



NFA REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE METHOD TO BE USED TO PROMOTE AND RELEGATE CLUBS TO AND FROM NFA LEAGUES FOR THE FOOTBALL SEASON 2024-2025

The Executive Committees, through their respective Chairpersons, League Administrators and, where applicable, the League Director are requested to ensure that each member club that is going to participate in the NFA Leagues is served with a copy of these rules and should sign a copy of these rules as an acknowledgment of the rules.

No Club, Leagues, NFA Regional Football Associations, or any other groups of Clubs affiliated to the NFA, subordinated, and recognized by the NFA should start the league if these rules are not acknowledged by all member clubs that consist of the respective Leagues as provided by these rules.

Failure to adhere to and comply with the above directive, the Club, Leagues, NFA Regional Football Associations, and any other groups of Clubs commit an act of misconduct.

Kindly be informed that these rules are also available on the NFA website (www.nfa.org.na)

We are confident that you will implement the above instructions accordingly.

REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE METHOD TO BE USED TO PROMOTE AND RELEGATE CLUBS TO AND FROM NFA LEAGUES

PREAMBLE

Whereas:

states under Rules 3, League Structure.

And whereas:

Rule 3.1 of the NFA Rules and Regulations provides for Namibia Premier Football League (NPFL) and states that the NPFL will consist of twelve (12) member clubs, or any other number as may be determined by the Executive Council of the NFA. For the 2024-2025 football season, the NPFL consists of sixteen (16) member clubs.

Rule 3.2 of the NFA Rules and Regulations provides for Women Super League (WSL) and states that the WSL will consist of twelve (12) member clubs, or any other number as may be determined by the Executive Council of the NFA.

Rule 3.3 of the NFA Rules and Regulations provides for Nationwide First Divisions (NWFD) and sub rule 3.2.1 states that the First Divisions will be played in three (3) streams, namely, Northwest, Northeast and Southern. The division of the teams into streams will be at the discretion of the Executive Council of the NFA.

The Northwest Stream First Division consists of member clubs from regions, namely Kunene, Omusati, Oshana and Otjozondjupa.

The Northeast Stream First Division consists of member clubs from regions namely Ohangwena, Oshikoto, Kavango East, Kavango West and Zambezi.

The Southern Stream First Division consists of member clubs from regions namely Erongo, Hardap, Karas, Khomas and Omaheke.

Rule 3.4 of the NFA Rules and Regulations states that each stream will consist of twelve (12) member clubs, or any other number as may be determined by the Executive Council of the NFA.

Rule 3.5 of the NFA Rules and Regulations provides for Second Divisions, sub rule 3.4.1 states that there shall be fourteen (14) NFA Regional Second Division Leagues under the jurisdiction of the NFA Regional Associations. Sub rule 3.4.2. states that each second division league shall consist of twelve (12) member clubs, or any other number as

decided for by the Executive Council of the NFA.

Rule 4 of the NFA Rules and Regulations provides for Women Regional Leagues, sub rule 3.5.1 states that there shall be fourteen (14) NFA Regional Women Second Divisions Leagues under the jurisdiction of the NFA Regional Associations. Each Regional Women Second Division League shall consist of not less than seven (7) and not more than twelve (12) member clubs or any other number as decided for by the Executive Council of the NFA.

Article 12 of the NFA Constitution provides for the FUTSAL Namibia, the Executive Council further resolved that sixteen (16) clubs in the Premier League and twenty (20) clubs in the first division, for the 2024-2025 futsal season.

Whereas:

The Executive Council resolved for the establishment of Regional Third Division Leagues, these are leagues, not playing Association Football under the jurisdictions of the NFA and recognized by the Regional Associations as an Associate Member in accordance of the provisions of constitutions of the respective Regional Associations for the sole purpose of assuring football merit to allow for relegation to the third division leagues and to promote to the second division leagues and or to participate in the second division leagues play offs to determine the member clubs that shall consist of the 12 clubs of the respective second division leagues.

