



MTN8

RULES



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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 MTN8.
- 1.4. “**Competition Sponsor**” means MTN.
- 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 Compliance Manual will apply.

3. NAME

The name of the competition will be “MTN8”.

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 Recreation Events Act 2 of 2010 (“**SASREA**”) 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 MTN8 trophy which remains the property of the League.
- 5.2. The winning club will be provided with a replica of the MTN8 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 MTN8 trophy.
- 5.4. The League will be responsible for engraving the MTN 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. The clubs finishing in the top 8 (eight) positions of the Premier Division of the League in the previous season will participate in the competition.
- 6.2. All ties will be decided by the knock-out system.

- 6.3. In the first round, and in the final, 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.
- 6.4. Both semi-final ties will consist of 2 (two) legs played on a home and away basis. The club which scores a higher aggregate number of goals in the 2 (two) matches of each semi-final tie will qualify for the final.
 - 6.4.1. If, after the end of regular time of the second match of each tie, the 2 (two) clubs have scored the same number of goals during the 2 (two) matches, the club that scored the greater number of away goals will qualify for the final.
 - 6.4.2. If the number of away goals is also the same, the winner of the tie will be determined by the taking of penalty kicks according to the Laws of the Game. There will be no extra time.
- 6.5. Should a club withdraw or be withdrawn or suspended by the League before the start of the competition, the club finishing in the next position of the Premier Division of the League in the previous season will qualify.
- 6.6. Should such withdrawal or suspension occur during the competition, the club will be considered as having lost the tie that it was due to play and the opponent will be declared the winner. Any club withdrawing may be subject to disciplinary action.
- 6.7. In the first round of the competition (last 8 (eight)), the clubs finishing in the top 4 (four) positions of the Premier Division in the previous season will be the home clubs. The clubs will play against each other as follows:–
 - 6.7.1. The club finishing in position 1 (one) of the Premier Division will play against the club finishing in position 8 (eight);
 - 6.7.2. Similarly position 2 (two) will play position 7 (seven);

6.7.3. Position 3 (three) will play position 6 (six);

6.7.4. Position 4 (four) will play position 5 (five).

6.8. In the semi-final (last 4 (four)) a public draw will take place to determine which clubs will play against each other and which club will play at home first.

6.9. 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. VENUES, DATES AND KICK-OFF TIMES

7.1. In the first round and the semi-finals, the home club will be entitled to play the match at 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.

7.2. The final match will be played at a venue decided by the Organising Committee.

7.3. The date and kick-off time for each match will be decided by the Organising Committee.

8. PLAYERS AND TECHNICAL STAFF

8.1. All players and technical staff participating in the competition must be registered in terms of the NSL Handbook.

8.2. 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.

9. TEAM OUTFITS

- 9.1. Each club will wear its official colours as declared on the club's membership renewal form.
- 9.2. Clubs will be obliged to wear the following on their playing jersey:–
 - 9.2.1. The club sponsor's name, if any, on the front of the jersey;
 - 9.2.2. The club's technical sponsor's logo and the club crest, on the right and left breast respectively, on the front of the jersey;
 - 9.2.3. The competition sponsor's logo between the technical sponsor's logo and the club crest on the front of the jersey;
 - 9.2.4. 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;
 - 9.2.5. 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;
 - 9.2.6. The Competition Sponsor's logo above the player's name on the back of the jersey;
 - 9.2.7. 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;
 - 9.2.8. The Competition sponsor's logo on the right arm sleeve and a club sponsor's logo on the left arm sleeve respectively;
 - 9.2.9. The sizes of logos must comply with the NSL Handbook read with the Compliance Manual.
- 9.3. A player may not wear any advertising on his socks other than the technical sponsor's logo.
- 9.4. 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.

- 9.5. 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.
- 9.6. The League will be responsible for the cost of outfits in the official colours of the participating clubs, each set consisting of the following:–
- 9.6.1. Thirty (30) playing jerseys;
 - 9.6.2. Thirty (30) shorts;
 - 9.6.3. Thirty (30) socks.
- 9.7. 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 have the same responsibilities as in rule 9.5. The visiting club will change in the event of there being a clash of colours.
- 9.8. 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.

10. **MATCH BALLS**

- 10.1. The Organising Committee will supply the match balls for the competition.
- 10.2. 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.

11. **TRAINING SESSIONS**

- 11.1. Weather permitting, the teams participating in the final match will be entitled, on the day before the match, to 1 (one) 60 (sixty) minute training session in the stadium where they are due to play.

- 11.2. 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.
- 11.3. 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.
- 11.4. 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.
- 11.5. The club drawn as the home team 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 team will then be entitled to the other available training session.
- 11.6. The first 15 (fifteen) minutes must be open to Broadcast Rights Holders for filming purposes.
- 11.7. 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 only to inspect the pitch wearing training shoes.
- 11.8. Subject to 11.1 to 11.8, neither of the 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 a Premier Division match scheduled at the same venue within the said 5 (five) day period.

