



CARLING KNOCKOUT

RULES

(INCORPORATING CARLING CUP)



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1. DEFINITIONS

- 1.1. All terms and phrases used in these rules will have the meaning defined in the NSL Handbook unless appears otherwise from the context.
- 1.2. “**club**” means a participating Member Club.
- 1.3. “**competition**” means the Carling Knockout, *incorporating the Carling Cup*.
- 1.4. “**competition sponsor**” means Carling Black Label.
- 1.5. “**perimeter board**” is a pitch-side advertising hoarding placed at ground level around the perimeter of the pitch within the perimeter fence.
- 1.6. “**secondary advertising**” is all stadium advertising other than the perimeter boards including, but not limited to, advertising hoardings or signs wherever positioned, A-frames, cam carpets (advertising on the ground itself whether painted or physical), flags, banners, inflatables, branded vehicles, or virtual advertising.

2. SCOPE

- 2.1. These rules must be read in conjunction with the NSL Handbook.
- 2.2. Where any matter is not provided for in these rules, the NSL Handbook and the provisions of the Compliance Manual will apply.

3. NAME

- 3.1. The name of the competition will be “Carling Knockout” and the “Carling Cup”.

4. ORGANISATION

- 4.1. The competition will be organised by the Executive Committee of the League which may appoint an Organising Committee to which it will delegate powers and duties as it sees fit.
- 4.2. The Organising Committee will be responsible for the management of the competition.
- 4.3. Clubs will abide by the NSL Handbook, these rules, and the deliverable terms of the contract entered into between the League and the Competition Sponsor. A Schedule of Deliverables will be supplied to participating Member Clubs by the Marketing Department.
- 4.4. Clubs must comply with the provisions of the Safety at Sports and Recreational Events Act (SASREA Act 2 of 2010) and any other relevant legislation.

- 4.5. Appeals against any decision taken by the Organising Committee must be referred to the Executive Committee on an urgent basis, and the decision of the Executive Committee shall be final and binding.

5. **TROPHIES AND AWARDS**

- 5.1. The winning club of the competition will be presented with the Carling Knockout trophy, which remains the property of the League.
- 5.2. The winning club will be awarded a replica of the Carling Knockout trophy as its permanent possession.
- 5.3. If a club wins the competition for 3 (three) consecutive seasons, it will be entitled to keep the trophy.
- 5.4. The League will be responsible for engraving the trophy as well as the replica.
- 5.5. 35 (thirty-five) gold medals will be presented to the winning club and 35 (thirty-five) silver medals to the runner-up.
- 5.6. The match commissioner, referee, assistant referees, and fourth official at the final match, will each receive an award.

6. **QUALIFICATION AND FORMAT**

- 6.1. All 16 (sixteen) clubs currently competing in the DSTV Premiership will qualify for the competition.
- 6.2. All ties will be decided by a knock-out system. Clubs will play each other in a single match. The club scoring the most goals in the match will qualify for the next round. If both clubs score the same number of goals, extra time of 15 (fifteen) minutes each way will be played. If the score is level after extra time, penalty kicks will be taken to determine the winner according to the Laws of the Game.
- 6.3. Should a club withdraw or be withdrawn by the League before the start of the competition, the competition will be run without such club which will not be replaced. Any club withdrawing may be subject to disciplinary action.
- 6.4. In the first round of the competition (last 16) the clubs which finished the DSTV Premiership the previous season in positions 1 (one) to 8 (eight) will be seeded. A public draw will be held in such a way that each match will be between a seeded club and an unseeded club. A draw will also be conducted to determine the home club.

- 6.5. In the second round of the competition (last 8):–
 - 6.5.1. the remaining clubs in the competition will be divided into a group of 4 (four) seeded clubs and a group of 4 (four) unseeded clubs;
 - 6.5.2. of the 8 (eight) remaining clubs, the clubs in the seeded group will be the 4 (four) clubs that finished the DSTV Premiership in the highest positions in the previous season;
 - 6.5.3. the clubs in the unseeded group will be the other 4 (four) remaining clubs [i.e., the clubs that finished the DSTV Premiership in the previous season in positions below the 4 (four) clubs in the seeded group];
 - 6.5.4. a public draw will be held in such a way as to ensure that each match in this round will be between a seeded club (i.e., a club from the seeded group) and an unseeded club (i.e., a club from the unseeded group);
 - 6.5.5. a draw will also be conducted to determine which of the competing club in each match will be deemed to be the home club.
- 6.6. In the semi-final (last 4) a public draw will take place to determine which clubs will play against each other. No clubs will be seeded. The club drawn first in each tie will be the home club.
- 6.7. The home club in all stages of the competition will have first choice of dressing room, team bench, and colours of the kit. However, teams must utilise the team bench which is on the same side of the tunnel as their dressing room.

