



# RULES & REGULATION

7 – 10 APRIL 2023  
OTJIWARONGO ,  
OTJOZONDJUPA REGION



## **Article 1.0**

- i. NFA organizes every year or and when directed by the NFA Executive Committee, a National Competition called The Namibian Newspaper Cup open to the U/20 representative teams of the 14 Regions affiliated to NFA . The players shall all be born on or after the 01<sup>st</sup> January 2004.
- ii. Participation shall be restricted to one youth team (U/20) per each Region.
- iii. The winner of the Namibian Newspaper Cup shall be awarded the Floating Trophy and shall be responsible for the loss of or damage to the Trophy.
- iv. The trophy shall remain the property of NFA but may be held by the winner. It shall be returned in perfect condition to the NFA General Secretariat after six months.
- v. The Region which shall win the Trophy three times shall become its owner.
- vi. If for any reason whatsoever, the Competition should cease to be held the trophy shall be returned to NFA General Secretariat immediately upon demand.
- vii. The winning Team in the Final Match shall receive 30 Gold Medals and the Team losing in the Final Match shall receive 30 Silver Medals.
- viii. A Fair-Play Trophy shall be awarded to the team which will have shown the best Sporting Spirit and Fair Play during the Competition. The Organizing and Disciplinary Committee shall formulate special Rules to govern the Fair Play Trophy.
- ix. The Sponsor in collaboration with both the Local and Organizing Committee may include Special Awards such as:

### **a) Golden Ball (Best Player)**

A Trophy and/or money will be awarded to the best Player of the Championship based on votes taken among the NFA Technical Study Team and/or the Organizing Committee.

### **b) Golden Shoe (Top Scorer)**

A Trophy and/or money will be awarded to the player scoring the highest number of goals in the Championship.

### **c) Best Goalkeeper**

A Trophy and/or money will be awarded to the best Goalkeeper of the Championship based on votes taken among the NFA Technical Study Team and/or the Organizing Committee.

- x. The medals shall be supplied by the Sponsors through NFA.
- xi. The Players and Teams of Regions, who takes part in the Competition cannot under any circumstances, receive prizes or awards offered by Individual/s and/or Business Houses without the authorization of NFA except those originating from their Regions.
- xii. Any person, physical or moral, who wishes to present a prize or an award to a player or to a Team on the Competition, must formulate a request to NFA for consideration and approval. The agreement of NFA in this respect is a pre-requisite to any prize presentation.

### **Article 2.0 Entries for the competition**

- i. Each member Region wishing to participate in the competition shall send to the NFA Secretariat a final name list of 20 players. The application may be sent by fax or e-mail which must reach the NFA Secretariat before the due date ( **27<sup>th</sup> March 2023** )
- ii. The list of the 20 Players shall clearly show each Player's last name, first name, date of birth (date/month/year) and a player card. This list is not binding and can be varied later provided that it must show the same information.
- iii. The final list of 20 Players, who will travel for the competition, shall be entered on an official form provided by NFA for accreditation of players which must reach the NFA Secretariat before the due date ( **30<sup>th</sup> March 2023** ). The numbers on the Outfit (shirts and shorts) shall correspond with numbers indicated on the official player's accreditation form. Once the final list has been produced, no changes can be introduced into the final list of twenty (20) registered players except in case of 'force majeure' recognized as such by the Organizing Committee.

The application for participation must include the colours of the Team and their arrangement as well as the Reserve Colours. The application which is not in conformity with these requirements shall be rejected and the Region concerned shall forfeit the participation rights.

- iv. On entering the Competition, the participating Regions shall automatically undertake to:
  - a) Comply fully with these Rules, Decisions taken by the Organizing Committee,
  - b) Accept all arrangements made by the Local Organizing Committee,
  - c) Observe the principles of Fair – Play,

### **Article 3.0 Qualification of Players**

- i. Each Region shall select its representative team from players residing in its geographic area and subjects of its Region and subjected to its jurisdiction.
- ii. All Players eligible to participate in this competition are expected to meet the qualification criteria as set out in article 1.0 (I). Each player must possess a valid player card containing his photograph and giving full particulars on date of birth (date, month, and the year).



