the Member Club being charged with misconduct.

14.5 Unsuitability of the ground

- 14.5.1** If a match is postponed or abandoned due to the unsuitability of the ground caused by inclement weather, the state of the pitch or for any other reason, but not because of insufficient illumination from floodlights, the League shall set another date on which the match shall be played. In such an event all records of an abandoned match shall be expunged except that any dismissals that occurred shall remain in force.
- 14.5.2** In the event of a replay because of the unsuitability of the ground due to inclement weather the League shall be responsible for all reasonable costs incurred.

14.5.3 In the event of a replay for a reason other than inclement weather the League has the right to institute disciplinary action against any Member Club for the abandonment. In addition to any other sanction it may impose, the Disciplinary Committee may order any Member Club to pay all costs of all affected parties occasioned by the non-compliance with this Rule. Until such determination is made, the League shall be responsible for all reasonable costs incurred.

15. ARRIVAL AT THE GROUND

- 15.1** Member Club teams must be present in the dressing rooms at the match venue at least seventy (70) minutes before the scheduled kick-off time and take the field at the time stipulated by the match commissioner.
- 15.2** Where a match is not played because of the late or non-arrival of a Member Club team, or of both teams, the offending Member Club or Member Clubs shall be charged with misconduct. In this regard impossibility of performance as a result of a vehicle breakdown, logistical problem, or that the Member Club team was unable to locate the match venue, shall not be a defense to this charge.
- 15.3** Where a Member Club is found guilty in terms of Rule 15.2 its opponent in that match, the match shall be rescheduled and the cost incurred by the guilty team shall be calculated and awarded to the host team. This cost incurred shall be deducted to payables due to the guilty team. The rescheduled match must be within forty eight (48) hours of the time of the abandoned match and the same venue subject to the approval of the League. However, through the Disciplinary Committee, the League may consider that a different sanction may be more appropriate.
- 15.4** Where both Member Clubs are found guilty in terms of Rule 15.2 both Member Clubs shall be allocated zero (0) points and three (3) goals shall be awarded against them unless the Disciplinary Committee considers that a different sanction may be more appropriate.
- 15.5** In the event of force majeure the Disciplinary Committee may decide that the match be replayed.
- 15.6** The registration cards of the Players and Member Club Officials of each team shall be inspected by the referee and a representative of the other team in the dressing room sixty (60) minutes before the scheduled start.
- 15.7** A Member Club which does not produce the identity registration card for a Player or fields a Player without an identity registration card or an invalid identity registration card shall be charged with misconduct.
- 15.8** The home team shall give the visiting team access to the dressing rooms four (4) hours prior to kick-off.

15.9 The home team shall give the visiting team access to the pitch two hours (2) hours prior to kick-off.

16. TEAM SHEETS

16.1 Member Clubs shall submit duly completed team sheets to the referee at least sixty (60) minutes prior to the start of the match.

16.2 The team sheet shall record the following information:

16.2.1 the full names of the eleven (11) registered Players starting the match;

16.2.2 the full names of the seven (7) substitute registered Players who may be utilised during the match;

16.2.3 the full names of the five (5) Member Club Officials entitled to sit on the team bench;

16.2.4 the full names of the two (2) Member Club Officials (Medical) entitled to sit on the additional two seats alongside the team bench.

16.3 Changes to the team sheet may be made at any time prior to the start of the match provided that:

16.3.1 The opposing team captain, the referee and the match commissioner are informed;

16.3.2 No Player may be added to the team sheet that was not listed on the team sheet that was submitted.

16.4 If a named substitute enters the field of play instead of a named starting Player at the start of the match and the requirements of Rule 16.3 are not complied with:

16.4.1 the referee shall allow the named substitute to continue the match;

16.4.2 the number of substitutions allowed by the offending team shall not be reduced;

16.4.3 the Member Club shall be charged with misconduct.

16.5 If a Player's name appears on the team sheet he shall be deemed, for the purposes of these Rules, to have participated in the match except if a Member Club removes a Player's name from the team sheet before the match.