7. **CARLING CUP**

- 7.1. The winner of the Carling Knockout will play in a once-off match, to be known as the Carling Cup, against an invitation team on a date and at a time fixed by the League.
- 7.2. The invitation team will be selected from the DSTV Premiership and DSTV Diski Challenge players of the other 15 (fifteen) participating clubs in accordance with a method agreed between the League and the competition sponsor.
- 7.3. Clubs will be obliged to ensure that all their eligible players will be available for the Carling Cup if selected.
- 7.4. The rules applicable to the Carling Cup will be the same as those governing the Carling Knockout, save for Rule 6: Qualification and Format, as varied in this rule.

- 7.5. The invitation team will comprise 23 (twenty-three) players of whom 10 (ten) will be DSTV Diski Challenge players, and 13 (thirteen) will be DSTV Premiership players.
- 7.6. At least 5 (five) DSTV Diski Challenge players must be on the field of play at all times during the Carling Cup.¹
- 7.7. Should the Carling Cup end in a draw after regulation time, penalties will be taken to determine the winner in accordance with the Laws of the Game.

8. **VENUES, DATES, AND KICK-OFF TIMES**

- 8.1. In the first, second, and the semi-final rounds, the home club will be entitled to nominate any of its 3 (three) registered home venues. If the club fails to nominate a satisfactory ground, or where the nominated ground is deemed by the Organising Committee not to satisfy safety, legal, commercial, and other logistical requirements, the Organising Committee will nominate a ground and this decision will not be subject to appeal.
- 8.2. The final match will be played at a venue decided by the Organising Committee.
- 8.3. The date and kick-off time for each match will be decided by the Organising Committee.

9. **PLAYERS AND TECHNICAL STAFF**

- 9.1. All players and technical staff participating in the competition must be registered with the League.
- 9.2. A player whose name appears on a team sheet of a participating club in the competition will be deemed to be cup-tied and may not play for another club in the competition for the same season.

10. **TEAM OUTFITS**

- 10.1. Each club will wear its official colours as declared on the club's membership renewal form.
- 10.2. Clubs will be obliged to wear the following on their playing jersey:–
 - 10.2.1. the club sponsor's name, if any, on the front of the jersey;
 - 10.2.2. the club's technical sponsor's logo and the club crest, on the right and left breast respectively, on the front of the jersey;

¹ It will be necessary to also have 5 (five) DSTV Diski Challenge players on the bench in case of injuries. An injured DSTV Diski Challenge player can only be replaced by another DSTV Diski Challenge player.

- 10.2.3. the competition sponsor's logo between the technical sponsor's logo and the club crest on the front of the jersey;
- 10.2.4. the player's number, corresponding with the number shown on the team sheet, on the back of the jersey. The colour of the numbers must contrast clearly with the outfits and be legible from a distance for spectators in the stadium and television viewers;
- 10.2.5. the player's name and the initial, if necessary, on the back of the jersey above the player's number. The lettering must be in capitals;
- 10.2.6. the competition sponsor's logo above the player's name on the back of the jersey;
- 10.2.7. the player's number and the technical sponsor's logo on the front of the left leg of the shorts, and the club crest on the right leg;
- 10.2.8. the sponsor's logo on the right arm sleeve and a club sponsor's logo on the left arm sleeve respectively;
- 10.2.9. the sizes of logos must comply with the rules of the League and the provisions of the Compliance Manual;
- 10.3. A player may not wear any advertising on his socks other than the technical sponsor's logo.
- 10.4. Every participating club will submit a sample of their team's outfit to the Organising Committee for approval by the deadline set by the League.
- 10.5. The participating clubs will be responsible for ordering the outfits on time as specified by the Organising Committee, as well as for the specification of numbers, players' names, and sizes. Should a club not fulfil its duties in this regard, the Organising Committee will have the right to order the outfits on behalf of the club.
- 10.6. The League will initially be responsible for the cost of outfits in the official colours of the participating clubs, each set consisting of the following:–
 - 10.6.1. 30 (thirty) playing jerseys;
 - 10.6.2. 30 (thirty) shorts;
 - 10.6.3. 30 (thirty) pairs of socks.
- 10.7. If the Organising Committee decides that there is a clash of colours, the Organising Committee will be responsible for the costs of whatever additional components of team outfit for the visiting club as may be required to resolve the clash. The visiting club will change in the event of there being a clash of colours.