In accordance with Article 21.5 of the NFA Constitution that states "*no natural or legal person (including holding companies and subsidiaries) shall exercise control over more than one club or group whenever the integrity of any match or competition could be jeopardized*".

Now therefore the NFA Executive Council includes the above article in these rules to protect the integrity of the Association's matches and competitions.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. CH'.

NOW THEREFORE THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE NAMIBIA FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION HAS PASSED THE FOLLOWING RULES (in accordance with rule 5, titled "Promotion and Relegation" sub rule, 5.1, of the NFA Rules and Regulations that states "*The Executive Council of the NFA shall issue special regulation at the beginning of each season stipulating how the promotion and relegation modality shall be governed.*")

RULE 1

RELEGATION OF MEMBER CLUBS FROM ONE LEAGUE TO ANOTHER

1.1 Namibia Premier Football League (NPFL)

1.1.1 This league shall consist of sixteen (16) member clubs. The club which, at the end of the 2024-2025 football season, is placed in position number fourteen (14), position number fifteen (15) and position number sixteen (16) on the final log standing of the NPFL, shall be automatically relegated to the first division leagues below the NPFL, which is one of the three streams of the NWFD, which shall have geographic jurisdiction over the relegated member clubs.

1.1.2 The NWFD comprises of three streams, namely Northeast, Northwest, and Southern stream. The geographical location of the relegated member clubs will be a determining factor as to which of the three streams/leagues the relegated member clubs shall be relegated to.

1.2 Woman Super League (WSL)

1.2.1 This league shall consist of twelve (12) member clubs. The club which, at the end of the 2024-2025 football season, is placed in position number eleven (11) and position twelve (12) on the final log standing shall automatically be relegated to the NFA Women Regional Leagues, which shall have geographical jurisdiction over the relegated member clubs.

1.3 Nationwide First Division (NWFD)

1.3.1 This league shall consist of three streams with each stream consisting of twelve (12) member clubs. The clubs that shall at the end of the 2024-2025 football season, placed in position eleven (11) and position twelve (12) on the final log standing of the respective three streams, shall automatically be relegated to the NFA Regional Second Division Leagues, which shall have geographical jurisdiction over the relegated member clubs.

1.3.2 Should any of the three streams, as a result of two or more relegated clubs from the NPFL and the minimum number clubs which are promoted from the Second Division Zonal Play-offs, cause a situation of the stream consisting of more than twelve (12) clubs at the end of 2024-2025 football season or the subsequent football season, than the required number of member clubs will be relegated from the affected stream to ensure that the required number of twelve (12)

member clubs constitute that stream before the subsequent football season.

1.4 Second Division Leagues

- 1.4.1 Each second division league shall consist of twelve (12) member clubs for the 2024-2025 football season. The clubs that end in position eleven (11) and position twelve (12) on the final log standing of the respective second division leagues of 2024/2025, shall automatically be relegated to the Third Division Leagues, which shall have geographical jurisdiction over the relegated member clubs.
- 1.4.2 The member clubs relegated from the Nationwide First Division Leagues shall enjoy preference to constitute the respective regional second division leagues. The regional second division league member clubs occupying the top number of positions equal to the available positions after those relegated from the NWFD shall be deemed to have taken their positions and shall be included in these leagues. The member clubs that cannot, because of the method explained here-above, be part of a Second Division League shall be relegated in a third division or any other competition or league recognized by the Executive Committee of that Regional Second Division. In the Regional Second Division Leagues where there is no recognized third division leagues such member clubs shall be deemed not having an Association football status.

1.5 Women Regional Leagues

- 1.5.1 Each Regional Women Second Division League shall consist of not less than seven (7) and not more than twelve (12) member clubs or any other number as decided for by the Executive Council of the NFA.