- iii. No documentary evidence other than the Player Card provided by the NFA Secretariat, National ID, Players License and Birth Certificate shall be accepted for verification of Player's qualification for participation in the Competition. The original documents must be presented at the tournament.
- iv. The match Commissioners and the Referees reserve the right to prevent from taking part in the match any Player whose name is on the Team list but does not meet the qualification norms stipulated in these Rules without prejudice to other subsequent sanctions the Organizing Committee might impose upon him and his Region.
- v. Notwithstanding (i) and (ii) above Regions are allowed to select players playing their trade in any First Division or in the Premier League provided they meet the age criteria and have a residential relation with the Region.

#### **Article 4.0 Form and Organizing of the Competition**

- i. The competition shall consist of two parts:-
  - a) Group Stage (Round Robin)
  - b) Knock-out stage ( Semi-Finals and Final Stage)

#### **4.1 Preliminary**

- i. The Organizing Committee shall conduct the drawing of lots.
- ii. In case of any withdrawals arising after the draws have been made, the Organizing Committee may modify the Fixtures.
- iii. The system of play in the Group Stage shall be the Round Robin system.
  - a. All 14 Regional Team shall be part of the initial draw and shall be drawn from the same pot.
  - b. There will be four groups A, B, C & D. Groups A & B will have (4) four teams each while C and D will have (3) three teams.

#### **DECIDING GROUP STANDINGS**

1. Group standings are decided in the first instance by the number of points a team has obtained to that point.
2. If two or more teams are level on points, then the first tie-breaker is number of points obtained in matches between them, i.e. the head-to-head rule.
3. After that it is down to the goal difference in the matches between the teams concerned and then greatest number of goals scored in the matches between the teams.
4. If the teams still cannot be separated, then the following are applied in this order until there is a clear front-runner.

- The goals difference in all group matches
- The highest number of goals scored in all group matches
- A drawing of lots conducted by the Organising Committee.

#### **4.2 Knock-Out Stage (Semi-Finals and Finals)**

- The Knock-out stage will be Semi-Finals and Final Matches.
- The team that wins group A shall play the winner of group B, and the winner of group C shall play the winner of group D in the Semi- finals.  
The Winners of the Semi-final matches will play in the final match

#### **4.4 The Matches**

- In the Group stage and the Semi-finals of the Competition, each Match shall last for 70 minutes, comprising of two equal periods of 35 minutes, with an interval of 10 minutes in between (**whistle - to - whistle**), save for the Final Match which will be 90 minutes, comprising of two equal period of 45 minutes with an interval of 15 minutes in between,
- Players are entitled to an interval at half – time. The half – time must not exceed 10 minutes and 15 minutes for the final,
- The Matches may be played in the daylight or under floodlights. Matches played at night may be played at a venue where the floodlighting installations meet the minimum lighting requirement i.e. the whole pitch should be evenly lit to at least 600 lux,
- During the Semi-finals, all matches shall be played on a Knock-Out basis. In the event of a draw at the end of the regulation time, Kicks from the penalty mark shall be taken in conformity with the Laws of the Game to decide the winner. **No Extra-time shall be played,**
- During the final match and in the event of a draw at the end of the regulation time, **Extra-time of 15 minutes a side** shall be played; if the match still remains a draw, kicks from the penalty mark shall be taken in conformity with the Laws of the Game to decide the winner.
- All matches of the competition shall be played in accordance with the Laws of Game as decided by the International Football Association Board (IFAB) and promulgated by the Federation of International Football Association (FIFA).

#### **Article 5.0 Participating Region's Guarantees,**

- Regions participating in the Competition shall guarantee, amongst other matters, for:
  - complying with all Rules and Regulations, Guidelines and Instructions issued by NFA,
  - the behaviour of its delegation (Officials and Players), and of any person carrying out duties on behalf of the Regions throughout the entire Competition,

- c. paying for incidental expenses incurred by its delegation members during their stay in the Host Venue and for any costs incurred by additional members of the delegation,
- d. paying for any costs of extending their stay, the duration of which shall be determined by NFA,
- e. The delegation of each Region shall not exceed 30 persons. The Organizing Committee shall not be obliged to host more than 30 persons per Team,
- f. If a visiting Team refuses to stay in the accommodation reserved for it by the Organizing Committee and changes to another on its own initiative while the Organizing Committee declares that the accommodation reserved meets all the conditions required by NFA, this delegation will have to bear the full boarding expenses of its delegation in the new accommodation facility.
- g. Each Region to which the visiting Teams belong must inform the Organizing Committee of the Competition of the date and time of arrival of its Team in the host venue (expected time, port of entry and mode of transport etc.). This information must reach the organizers at least one week before the opening date of the Competition.
- h. NFA reserves the right to issue further Instructions in addition to the provisions of this clause.