- 10.8. In the final match of the competition, the Organising Committee will carry the costs of an additional full set of outfits and tracksuits for each club.

11. MATCH BALLS

- 11.1. The Organising Committee will supply the match balls for the competition.
- 11.2. The Organising Committee will supply each club that qualifies for the competition 8 (eight) practice balls for training purposes, the balls being the same as those to be used in the matches.

12. TRAINING SESSIONS

- 12.1. Weather permitting; the clubs participating in the final match may be granted one 60 (sixty) minute training session in the stadium where they are due to play, on the day before the match.
- 12.2. Each team will be allowed access into the field enclosure to set up equipment no earlier than 10 (ten) minutes before the commencement of its training session and must exit the venue immediately after the expiry of its training session.
- 12.3. The training sessions will only be permitted in one of 2 (two) hour training session periods before the time of the scheduled kick-off the next day, and the training sessions must be separated by at least 30 (thirty) minutes. Clubs will enter and vacate the stadium timeously and expeditiously and will not in any way interfere with the other club's right to access the stadium and train for the full training session.
- 12.4. One training session will be 60 (sixty) minutes before the time the match is scheduled for the next day ("**the second training session period**") and the other ("**the first training session period**") will be a 60 (sixty) minute period ending 30 (thirty) minutes before the start of the second training session period.
- 12.5. By way of example, if the match will kick-off at 20h00 on a particular day, then the first training session period will be from 17h30 to 18h30, and the second training session period will be from 19h00 until 20h00.
- 12.6. The club drawn as the home club will be entitled to select which of the training session periods it intends to utilise and will make the selection at least 2 (two) days before the training session. The club drawn as the away club will then utilise the other available training session.
- 12.7. The first 15 (fifteen) minutes must be open to Broadcast Rights Holders for filming purposes.

- 12.8. If the pitch is not in good condition, or the training session could negatively affect the state of the pitch, the League may shorten or cancel the training session and direct the teams to only inspect the pitch wearing training shoes.
- 12.9. Subject to 12.1 to 12.8, neither of the 2 (two) participating clubs will have access to the final match venue at any time for a period of 5 (five) days prior to the final, except in the case of an DSTV Premiership match scheduled at the same venue within the said 5 (five) day period.

13. **ARRANGEMENTS**

- 13.1. In all matches the Organising Committee will be responsible for:–
 - 13.1.1. stadium and surrounding precinct security, including the necessary planning meetings;
 - 13.1.2. medical personnel, equipment, and vehicles that are required for spectators and everyone else present at the stadium, not including the team doctors and physiotherapists of the participating clubs which will be the responsibility of each club as per the NSL Handbook,
 - 13.1.3. all travel and hotel arrangements for clubs in consultation with the clubs;
 - 13.1.4. the printing and distribution of all match tickets including VIP, complimentary, and parking tickets;
 - 13.1.5. the specification of the method of sale of the tickets;
 - 13.1.6. the provision and allocation of accreditation;
 - 13.1.7. the provision of attire for the ball retrievers, including clothing suitable for cold or rainy conditions;
 - 13.1.8. the provision of a suitable sound system.
- 13.2. In matches leading up to, but not including, the final, the home club will be responsible for the following arrangements:–
 - 13.2.1. The booking of the stadium,
 - 13.2.2. The preparation of the stadium and the pitch to acceptable standards as specified in the NSL Handbook;
 - 13.2.3. The provision of all of the required appurtenances of the game such as corner flags and substitute boards;
 - 13.2.4. The provision of an area suitable for doping control procedures;

- 13.2.5. Ball retrievers, whose attire will be provided by the Organising Committee.
- 13.2.6. Ensuring that the away club is afforded access to the venue on the day of the match: the dressing room 4 (four) hours prior to kick-off; and to the pitch 2 (two) hours prior to kick-off.