1.6 FUTSAL Namibia

- 1.6.1 The Executive Council further resolved that the FUTSAL Namibia shall consist of sixteen (16) clubs in the Premier League and twenty (20) clubs in the first division, for the 2024-2025 futsal season.
- 1.6.2 Clubs placed in position number fifteen (15) and position number sixteen (16) on the final log standing of the FUTSAL Namibia Premier League, shall be automatically relegated to the first division league.

1.7 Third Division Leagues,

- 1.7.1 Each Third division league shall consist of twelve (12) member clubs for the 2024-2025 football season and not more than 3 third division leagues per region. The clubs that end in position eleven (11) and position twelve (12) on the final log standing of the respective third division leagues of 2024/2025, shall automatically be relegated to the fourth Division Leagues, which shall have

geographical jurisdiction over the relegated member clubs.

When two or more clubs participating in the same league, belong or is under the control of one owner and in contravention of Article 21.5 of the NFA Statutes, regardless of whether that league is the NPFL, WSL, NWFD or any of the NFA Regional Second Division Leagues or Third Division Leagues, the club that ends the season below the other, from those perceived to be owned in contravention of Article 21.5 of the NFA Statutes, shall be one of the clubs to be relegated at the end of the season even if that club did not end the season in positions eleven (11) and twelve (12).

Should the situation as explained in 1.4.3 above arise the co-owned team ending below the other on the final log standing of a particular Division League shall be relegated together with the club in position twelve (12) of the final log standing at the end of the football season 2024-2025 until each NFA league has only one club owned by one owner and to ensure that no NFA league is in contravention of Article 21.5 of the NFA Statutes.

No club that has the potential to create contravention of Article 21.5 of the NFA Statutes in any NFA League shall be promoted or participate in promotion playoffs to be promoted to that higher league. If a club is relegated to a lower league in which another club, owned by the same owner as the relegated club, the team which was already in the lower league shall be relegated to the league below the one in which it was and, in the case, where no other league below that one exists then the club which was previously in the lower league will cease to participate in association football.

RULE 2

PROMOTION OF MEMBER CLUBS FROM ONE LEAGUE TO ANOTHER

2.1. Namibia Premier Football League (NPFL)

2.1.1 For information purposes, the member Clubs that shall at the end of the 2024-2025 football season be placed number (1) on the final log standing of the NPFL shall be eligible to participate in the CAF Championship and the member Club that shall win the NFA Cup shall be eligible to participate in the CAF Confederations Cup.

2.2 Woman Super League (WSL)

2.1.2 This league shall consist of twelve (12) member clubs. The club which, at the end of the 2024-2025 football season, placed number 1 on the final log standing of the WSL shall be eligible to participate in the CAF Championship.

2.3 Nationwide First Division (NWFD) to Namibia Premier Football League

2.3.1 The three member clubs that has won their respective First Division Streams will

be promoted to the Namibia Premier Football League provided that such member clubs shall not create a potential to contravene of Article 21.5 of the NFA Constitution that states "no natural or legal person (including holding companies and subsidiaries) shall exercise control over more than one club or group whenever the integrity of any match or competition could be jeopardized". In such instance, the member Clubs that are placed in position number second on the final log standing of the respective streams for the football season 2024-2025 shall instead be promoted.

2.4 Second Division Leagues to Nationwide First Division

2.4.1 The member clubs that has won their respective Second Division Leagues will participate in the zonal play-off competition, provide that such the member clubs shall not create the potential to contravene of Article 21.5 of the NFA Constitution that states "no natural or legal person (including holding companies and subsidiaries) shall exercise control over more than one club or group whenever the integrity of any match or competition could be jeopardized". In such instance, the member Clubs that are placed in position number second on the final log standing of the respective second division leagues for the football season 2024-2025 will instead be participate in the promotional play-offs.

2.4.2 From the zonal play-off minimum of two teams will be promoted to the first Division to take up places number 11&12 and in cases where a NPFL Club is not relegated to a first division stream a third placed team from that zonal Play-off standing will be promoted to that first division.