#### **Article 6.0 Organizing Committee**

- i. The NFA General Secretariat shall, in conjunction with the Organizing Committee be responsible for the operational organization of the Namibian Newspaper Cup in accordance with these Rules,
- ii. The Organizing Committee appointed by the NFA Executive Committee shall be entrusted with the organization of this competition including the preparation of the draws and fixtures. It shall work Closely with the NFA Competitions Department,
- iii. The general responsibilities of the Organizing Committee shall include amongst other matters:
  - a. Taking all the Disciplinary Measures, inflicting Fines and imposing the Penalties specifically provided for in these Rules,
  - b. The Suspension or Disqualification of Players, Caution, Censure, Fine players, Referees, Assistant Referees, and other Officials of the Regions participating in the Competition,
  - c. Taking decisions on Protests raised as per provisions of these Rules including cases of “**force Majeure**”
  - d. Calling the parties involved for a hearing and the Committee’s decision shall be based on the Central Referee’s and/ or the Match Commissioner’s Reports,



- e. Dealing with every other aspect of the Competition which is not the responsibility of another NFA body,
- iv. The Organizing Committee shall, in conjunction with the local] Organizing Committee issue further Instructions necessitated by special Circumstances which arise during the Competition. These Instructions shall form an integral part of these Statutes,
- v. Three members of the Committee including the Chairperson shall form a Quorum,
- vi. The decisions of the Organizing Committee shall be final and binding and not subject to appeal if they concern Caution, Censure, Fine, Suspension or Disqualification of players in connection with the match incidents reported by the Referee or the Match Commissioner,
- vii. In case a member of the Committee is directly interested in a matter under examination, he must abstain from the discussion of such case and shall not take part in the voting on the decision.
- viii. A member of the Committee may not take part in any meeting in which his/her Region is involved, if this does not include the President, the Vice-Presidents and the Secretary General of NFA.

#### **Article 7.0 Match Commissioners, Referees and Assistant Referees**

- ii. The Match Commissioner will be drawn from the list of NFA Match Commissioners and/or any other person, provided that such person is recognized as NFA Match Commissioner.
- iii. The Referees and Assistant Referees selected to officiate at the matches of the Competition shall be nominated by name by the NFA Referees Committee. They shall be selected from the current and/or following year's NFA list of Referees and Assistant Referees.
- iv. The NFA Referees Committee will appoint for each Match of the Competition, a Match Commissioner, a Referee and two Assistant Referees and a fourth Official.
- v. Immediately after the match both the Match Commissioners and Referees must fill in official Match Reports and hand them over to the NFA Secretariat located in the venue hosting the Competition.

#### **Article 8.0 Team Colours and numbering on Team Outfits**

- i. Each team shall wear its official colours (Shirts, Shorts and Socks).
- ii. In addition to the Official Outfit, each team shall have a Reserve Outfit. The colours of the Reserve Outfit shall be noticeably different from and contrast with the colours of the Official Outfit. The reserve outfit shall also be taken to the Pre-Match Meetings and to every Match,
- iii. If in the opinion of the Referee or Match Commissioner, the two Team Colours might cause confusion, Team A of the official match schedule shall be entitled to

wear its Official Outfit and **Team B shall use its Reserve Outfit** or if necessary, a combination of the Official and the Reserve Outfit,

- iv. If the Colours worn by the two opposing Teams might cause confusion or prove to be unsuitable for TV Broadcasts, they shall be modified, using either the entire Outfit or a combination of both,
- v. The two teams playing in the Final match will be provided with playing gear in the corporate colors of the sponsors (Nedbank Namibia & the Namibian Newspaper). The two teams are obligated to play in the provided playing attire and colors. Failing to do so, after the attire was provided, it is punishable with fine of N\$10.000.00 (Ten Thousand Namibian Dollars).
- vi. Throughout the Competition, each Player shall wear the number allocated to him on the official Player's list. The numbers shall be between 25 cm and 35 cm in height in the centre of the back of the shirt, between 10 cm and 15 cm in height on the front of the Shirt at any position at the chest level, and between 10 cm and 15 cm in height on the front of either Leg of the Shorts.
- vii. Player's jerseys shall be numbered 1 through 20 in accordance with the Rules governing NFA competitions.