14. FINAL MATCH OF THE CARLING KNOCKOUT AND THE CARLING CUP

- 14.1. In the final match of the Carling Knockout, as well as the single match of the Carling Cup, the Organising Committee will be responsible for all the following items, as well as any other requirements:–
 - 14.1.1. The booking of the stadium;
 - 14.1.2. The preparation of the stadium and the pitch to acceptable standards as specified in the NSL Handbook;
 - 14.1.3. The provision of all of the required appurtenances of the game such as corner flags and substitute boards;
 - 14.1.4. The provision of an area suitable for doping control procedures;
 - 14.1.5. Ball retrievers, whose attire will be provided by the Organising Committee.
 - 14.1.6. From the day before the final match of the Carling Knockout, each club will be allowed to post no more than 3 (three) security guards outside its designated change room. Under no circumstances will such guards or any other person be granted access onto the field or into any other facility at the venue.
 - 14.1.7. Ensuring that the clubs are afforded access to the venue on the day of the match: the dressing room 4 (four) hours prior to kick-off; and to the pitch 2 (two) hours prior to kick-off.

15. FINANCIAL AND RELATED PROVISIONS

- 15.1. The League will be responsible for the following expenses:–
 - 15.1.1. The travel costs by air for 25 (twenty-five) members of the visiting club in each match where the venue of the match is more than 400 (four hundred) kilometres (one way) from the registered home ground of the visiting club and a regular airline route exists to the venue in question or an airport reasonably nearby. Where a club travels by air the League will also provide for a luxury coach and a car (group B) to transport the club once they arrive.

- 15.1.2. The travel costs by luxury coach for 25 (twenty-five) members of the visiting club in each match where the venue of the match is more than 100 (one hundred) kilometres and less than 400 (four hundred) kilometres (both one way) from the registered home ground of the visiting club.
- 15.1.3. The accommodation and meal costs of 25 (twenty-five) members of the visiting club for whatever period the Organising Committee deems it necessary, provided that the club will not be required to travel more than 100 (one hundred) kilometres one way on the day of the match.
- 15.2. Appearance fees and prize money will be awarded according to a schedule which will be distributed by the Organising Committee to clubs.
- 15.3. The basic admission fees for matches will be laid down by the Organising Committee at every stage of the competition.
- 15.4. Complimentary tickets or accreditation cards issued by the League to the media will be valid for all matches as specified by the League.
- 15.5. Complimentary tickets, season tickets, and other means of gaining free or reduced priced entry issued by clubs will not be valid.
- 15.6. Agreement must be reached between the 2 (two) clubs and the Organising Committee as to what expenses may be incurred in the organisation of a match before such expenses are incurred. Should a dispute arise in this regard, the Organising Committee will make a final ruling.
- 15.7. The Organising Committee will issue at least the following number of complimentary tickets to the two competing clubs in each match:–
 - 15.7.1. 20% (twenty percent) of all VIP tickets to each club;
 - 15.7.2. 500 (five hundred) open stand tickets for all rounds;
 - 15.7.3. Should it be agreed to issue a higher number of complimentary tickets in any category, then both participating clubs will be entitled to the same allocation.
- 15.8. The share of ticketing income after the deduction of agreed expenses will be as follows:–
 - 15.8.1. 40% (forty percent) to the home club;
 - 15.8.2. 40% (forty percent) to the visiting club;
 - 15.8.3. 20% (twenty percent) to the League.

16. STADIUM BRANDING AND ADVERTISING

- 16.1. No club may display a perimeter board unless such board is one of an official sponsor or supplier of the club which has been approved by the Executive Committee.
- 16.2. All perimeter boards must comply with applicable safety standards.
- 16.3. 26 (twenty-six) perimeter boards will be allocated to the League.
- 16.4. The 2 (two) competing clubs will be allocated 8 (eight) perimeter boards each.
- 16.5. The transportation, placement, and removal of the boards will be the responsibility of the League at the League's cost.
- 16.6. The layout of perimeter boards will be specified by the League.
- 16.7. Where a club does not take up the perimeter boards allocated to it, the League will utilise them as it deems fit.
- 16.8. Any club that takes any rights to itself to which it is not entitled commits misconduct.

17. DISCIPLINARY RULES AND PROCEDURES

- 17.1. In terms of the NSL Handbook the following special provisions will apply to the competition:–
 - 17.1.1. All disciplinary procedures relating to a match should, where possible, be completed before the fixture date for the next round of the competition;
 - 17.1.2. The Chief Executive Officer of the League will have the power to order that a disciplinary matter, protest, or appeal be referred directly to arbitration if he/she is of the opinion that the application of the normal procedures will result in a delay of such nature that the League and/or the sponsor may be brought into disrepute. In such event, the decision of the arbitrator will be final.