12. ARRANGEMENTS

- 12.1. In all matches the Organising Committee will be responsible for -
- 12.1.1. stadium and surrounding precinct security, including the necessary planning meetings;
 - 12.1.2. medical personnel, equipment, and vehicles which 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 responsibility of each club as per the NSL Handbook;
 - 12.1.3. all travel and hotel arrangements for clubs in consultation with the clubs;
 - 12.1.4. the printing and distribution of all match tickets including VIP, complimentary, and parking tickets;
 - 12.1.5. the specification of the method of sale of the tickets;
 - 12.1.6. the provision and allocation of accreditation;
 - 12.1.7. the provision of attire for the ball retrievers, including clothing suitable for cold or rainy conditions;
 - 12.1.8. the provision of a suitable sound system.
- 12.2. In matches leading up to, but not including the final, the home club will be responsible for the following arrangements:–
- 12.2.1. The booking of the stadium;
 - 12.2.2. The preparation of the stadium and the pitch to acceptable standards as specified in the NSL Handbook;
 - 12.2.3. The provision of all of the required appurtenances of the game such as corner flags and substitute boards;
 - 12.2.4. The provision of an area suitable for doping control procedures;

- 12.2.5. Ball retrievers whose attire will be provided by the Organising Committee.
- 12.2.6. 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.

13. FINAL MATCH

- 13.1. In the final match the Organising Committee will be responsible for all the following items, as well as any other requirements:-
 - 13.1.1. The booking of the stadium;
 - 13.1.2. The preparation of the stadium and the pitch to acceptable standards as specified in the NSL Handbook;
 - 13.1.3. The provision of all of the required appurtenances of the game such as corner flags and substitute boards;
 - 13.1.4. The provision of an area suitable for doping control procedures;
 - 13.1.5. Ball retrievers whose attire will be provided by the Organising Committee.
 - 13.1.6. From the day before the Final Match, each club will be allowed to post no more than three security guards outside its designated change room. Under no circumstances will such guards or any other person be granted access into the field or any other facility at the venue.
 - 13.1.7. 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.

14. FINANCIAL AND RELATED PROVISIONS

14.1. The League will be responsible for the following expenses:–

14.1.1. 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.

14.1.2. 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.

14.1.3. 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.

14.2. In the final match, the League will be responsible for the following expenses:–

14.2.1. Travel costs for both teams participating in the final match irrespective of the travel distance.

14.2.2. The travel costs by air for 25 (twenty-five) members of each club where the venue of the final match is more than 400 (four hundred) kilometres (one way) from the registered home ground of the 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.

- 14.2.3. The travel costs by luxury coach for 25 (twenty-five) members of each club 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 club.
- 14.2.4. The accommodation and meal costs of 25 (twenty-five) members of each 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.
- 14.3. Appearance fees and prize money will be awarded according to a schedule which will be distributed to clubs.
- 14.4. The basic admission fees for matches will be laid down by the Organising Committee at every stage of the competition.
- 14.5. Complimentary tickets or accreditation cards issued by the League to the media will be valid for all matches as specified by the League.
- 14.6. Complimentary tickets, season tickets, and other means of gaining free or reduced priced entry issued by clubs, will not be valid.
- 14.7. 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.
- 14.8. The Organising Committee will issue at least the following number of complimentary tickets to the 2 (two) competing clubs in each match:–
 - 14.8.1. 20% (Twenty percent) of all VIP tickets to each club with a minimum of 10 (ten) parking tickets for an appropriate area;
 - 14.8.2. 50 (Fifty) open stand tickets;

- 14.8.3. 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.
- 14.9. The share of ticketing income, after the deduction of agreed expenses, will be as follows:–
 - 14.9.1. 40% (Forty percent) to the home club;
 - 14.9.2. 40% (Forty percent) to the visiting club;
 - 14.9.3. 20% (Twenty percent) to the League.
- 14.10. In the semi-final matches, the share of revenue from ticket sales after the deduction of agreed expenses in terms of rule 14.7 hereof, will be as follows:–
 - 14.10.1. 80% (Eighty percent) to the home club;
 - 14.10.2. 20% (Twenty percent) to the League.

15. STADIUM BRANDING AND ADVERTISING

- 15.1. No club may display a perimeter board in direct competition with the competition sponsor unless -
 - 15.1.1. such board is one of an official sponsor or supplier of the club which agreement must have been in place for at least 60 (sixty) days prior to the commencement of the competition; or
 - 15.1.2. the prior written permission of the Organising Committee has been given.
- 15.2. All perimeter boards must comply with applicable safety standards.
- 15.3. 26 (Twenty-six) perimeter boards will be allocated to the League.
- 15.4. The 2 (two) competing clubs will be allocated 8 (eight) perimeter boards each.

- 15.5. The transportation, placement, and removal of the boards will be the responsibility of the League at the League's cost.
- 15.6. The layout of perimeter boards will be specified by the Organising Committee.
- 15.7. Where a club does not take up the perimeter boards allocated to it, the League will utilise them as it deems fit.
- 15.8. Any secondary advertising rights will belong to the League to utilise as it deems fit.
- 15.9. Any club that takes any rights to itself to which it is not entitled, commits misconduct.

16. **DISCIPLINARY RULES AND PROCEDURES**

- 16.1. In terms of the NSL Handbook, the following special provisions will apply to the competition:–
 - 16.1.1. All disciplinary procedures relating to a match should, where possible, be completed before the fixture date for the next round of the competition;
 - 16.1.2. The Chief Executive Officer of the League will have the power to order that a disciplinary matter, protest, or appeal be referred direct 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.