## **Article 9.0 Protests, Appeals, Rights and Arbitration**

### **9.1 Protests**

- i. Subject to the following provisions, Protests are objections of any kind to occurrences that have a direct effect on matches organized in the First and Second Round of this Competition,
- ii. Unless otherwise stipulated in this Article, Protests shall first be submitted in writing to the Match Commissioner at the Stadium. The Protests shall be confirmed in writing by the Head of Delegation to the NFA Secretariat Offices at the venue of the Competition no later than two hours after the match in question, provided that such Protests are accompanied by a non-refundable Protest Fee of N\$ 2500.00 (two thousand five hundred Namibia Dollars),
- iii. If a Protest concerning one of the Articles of these Rules and Regulations is submitted by one of the two Teams to the Match Commissioner, he must try to reconcile conflicting points of view within the framework of the Rules and Regulations of the Competition. If, however, he fails, he shall register the Protest in all cases, the Match shall be played in accordance with the provisions of these Rules and Regulations according to the interpretation given by the Match Commissioner,
- iv. No Protests may be made against the Referee's decisions regarding fact connected with play, such decisions being final,
- v. Protests that are not submitted in accordance with the requirements of these Statutes shall not be admitted,



- vi. If an unfounded or irresponsible Protest is lodged, the Organizing Committee may impose a Fine not exceeding N\$ 5000.00 (five thousand Namibia Dollars),
- vii. Other Protests shall be communicated to the NFA Secretariat at the venue of the Competition within 24 hours which follow the Match, provided that a nonrefundable Protest Fee of the amount of N\$ 2 500.00 (two thousand five hundred Namibia Dollars) shall be made by the protesting Team before the Protest can be considered,
- viii. No Protest shall be considered after the Winner of the Competition has been proclaimed.

## **9.2 Appeals**

- i. The NFA Appeals Committee shall deal with appeals against decisions taken by the Organizing Committee.
- ii. Three members of the Committee shall form a quorum, provided that in the event this Committee is not in place, the Organizing Committee shall be empowered to establish an adhoc Appeals Committee for the Competition to act in its place as and when necessary,
- iii. Appeals against the decisions taken by the Organizing Committee, except those stipulated as final shall be addressed in writing to the NFA Secretariat at the venue of the Competition 3 hours after the decision reached by the Competent Committee.

**The decisions of this Committee shall be final and not subject to any further Appeal.**

## **9.3 Rights**

- i. The Rights of Appeal shall be a non-refundable N\$ 5000.00 (five thousand Namibia Dollars).
- ii. Appeals lodged not in conformity with the requirements of these Rules and Regulations shall not be admitted.

## **9.4 Arbitration**

- i. Pursuant to the NFA and FIFA Statutes, Regions are forbidden from taking Disputes to a Civil Court but may only submit them to the appropriate body at FIFA in accordance with the applicable procedure.

## **Article 10.0 Frauds**

- i. A Team which will have committed a Fraud on the identity of a Player, or which will have fielded in a Match a suspended or a non-qualified Player, shall lose the Match by three goals to zero (3:0) and shall be completely eliminated from the Competition as soon as the incriminating facts are clearly established by the Organizing Committee even in the absence of a Protest lodged by its opponent. The team shall further pay an automatic fine of N\$5000.00 (Five Thousand Namibia Dollars)

- ii. For any deliberate intention to foul (cheating) by falsifying the date of birth of a player, the defaulting Region shall be suspended for Two Years from all the age group Competitions Organized by NFA. The Region will further pay an automatic fine of N\$ 10.000.00 (Ten Thousand Namibia Dollars).

