

# Debmarine Namibia Cup

## RULES AND REGULATIONS

2017

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## **Article 1 : THE DEBMARINE NAMIBIA CUP**

- 1.1 The Namibia Football Association shall organise every year a competition called The Debmarine Namibia Cup which, for the following three year and in accordance with an agreement between the parties, will be sponsored by Debmarine Namibia.
- 1.2 The Debmarine Namibia Cup is the property of the NFA. It shall be held by the team winning the competition and shall be returned to the NFA at least six (6) months before the launch of the following competition. The winning team will be responsible for the loss of or damage to the trophy.
- 1.3 If for any reason, the competition ceases to be held the Cup shall be returned to NFA immediately upon demand.
- 1.4 The winner of the various categories will receive their Prize monies as per the contract with the sponsors.
- 1.5 In addition the winner of the final match shall receive the Debmarine Namibia Cup and thirty (30) gold medals, the team losing the final shall receive thirty (30) silver medals.

## **Article 2 : FORM OF THE COMPETITION**

- 2.1 The Competition shall consist of three (3) main sections:
  - a) The Regional and Zonal Elimination Round;
  - b) Preliminary Elimination Round; and
  - c) The Competition Proper.
- 2.2 The fourteen (14) Regional Second Divisions and the three (3) Nationwide First Division Streams teams will engaged in Regional and Zonal Elimination Rounds in their respective regions and zonal streams.
- 2.3 Two (2) teams from the fourteen (14) Regional Second Divisions Regional Elimination Round Winners will be drawn to determine the two (2) teams that will engaged in the Preliminary Elimination Round whereas the winner will advance to the Competition Proper.
- 2.4 The match to determine the winner of the Preliminary Elimination Round will be played at the home venue of the team drawn first.
- 2.5 Thirty two (32) teams shall qualify for the Competition Proper which shall be determined as follows:
  - a) The sixteen (16) Namibia Premier League teams;
  - b) The three (3) winners of the three (3) Nationwide First Division Zonal Elimination Round;
  - c) The twelve (12) Winners of the Regional Second Division Regional Elimination Round;
  - d) The winner of the Regional Second Division Preliminary Elimination Round.
- 2.6 A draw will be conducted after the completion of each round to determine the fixtures for the following round.

- 2.7 The competition will be played strictly on a knock-out basis, thus only the winners will proceed to the next round.

### **Article 3 : ORGANIZATION AND DISCIPLINE**

- 3.1 The Debmarine Namibia Cup Organising Committee (hereinafter referred to as the OC) shall oversee the competition including the draw of the matches, and determine the venues and fixtures. The Competition Department of the NFA shall be responsible for implementing the directives of the Organizing Committee. The Organising Committee retain the authority to oversee the work of the Competition Department.
- 3.2 The Regional and Zonal Executive Committees of the respective Leagues shall oversee the Preliminary Round of the competition in their respective regions and report to the OC and the Competition Department. The Organizing Committee may, at its sole discretion, send a representative to oversee the Regional, Zonal and Preliminary Elimination Round matches.
- 3.3 The OC have the sole jurisdiction on the allocation of the fixtures to the different venues and the sequence of matches for this competition, save for the matches of the Preliminary Rounds which shall be the responsibility of the Regional and Zonal Executive Committees . The OC may consider awarding home ground advantage to teams from the Second Division drawn against NPL or First Division teams.
- 3.4 The OC in consultation with the Executive Committee shall have the power to co-opt any additional members should the need arise.
- 3.5 The OC is empowered to take all disciplinary measures, inflicting fines and imposing penalties on all incidents registered on the official match reports, before, during and after the match.
- 3.6 The OC is empowered to suspend or disqualify players, caution, censure, fine players, Referees, Assistant Referees and other officials of the teams participating in the competition.
- 3.7 The OC is empowered to take decisions on Protests raised as per the provision of these Rules including cases of '*force majeure*'.
- 3.8 Three members of the OC including the Chairman or his alternate shall form a quorum.
- 3.9 A team which allows a non – qualified or a suspended player to take part in a match shall lose the match and shall be eliminated from the Competition, even in the absence of a timely protest being launched.
- 3.10 The OC may decide to call the parties involved for a hearing and the decision shall be based on the Central Referee's and/ or the Match Commissioners report.
- 3.11 The procedure shall be guided by the OC.
- 3.12 All clubs qualified for the Competition Proper shall pay a registration fee of N\$ 2 000.00 (two thousand Namibian Dollars) to the NFA. The OC will be held responsible for the collection and

payment of the registration fees to the NFA. Registration fees are payable seven (7) days prior to the commencement of the Competition Proper. The OC reserve the right to subtract such amounts from any fees due to the teams.

#### **Article 4 : ARBITRATION**

- 4.1 Pursuant to the NFA and FIFA Statutes, teams 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 procedures.

#### **Article 5 : ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS**

- 5.1 Only PLAYERS who are properly registered with the NFA shall be eligible to participate and that shall be testified by the official player's card endorsed by NFA. No document other than the player card endorsed by NFA shall be accepted for verification of a player's status. Players without a valid player's card will be disqualified from participating in the competition.
- 5.2 The Match Commissioner and the Referees reserve the right to prevent from taking part in the matches any players whose names is on the Team List but does not meet the qualification norms stipulated in these Rules without prejudice to other subsequent sanctions the OC might impose upon them and their teams.

#### **Article 6 : PROTEST, APPEALS AND FINES**

- 6.1 For a protest to be considered it must be in writing and forwarded to the fourth official immediately after the match and confirmed in writing to the Chairman of the OC within two (2) hours after the match. A protest submitted later than the stipulated period shall not be admitted nor entertained.
- 6.2 A protest must be accompanied by a non-refundable protest fee of Five Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$ 5 000.00). A protest submitted without the protest fee shall not be admitted nor entertained.
- 6.3 No protest may be made against the Referee's decisions regarding facts connected with play, such decision being final.
- 6.4 If an unfounded or irresponsible Protest is lodged, the OC may impose a fine not exceeding Ten Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$ 10 000.00).
- 6.5 No protest shall be considered after the winners of the Debmarine Namibia Cup have been proclaimed, furthermore no protest about the preliminary round matches shall be considered after the winners of the Preliminary Rounds have been proclaimed.
- 6.6 The NFA Appeals Board shall deal with Appeals against decisions of the OC.

- 6.7 An appeal must reach the NFA Appeals Board by fax or email or hand delivered within two (2) days following the announcement of the decision of the OC and accompanied by a non - refundable fee of N\$ 10 000.00 (Ten Thousand Namibian Dollars).
- 6.8 The decision of the NFA Appeals Board shall be final and not subject to any further appeal.

#### **Article 7 : OTHER MATTERS**

- 7.1 Teams shall be expected to complete the official match sheet before the final inspection at the stadium. When completed the Team Return should be handed to the Fourth Official of the match who will keep proper record of all the incidents happening during the match. When completed the Three Team Returns Sheets will bear identical information and be signed by the Fourth Official and the Referee of the match, including the two (2) team captains.
- 7.2 After the match the Fourth Official shall hand the relevant copy of the opposing team's Team Return to the other while he will retain his copies for submission to the OC.
- 7.3 A team delegation will consist of maximum twenty (20) players and ten (10) officials. The ten (10) officials shall include the Head of Delegation and all other officials the team might deem necessary.
- 7.4 A team that does not present itself, irrespective of reasons, or refuse to play or stage a walk out from the field of play before the regular end of the match without the authorization of the referee, shall be declared loser and shall be eliminated from the competition, be liable to a fine not exceeding Twenty Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$ 20 000.00). The same shall apply for the teams which were declared disqualified by decision of the OC. In both instances the OC reserves the right to lay charges of misconduct against the club.
- 7.5 The team travelling in the framework of this competition must be in the city/town hosting its match at least five (5) hours before the time scheduled for the kick - off of their match. A team failure to do so will be visited by a minimum fine of N\$ 5 000.00.
- 7.6 A team must be present in the dressing room at least one (1) hour before the kick - off of its match for inspection. A team that is not present in the dressing room at least one (1) hour before kick - off shall be visited with a minimum fine of N\$ 2 000.00
- 7.7 A team may not have more than seven (7) substitutes including the reserve goalkeeper on the official team return.
- 7.8 Only the seven (7) substitutes and seven (7) officials are allowed to be on the substitute bench or in the technical area. A team that violets this rule shall be visited with a minimum fine of N\$ 1 000.00.
- 7.9 Every team is responsible for the conduct of its officials, players and supporters.

- 7.10 All teams shall take reasonable precautions to prevent supporters from encroaching onto the field and/ or threatening or assaulting match officials and other officials or players before, during or after the match.
- 7.11 Failure to fulfil adequately to the above - mentioned requirements could lead to a misconduct charge against the team.
- 7.12 For the Preliminary Round and Competition Proper, a player who received two cautions during a match shall be automatically suspended from playing the following match of his team. This automatic suspension shall be communicated by the OC to the clubs, but this does not remove the responsibility to record all cautions against their players from the teams.
- 7.13 Notwithstanding Article 7.14, for the Preliminary Round and Competition Proper, a player who received two cautions during two separate matches of the competition shall automatically be suspended from playing the following match of his team.
- This automatic suspension shall be communicated by the LOC to the clubs, but this does not remove the responsibility to record all cautions against their players from the teams.
- 7.14 The cautions received during the Preliminary Round shall not be taken into account for the Competition Proper.
- 7.15 A team whose players receive five (5) cautions (yellow cards) in a match will pay an automatic fine in the amount of Three Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$ 3 000.00). Such payment shall be paid before the next round of the competition.
- 7.16 A player expelled ( red carded) from the field of play by the referee is automatically suspended for the subsequent match of his team in the competition, and depending on the severity of the offence may be visited with other sanctions by the OC.
- 7.17 A team whose three players during one match of the competition are expelled from the field of play shall pay an automatic fine in the amount of Five Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$ 5 000.00). Such payment shall be paid before the next round of the competition.
- 7.18 A player expelled from the field by the referee in two (2) matches of the Competition Proper is automatically suspended from all the matches his team is due to play up to the end of the competition without prejudice to other sanctions the OC might impose upon him subsequently.
- 7.19 The duration of a match of this competition will be two halves of 45 minutes each with a 15 minutes break in between the two halves. The Referee may add time lost due to injury, substitutions and other incidents during the match.
- 7.20 Where a match ends in a draw the winner shall be decided by the two team's involved taking penalty kicks, except for the semi - final and the final where extra time of 15 minutes on each side shall be awarded before resorting to penalty kicks.
- 7.21 Further measures may be adopted by the OC.

#### **Article 8 : IMPORTANT ASPECTS:**

- 8.1 The matches may be played in daylight or under floodlight and the latter will be expected to be of an acceptable standard.
- 8.2 The Laws of the Game as promulgated by the International Football Association Board and the Rules and Regulations of the Association shall be applicable at all times, save for where it has to do with the fees payable for protest and appeals which are determined in these Rules.
- 8.3 Matters not provided for in these Rules and Regulations and in cases of *force majeure* shall be decided by the OC or NFA Appeals Committee.
- 8.4 In the case of serious offenses, the OC may recommend to the Namibia Football Association's Executive Committee to take further steps against the guilty party.
- 8.5 Where these Rules and the NFA Disciplinary Code do not provide for the Executive Committee of the Association shall take a decision which decision shall be final.
- 8.6 Participating teams are obliged to attend media briefings and other activities to promote the events of the competition. Failure to honour such media briefings and activities shall be punishable with an amount of N\$10 000.00.

#### **Article 9 : TEAM COLOURS**

- 9.1 Each team shall wear their own team colours for the Preliminary Rounds and other matches of the competition save for those matches of the Competition where the sponsor may provide gear for the qualified teams. When in the opinion of the referee, the colours of the two opposing teams might lead to confusion, the visiting team or the team appearing second on the fixture shall change its shirts. The decision regarding which matches the teams shall wear the sponsor's gear is in the sole discretion of the NFA. Failure to use the sponsored gear, when it has been provided, will result a fine of \$10 000.00.
- 9.2 Every team shall have an extra playing gear of a different colour available other than its official colours. The kit referred to here shall be carried to the stadium and be ready for use in case of a colour clash. Failure to immediately when required, provide the alternative playing gear shall be punishable by N\$ 10 000.00.
- 9.3 The teams qualifying for the Final will be provided with playing gear in their team colours by the sponsors. They are obligated to play in the provided playing attire and colours. Failing to do so, after the gear was provided, is punishable with a fine of N\$ 10 000.00.
- 9.4 The attire so provided by the Sponsors shall, at the expense of the clubs, be branded with the logos of the clubs sponsor on the sleeve and, Debmarine Namibia and NFA on the front and back.

#### **Article 10 : EXPLOITATION OF COMMERCIAL RIGHTS**

- 10.1 NFA owns all of the rights to the NFA marks and the marks of the Debmarine Namibia Cup emblems and posters on a national basis. These marks can only be used with the express permission of the NFA and Debmarine Namibia.

- 10.2 NFA reserves the right to use the names, marks and emblems of the clubs participating in the competition in the promotion of the competition in whatever way it deems fit. NFA may grant such rights to its partners as long as such rights will only be used in relations to the Debmarine Namibia Cup and the promotion of football generally.

#### **Article 11 : PARTICIPATING TEAMS**

- 11.1 A team taking part in the Debmarine Namibia Cup (Preliminary Rounds and Competition Proper) undertakes to fully observe these regulation and the decisions of the OC, Referees, Appeal Committee and the NFA Executive Committee and to comply with them unreservedly;
- 11.2 A team taking part in the Debmarine Namibia Cup, shall guarantee the best behaviour of its delegation (Officials and Players), and of persons carrying out duties on behalf of the team throughout the entire competition;
- 11.3 A team taking part in the Debmarine Namibia Cup shall guarantee that only a maximum of 30 persons shall be part of its official delegation and no other persons shall accompany the team to the stadium. Failing to ensure this is punishable with an automatic fine of N\$ 3 000.00;
- 11.4 All participating teams warrants and undertakes that it procure that their members, officials, management, staff, volunteers and players shall at all times, unless authorised by Namibia Football Association in writing to do otherwise:
- 11.4.1 conduct themselves in a professional manner in all appearances and/or engagements;
  - 11.4.2 not engage in any activity in any capacity whatsoever, which is not consistent with portraying a “wholesome image”. In this regard a “wholesome image” shall mean, inter alia.
    - 11.4.2.1 an image typifying Debmarine Namibia Cup brand values, being integrity, can-do, team work, innovation, simplicity and friendliness;
    - 11.4.2.2 no imbibing or use of any illegal substances;
    - 11.2.2.3 no participation or association with any illegal, unlawful or immoral activities;
    - 11.2.2.4 no utilisation of any inappropriate or offensive language; and
    - 11.2.2.5 the promotion of a clean, healthy and law-abiding lifestyle;
- 11.5 Not engage in any comment about controversial political issues, or any comment about, criticism of or any slander whatsoever of Debmarine Namibia and Namibia Football Association.
- 11.6 Any breach of the above-mentioned provision amounts to an act of misconduct and the perpetrators shall be prosecuted in terms of the NFA Disciplinary Code.



**Article 12 : ADOPTION OF THE RULES**

12.1 These regulations has been adopted by the NFA Executive Committee on 02<sup>nd</sup> December 2016 and come into force immediately.

**For and on behalf of the Executive Committee:**

  
**Barry Rukoro**  
**SECRETARY GENERAL**