17. COLOURS AND NUMBERS OF TEAM OUTFITS

17.1 Each Member Club team shall declare on its initial or annual Membership renewal form, the colours of its official team outfit and the colours of its alternative team outfit, which shall be subject to approval by the League. Member Clubs may be allowed to use additional colours with the prior permission of the League in circumstances where both the official and alternative colours clash with those of the opposition.

17.2 Both Member Clubs must take their official team outfit as well as their alternative team outfit to all matches.

- 17.3** The onus is on the visiting team to ascertain the colours of the home team for a particular match.
- 17.4** If in the opinion of the referee the colours of the two (2) opposing teams may lead to confusion, the visiting team shall change into the alternative outfit or a combination of the two (2) outfits save that in exceptional circumstances the referee may order the home team to change all or part of its outfit.
- 17.5** The outfits of the two (2) goalkeepers shall be clearly distinguishable from those worn by the two (2) sets of outfield Players.
- 17.6** Member Club teams shall be obliged to wear the following advertising on their playing jerseys:
 - 17.6.1** The name of the sponsor, if any, of the Member Club on the front of the jersey and the Player's name and or initial, on the back of the jersey;
 - 17.6.2** The logo of the technical sponsor, if any, of the Member Club and the Member Club crest on the right and left breast of the front of the jersey respectively;
 - 17.6.3** the logo of the sponsor of the League on the right arm sleeve; and
 - 17.6.4** the logo of the sponsor, if any, of the Member Club on the left arm sleeve;
- 17.7** The sizes of logos shall not exceed the dimensions as laid down by the League.
- 17.8** Teams may wear the advertising of their Member Club sponsor subject to the following conditions:
 - 17.8.1** such sponsor shall not be in conflict with the sponsor of the League or other official suppliers of the League without prior written permission of the League which shall not be unreasonably withheld;
 - 17.8.2** such sponsor's advertising shall not be considered to bring the League or its sponsors into disrepute or be against public policy.
- 17.9** If the League procures a new sponsorship which conflicts with an existing approved Member Club's sponsorship, the League shall take all reasonable steps to ensure that the rights of Member Club are not adversely affected.
- 17.10** No additional advertising may be permitted on the Member Club's team outfit except with the prior written approval of the League.
- 17.11** The Player's jerseys and shorts shall be clearly and appropriately numbered, and the numbers shall correspond with those shown on the team sheet.
- 17.12** In respect of competitions other than the league competitions, the competition rules may specify additional or alternative requirements.

18. COMPLIANCE MANUAL AND DIRECTIVES

- 18.1** The Compliance Manual and directives that are issued or amended by the Board of Directors shall be binding on all Member Clubs, Member Club Officials, directors, full or part-time employees, duly authorised representatives, Players or any party to whom any obligation in terms of the League Rules has been delegated by a Member Club.
- 18.2** Should any provisions of the Compliance Manual or directives be inconsistent with the League Rules then the League Rules shall prevail.

19. MATCH OFFICIALS

- 19.1** Match officials shall be appointed to each match, namely a referee, two (2) assistant referees and a fourth (4th) official.
- 19.2** The referees and assistant referees shall be appointed from the Referees Committee of BFA.
- 19.3** If the referee does not arrive at least forty five (45) minutes before the starting time of the match, then the match commissioner may appoint the fourth (4th) official to officiate as referee.
- 19.4** The fourth (4th) official may substitute for an assistant referee.
- 19.5** The match commissioner may substitute for the fourth (4th) official.
- 19.6** If it is not possible for the match commissioner to ensure that the match has a referee and two (2) assistant referees then the match shall be abandoned.
- 19.7** A protest on the grounds that a substitute official was used in a match shall not be entertained by the League.