2.5 Women Regional Leagues

2.5.1 Each Regional Women's Second Division League shall consist of not less than seven (7) and not more than twelve (12) member clubs or any other number as decided by the Executive Council of the NFA.

2.5.2 The member clubs that has won their respective Second Division Leagues will participate in the zonal play-off competition consisting of two (2) streams, provide that such the member clubs shall not create the potential to contravene of Article 21.5 of the NFA Constitution that states "no natural or legal person (including holding companies and subsidiaries) shall exercise control over more than one club or group whenever the integrity of any match or competition could be jeopardized". In such instance, the member Clubs that are placed in position number second on the final log standing of the respective second division leagues for the football season 2024-2025 will instead be participate in the promotional play-offs.

From the zonal play-off, the winner of each stream will be promoted to the Woman Super League to take up places number 11&12.

2.6 FUTSAL Namibia

- 2.6.1 The Executive Council further resolved that the number of member clubs, or any other number as may be determined by its Executive Committee of Futsal Namibia in accordance with its constitution for the 2024-2025 futsal season.

2.7 Third Division Leagues

- 2.7.1 The Executive Council further resolved that the number of member clubs, or any other number, may be determined by the Executive Committee of NFA Regional Second Division Leagues in accordance with its constitution for the 2024-2025 football season.

The three member clubs that have won their respective Third Division Streams will be promoted to the Second Division League provided that such member clubs shall not create potential to contravene Article 21.5 of the NFA Constitution that states "*no natural or legal person (including holding companies and subsidiaries) shall exercise control over more than one club or group whenever the integrity of any match or competition could be jeopardized*". In such an instance, the member Clubs that are placed in position number second on the final log standing of the respective streams for the football season 2024-2025 shall instead be promoted.

In this case the Third Division league consisted of three streams with each stream consisting of twelve (12) member clubs. The clubs that shall at the end of the 2024-2025 football season, placed in position eleven (11) and position twelve (12) on the final log standing of the respective three streams, shall automatically be relegated to the Fourth Division Leagues, which shall have geographical jurisdiction over the relegated member clubs.

Should any of the three third Division streams teams won their leagues, as a result thereof, three teams shall be relegated from such Second Division leagues to accommodate the three clubs cause a situation of the stream consisting of more than twelve (12) clubs at the end of 2024-2025 football season or the subsequent football season, than the required number of member clubs will be relegated from the affected stream to ensure that the required number of twelve (12) member clubs constitute that stream before the subsequent football season.

RULE 3

THESE RULES APPLICABLE TO THE PLAY-OFFS

- 3.1 The play-offs, to determine the club or clubs that have or must be promoted, shall be played within the zone and the NFA Rules and Regulations shall with the necessary changes and adoption apply to the play-offs.
- 3.2 The Organizing and Competitions Standing Committee of the NFA and Competition Department will at least three weeks before the date of the play-

offs informs the member clubs that are qualified for play-offs through their respective Regional Football Association in writing of the format, date and venue where the play-offs games are to be played.

- 3.3 During the period over which the play-offs are played, the Organizing and Competitions Standing Committee shall act as the Disciplinary Committee and shall handle all Disciplinary cases in accordance with the NFA Rules and Regulations and any appeal shall be heard and handled by the Executive Council or a Committee established for that purpose by the Executive Council of the Association whose decision shall be final.

RULE 4

MISCELLANEOUS

- 4.1 Where a Member fails to complete a league or the first or second leg of the league, the clubs that are affiliated with such Member, shall not be considered for the promotion playoffs.
- 4.2 Any matter relating to the promotion or relegation of a club to or from one league to another and for which no provision is made herein shall be decided by the Executive Council of the Association whose decision shall be final.
- 4.3 No Member or League shall amend or change the format of the promotion or relegation of clubs as contained in these regulations.
- 4.4 A member or league which contravenes the provisions of these Rules commits an act of misconduct.



Charles Sikabongo Siyauya
GENERAL SECRETARY



29 November 2024