#### **Article 11.0 Disciplinary Matters**

- i. For the First Round, a player who has been cautioned and shown a yellow card twice or sent-off and shown a Red Card once shall be automatically suspended from playing in the subsequent Match of his team, without prejudice to other sanctions the Organizing Committee might impose upon him subsequently,
- ii. The Yellow and Red Cards received by Players during the Matches of the Group-stage shall not be considered for the Knock-out stage Matches, save for when a player receives a red card in the final group match of his team.
- iii. A player who is sent-off and shown a Red Card in a Match of the Semi-Final shall be automatically suspended from taking part in the next Match his Team is due to play, without prejudice to other sanctions the Organizing Committee might impose upon him subsequently. In addition, his team will be fined an automatic N\$500.00 (Five Hundred Namibia Dollars)
- iv. A player who is sent-off and shown a Red Card twice during the Competition shall automatically be suspended from all the remaining Matches of the Competition his Team is due to play, without prejudice to other sanctions the Organizing and Disciplinary Committee might impose upon him subsequently. In addition, his team will be fined an automatic fine of N\$500.00 (Five Hundred Namibia Dollars)
- v. If the Referee is forced to stop the Match because of darkness before the end of the regular time, and if a delay of the kick-off time is the cause for it, the Team that caused the delay of the kick-off time shall be declared loser and shall forfeit the Match. The victory and the resultant three points shall be awarded to the opposing Team as well as the score of three-zero, or greater, depending on the score of the Match at time of abandonment,
- vi. Any Region found guilty of fielding an ineligible Player shall forfeit the Match. Victory and the resultant three points shall be awarded to the opposing Team as well as the score of three-zero, or greater, depending on the score of the Match,
- vii. If, through "**force majeure**", a Match is abandoned and therefore, cannot be replayed in its entirety, the Organizing Committee shall decide whether the Match result at the time of abandonment is valid or whether the Match shall be replayed, taking sporting and organizational considerations into account,
- viii. If a match is abandoned and the abandonment is the cause of a Team, the defaulting Team shall be declared loser and the score line that shall be recorded shall reflect that the Team that is declared the winner has beaten the defaulting Team by a score line of three to nil, without prejudice to other sanctions the Organizing Committee might subsequently impose upon the causer of the abandonment.



### **Article 12.0 Withdrawals**

- i. If for any reason whatsoever, a Team after having travelled to the venue of the Competition withdraws from the Competition or renounces to play in the Competition, it shall be suspended from the competition for next two consecutive years. The Organizing Committee reserves the right to impose further disciplinary measures.
- ii. If a Team does not report for a Match except in cases of “**force majeure**” accepted by the Organizing Committee or leaves the field of play before the regular end of the Match without the authorization of the Referee, it shall be considered loser by three-zero. The Organizing Committee may adopt further disciplinary measures.
- iii. A Team which will not be present on the field of play, dressed to play at the time fixed for kick-off or at the most 30 minutes later, shall forfeit the match. Further measures may be adopted by the Organizing Committee.
- iv. If a Team withdraws after having been qualified for the Second Round but before its actual start, it shall be replaced by the team which lost against it in the First Round,
- v. A finalist Team which refuses to play the Final Match shall be replaced by the Team which it has eliminated in the Semi-Finals.
- vi. A Team withdrawing from the Competition or renouncing to play in the Competition under the circumstances prescribed in these Rules and Regulations shall refund the NFA a sum equivalent to receipts which it would have incurred for hosting and transporting the guilty team. The amount shall be determined by Organizing Committee in conjunction with the NFA Competitions Department.

### **Article 13.0 Miscellaneous**

- i. The Organizing Committee shall in conjunction with the NFA, issue any Instructions necessitated by special circumstances which might arise before, during and after the Competition. These Instructions shall form an integral part of these Rules and Regulations.
- ii. Regions taking part in the Competition undertake formally to fully observe these Rules and Regulations and the decisions of the Organizing Committee and the NFA Executive Committee and to comply with them unreservedly.

### **Article 14.0 Matters not provided for**

- i. Matters not provided for under these Statutes and cases of “force Majeure” shall be decided by the Organizing Committee whose decisions shall be final.



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**JOCHEN TRAUT**  
**INTERIM SECRETARY GENERAL**

**03 March 2023**  
**Date**