20. MATCH COMMISSIONERS

- 20.1** BFL shall appoint match commissioners, who shall not be connected directly or indirectly with any club, from a list agreed between the League and member clubs.
- 20.2** The match commissioner will:
- 20.2.1** have authority to act on behalf of the League in relation to the Member Clubs' compliance with the League Rules;
 - 20.2.2** inspect the facilities and instructs the home Member Club to take the necessary remedial action;
 - 20.2.3** Chair the match meeting which takes place before the match;
 - 20.2.4** coordinate the activities specified in the match meeting document;
 - 20.2.5** report on each match to the League detailing his assessment of the Match Officials, whether the Member Club teams complied with the League Rules or not, the state of the pitch, the infrastructure at the ground, the security arrangements for the match and any matter that he may wish to bring to the attention of the League .
- 20.3** The report of the match commissioner shall be sent to the participating teams within seventy two (72) hours of a match.

- 20.4** Should it appear from the match commissioner's reports that there was a transgression of the League Rules the Chief Executive Officer or his delegate shall refer the matter to the Prosecutor for consideration.
- 20.5** A match commissioner must be accorded the utmost courtesy and assistance whilst performing his duties for and on behalf of the League.

21. COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

- 21.1** The expenses to be borne by the League as well as the method of gate sharing shall be that as formulated by the Board of Directors of the League provided that should there be any change in this arrangement, Member Clubs shall be given thirty (30) days' notice in which to implement the change.
- 21.2** The allocation of perimeter advertising boards shall be that as formulated by the Board of Directors of the League provided that should there be any change in this arrangement, Member Clubs shall be advised in good time.
- 21.3** Television and radio rights for all matches of the League shall be long to the League, and no matches may be televised or filmed without the consent of the League.
- 21.4** It shall be misconduct for a Member Club to enter into a contractual agreement with a broadcaster, whether television, radio or any other media or format, without the written permission of the League.
- 21.5** Prize money shall be awarded according to the schedule of prize money allocation, which schedule shall be distributed by the League prior to the competition each year.

22. INSURANCE

- 22.1** The Member Clubs will, at their cost, insure registered Players and those Member Club Officials who either have registration cards or who are listed on the Member Club's initial or annual renewal of membership form.
- 22.2** Responsibility for understanding the nature and extent of the cover and for timeously lodging claims, providing the required documentation and procuring that payment is made in appropriate cases is that of the registered Player or Member Club Official.

23. CONTACT WITH SPONSORS

- 23.1** No Club, official or player shall make direct contact with any sponsor of the League without prior written permission of the League having been obtained.

24. LOCAL FRIENDLY MATCHES

- 24.1** Member Clubs or registered Players may not play in any match other than official matches under the auspices of the League without the prior written permission of the League.
- 24.2** A training match between two (2) Member Clubs which is not open to the public shall not be considered as a friendly match in terms of this Rule.
- 24.3** Notification to play a friendly must be submitted in writing at least five(5) days prior to the match. The League may condone a late application on good cause shown.
- 24.4** Open Friendly matches may not be played during the period 14 August until five (5) days after the final official match of the Season except during an official break in the League's fixtures.
- 24.5** The League may refuse permission on the grounds that the friendly match may interfere with the League's programme or its marketing.

25. INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLIES

- 25.1** Member Clubs or Players may not play in any match against a team from another National Association without the written permission of the League and BFA.
- 25.2** A training match which is not open to the public shall be considered as a friendly match in terms of this Rule.
- 25.3** Requests for permission to play a friendly must be submitted in writing at least fourteen (14) days prior to the match. The prescribed documentation as laid down by FIFA must be completed and submitted to the League. The League may condone a late application on good cause shown.
- 25.4** Friendly matches may not be played during the period 14 August until five (5) days after the final official match of the Season except during an official break in the League's fixtures.
- 25.5** The League may refuse permission on the grounds that the friendly match may interfere with the League's programme or its marketing.

THUS DONE AND SIGNED AT GABORONE ON THIS 21st DAY OF OCTOBER 2021

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MR. NICOLAS ZAKHEM
CHAIRMAN

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SOLOMON RAMOCHOTHWANE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER