

## RULES GOVERNING COMPETITIONS

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## MALTA FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

### RULES GOVERNING THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF THE MALTA FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

#### 1. Organisation of a National League

- (i) The Association shall organise a national league on annual basis, to be known as the National League of the Malta Football Association.
- (ii) Participation in the National League shall be in accordance with the provisions of article 3 hereunder.
- (iii) In the case that the National League or any division of the League is sponsored by an individual or a company, the name of such individual or company may, at the discretion of the Executive Board, be added to the official name of the League, or to the name of the division concerned, as the case may be.

#### 2. Management and Control of the National League

The entire management and control of the National League shall vest in the Executive Board of the Association. Matches shall be played in accordance with the Rules, Regulations and Bye-Laws of the Association and the Laws of the Game.

*Amended:  
29-07-20  
21-07-21*

#### 3. Composition of the National League

The National League shall consist of three (3) Divisions, as follows:

- (i) fourteen (14) Clubs in the highest division, to be known as the Premier League;
- (ii) sixteen (16) Clubs in the second highest division, to be known as the Challenge League;
- (iii) a number of Clubs, which shall be decided upon by the Executive Board of the Association between the first day in May and the first day in July in each year in the third highest division, to be known as the National Amateur league, provided that all Clubs, which had taken part in the third highest division in the previous season and did not drop out of the League due to expulsion, suspension, relegation or not getting a license, shall have the right to take part in the League during the coming season.

*Amended:  
29-07-20*

#### 4. No Changes in the Composition of the League

There shall be no changes in the composition of the three divisions, except such as may come about by promotion or relegation, or as stated below because of vacancies, or by a change in the Rules affecting competitions in accordance with the Rules of the Association.

#### 5. Vacancies in the National League

- (i) In the case that in any season any Club in any Division fails for any reason whatsoever to compete in the National League or fails to get any type of license whatsoever, such Club shall be considered to have dropped out of the National League.
- (ii) (a) The Executive Board of the Association shall fill any vacancy in any Division, which vacancy may arise due to the reason mentioned in sub-paragraph (i) above, or which may arise due to removal, suspension or relegation of a Club by a decision of any of the competent bodies of the Association or which may arise due to a decision of the Member Clubs' Licensing Board of the Association, in the first instance by declaring that a Club or more Clubs, as the case may be, which had been sportingly relegated will not be relegated and in the second instance by promoting the Club or Clubs next in merit to the Club or Clubs promoted in accordance with the last season's league table of the immediately inferior Division.
- (b) Should two (2) or more Clubs be on equal points, or in the inferior Division there was more than one Section, in a way that it cannot be decided which of them shall be promoted, then the rules provided in Article 35 of Section V of the Regulations (Competition Rules) shall apply.

*Amended:  
29-07-20*

#### 6. Presentation of Trophies and medals

- (i) The champion Club of each and every Division of the National League shall be presented by the Association with the winner's trophy which is the property of the Association. Furthermore, each and every champion Club shall also be presented with a miniature trophy for retention.
- (ii) (a) All trophies belonging to the Association shall be returned to the Association in good condition within one month of their presentation. Failure by the Club to return any trophy which belongs to the Association within this time-limit shall be punished with a fine of one thousand and five hundred euro (€1500),

provided that seven (7) days written notice would have been given by the Association to the Club concerned to return the Trophy concerned.

- (b) Should any trophy be destroyed or damaged through accident whilst under the care and custody of Club, such Club shall refund to the Association the cost of repairs, or the full value of the trophy concerned.
  - (c) Should any trophy be destroyed or damaged through any other cause, besides the obligations under sub-clause (b) above, the Club shall be punished by the Control and Disciplinary Board of the Association with a fine not exceeding one thousand and five hundred euro (€1500).
- (iii) (a) The players and the members of technical staff of the champion Club of each and every Division of the National League shall be presented with a commemorative medal. Thus each such Club shall receive thirty (30) medals.
- (b) In principle, the players and the members of the technical staff shall be presented with their medals in a medals award ceremony to be held immediately prior to the presentation of the trophy and the miniature trophy to the champion Club. In this case the medals will be presented to the players and the members of the technical staff included on the Official Match Report Form of the match at the end of which the trophy and the miniature trophy are to be presented. However, a player and/or a member of the technical staff who was sent off by the referee before, during or after the match shall not be presented with a medal during the medals award ceremony. The remainder of the medals shall be handed over to the Club to give to other deserving players and/or members of the technical staff. In case that the medals are not presented at the end of a match, all the medals will be given to the Club to give to deserving players and members of the technical staff.

*Amended:  
29-07-20*

## **7. Rules of the National League**

### **(I). The Premier League**

The Premier League shall take the form of a league which shall be played by all the fourteen (14) clubs in the League on a double round-robin basis. At the end of the league the following shall apply;

- (a) the Club placed in first position in the official Classification Table, at the end of the league, shall be declared the Champion of the Premier League;
- (b) the Club placed in second position in the official Classification Table, at the end of the league shall be declared the Runner-Up of the Premier League;
- (c) the Clubs placed in thirteenth and fourteenth position in the official Classification Table, at the end of the league, shall be relegated to the following season's Challenge League;
- (d) the twelfth placed Club in the official Classification Table shall participate in a Premier League Play-Out with the third placed Club in the official Classification Table of the Challenge League. The winner of the Premier League Play-Out shall participate in the following season's Premier League and the loser shall participate in the following season's Challenge League. The duration of the match shall be ninety (90) minutes. If the match is still drawn after normal time, extra time shall be played. If the match is still drawn at the end of extra time, penalties shall be taken in accordance with the Laws of the Game to determine the winner of the match.

*Amended:  
07-07-20*

*Amended:  
07-07-20*

*Amended:  
29-07-20  
21-07-21*

### **(II). The Challenge League**

The Challenge League shall take the form of a league which shall be played by all the sixteen (16) clubs in the Division on a double round-robin basis. At the end of the league the following shall apply:

- (a) the Club placed in first position in the official Classification Table, at the end of the league, shall be declared the Champion of the Challenge League, and shall be promoted to the Premier League;
- (b) the Club placed in second position in the official Classification Table, at the end of the league shall be declared the Runner-Up of the Challenge League, and shall be promoted to the Premier League;
- (c) the Club placed in third position in the official Classification Table, at the end of the league shall participate in the Premier League Play-Out according to Article 7A(I)(d) above;
- (d) the Clubs placed in thirteenth, fourteenth, fifteenth and sixteenth position in the official Classification Table, at the end of the league, shall be relegated to the following season's National Amateur League;

*Introduced on:  
29-07-20  
21-07-21*

### **(III). The National Amateur League**

The National Amateur League shall take the form of three (3) Groups each playing a league on a triple round-robin basis. Such Groups shall be as evenly composed as possible. The allocation of clubs in the respective groups shall be made prior to the start of the competition by means of a seeding system based on the classification of the previous season. At the end of the league the following shall apply:

- i. The club placed in first position in the official classification table of each Group shall be promoted to the Challenge League and shall also qualify to the Group Winners' round-robin where the three (3) Clubs placed in first position in the official classification table of each Group of the National Amateur League shall play against each other on a single round-robin basis. The winner of the Group Winners' round-robin will be declared the Champion of the National Amateur League. The club placed second in the Group Winners' round-robin shall be declared the Runner-Up of the National Amateur League.

Provided that where in the final classification of the Group Winners' round-robin two or three clubs have the same points, Article 35 of Section V of the Regulations (Competitions Rules) shall apply.

- ii. The clubs placed in the second, third, and fourth place shall participate in the National Amateur League Play Offs.
  - a. The National Amateur League Play-Offs First Round shall be played between two clubs from amongst the fourth-placed clubs in each Group, drawn by lot;
  - b. The National Amateur League Play-Offs Second Round shall be played between the winners of the Preliminary Round and the clubs placed in the second, third, and fourth place of each Group. The draw shall be made in such a way that second-placed clubs are seeded;
  - c. The National Amateur League Play-Offs Semi-Finals shall be played between the winners of the Play-Offs Second. The Semi-Final draw shall be an open one;
  - d. The National Amateur League Play-Offs Final shall be played between the winners of the Play-Offs Semi-Finals. The winner of the National Amateur League Play-Offs shall participate in the following season's Challenge League.
- iii. The club placed in the last position in the official classification table of each Group shall drop out of the National League. Such Club may apply for re-instatement.

## 8. Force Majeure

*Introduced on:  
12-08-20*

- (i) Where, in extraordinary circumstances, any of the National League competitions is terminated prematurely due to the impossibility of its natural completion for reasons beyond the control of any party, the classification following the last match played shall be deemed final, provided that all clubs have one-fourth (1/4) or less of the competition yet to play. This provision shall not apply to knock-out competitions.
- (ii) Without prejudice to sub-article (i), where not all clubs in a competition have played the same number of matches upon the termination of a competition as provided above, the classification of such competition shall be based on the average number of points each club obtained per match played until such termination.
- (iii) Other than with respect to a club(s) that, at the moment of termination as provided above, would have already mathematically won the competition or have been mathematically promoted or relegated, where the respective competitions have not yet reached the stage as provided in sub-article (i), they shall be declared abandoned and no champion shall be declared. Furthermore, in such case there shall be no promotions and/or relegations.
- (iv) Accession to participation to European competitions shall be in accordance with rules, regulations, directives or guidelines issued by UEFA.

MALTA FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

**MOTION REGARDING THE PREMIER DIVISION LEAGUE**

1. Premier Division League games may be played at the National Stadium, or the Hamrun Spartans Football Ground or at the Hibernians Football Ground or the Gozo Stadium or the Centenary Stadium.
2.
  - (i) The MFA shall have the sole discretion to decide in which of these football grounds the games shall be played.
  - (ii) Except in those cases where the games must be played according to the original fixtures because of the Sequence Principle endorsed by the Competition Rules, the MFA will not be bound by the Sequence Principle.
  - (iii) A club which is legally or conventionally deemed by the MFA to be the owner of a stadium with regards to which the MFA has an agreement to play Premier League Division matches may play its matches at such a stadium.
  - (iv) The decision regarding the date, the venue and the time when a game must be played must be taken by the MFA as early as possible but definitely not later than seven (7) days prior to the day on which the game is due to be played. However, in very exceptional circumstances, the day and/or the venue and/or the time when a game is to begin may be changed as long as this is done at least twenty-four (24) hours before that time which would have already been fixed before when the game should begin.
  - (v) If for any reason a game is not played on the date, at the venue or at the fixed time and it is felt that this game has to be played, the MFA will have the right to decide about the date, the venue and the time when this game must be played.
  - (vi) The decisions of the MFA Administration are final and binding and may only be changed according to the Competition Rules and the dispositions contained in this motion.
3.
  - (i) From each Premier League Division program, whether it consists of one or two games, the MFA shall deduct ten per cent (10%) from that portion of the income which is due to those clubs participating on that particular day.
  - (ii) This amount so deducted shall be deposited in a fund which shall be known as "The Premier Division Pool Compensation Fund".
  - (iii) At the end of every round of every season the money in this pool shall be equally divided into ten (10) shares and each Club participating in the Premier Division League shall receive one of these equal shares.

MALTA FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION  
**MOTION REGARDING THE FIRST DIVISION LEAGUE**

On principle, a club which is legally or conventionally deemed by the MFA to be the owner of a stadium with regards to which the MFA has an agreement to play First Division League matches may not play more than one-half of its league matches at such a stadium.

MALTA FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

**MOTION ON THE COMPOSITION OF THE NATIONAL LEAGUE  
FOLLOWING THE PREMATURE TERMINATION OF SEASON 2020/21**  
*(approved during the AGM on the 21st July 2021)*

Provided that:

- a) according to Article 49(v)(c) of the Statute, in the case of existing competitions, rules which may in any way affect promotion and/or relegation issues shall not come into force at least until the commencement of the second football season following the coming or current football season, as the case may be, during which they are approved;
- b) according to the same Article, this rule need not be followed if the General Meeting of the Association, with at least two-thirds (2/3) majority, decides otherwise;
- c) following the premature termination of competitions for season 2020/21 due to force majeure, namely the Covid-19 pandemic, Article 8 of the Rules Governing Competitions (Section VII) was applied;
- d) the outcome of the application of the said Article 8 affects promotions and relegations in the National League;
- e) in its meeting of the 18th May 2020, the Council discussed the transition required in season 2021/22 and 2022/23.

Therefore, it was resolved that:

1. For season 2021/22, Article 3 of the Rules Governing the National League of the Malta Football Association shall read as follows:

**“3. Composition of the National League**

The National League shall consist of three (3) Divisions, as follows:

- (i) twelve (12) Clubs in the highest division, to be known as the Premier League;
- (ii) twenty-two (22) Clubs in the second highest division, to be known as the Challenge League;
- (iii) a number of Clubs, which shall be decided upon by the Executive Board of the Association between the first day in May and the first day in July in each year in the third highest division, to be known as the National Amateur League, provided that all Clubs which had taken part in the third highest division in the previous season and did not drop out of the League due to expulsion, suspension, relegation or not getting a licence, shall have the right to take part in the League during the coming season.”

2. For season 2021/22, Article 7 of the Rules Governing the National League of the Malta Football Association shall read as follows:

**“(I). The Premier League**

- (i) The League shall be played in two phases, namely a First Phase which will be immediately followed by a Second Phase, as follows:
  - (a) During the First Phase, the League shall be played by all the twelve (12) clubs in the Division on a Double Round basis.
  - (b) At the end of the First Phase, the clubs classified between the first and the sixth place in the Division during the First Phase shall play against each other on a Single Round basis known as Top Six - Final Round. The clubs classified between the seventh and 12th place in the Division during the First Phase shall play against each other on a Single Round basis known as Play-Out - Final Round.
- (ii) At the end of the Second Phase:
  - (i) the highest placed Club in the official Classification Table of the Top Six - Final Round shall be declared the Champion of the Premier Division; and
  - (ii) the two (2) lowest placed Clubs in the official Classification Table of the Play-Out - Final Round shall be relegated to the Challenge League.

**“(II). The Challenge League**



The Challenge League shall take the form of two (2) Groups of eleven (11) teams, each playing a league on a double round-robin basis. Such Groups shall be as evenly composed as possible. The allocation of clubs in the respective groups shall be made prior to the start of the competition by means of a seeding system based on the classification of the previous season. At the end of the league the following shall apply:

- (a) the Clubs placed in the first and second position in the official Classification Table of each group, at the end of the league, shall be promoted to the Premier League;
- (b) the Clubs placed in the first position in the official Classification Table of each Group, at the end of the league, shall play a deciding match and the winner shall be declared the Champion of the Challenge League;
- (c) the Clubs placed in the ninth, tenth, and eleventh position in the official Classification Table of each Group, at the end of the league, shall be relegated to the following season's National Amateur League.

### **“(III). The National Amateur League**

The National Amateur League shall take the form of two (2) Groups, known as Group A and Group B, each playing a league on a double round-robin basis. Such Groups shall be as evenly composed as possible. The allocation of clubs in the respective groups shall be made prior to the start of the competition by means of a seeding system based on the classification of the previous season. At the end of the league the following shall apply:

- (a) The clubs placed in first position in the official classification table of each Group shall be promoted to the Challenge League.
- (b) The Clubs placed in the first position in the official Classification Table of each Group, at the end of the league, shall play a deciding match and the winner shall be declared the Champion of the National Amateur League.
- (c) The clubs placed in the second position in the official Classification Table of each Group, at the end of the league, shall play a deciding match and the winner shall be promoted to the Challenge League. The loser shall play in the final of the National Amateur League Play-Offs.
- (d) The National Amateur League Play-Offs shall be played as follows:
  - i. The National Amateur League Play-Offs First Round shall be played between the clubs placed fourth and fifth in each Group in a way that the fourth-placed club in Group A plays against the fifth-placed in Group B (Match 1) and the fourth-placed club in Group B plays against the fifth-placed in Group A (Match 2).
  - ii. The National Amateur League Play-Offs Second Round shall be played between the winners of the First Round and the clubs placed third in each Group. The third-placed club in Group A shall play against the winner of Match 2 mentioned in the preceding sub-article. The third-placed club in Group B shall play against the winner of Match 1 mentioned in the preceding sub-article.
  - iii. The National Amateur League Play-Offs Third Round shall be played between the winners of the Play-Offs Second Round.
  - iv. The National Amateur League Play-Offs Final shall be played between the winners of the Play-Offs Third Round and the losing team of the promotion play-off determined in Article 7(III)(c) above. The winner of the National Amateur League Play-Offs Final shall participate in the following season's Challenge League.
- (e) The clubs placed in the last position in the official classification table of each Group shall drop out of the National League. Such Clubs may apply for re-instatement.”

3. For season 2022/23, Article 3 of the Rules Governing the National League of the Malta Football Association shall read as follows:

### **“3. Composition of the National League**

The National League shall consist of three (3) Divisions, as follows:

- (i) fourteen (14) Clubs in the highest division, to be known as the Premier League;
- (ii) eighteen (18) Clubs in the second highest division, to be known as the Challenge League;
- (iii) a number of Clubs, which shall be decided upon by the Executive Board of the Association between the first

day in May and the first day in July in each year in the third highest division, to be known as the National Amateur League, provided that all Clubs which had taken part in the third highest division in the previous season and did not drop out of the League due to expulsion, suspension, relegation or not getting a licence, shall have the right to take part in the League during the coming season.”

4. For season 2022/23, Article 7 of the Rules Governing the National League of the Malta Football Association shall read as follows:

**“(I). The Premier League**

The Premier League shall take the form of a league which shall be played by all the fourteen (14) clubs in the League on a double round-robin basis. At the end of the league the following shall apply;

- (a) the Club placed in first position in the official Classification Table, at the end of the league, shall be declared the Champion of the Premier League;
- (b) the Club placed in second position in the official Classification Table, at the end of the league shall be declared the Runner-Up of the Premier League;
- (c) the Clubs placed in thirteenth and fourteenth position in the official Classification Table, at the end of the league, shall be relegated to the following season’s Challenge League;
- (d) the twelfth placed Club in the official Classification Table shall participate in a Premier League Play-Out with the winner of the deciding match between the second-placed Clubs of each Group of the Challenge League according to Article 7(II)(c) below. The winner of the Premier League Play-Out shall participate in the following season’s Premier League and the loser shall participate in the following season’s Challenge League. The duration of the match shall be ninety (90) minutes. If the match is still drawn after normal time, extra time shall be played. If the match is still drawn at the end of extra time, penalties shall be taken in accordance with the Laws of the Game to determine the winner of the match.”

**“(II). The Challenge League**

- a) The Challenge League shall be played in two phases, namely a First Phase which will be immediately followed by a Second Phase, as follows:
  - (i) During the First Phase, the League shall be played by all the eighteen (18) clubs on a single round-robin basis.
  - (ii) At the end of the First Phase, the clubs classified in the first six (6) places in the League during the First Phase shall play against each other on a Double Round Robin basis known as Top Six. The clubs classified between the seventh (7th) and eighteenth (18th) place in the League at the end of the First Phase shall play against each other on a Single Round Robin basis known as Play-Out Round.
- b) At the end of the Second Phase:
  - (i) the Club placed in the first (1st) position in the official Classification Table of the Top Six shall be declared the Champion of the Challenge League;
  - (ii) the Clubs classified first (1st) and second (2nd) in the official Classification Table of the Top Six shall be promoted to the Premier Division;
  - (iii) the third (3rd)-placed Club in the official Classification Table of the Top Six shall participate in a Premier League Play-Out according to Article 7(I)(d);
  - (iv) the clubs classified between the thirteenth (13th) and eighteenth (18th) place in the Play-Out Round shall be relegated to the National Amateur League.

**“(III). The National Amateur League**

The National Amateur League shall take the form of two (2) Groups, known as Group A and Group B, each playing a league on a double round-robin basis. Such Groups shall be as evenly composed as possible. The allocation of clubs in the respective groups shall be made prior to the start of the competition by means of a seeding system based on the classification of the previous season. At the end of the league the following shall apply:

- (a) The clubs placed in first position in the official classification table of each Group shall be promoted to the Challenge League.
- (b) The Clubs placed in the first position in the official Classification Table of each Group, at the end of the league, shall play a deciding match and the winner shall be declared the Champion of the National Amateur

*Amended  
31-05-2022*

League.

- (c) The clubs placed in the second position in the official Classification Table of each Group, at the end of the league, shall play a deciding match and the winner shall be promoted to the Challenge League. The loser shall play in the final of the National Amateur League Play-Offs.
- (d) The National Amateur League Play-Offs shall be played as follows:
  - i. The National Amateur League Play-Offs First Round shall be played between the clubs placed fourth and fifth in each Group in a way that the fourth-placed club in Group A plays against the fifth-placed in Group B (Match 1) and the fourth-placed club in Group B plays against the fifth-placed in Group A (Match 2).
  - ii. The National Amateur League Play-Offs Second Round shall be played between the winners of the First Round and the clubs placed third in each Group. The third-placed club in Group A shall play against the winner of Match 2 mentioned in the preceding sub-article. The third-placed club in Group B shall play against the winner of Match 1 mentioned in the preceding sub-article.
  - iii. The National Amateur League Play-Offs Third Round shall be played between the winners of the Play-Offs Second Round.
  - iv. The National Amateur League Play-Offs Final shall be played between the winners of the Play-Offs Third Round and the losing team of the promotion play-off determined in Article 7(III)(c) above. The winner of the National Amateur League Play-Offs Final shall participate in the following season's Challenge League.
- (e) The clubs placed in the last position in the official classification table of each Group shall drop out of the National League. Such Clubs may apply for re-instatement."

5. From season 2023/24 onwards, Article 3 of the Rules Governing the National League of the Malta Football Association shall read as follows:

**"3. Composition of the National League**

The National League shall consist of three (3) Divisions, as follows:

- (i) fourteen (14) Clubs in the highest division, to be known as the Premier League;
- (ii) sixteen (16) Clubs in the second highest division, to be known as the Challenge League;
- (iii) a number of Clubs, which shall be decided upon by the Executive Board of the Association between the first day in May and the first day in July in each year in the third highest division, to be known as the National Amateur League, provided that all Clubs which had taken part in the third highest division in the previous season and did not drop out of the League due to expulsion, suspension, relegation or not getting a licence, shall have the right to take part in the League during the coming season."

6. From season 2023/24, Article 7 of the Rules Governing the National League of the Malta Football Association shall read as follows:

**"7 (I). The Premier League**

The Premier League shall take the form of a league which shall be played by all the fourteen (14) clubs in the League on a double round-robin basis. At the end of the league the following shall apply;

- (a) the Club placed in first position in the official Classification Table, at the end of the league, shall be declared the Champion of the Premier League;
- (b) the Club placed in second position in the official Classification Table, at the end of the league shall be declared the Runner-Up of the Premier League;
- (c) the Clubs placed in thirteenth and fourteenth position in the official Classification Table, at the end of the league, shall be relegated to the following season's Challenge League;
- (d) the twelfth placed Club in the official Classification Table shall participate in a Premier League Play-Out with the third placed Club in the official Classification Table of the Challenge League. The winner of the Premier League Play-Out shall participate in the following season's Premier League and the loser shall participate in the following season's Challenge League. The duration of the match shall be ninety (90) minutes. If the match is still drawn after normal time, extra time shall be played. If the match is still drawn at the end of extra time, penalties shall be taken in accordance with the Laws of the Game to determine the winner of the match.

**“(II). The Challenge League**

The Challenge League shall take the form of a league which shall be played by all the sixteen (16) clubs in the Division on a double round-robin basis. At the end of the league the following shall apply:

- (a) the Club placed in first position in the official Classification Table, at the end of the league, shall be declared the Champion of the Challenge League, and shall be promoted to the Premier League;
- (b) the Club placed in second position in the official Classification Table, at the end of the league shall be declared the Runner-Up of the Challenge League, and shall be promoted to the Premier League;
- (c) the Club placed in third position in the official Classification Table, at the end of the league shall participate in the Premier League Play-Out according to Article 7(I)(d) above;
- (d) the Clubs placed in thirteenth, fourteenth, fifteenth, and sixteenth position in the official Classification Table, at the end of the league, shall be relegated to the following season’s National Amateur League;

**“(III). The National Amateur League**

The National Amateur League shall take the form of three (3) Groups each playing a league on a triple round-robin basis. Such Groups shall be as evenly composed as possible. The allocation of clubs in the respective groups shall be made prior to the start of the competition by means of a seeding system based on the classification of the previous season. At the end of the league the following shall apply:

- (a) The clubs placed in first position in the official classification table of each Group shall be promoted to the Challenge League and shall also qualify to the Group Winners’ round-robin where the three (3) Clubs placed in first position in the official classification table of each Group of the National Amateur League shall play against each other on a single round-robin basis. The winner of the Group Winners’ round-robin will be declared the Champion of the National Amateur League. The club placed second in the Group Winners’ round-robin shall be declared the Runner-Up of the National Amateur League.

Provided that where, in the final classification of the Group Winners’ round-robin, two or three clubs have the same points, Article 35 of Section V of the Regulations (Competitions Rules) shall apply.

- (b) The clubs placed in the second, third, and fourth place of each Group shall participate in the National Amateur League Play Offs.
  - i. The National Amateur League Play-Offs First Round shall be played between two clubs from amongst the fourth-placed clubs in each Group, drawn by lot;
  - ii. The National Amateur League Play-Offs Second Round shall be played between the winners of the Preliminary Round and the clubs placed in the second, third, and fourth place of each Group. The draw shall be made in such a way that second-placed clubs are seeded;
  - iii. The National Amateur League Play-Offs Semi-Finals shall be played between the winners of the Play-Offs Second Round. The Semi-Final draw shall be an open one;
  - iv. The National Amateur League Play-Offs Final shall be played between the winners of the Play-Offs Semi-Finals. The winner of the National Amateur League Play-Offs shall participate in the following season’s Challenge League.
- (c) The clubs placed in the last position in the official classification table of each Group shall drop out of the National League. Such Clubs may apply for re-instatement.”

- 7. This motion supersedes any previous ones amending the articles concerned. It shall come into force on the 21st July 2021.

**MOTION ON THE COMPOSITION OF THE YOUTH LEAGUE IN SEASON 2020/21**

*(approved during the AGM of the 29th July 2020)*

For season 2020/21 only, the composition of the National Youth League shall be as follows:

- a) National Youth League A - all the ten (10) teams that formed part of Section A and the first two (2) teams classified in Section B at the end of season 2019/20;
- b) National Youth League B - the remaining eight (8) teams that formed part of Section B and the first four (4) teams classified in Section C at the end of season 2019/20;
- c) National Youth League C - the remaining six (6) teams that formed part of Section C and the first six (6) teams classified in Section D at the end of season 2019/20;
- d) National Youth League D - the remaining four (4) teams that formed part of Section D and all the seven (7) teams that formed part of Section E at the end of season 2019/20, subject to Article 5(i)(d) of the Rules governing Youth Football Competitions.

**MOTION ON THE PROMOTION AND RELEGATION FROM THE PREMIER LEAGUE, CHALLENGE LEAGUE AND NATIONAL AMATEUR LEAGUE IN SEASON 2020/21**

*(approved during the AGM on the 29<sup>th</sup> July 2020)*

Provided that:

- a) according to Article 49(v)(c) of the Statute, in the case of existing competitions, rules which may in any way effect promotion and/or relegation issues shall not come into force at least until the commencement of the second football season following the coming or current football season, as the case may be, during which they are approved.
- b) according to the same Article, this rule need not be followed if the General Meeting of the Association, with at least two-thirds (2/3) majority, decides otherwise.
- c) the Council in its meeting of the 25th May 2020 decided on the principle of promotions and relegations following the premature termination of competitions for season 2019/20.
- d) in its meeting of the 7th July 2020, the Council discussed further the format of the newly created National Amateur League and the transition required in season 2020/21.

Therefore, it was resolved that:

1. For season 2020/21 Article 3 of the Rules Governing the National League of the Malta Football Association shall read as follows:

**“3. Composition of the National League**

The National League shall consist of three (3) Divisions, as follows:

- (i) sixteen (16) Clubs in the highest division, to be known as the Premier League;
- (ii) fifteen (15) Clubs in the second highest division, to be known as the Challenge League;
- (iii) a number of Clubs, which shall be decided upon by the Council of the Association between the first day in May and the first day in July in each year in the third highest division, to be known as the National Amateur League, provided that all Clubs which had taken part in the third highest division in the previous season and did not drop out of the League due to expulsion, suspension, relegation or not getting a licence, shall have the right to take part in the League during the coming season.”

2. For season 2020/21 Article 7 of the Rules Governing the National League of the Malta Football Association shall read as follows:

**“(I). The Premier League**

The Premier League shall take the form of a league which shall be played by all the sixteen (16) clubs in the League on a double round-robin basis. At the end of the league the following shall apply:

- (a) the Club placed in first position in the official Classification Table, at the end of the league, shall be declared the Champion of the Premier League;
- (b) the Club placed in second position in the official Classification Table, at the end of the league shall be declared the Runner-Up of the Premier League;
- (c) the Clubs placed in thirteenth, fourteenth, fifteenth and sixteenth position in the official Classification Table, at the end of the league, shall be relegated to the following season’s Challenge League;
- (d) the twelfth placed Club in the official Classification Table shall participate in a Premier League Play-

Out with the third-placed Club in the official Classification Table of the Challenge League. The winner of the Premier League Play-Out shall participate in the following season's Premier League and the loser shall participate in the following season's Challenge League. The duration of the match shall be ninety (90) minutes. If the match is still drawn after normal time, extra time shall be played. If the match is still drawn at the end of extra time, penalties shall be taken in accordance with the Laws of the Game to determine the winner of the match.

## **II. The Challenge League**

The Challenge League shall take the form of a league which shall be played by all the fifteen (15) clubs in the Division on a double round-robin basis. At the end of the league the following shall apply:

- (a) the Club placed in first position in the official Classification Table, at the end of the league, shall be declared the Champion of the Challenge League, and shall be promoted to the Premier League;
- (b) the Club placed in second position in the official Classification Table, at the end of the league shall be declared the Runner-Up of the Challenge League, and shall be promoted to the Premier League;
- (c) the Club placed in third position in the official Classification Table, at the end of the league shall participate in the Premier League Play-Out according to Article 7A(I)(d) above;
- (d) the Clubs placed in the eleventh, twelfth, thirteenth, fourteenth and fifteenth position in the official Classification Table, at the end of the league, shall be relegated to the following season's National Amateur League.

## **III. The National Amateur League**

The National Amateur League shall take the form of three (3) Groups each playing a league on a triple round-robin basis. Such Groups shall be as evenly composed as possible. The allocation of clubs in the respective groups shall be made prior to the start of the competition by means of a seeding system based on the classification of the previous season. At the end of the league the following shall apply:

- (a) The clubs placed in first position in the official classification table of each Group shall be promoted to the Challenge League and shall also qualify to the Group Winners' round-robin where the three (3) Clubs placed in first position in the official classification table of each Group of the National Amateur League shall play against each other on a single round-robin basis. The winner of the Group Winners' round-robin will be declared the Champion of the National Amateur League. The club placed second in the Group Winners' round-robin shall be declared the Runner-Up of the National Amateur League.

Provided that where, in the final classification of the Group Winners' round-robin, two or three clubs have the same points, Article 35 of Section V of the Regulations (Competitions Rules) shall apply.

- (b) The clubs placed in the second, third, and fourth place of each Group shall participate in the National Amateur League Play Offs.
  - i. The National Amateur League Play-Offs First Round shall be played between two clubs from amongst the fourth-placed clubs in each Group, drawn by lot;
  - ii. The National Amateur League Play-Offs Second Round shall be played between the winners of the Preliminary Round and the clubs placed in the second, third, and fourth place of each Group. The draw shall be made in such a way that second-placed clubs are seeded;
  - iii. The National Amateur League Play-Offs Semi-Finals shall be played between the winners of the Play-Offs Second Round. The Semi-Final draw shall be an open one;
  - iv. The National Amateur League Play-Offs Final shall be played between the winners of the Play-Offs Semi-Finals. The winner of the National Amateur League Play-Offs shall participate in the following season's Challenge League.
- (c) The clubs placed in the last position in the official classification table of each Group shall drop out of the National League. Such Clubs may apply for re-instatement.

This motion came into force on the 29th July 2020.





**RULES GOVERNING THE NATIONAL AMATEUR CUP COMPETITION  
OF THE MALTA FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION**  
*Introduced on the 07.07.2020*

**1. Name**

The Competition shall be known as the National Amateur Cup Competition. However, in case that this Competition is sponsored by an individual or by a company, the name of such individual or company may, at the discretion of the Executive Board, be added to the official name.

**2. Owner of the Cup**

The Cup is the property of the Malta Football Association.

**3. Management and Control of the Competition**

The entire management and control of the Competition shall vest in the Executive Board of the Association. The matches shall be played in accordance with the Rules, Regulations and Bye-Laws of the Association and the Laws of the Game.

**4. Annual Competition**

The Association shall organise annually a knock-out competition. All the clubs taking part in the National Amateur League and in the Gozo Second Division League shall have the right to compete in the National Amateur Cup Competition for that season unless a club is suspended or formally prohibited from taking part due to a decision of the competent authorities of the Association.

**5. Duration of the Matches**

The duration of the matches shall be ninety (90) minutes. If the match is still drawn after normal time, extra time shall be played. If the match is still drawn at the end of extra time, penalties shall be taken in accordance with the Laws of the Game to determine the winner of the match.

**6. Mode of Play**

The clubs taking part in the National Amateur Cup competition shall be drawn against each other in a way that the final stages of the competition shall consist of a Quarter-Final Stage with the participation of eight (8) clubs, a Semi-Final Stage with the participation of four (4) clubs and the Final Stage with the participation of two (2) clubs. Prior to the Quarter-Final Stage other rounds may be held depending on the number of clubs which would have entered the competition.

The four semi-finalists of the competition shall be granted access to the Trophy Competition of the Malta Football Association of the current season.

**7. Winner of the Competition and presentation of trophies and medals**

- (i) The winner of the Final match shall be declared to be the winner of the National Amateur Cup Competition.
- (ii) The winner shall, at the end of the match, be presented by the Association with the National Amateur Cup, which belongs to the Association, and with a miniature trophy for retention.
- (iii) Both finalist Clubs shall, at the end of the match, be presented with a commemorative plaque denoting that these Clubs had contested the National Amateur Cup Competition Final match in that particular season.
- (iv)
  - (a) The holder of the Cup shall be responsible to return it to the Association in good condition within one month of its presentation. Failure by the Club to return any trophy which belongs to the Association within this time limit shall be punished by the Control and Disciplinary Board of the Association with a fine of one thousand and five hundred euro (€1500), provided that seven (7) days written notice would have been given by the Association to the Club concerned to return the trophy.
  - (b) Should the Cup be damaged or destroyed by accident whilst under the care and custody of the Club, such Club shall refund to the Association the cost of repairs or the full value of the Cup.
  - (c) Should the Cup be damaged or destroyed through any other cause, besides the obligations of the Club under sub-clause (b) above, the Club shall be punished by the Control and Disciplinary Board of the Association with a fine not exceeding one thousand five hundred euro (€1500).
- (v)
  - (a) All the players, the members of the technical staff and the Club official of the winning team listed on the Official Match Report Form shall be awarded one commemorative gold-plated medal each at the

end of the match in a medals award ceremony to be held immediately prior to the presentation of the National Amateur Cup and the miniature trophy. The Club will also be given six other medals to be distributed to other players or members of the technical staff who form part of the squad but were not included in the official line-up.

- (b) All the players, the members of the technical staff and the Club official of the losing team listed on the Official Match Report Form shall be awarded one commemorative silver-plated medal each at the end of the match in a medals award ceremony to be held immediately prior to the presentation of the National Amateur Cup and the miniature trophy. The Club will also be given six other medals to be distributed to other players or members of the technical staff who form part of the squad but were not included in the official line-up.
  - (c) However, in the case of players and/or members of the technical staff who were sent off by the referee before, during or after the match shall only receive their medal if the Executive Board so decides.
- (vi) The referee, the assistant referees and the fourth official of the match shall, at the end of the match, be presented with a commemorative medal each.

## **RULES GOVERNING THE NATIONAL AMATEUR SUPER CUP COMPETITION OF THE MALTA FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION**

### **1. Name**

The Competition shall be known as the National Amateur Super Cup Competition. However, in case that this Competition is sponsored by an individual or by a company, the name of such individual or company may, at the discretion of the Executive Board, be added to the official name.

### **2. Owner of the Cup**

The Cup is the property of the Malta Football Association.

### **3. Management and Control of the Competition**

The entire management and control of the Competition shall vest in the Executive Board of the Association. The match shall be played in accordance with the Rules, Regulations and Bye-Laws of the Association and the Laws of the Game.

### **4. Annual Competition**

The Competition shall consist of a single match and shall be played annually as soon as possible after the end of the National Amateur League and National Amateur Cup Competition or during the coming football season and shall be played for by the National Amateur League Champions and the National Amateur Cup Winners. If the National Amateur League Champions and the National Amateur Cup Winners are the same Club, then the National Amateur League Runners-Up shall be the other participating Club.

If the Runner-Up place in the National Amateur League is occupied by more than one club, then the other participating club shall be determined according to the rules in Article 35 of Section V of the Regulations (Competition Rules).

### **5. Duration of the Match**

The duration of the match shall be ninety (90) minutes. If the match is still drawn after normal time, extra time shall be played. If the match is still drawn at the end of extra time, penalties shall be taken in accordance with the Laws of the Game to determine the winner of the match.

### **6. Winner of the Competition and presentation of trophies and medals**

- (i) The winner of the match shall be declared to be the winner of the National Amateur Super Cup Competition.
- (ii) The winner shall, at the end of the match, be presented by the Association with the National Amateur Super Cup, which belongs to the Association, and with a miniature trophy for retention.
- (iii) Both Clubs shall, at the end of the match, be presented with a commemorative plaque denoting that these Clubs had contested the National Amateur Super-Cup Competition match in that particular season.
- (iv)
  - (a) The holder of the Cup shall be responsible to return it to the Association in good condition within one month of its presentation. Failure by the Club to return any trophy which belongs to the Association within this time limit shall be punished by the Control and Disciplinary Board of the Association with a fine of one thousand and five hundred euro (€1500), provided that seven (7) days written notice would have been given by the Association to the Club concerned to return the Trophy.
  - (b) Should the Cup be damaged or destroyed by accident whilst under the care and custody of the Club, such Club shall refund to the Association the cost of repairs or the full value of the Cup.
  - (c) Should the Cup be damaged or destroyed through any other cause, besides the obligations of the Club under sub-clause (b) above, the Club shall be punished by the Control and Disciplinary Board of the Association with a fine not exceeding one thousand five hundred euro (€1500).
- (v)
  - (a) All the players, the members of the technical staff and the Club official of the winning team listed on the Official Match Report Form shall be awarded one commemorative gold-plated medal each at the end of the match in a medals award ceremony to be held immediately prior to the presentation of the National Amateur Super Cup and the miniature trophy. The Club will also be given six other medals to be distributed to other players or members of the technical staff who form part of the squad but were not included in the official line-up.
  - (b) All the players, the members of the technical staff and the Club official of the losing team listed on the Official Match Report Form shall be awarded one commemorative silver-plated medal each at the end of

the match in a medals award ceremony to be held immediately prior to the presentation of the National Amateur Super Cup and the miniature trophy. The Club will also be given six other medals to be distributed to other players or members of the technical staff who form part of the squad but were not included in the official line-up.

- (c) However, in the case of players and/or members of the technical staff who were sent off by the referee before, during or after the match shall only receive their medal if the Executive Board so decides.
- (vi) The referee, the assistant referees and the fourth official of the match shall, at the end of the match, be presented with a commemorative medal each.

## MALTA FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

### RULES GOVERNING THE RESERVES LEAGUE OF THE MALTA FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

#### 1. Organisation of the Reserves League

- (i) Concurrently with the National League, the Association may organise a Reserves League to be known as the Reserves League of the Malta Football Association.
- (ii) Before the first day in June of each year, the Executive Board shall decide whether to hold a Reserves League during the coming season.
- (iii) In the case that this League is sponsored by an individual or company, the name of such individual or company may, at the discretion of the Executive Board, be added to the official name of the League concerned.

#### 2. Management and Control of this Competition

The entire management and control of this Competition shall vest in the Executive Board of the Association. Matches shall be played in accordance with these rules and in accordance with the other relevant Rules, Regulations and Bye-Laws of the Association and the Laws of the Game.

#### 3. Right of Competing in the Reserves League

- (i) Each Club participating in the National League shall have the right to compete also in the Reserves League, provided that such Club has not been barred from doing so by a decision of the Association.
- (ii) The Executive Board shall have the power to include in the Reserves League the National Olympic Team and/or the National Under-21 Team.
- (iii) The Reserves League shall only be organized if the number of participating Clubs is not less than eight (8).

#### 4. Formation of Sections

- (i) If, due to the number of Clubs taking part in the Reserves League, the formation of different Sections is necessary, the Executive Board shall decide on the number of Sections and on the number of Clubs in each Section. In this case, the number of Clubs in any one Section shall be as near as possible to the number of Clubs in the other Section/s.
- (ii) The grouping of Clubs in the different Sections shall be made by means of draw.
- (iii) Decisions needed to be made on account of sub-clauses (i) and (ii) above shall be taken by the Executive Board between the first day in July and the last day of July prior to the commencement of the competition.

#### 5. Particular Rules of the Reserves League

- (i) The Reserves League if possible shall be played on a double round basis. This shall be decided by the Executive Board between the first day in July and the last day of July prior to the commencement of the competition.
- (ii) (a) Players who have not attained the age of seventeen (17) years before the first day of January of the year in which the competition starts, shall not be eligible to take part in the Reserves League.  
  
(b) Furthermore, only those players who have not taken part in the National League match and/or in the match of the Youth League immediately preceding the Reserves League match shall be eligible to play in a Reserves League match. This rule shall not apply in respect of those players who take part in the Reserves League as players of the National Olympic Team and/or the National Under-21 Team.  
  
(c) Players who are registered by a Club after the National League and/or the Youth League match concerned has been played are eligible to take part in such a Reserves League match provided that all the other rules regarding eligibility to play in the Reserves League are observed.
- (iii) The duration of matches shall be ninety (90) minutes.
- (iv) In the case of deciding matches, Clubs may only field those players whom they have fielded during the season in the Reserves League matches.

## 6. Presentation of Trophies

- (i) The Winner of each Section of this League shall be presented by the Association with a trophy which is the property of the Association. Furthermore, the winner of each Section shall also be presented with a miniature trophy for retention.
- (ii) (a) All trophies belonging to the Association shall be returned to the Association in good condition within one month of their presentation. Failure by the Club to return any trophy which belongs to the Association within this time limit shall be punished by the Control and Disciplinary Board of the Association with a fine of five hundred euro (€500), provided that seven days written notice would have been given by the Association to the Club concerned to return the Trophy concerned
- (b) Should any trophy be destroyed or damaged through accident whilst under the care and custody of a Club, such Club shall refund to the Association the cost of repairs or the full value of the trophy concerned.
- (c) Should any trophy be destroyed or damaged through any other cause, besides the obligations under sub-clause (b) above, the Club shall be dealt with by the Control and Disciplinary Board of the Association in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Association.

## MALTA FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

### RULES GOVERNING THE UNDER 21 LEAGUE OF THE MALTA FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

#### 1. Organisation of an Under 21 League

- (i) The Association may organise an Under 21 League to be known as the Under 21 League of the Malta Football Association.
- (ii) Before the first Monday in June of each year, the Executive Board shall decide whether to hold an Under 21 League during the coming season for the different Divisions and Sections in the National League.
- (iii) In the case that this League is sponsored by an individual or company, the name of such individual or company may, at the discretion of the Executive Board, be added to the official name of the League concerned.

#### 2. Management and Control of this Competition

The entire management and control of this Competition shall vest in the Executive Board. Matches shall be played in accordance with these rules and in accordance with the other relevant Rules, Regulations and Bye-Laws of the Association and the Laws of the Game.

#### 3. Right of Competing in the Under 21 League

- (i) Each Club in the National League shall have the right to compete also in the Under 21.
- (ii) The Executive Board shall have the power to include in any Division and/or Section of the Under 21 League the National Olympic Team and/or the National Under 21 Team and/or the National Under 18 Team.

#### 4. Formation of Sections

- (i) Clubs taking part in the Under 21 League shall be grouped together in accordance with the Division in which they are competing.
- (ii) However, if the number of participating Clubs in any one Division or in any one Section of the Second and/or Third Divisions is so low that the formation of a corresponding Section in that Division is not possible, then the Executive Board may in its discretion group teams from different Divisions and/or Sections to form any one Section. In any case, the number of Clubs in any one Section shall be as near as possible to the number of Clubs in the other Section, if any.
- (iii) Decisions needed on account of para. (ii) above shall be taken by the Executive Board between the first day in July and the last day of July prior to the commencement of the coming season.

#### 5. Particular Rules of the Under 21 League

- (i) The Under 21 League if possible shall be played on a double round basis. This shall be decided by the Executive Board between the first day in July and the last day of July prior to the commencement of the coming season.
- (ii) (a) Subject to the provisions of para. (b) hereunder, players are only eligible to play in this Competition if, before the first day of January of the year in which the competition starts, they have attained the age of sixteen (16) years but have not reached the age of twenty-one years.  
  
(b) During a match, Clubs may make use of any four (4) players over the age of twenty-one (21) years, provided that such over-age players have not taken part in the National League match immediately preceding the Under 21 match, even if this National League match was not played between the same two (2) Clubs.
- (iii) The duration of matches shall be ninety (90) minutes.
- (iv) The Club which, at the end of the League, has obtained the highest number of points in the Division/Section in which it is competing, shall be declared the winner of the Under 21 League in its Division/Section.
- (v) In the case of deciding matches Clubs may not use more than a maximum of four (4) over-age players from amongst those over-age players who have played for the same Club in the Under 21 League during the current season.
- (vi) After all the teams have completed their commitments in their respective Division/Section, a Knock-Out Competition between the Division/Section winners and runners up shall be played.
- (vii) In the case of the matches of the Knock-Out Competition:

- (a) During a match Clubs may use up to a maximum of four (4) over-age players from amongst those who have played for the same Club in the Under 21 League during the current season.
- (b) If at the end of the normal playing time the match is still drawn, extra time shall be played. If at the end of extra time the match is still drawn, penalties shall be taken in accordance with the Laws of the Game and the Competition Rules of the Association to determine the winner of the match.

(viii) The winner of this Knock-Out Competition shall be declared the winner of the Under 21 League of the Malta Football Association.

## **6. Presentation of Trophies**

- (i) The Winner of each Division and/or Section of this League shall be presented by the Association with a trophy which is the property of the Association. Furthermore, the winner of each Division and/or Section shall also be presented with a miniature trophy for retention.
- (ii)
  - (a) All trophies belonging to the Association shall be returned to the Association in good condition within one month of their presentation. Failure by the Club to return any trophy which belongs to the Association within this time limit shall be punished by the Control and Disciplinary Board of the Association with a fine of five hundred euro (€500), provided that seven days written notice would have been given by the Association to the Club concerned to return the Trophy concerned.
  - (b) Should any trophy be destroyed or damaged through accident whilst under the care and custody of a Club, such Club shall refund to the Association the cost of repairs or the full value of the trophy concerned.
  - (c) Should any trophy be destroyed or damaged through any other cause, besides the obligations under sub-clause (b) above, the Club shall be dealt with by the Control and Disciplinary Board of the Association in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Association.



MALTA FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION  
RULES GOVERNING YOUTH FOOTBALL COMPETITIONS

**1. Organisation of Youth Football Competitions**

- (i) The Association shall organise, on an annual basis, Youth Competitions both on a league basis as well as on a knock-out basis.
- (ii) In the case that the league and/or the knock-out competitions are sponsored by an individual or a company, the name of such individual or company may, at the discretion of the Executive Board, be added to the official name of such competitions.

**2. Control and Management of the Youth Football Competitions**

- (i) The entire control and management of the Youth Football Competitions shall vest in the Executive Board of the Association. However, the Executive Board may delegate the control and management of such competitions, or any of them, to the Youth Committee of the Association or to the Youth Football Association.
- (ii) Matches in such competitions shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game and in accordance with the Rules, Regulations and Bye-Laws of the Malta Football Association unless otherwise specified in these regulations.

**3. Eligibility of Players in Youth Football Competitions Organised by the Association**

*Amended:  
08-06-20*

- (i) Any player taking part in a competitive match with a Club of the Youth Competitions must be at least fifteen (15) years old but under nineteen (19) years of age before the first day of January prior to the commencement of the season during which such competition is organised. Furthermore, in a Youth Football Competition, Clubs may also include on the Official Match Report Form not more than six (6) players who are at least nineteen (19) years old but under twenty (20) years of age before the first day of January prior to the commencement of the season during which such competition is organized
- (ii) Players who are under nineteen (19) years of age before the first day of January prior to the commencement of the season during which such competition is organised and who are professional players shall also be eligible to take part in such competitive match.
- (iii) Without prejudice to Article 15 of Section V (Competition Rules), players, irrespective of their age, who play more than forty-five (45) minutes (excluding added injury time) in their Club's previous senior team competitive match shall not be eligible to play in their next Youth competition match when this is scheduled to take place in the next two (2) days following the senior team match. Failure to observe this provision renders such player a non-bona-fide player for the purposes of the Competition Rules (Section V)<sup>1</sup>.

*Introduced:  
08-06-20  
Amended:  
18-05-21  
17-05-22*

Provided that this sub-article shall only apply with respect to matches of Youth Sections A and B.

**4. Organisation of an Annual Youth Football League on a National Basis**

- (i) The Association shall organise annually a youth football league on a national basis. This league shall be known as the Youth League of the Malta Football Association.
- (ii) All the Member Clubs of the Association shall have the right to compete in this league unless a Club is suspended or formally prohibited from taking part in such a league due to a decision of the competent authorities of the Association.
- (iii) The Executive Board may also admit other teams to take part in the league.

**5. Composition of the Youth League**

*Amended:  
08-06-20*

- (i) The composition of the Youth League shall be in four different Sections in the following order of priority and in the following numbers:
  - (a) Section A - twelve (12) teams;
  - (b) Section B - twelve (12) teams;
  - (c) Section C - twelve (12) teams;
  - (d) Section D - that number of teams which shall be decided upon by the Executive Board of the Association during the months of June and July in each year, provided that those teams which have been relegated from Section C in the past season and those teams which had taken part in Section D in the past season and have not been promoted, provided that a

<sup>1</sup> Entry into force in season 2021/22.

team had not been expelled or had not withdrawn from the league in the past season, shall have the right to take part.

- (ii) The Executive Board may admit other teams in Section D provided that such teams are Associate Members of the Association. Such teams shall enjoy full rights with regards to the league, including that of being promoted.
- (iii) If in the opinion of the Executive Board of the Association there are too many teams participating in Section D, it may decide to sub-divide this Section. Such a decision, as well as the mode of effecting the division, shall be taken by the Executive Board prior to the commencement of the Youth League.
- (iv) Notwithstanding the provisions of sub-clause (i) above, the right of a team to compete in the Youth League in any one season shall be dependent on whether the Club of the team concerned is a Member of the Association. If such a Club is no longer a Member of the Association, it shall be in the discretion of the Executive Board of the Association as to whether it will allow such a team to compete and in which Section. If the Executive Board admits such a team to compete in any Section, such team must in the first place be admitted as an Associate Member of the Association. However, such a team shall enjoy full rights with regards to the league, including that of being promoted.
- (v)
  - (a) The Executive Board of the Association may include in any Section the current National Junior (Under-17) Team of the Association, even if the established number of teams for that particular Section is exceeded. Such team will not enjoy the right of promotion.
  - (b) The Executive Board shall establish the conditions of eligibility of the players of such team.

#### **6. Mode of Play in the Youth League**

- (i) All the teams in Sections A, B, and C shall play twice against each other in two rounds.
- (ii) The mode of play in Section D shall be decided by the Executive Board of the Association prior to the commencement of the Youth League.

*Amended:  
08-06-20*

#### **7. Winners, Promotion and Relegation in the Youth League**

- (i) In the case of Sections A, B, C and D, at the end of the league:
  - (a) the first placed team in each Section shall be declared the winner of its Section, whilst the second placed team in each Section shall be declared the runner-up of its Section; and
  - (b) The winner and the runner-up of Sections B, C, and D shall be promoted to the next higher Section; and
  - (c) The two (2) last placed teams of Sections A, B, and C shall be relegated to the next lower Section.
- (ii) In the case of Section D, the mode of winning, promotion and relegation shall be decided by the Executive Board of the Association prior to the commencement of the Youth League.

#### **8. No Changes in the Composition of the Youth League**

There shall be no changes in the composition of the Sections of the Youth League except those which may come about by promotion or relegation, or as stated below because of vacancies, or by a change in the rules affecting competitions in accordance with the Rules of the Association.

#### **9. Vacancies in the Youth League**

- (i) In the case that a team during a season, either fails to compete in, or withdraws from, the Youth League, such team shall be deemed to have dropped out of the Youth league.
- (ii) Prior to the start of the Youth League, the Executive Board of the Association shall, if necessary, fill in any vacancy which arises in any Section either due to the reason mentioned in sub-clause (i) above, or due to removal, suspension or relegation of a Club by a decision of the competent authorities of the Association. This shall be done firstly by retaining in a particular Section that team which was relegated to a lower Section but which was the better classified of the two relegated teams during the past season; in the second place by retaining in a particular Section the other relegated team; and in the third place by promoting to a particular Section that team/teams which was/were better classified in the next inferior Section but which had failed to win promotion. In this last instance, should two or more teams be equal on points and less than the number of such teams are to be promoted, the provisions of rule 35 of the Competition Rules of the Association shall apply.

#### **10. Organisation of Annual Knock-Out Competitions for Youth Teams**

- (i) The Association shall organise annually a knock-out competition for youth teams, to be known as, the Youth Knock-Out Competition of the Malta Football Association.
- (ii) All the teams taking part in the Youth League shall have the right to compete in the Youth Knock-Out Competition for that season unless a team is suspended or formally prohibited from taking part due to a decision of the competent authorities of the Association. Furthermore, the executive Board may include in this Competition the current National Junior (Under-17) Team of the Association.

#### **11. Mode of Play in Knock-Out Competitions for Youth Teams**

- (i) The teams taking part in the knock-out competition for youth teams shall be drawn against each other in a way that the final stages of the competition shall consist of a Quarter-Finals Stage with the participation of eight (8) teams; a Semi-Finals Stage with the participation of four (4) teams; and the Final Stage with the participation of two (2) teams. Thus prior to the Quarter-Finals Stage, other rounds may be held depending on the number of teams which have entered the competition. However, the First Round of the Competition shall be played between those teams competing in Sections C and D during the current season.
- (ii) In all the matches of the youth knock-out competition, if at the end of the normal playing time the match is still drawn, extra-time of thirty (30) minutes (fifteen (15) minutes each way) shall be played. If at the end of extra-time the match is still drawn, penalties shall be taken in accordance with the Competition Rules of the Association to determine the winner.
- (iii) The winner of the final game shall be declared the winner of a youth knock-out competition.

#### **12. Presentation of Trophies**

- (i) The winning team of each and every Section of the National Youth League as well as the winner of each of the Youth Knock-Out Competition shall be presented by the Association with the winner's trophy. These trophies are the property of the Association. Furthermore, the winner of each and every Section of the National Youth League and the winner of the Youth Knock-Out Competition shall also be presented with a miniature trophy for retention whilst both Clubs contesting the final match of the Youth Knock-Out Competition shall be presented with a commemorative plaque denoting that these Clubs had contested the final match of one of the Youth Knock-Out Competition in that particular season.
- (ii)
  - (a) The trophies belonging to the Association must be returned to the Association in good condition within one month of their presentation. Failure by the Club to return any trophy which belongs to the Association within this time limit shall be punished by the Control and Disciplinary Board of the Association with a fine of five hundred euro (€500), provided that seven days written notice would have been given by the Association to the Club concerned to return the Trophy concerned.
  - (b) Should any trophy be destroyed or damaged through accident whilst under the custody and care of a club, such club shall refund to the Association the full value of the trophy or the cost of repairs, as the case may be.
  - (c) Should any trophy be destroyed or damaged through any other cause whilst under the custody and care of a club, besides the obligation of the club under sub-clause (b) above, the responsible club shall be dealt with by the Control and Disciplinary Board of the Association in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Association.

MALTA FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

**RULES GOVERNING THE WOMEN'S FOOTBALL COMPETITIONS OF THE MALTA FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION**

**1. Organisation of the Women's Football Competitions**

- (i) The Association may organise, on an annual basis, Football Competitions for women both in the form of a League, and which shall be known as the Women's Football League of the Malta Football Association, and/or in the form of a Knock-Out Competition, which shall be known as the Women's KO Football Competition of the Malta Football Association.
- (ii) In the case that the League and/or the KO Competition are sponsored by an individual or a company, the name of such individual or company may, at the discretion of the Executive Board, be added to the official name.

**2. Control and Management of the Women's Football Competitions**

- (i) The entire control and management of the Women's Football Competitions shall vest in the Executive Board of the Association. However, the Executive Board may delegate all or part of its powers of such control and management to the Women's Football Committee of the Association.
- (ii) Competitive matches shall be played in accordance with these Regulations and with the other Rules, Regulations and Bye-Laws of the Association and the Laws of the Game provided that these are not in conflict with the provisions of these Regulations.

**3. Participation in the Women's Football Competitions**

- (i) Subject to the conditions mentioned in these Rules and in the other Rules, Regulations and Bye-Laws of the Association, Member Clubs of the Association shall have the right to compete in the Women's Football Competitions organised by the Association.
- (ii) The Executive Board may also admit other teams to take part in these competitions. However, the Clubs of such Teams must have the status of an Associate Member of the Association.

**4. Eligibility of Players**

- (i) Players taking part in these competitions shall be at least sixteen (16) years old by the end of the calendar year when the match is played.
- (ii)
  - (a) In the case of Clubs participating in the Women's Football Competitions, and in relation to all their competitive matches throughout the season, only those players, whether professional or amateur, included in the Club's Squad List shall be eligible to play in such competitive matches.
  - (b) A Club's Squad List for the purposes of the Women's Football Competitions may also include a maximum of three (3) players who have attained thirteen (13) years of age before the 1<sup>st</sup> of January prior to the commencement of the season. If such number of players exceeds three (3), then all players on the Club's Squad List shall be deemed ineligible to play.

Provided that the status of players who have attained thirteen (13) years of age before the 1<sup>st</sup> of January prior to the commencement of the season, a consent form signed by their legal guardians must be submitted to MFA prior to their submission on the squad list. In default, such players shall be deemed to be 'non bona-fide'.

- (c) No player can be submitted in more than two (2) squad lists of Women's competitions organised by the Association during the same season.
- (d) A Club Squad list shall be submitted in the form prescribed by the General Secretary by not later than the first competitive match of the season. In relation to professional players, the list can be amended until five (5) working days following the end of the summer transfer window. It can be amended again during the month of January and by not later than five (5) working days following the end of the January transfer window.
- (e) Clubs may add players beyond five (5) working days following the end of the summer transfer window or the January transfer window, as the case may be, only in the following cases:

*Amended:  
08-06-20  
23-06-21*

- i. where the registration of a player requires an international transfer certificate which despite having been requested in time, is received by the Association later than such deadline, as envisaged in Art 2.1.6 of the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players (Section IV);
  - ii. where a club registers an out-of-contract professional player;
  - iii. to only add amateur players who are joining from another club or who are registering for the first time.
- (iii) (a) Female players must be registered with the Association in accordance with the relevant rule in the MFA Statute and with a Member Club in accordance with the relevant rule in the MFA Statute or with a Club having an Associate Membership with the Association. In the case of female players, subject to what is stated in these rules, the relevant rules of the Association regarding amateur players shall apply.
- However, in the case of a female player who is loaned or transferred to another Club during the obligatory period of service and in the case when compensation is due at the end of the obligatory period of service of such player with her Club, compensation shall not exceed the amount decided upon by the Executive Board in respect of female players during the months of May or June in the previous year.
- (b) In the case of players to be registered with a Club having an Associate Membership with the Association, their registration with such Club shall be made on a registration form to be approved by the Executive Board.
  - (c) A female player registered with a Member Club or a Club having Associate Membership shall continue to render her services to the Club for three consecutive seasons including the season during which she registers.
  - (d) The registration form of a female player as a player of the Malta Football Association must be also accompanied by her official identity card issued by the Government. A copy of the identity card shall be attached to the registration form. In the case of a female player who is not a Maltese National and who is not in possession of an identity card issued by the Government, the registration form must be accompanied by a valid passport. A copy of the relevant part of the passport shall be attached to the registration form.

## 5. Vacancies in the Women's League

- (i) If for any reason whatsoever a team during a season, either fails to compete in, or withdraws its participation from the Women's League, such team shall be deemed to have dropped out of the Women's League.
- (ii) Prior to the start of the Women's League, the Executive Board of the Association shall, if necessary, fill any vacancy which arises in any Division either due to the reason mentioned in sub-clause (i) above, or due to removal, suspension or relegation of a Club by a decision of the competent authorities of the Association. This shall be done in the first instance by declaring that a Club or more Clubs, as the case may be, which had been sportingly relegated will not be relegated and in the second instance by promoting the Club or Clubs next in merit to the Club or Clubs promoted in accordance with the last season's league table of the immediately inferior Division. Should two or more teams be equal on points and less than the number of such teams are to be promoted the provisions of rule 35 of the Competition Rules of the Association shall apply.

## 6. The Women's National League

*Amended:  
30-05-17;  
03-08-18;  
08-06-20*

The Women's League shall take the form of a league which shall be played by all clubs on a three round-robin basis. At the end of the league the highest placed Club in the league shall be declared the Champion of the Women's National League.

## 7. Women's Knock-Out Competition

All the teams playing in the Women's League shall be entitled to participate in the Women's Knock-Out Competition.

- (i) (a) In the organisation of the Women's Knock-Out Competition teams playing in the Women's League shall be seeded according to the final classification of the previous season.
- (b) The number of teams to be seeded is decided upon either by the Executive Board or by the Women's Football Committee of the Association at the discretion of the Executive Board.
- (c) The seeded teams shall not play in the Preliminary Round if such a Preliminary Round is held.

## **8. The Women's Super Cup**

- (i) The Competition shall consist of a single match and shall be played annually during the coming football season and shall be played for by the First Division League Champions and the Women's Knock Out Winners of the previous season. If the First Division League Champions and the Women's Knock Out Winners are the same Club, then the First Division League Runners-Up shall be the other participating Club.
- (ii) The duration of the match shall be ninety (90) minutes. If the match is still drawn after normal time, extra time shall be played. If the match is still drawn at the end of extra time, penalties shall be taken in accordance with the Laws of the Game to determine the winner of the match.
- (iii) The winner of the match shall be declared to be the Winner of the Super Cup Competition. The winner shall, at the end of the match, be presented by the Association with the Super Cup, which belongs to the Association, and with a miniature trophy for retention.
- (iv) Both Clubs shall, at the end of the match, be presented with a commemorative plaque denoting that these Clubs had contested the Super Cup Competition match in that particular season.
- (v) The referee, the assistant referees and the fourth official of the match shall, at the end of the match, be presented with a commemorative medal.

## **9. Deleted 30-05-2017**

## **10. Number of Players in a Match**

- (i) The Number of players in a match shall not be less than seven (7) and not more than eleven (11).
- (ii) A maximum number of twenty (20) players and a minimum number of seven (7) players shall be listed in the Referee's Official Report Form.
- (iii) During the whole match, use of substitutes may be made in accordance with Rule 11 (v) of these Regulations, provided that the substitutes are included in the Referees' Official Report Form.

## **11. Laws of the Game**

Matches related to Women's Football Competitions shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game as promulgated by the International Football Association Board. In this respect, prior to the commencement of the Women's Football Competitions, the Executive Board shall decide on the mode of application regarding any or all of the following Rules which will be applicable for the new football season:

- (i) Size of the field of play.
- (ii) Size, weight and material of the ball.
- (iii) Width between the goalposts and height of the crossbar from the ground.
- (iv) Duration of the periods of play.
- (v) Substitutions.

## **12. Presentation of Trophies and medals**

- (i) The winning team of each and every Division of the Women's National League, the winner of the Women's Knock-Out Competition and the winner of the Women's Super Cup shall be presented by the Association with the winner's trophy. These are the property of the Association. Furthermore, the winner of each and every Division of the Women's National League, the winner of the Women's Knock-Out Competition and the winner of the Women's Super Cup shall also be presented with a miniature trophy for retention whilst both Clubs contesting the final match of the Women's Knock-Out Competition and the Women's Super Cup shall be presented with a commemorative plaque denoting that these Clubs had contested the final match of the Women's Knock-Out Competition in that particular season.
- (ii)
  - (a) The trophies belonging to the Association must be returned to the Association in good condition within one month of their presentation. Failure by the Club to return any trophy which belongs to the Association within this time limit shall be punished by the Control and Disciplinary Board of the Association with a fine of five hundred euro (€500), provided that seven days written notice would have been given by the Association to the Club concerned to return the Trophy concerned.
  - (b) Should any trophy be destroyed or damaged through accident whilst under the custody and care of a club, such club shall refund to the Association the full value of the trophy or the cost of repairs, as the case may be.
  - (c) Should any trophy be destroyed or damaged through any other cause whilst under the custody and care of a club, besides the obligation of the club under sub-clause (b) above, the responsible club shall be dealt with by the Control and Disciplinary Board of the Association in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Association.
- (iii)
  - (a) The players and the members of technical staff of the champion Club of each Division of the Women's League, the winner of the Women's Knock-Out Competition and the winner of the Women's Super Cup shall be presented with a commemorative medal. Thus each such Club shall receive thirty (30) medals in case of the National Women's League and eighteen (18) in case of Knock-Out Competitions.
  - (b) In principle, the players and the members of the technical staff shall be presented with their medals in a medals award ceremony to be held immediately prior to the presentation of the trophy and the miniature trophy to the champion Club. In this case the medals will be presented to the players and the members of the technical staff included on the Official Match Report Form of the match at the end of which the trophy and the miniature trophy are to be presented. However, a player and/or a member of the technical staff who was sent off by the referee before, during or after the match shall not be presented with a medal during the medals award ceremony. The remainder of the medals shall be handed over to the Club to give to other deserving players and/or members of the technical staff. In case that the medals are not presented at the end of a match, all the medals will be given to the Club to give to deserving players and members of the technical staff.

## **13. Withdrawal from the Women's Football League during the competition**

When a Club decides to withdraw its participation in the Women's Football League during the competition, all female players registered with such Club shall be entitled to a free release provided that a request in writing has been submitted to the Players, Coaches, Member Clubs and Player's Agents and Complaints Board by not later than

the 31<sup>st</sup> January of the current season.

#### **14. The Rules of the Association**

The provisions of all the other rules and regulations of the Association shall apply to the Women's Football League and its divisions and sections unless incompatible with the provisions of these regulations.



## MALTA FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

### RULES GOVERNING THE WOMEN'S UNDER 21 FOOTBALL COMPETITIONS OF THE MALTA FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

(Introduced on 20-06-2017; Amended on 23-06-2021)

Amended:  
23-06-21

#### 1. Organisation of the Women's Under 21 Competitions

(i) The Association may organise, on an annual basis, Football Competitions for women both in the form of a League, and which shall be known as the Women's Under 21 League of the Malta Football Association, and/or in the form of a Knock-Out Competition, which shall be known as the Women's Under 21 Knock-Out Competition of the Malta Football Association.

(ii) In the case that the League and/or the KO Competition are sponsored by an individual or a company, the name of such individual or company may, at the discretion of the Executive Board, be added to the official name.

Amended:  
23-06-21

#### 2. Control and Management of the Women's Under 21 Competitions

(i) The entire control and management of the Women's Under 21 Competitions shall vest in the Executive Board of the Association. However, the Executive Board may delegate all or part of its powers of such control and management to the Women's Football Committee of the Association.

(ii) Competitive matches shall be played in accordance with these Regulations and with the other Rules, Regulations and Bye-Laws of the Association and the Laws of the Game provided that these are not in conflict with the provisions of these Regulations.

Amended:  
23-06-21

#### 3. Participation in the Women's Under 21 Competitions

(i) Subject to the conditions mentioned in these Rules and in the other Rules, Regulations and Bye-Laws of the Association, Member Clubs of the Association shall have the right to compete in the Women's Under 21 Football Competitions organised by the Association.

(ii) The Executive Board may also admit other teams to take part in these competitions. However, the Clubs of such Teams must have the status of an Associate Member of the Association.

Amended:  
28-09-17;  
03-08-18;  
08-06-20  
23-06-21

#### 4. Eligibility of Players

(i) Players taking part in these competitions during season 2021-2022 shall be those who are at least fourteen (14) years old by the end of the calendar year when the match is played and under nineteen (19) years of age before the first day of January prior to the commencement of the season during which such competition is organised.

(ii) Players taking part in these competitions during season 2022-2023 shall be those who are at least fifteen (15) years old by the end of the calendar year when the match is played and under twenty (20) years of age before the first day of January prior to the commencement of the season during which such competition is organised.

(iii) As from season 2023-2024 onwards, players taking part in these competitions shall be those who are at least sixteen (16) years old by the end of the calendar year when the match is played and under twenty (20) years of age before the first day of January prior to the commencement of the season during which such competition is organised.

(iv) In the case of Clubs participating in these competitions, and in relation to all their competitive matches throughout the season, only those players, whether professional or amateur, included in the Club's Squad List shall be eligible to play in such competitive matches.

(v) A Club's Squad List for the purposes of these competitions may also include a maximum of three (3) players who have attained thirteen (13) years of age before the 1st of January prior to the commencement of the season. If such number of players exceeds three (3), then all players on the Club's Squad List shall be deemed ineligible to play.

Provided that the status of players who have attained thirteen (13) years of age before the 1st of January prior to the commencement of the season, a consent form signed by their legal guardians must be submitted to MFA prior to their submission on the squad list. In default, such players shall be deemed to be 'non bona-fide'.

(vi) No player can be submitted in more than two (2) squad lists of Women's competitions organised by the

Association during the same season.

- (vii) A Club Squad list shall be submitted in the form prescribed by the General Secretary by not later than the first competitive match of the season. In relation to professional players, the list can be amended until five (5) working days following the end of the summer transfer window. It can be amended again during the month of January and by not later than five (5) working days following the end of the January transfer window.
- (viii) Clubs may add players beyond five (5) working days following the end of the summer transfer window or the January transfer window, as the case may be, only in the following cases:
  - (a) where the registration of a player require an international transfer certificate which, despite having been requested in time, is received by the Association later than such deadline, as envisaged in Art 2.1.6 of the regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players (Section IV);
  - (b) where a club registers an out-of-contract professional player.
  - (c) to only add amateur players who are joining from another club or who are registering for the first time.
- (ix) Female players must be registered with the Association in accordance with the relevant rule in the MFA Statute and with a Member Club in accordance with the relevant rule in the MFA Statute or with a Club having an Associate Membership with the Association.

*Amended:  
08-06-20  
23-06-21*

#### **5. The Women's Under 21 League**

The Women's Under 21 League shall take the form of a league which shall be played by all clubs on a three round-robin basis. At the end of the league the highest placed Club in the league shall be declared the Champion of the Women's Under 21 League

*Amended:  
23-06-21*

#### **6. Women's Under 21 Knock-Out Competition**

- (a) All the teams playing in the Women's Under 21 League shall be entitled to participate in the Women's Under 21 Knock-Out Competition.
- (b) The number of teams to be seeded is decided upon either by the Executive Board or by the Women's Football Committee of the Association at the discretion of the Executive Board.
- (c) The seeded teams shall not play in the Preliminary Round if such a Preliminary Round is held.

*Amended:  
23-06-21*

#### **7. Number of Players in a Match**

- (i) The number of players in a Women's Under 21 match shall not be less than seven (7) and not more than eleven (11).
- (ii) A maximum number of twenty (20) players and a minimum number of seven (7) players shall be listed in the Referee's Official Report Form.
- (iii) During the whole match, use of substitutes may be made in accordance with Rule 8 (v) of these Regulations, provided that the substitutes are included in the Referees' Official Report Form.

*Amended:  
23-06-21*

#### **8. Mode of Play**

Matches related to Women's Under 21 Football Competitions shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game as promulgated by the International Football Association Board. In this respect, prior to the commencement of the Women's Football Competitions, the Committee responsible for Women's football, following consultation with the Technical Centre, shall decide on the mode of application regarding any or all of the following Rules which will be applicable for the new football season:

- (i) Size of the field of play.
- (ii) Size, weight and material of the ball.
- (iii) Width between the goalposts and height of the crossbar from the ground.
- (iv) Duration of the periods of play.
- (v) Substitutions.

## **9. Accreditations**

Technical Staff which will be entitled to sit on the reserve bench shall be in possession of valid a pitch card which will be issued by MFA.

*Amended:  
23-06-21*

## **10. Presentation of Trophies and medals**

(i) The winning team of the Women's Under 21 National League and the winner of the Women's Under 21 Knock-Out Competition shall be presented by the Association with the winner's trophy.

(a) The players and the members of technical staff of the Club who wins the Women's Under 21 League, and of the the Club who wins the Women's Under 21 Knock-Out Competition shall be presented with a commemorative medal.

(b) In principle, the players and the members of the technical staff shall be presented with their medals in a medals award ceremony to be held immediately prior to the presentation of the trophy to the winning Club. In this case the medals will be presented to the players and the members of the technical staff included on the Official Match Report Form of the match at the end of which the trophy and the miniature trophy are to be presented. The remainder of the medals shall be handed over to the Club to give to other deserving players and/or members of the technical staff. In case that the medals are not presented at the end of a match, all the medals will be given to the Club to give to deserving players and members of the technical staff.

*Amended:  
23-06-21*

## **11. The Rules of the Association**

The provisions of all the other rules and regulations of the Association shall apply to the Women's Under 21 League and its sections unless incompatible with the provisions of these regulations.

MALTA FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

**RULES GOVERNING THE WOMEN'S UNDER 17 FOOTBALL COMPETITIONS OF THE MALTA FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION**

(Introduced on 30-05-2017)

**1. Organisation of the Women's Under 17 Competitions**

(i) The Association may organise, on an annual basis, Football Competitions for women both in the form of a League, and which shall be known as the Women's Under 17 League of the Malta Football Association, and/or in the form of a Knock-Out Competition, which shall be known as the Women's Under 17 Knock-Out Competition of the Malta Football Association.

(ii) In the case that the League and/or the KO Competition are sponsored by an individual or a company, the name of such individual or company may, at the discretion of the Executive Board, be added to the official name.

**2. Control and Management of the Women's Under 17 Competitions**

(i) The entire control and management of the Women's Under 17 Competitions shall vest in the Executive Board of the Association. However, the Executive Board may delegate all or part of its powers of such control and management to the Women's Football Committee of the Association.

(ii) Competitive matches shall be played in accordance with these Regulations and with the other Rules, Regulations and Bye-Laws of the Association and the Laws of the Game provided that these are not in conflict with the provisions of these Regulations.

**3. Participation in the Women's Under 17 Competitions**

(i) Subject to the conditions mentioned in these Rules and in the other Rules, Regulations and Bye-Laws of the Association, Member Clubs of the Association shall have the right to compete in the Women's Under 17 Football Competitions organised by the Association.

(ii) The Executive Board may also admit other teams to take part in these competitions. However, the Clubs of such Teams must have the status of an Associate Member of the Association.

**4. Eligibility of Players**

*Amended:  
28-09-17  
23-06-21*

(i) Players taking part in these competitions during season 2021-2022 shall not be eligible to play prior to their twelfth (12th) birthday and shall be eligible to play if they are under fifteen (15) years of age before the first day of January prior to the commencement of the season during which such competition is organised.

(ii) As from season 2022-2023 onwards, players taking part in these competitions shall be those who are at least thirteen (13) years old by the end of the calendar year when the match is played and under sixteen (16) years of age before the first day of January prior to the commencement of the season during which such competition is organised.

(iii) In the case of Clubs participating in these competitions, and in relation to all their competitive matches throughout the season, only those players, whether professional or amateur, included in the Club's Squad List shall be eligible to play such competitive matches.

(iv) No player can be submitted in more than two (2) squad lists of Women's competitions organised by the Association during the same season.

(v) A Club Squad list shall be submitted in the form prescribed by the General Secretary by not later than the first competitive match of the season. In relation to professional players, the list can be amended until five (5) working days following the end of the summer transfer window. It can be amended again during the month of January and by not later than five (5) working days following the end of the January transfer window.

(vi) Clubs may add players to the squad list beyond five (5) working days following the end of the summer transfer window or the January transfer window, as the case may be, only in the following cases:

- (a) where the registration of a player requires an international transfer certificate which, despite having been requested in time, is received by the Association later than such deadline, as envisaged in Art 2.1.6 of the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players (Section IV);
- (b) where a club registers an out-of-contract professional player.

- (c) to only add amateur players who are joining from another club or who are registering for the first time.
- (vii) Female players must be registered with the Association in accordance with the relevant rule in the MFA Statute and with a Member Club in accordance with the relevant rule in the MFA Statute or with a Club having an Associate Membership with the Association.

Amended:  
23-06-21

## **5. The Women's Under 17 League**

- (i) The Women's Under 17 League shall take the form of a league which shall be played by all clubs on a double round-robin basis. At the end of the league, the highest placed Club in the league shall be declared the Champion of the Women's Under 17 League.

## **6. Women's Under 17 Knock-Out Competition**

All the teams playing in the Women's Under 17 League shall be entitled to participate in the Women's Under 17 Knock-Out Competition.

- (b) The number of teams to be seeded is decided upon either by the Executive Board or by the Women's Football Committee of the Association at the discretion of the Executive Board.

- (c) The seeded teams shall not play in the Preliminary Round if such a Preliminary Round is held.

## **7. Number of Players in a Match**

- (i) The number of players in a Women's Under 17 match shall not be less than six (6) and not more than nine (9).
- (ii) A maximum number of sixteen (16) players and a minimum number of seven (6) players shall be listed in the Referee's Official Report Form.
- (iii) During the whole match, use of substitutes may be made in accordance with Rule 8 (v) of these Regulations, provided that the substitutes are included in the Referees' Official Report Form.

## **8. Mode of Play**

Matches related to Women's Under 17 Football Competitions shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game as promulgated by the International Football Association Board. In this respect, prior to the commencement of the Women's Football Competitions, the Committee responsible for Women's football, following consultation with the Technical Centre, shall decide on the mode of application regarding any or all of the following Rules which will be applicable for the new football season:

- (i) Size of the field of play.
- (ii) Size, weight and material of the ball.
- (iii) Width between the goalposts and height of the crossbar from the ground.
- (iv) Duration of the periods of play.
- (v) Flying substitutions.

## **9. Accreditations**

Technical Staff which will be entitled to sit on the reserve bench shall be in possession of valid a pitch card which will be issued by MFA.

## **10. Presentation of Trophies and medals**

- (i) The winning team of the Women's Under 17 National League and the winner of the Women's Under 17 Knock-Out Competition shall be presented by the Association with the winner's trophy.

- (a) The players and the members of technical staff of the Club who wins the Women's Under 17 League, and of the the Club who wins the Women's Under 17 Knock-Out Competition shall be presented with a commemorative medal.

- (b) In principle, the players and the members of the technical staff shall be presented with their medals in a medals award ceremony to be held immediately prior to the presentation of the trophy to the winning Club. In this case the medals will be presented to the players and the members of the technical staff included on the Official Match Report Form of the match at the end of which the trophy and the miniature trophy are to be presented. The remainder of the medals shall be handed over to the Club to give to other deserving players and/or members of the

technical staff. In case that the medals are not presented at the end of a match, all the medals will be given to the Club to give to deserving players and members of the technical staff.

#### **11. The Rules of the Association**

The provisions of all the other rules and regulations of the Association shall apply to the Women's Under 17 League and its sections unless incompatible with the provisions of these regulations.

# **RULES GOVERNING THE WOMEN'S UNDER 15 FOOTBALL COMPETITIONS OF THE MALTA FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION**

(Introduced on 27-06-2019)

## **1. Organisation of the Women's Under 15 Competitions**

(i) The Association may organise, on an annual basis, Football Competitions for women both in the form of a League, and which shall be known as the Women's Under 15 League of the Malta Football Association, and/or in the form of a Knock-Out Competition, which shall be known as the Women's Under 15 Knock-Out Competition of the Malta Football Association.

(ii) In the case that the League and/or the KO Competition are sponsored by an individual or a company, the name of such individual or company may, at the discretion of the Executive Board, be added to the official name.

## **2. Control and Management of the Women's Under 15 Competitions**

(i) The entire control and management of the Women's Under 15 Competitions shall vest in the Executive Board of the Association. However, the Executive Board may delegate all or part of its powers of such control and management to the Committee of the Association responsible for Women's Football.

(ii) Competitive matches shall be played in accordance with these Regulations and with the other Rules, Regulations and Bye-Laws of the Association and the Laws of the Game provided that these are not in conflict with the provisions of these Regulations.

## **3. Participation in the Women's Under 15 Competitions**

(i) Subject to the conditions mentioned in these Rules and in the other Rules, Regulations and Bye-Laws of the Association, Member Clubs of the Association shall have the right to compete in the Women's Under 15 Football Competitions organised by the Association.

(ii) The Executive Board may also admit other teams to take part in these competitions. However, the Clubs of such Teams must have the status of an Associate Member of the Association.

## **4. Eligibility of Players**

(i) Players taking part in these competitions shall be those who are at least eleven (11) years old and under fourteen (14) years of age before the first day of January prior to the commencement of the season during which such competition is organised.

(ii) Female players must be registered with the Association in accordance with the relevant rule in the MFA Statute and with a Member Club in accordance with the relevant rule in the MFA Statute or with a Club having an Associate Membership with the Association.

## **5. The Women's Under 15 League**

(i) The Women's Under 15 League shall take the form of a league which shall be played by all clubs on a double round-robin basis. At the end of the league the highest placed Club in the league shall be declared the Champion of the Women's Under 15 League.

## **6. Women's Under 15 Knock-Out Competition**

All the teams playing in the Women's Under 15 League shall be entitled to participate in the Women's Under 15 Knock-Out Competition.

(b) The number of teams to be seeded is decided upon either by the Executive Board or by the Women's Football Committee of the Association at the discretion of the Executive Board.

(c) The seeded teams shall not play in the Preliminary Round if such a Preliminary Round is held.

## **7. Number of Players in a Match**

- (i) The number of players in a Women's Under 15 match shall not be less than six (6) and not more than eight (8).
- (ii) A maximum number of fifteen (15) players and a minimum number of seven (6) players shall be listed in the Referee's Official Report Form.
- (iii) During the whole match, the use of five (5) substitutes is permitted provided that the substitutes are included in the Referees' Official Report Form.

## **8. Mode of Play**

Matches related to Women's Under 15 Football Competitions shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game as promulgated by the International Football Association Board. In this respect, prior to the commencement of the Women's Football Competitions, the Committee responsible for Women's football, following consultation with the Technical Centre, shall decide on the mode of application regarding any or all of the following Rules which will be applicable for the new football season:

- (i) Size of the field of play.
- (ii) Size, weight and material of the ball.
- (iii) Width between the goalposts and height of the crossbar from the ground.
- (iv) Duration of the periods of play.
- (v) Substitutions.

## **9. Accreditations**

Technical Staff which will be entitled to sit on the reserve bench shall be in possession of valid a pitch card which will be issued by MFA.

## **10. Presentation of Trophies and medals**

- (i) The winning team of the Women's Under 15 National League and the winner of the Women's Under 15 Knock-Out Competition shall be presented by the Association with the winner's trophy.
  - (a) The players and the members of technical staff of the Club who wins the Women's Under 15 League, and of the Club who wins the Women's Under 15 Knock-Out Competition shall be presented with a commemorative medal.
  - (b) In principle, the players and the members of the technical staff shall be presented with their medals in a medals award ceremony to be held immediately prior to the presentation of the trophy to the winning Club. In this case the medals will be presented to the players and the members of the technical staff included on the Official Match Report Form of the match at the end of which the trophy and the miniature trophy are to be presented. The remainder of the medals shall be handed over to the Club to give to other deserving players and/or members of the technical staff. In case that the medals are not presented at the end of a match, all the medals will be given to the Club to give to deserving players and members of the technical staff.

## **11. The Rules of the Association**

The provisions of all the other rules and regulations of the Association shall apply to the Women's Under 15 League and its sections unless incompatible with the provisions of these regulations.



## MALTA FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

### RULES GOVERNING THE TROPHY COMPETITION OF THE MALTA FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

#### 1. Name of the Competition

The Competition shall be known as the Malta Football Association Trophy. However, in case that this Competition is sponsored by an individual or by a company, the name of such individual or company may, at the discretion of the Executive Board, be added to the official name.

#### 2. Owner of the Trophy

The Trophy is the property of the Malta Football Association.

#### 3. Management and Control of the Competition

The entire management and control of the Competition shall vest in the Executive Board of the Association. Matches shall be played in accordance with the Rules, Regulations and Bye-Laws of the Association and the Laws of the Game.

#### 4. Annual Competition

- (i) This Competition shall be held annually. All Premier and Challenge Clubs shall have the right to participate in this Competition, provided that they shall have signified their intention to do so by not later than the first day in July previous to the football season in which the Competition is held and provided that they have not been excluded by a decision of the Association.
- (ii) Moreover, the winners of the Quarter-Final matches of the National Amateur Cup of the current season and the Gozo Football Association First Division League Clubs shall have the right to participate in this Competition, provided that such clubs before the end of July of the year in which the competition starts, shall have informed the Malta Football Association with their intention to participate in the Competition. Saving what is stated hereunder, all the rules and regulations applicable to this Competition shall apply both to the Gozo Football Association and/or to the Club concerned.

#### 5. Mode of the Competition

*Amended:  
20-06-17  
29-07-20*

- (i) This Competition shall be played on a knock-out basis.
- (ii) A Preliminary Round shall be played if the total number of participating Clubs is more than thirty-two (32). The number of preliminary round matches is determined so as to reduce to thirty-two (32) the number of Clubs which will take part in the First round of the Competition. Where such a Preliminary Round is required, this shall be played between all participating clubs except Premier League Clubs. The Clubs qualified from the Preliminary Round shall play in the First Round.
- (iii) (a) The First Round of the Competition shall be played between the Clubs which qualify from the Preliminary Round, the remaining Challenge League teams from the Preliminary Round draw (bye), and all Premier League Clubs, to qualify sixteen (16) Clubs for the Second Round.  
  
(b) In the First Round, the holder of the Competition and the first six (6) Clubs of the Premier League of the previous season shall not play against each other.  
  
(c) If the holder of the Competition is one of the first six Clubs of the Premier League of the previous season, then only the first six Clubs of the Premier League of the previous season shall not play against each other.
- (iv) The Second Round of the Competition shall be played between the winners of the First Round to qualify eight (8) teams for the Quarter Finals.
- (v) The eight (8) Clubs which qualify from the Second Round shall play against each other in the Quarter Finals.
- (vi) The four (4) winners of the Quarter-Finals shall play in the Semi Finals.
- (vii) The two (2) winners of the Semi Finals shall play in the Final of the Competition.

#### 6. Duration of Matches

- (i) The duration of matches shall be ninety (90) minutes.
- (ii) In all the matches of the competition, if at the end of normal playing time the match is still drawn, extra

time of fifteen (15) minutes each way shall be played. If at the end of extra time the match is still drawn, penalties shall be taken in accordance with the Competition Rules to determine the winner of the match.

#### **7. Winner of the Competition and presentation of trophies and medals**

- (i) The winner of the final match shall be declared to be the winner of the Malta Football Association Trophy Competition.
- (ii)
  - (a) The winner shall, at the end of the match, be presented by the Association with the Malta FA Trophy, which belongs to the Association, together with a miniature trophy for retention.
  - (b) Both finalists shall, at the end of the match, be presented with a commemorative plaque denoting that both Clubs have reached the final match of the Competition in that particular season.
- (iii)
  - (a) The holder of the Trophy belonging to the Association shall be responsible to return it to the Association in good condition within one month of its presentation. Failure by the Club to return any trophy which belongs to the Association within this time limit shall be punished by the Control and Disciplinary Board of the Association with a fine of one thousand and five hundred euro (€1500), provided that seven days written notice would have been given by the Association to the Club concerned to return the Trophy concerned.
  - (b) Should the Trophy be damaged or destroyed by accident whilst under the care and custody of the Club, such Club shall refund to the Association the cost of repairs or the full value of the Trophy.
  - (c) Should the Trophy be damaged or destroyed through any other cause, besides the obligations of the Club under sub-clause (b) above, the Club shall be liable to be punished by the Control and Disciplinary Board of the Association with a fine not exceeding one thousand and five hundred euro (€1500).
- (iv)
  - (a) The eighteen (18) players and the members of the technical staff of the winning team and inscribed on the Official Match Report of the final match shall be awarded one commemorative gold-plated medal each.
  - (b) The eighteen (18) players and the members of the technical staff of the losing finalist team and inscribed on the Official Match Report Form shall be awarded one commemorative silver-plated medal each.
  - (c) However, in the case of players and/or members of the technical staff who were sent off by the Referee before, during or after the match shall only receive their medal if the Executive Board so decides.
- (v) The referee, the assistant referees and the fourth official of the match shall, at the end of the match, also be presented with a commemorative medal.

MALTA FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

**RULES GOVERNING THE SUPER CUP COMPETITION OF THE MALTA FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION**

**1. Name**

The Competition shall be known as the Super Cup Competition. However, in case that this Competition is sponsored by an individual or by a company, the name of such individual or company may, at the discretion of the Executive Board, be added to the official name.

**2. Owner of the Cup**

The Cup is the property of the Malta Football Association.

**3. Management and Control of the Competition**

The entire management and control of the Competition shall vest in the Executive Board of the Association. The match shall be played in accordance with the Rules, Regulations and Bye-Laws of the Association and the Laws of the Game.

**4. Annual Competition**

The Competition shall consist of a single match and shall be played annually as soon as possible after the end of the Premier Division League and FA Trophy Competition or during the coming football season and shall be played for by the Premier Division League Champions and the FA Trophy Winners. If the Premier Division League Champions and the FA Trophy Winners are the same Club, then the Premier Division League Runners-Up shall be the other participating Club.

*Introduced:  
20-06-17*

If the Runner-Up place in the Premier Division League is occupied by more than one club, then the other participating club shall be determined according to the rules in Article 35(IV) of the Competition Rules (Section V of the MFA Handbook).

**5. Duration of the Match**

The duration of the match shall be ninety (90) minutes. If the match is still drawn after normal time, extra time shall be played. If the match is still drawn at the end of extra time, penalties shall be taken in accordance with the Laws of the Game to determine the winner of the match.

**6. Winner of the Competition and presentation of trophies and medals**

- (i) The winner of the match shall be declared to be the winner of the Super Cup Competition.
- (ii) The winner shall, at the end of the match, be presented by the Association with the Super Cup, which belongs to the Association, and with a miniature trophy for retention.
- (iii) Both Clubs shall, at the end of the match, be presented with a commemorative plaque denoting that these Clubs had contested the Super-Cup Competition match in that particular season.
- (iv)
  - (a) The holder of the Cup shall be responsible to return it to the Association in good condition within one month of its presentation. Failure by the Club to return any trophy which belongs to the Association within this time limit shall be punished by the Control and Disciplinary Board of the Association with a fine of one thousand and five hundred euro (€1500), provided that seven (7) days written notice would have been given by the Association to the Club concerned to return the Trophy concerned.
  - (b) Should the Cup be damaged or destroyed by accident whilst under the care and custody of the Club, such Club shall refund to the Association the cost of repairs or the full value of the Cup.
  - (c) Should the Cup be damaged or destroyed through any other cause, besides the obligations of the Club under sub-clause (b) above, the Club shall be punished by the Control and Disciplinary Board of the Association with a fine not exceeding one thousand five hundred euro (€1500).
- (v)
  - (a) The eighteen (18) players and the members of the technical staff of the winning team and inscribed on the Official Match Report Form shall be awarded one commemorative gold-plated medal each at the end of the match in a medals award ceremony to be held immediately prior to the presentation of the Super Cup and the miniature trophy.
  - (b) The eighteen (18) players and the members of the technical staff of the losing finalist team and included on the Official Match Report Form shall be awarded one commemorative silver-plated medal each at the end of the match in a medals award ceremony to be held immediately prior to the presentation of the Super Cup and the miniature trophy.

- (c) However, in the case of players and/or members of the technical staff who were sent off by the referee before, during or after the match shall only receive their medal if the Executive Board so decides.
- (vi) The referee, the assistant referees and the fourth official of the match shall, at the end of the match, be presented with a commemorative medal.

## MALTA FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

### RULES GOVERNING THE QUADRANGULAR TOURNAMENT FOR TOP CLUBS OF THE MALTA FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

#### 1. Name of the Tournament

The Tournament shall be known as the Quadrangular Tournament for Top Clubs. However, in case that this Tournament is sponsored, the name of the sponsor may, at the discretion of the Executive Board, be inserted in the official name or be known by the sponsor's name.

#### 2. Management and Control of the Tournament

The entire management and control of the Tournament shall vest in the Executive Board of the Association.

#### 3. Annual Tournament

The Tournament shall take place once every season, on such dates as the Executive Board of the Association shall determine.

#### 4. Participants in the Tournament

- (i) The participants in the Tournament shall be the first four (4) placed Clubs in the final classification in the Premier Division of the National League for the current season, if the Tournament is held at the end of the season or of the previous season, if the Tournament is held in the coming season.
- (ii) In case that any of the qualified Clubs is unwilling to participate in the Tournament, then the next placed Club in the final classification shall be offered to participate.
- (iii) The Tournament shall not be held if less than four (4) Clubs are willing to participate.

#### 5. Mode of the Tournament

- (i) The Tournament shall be played on a knock-out system.
- (ii) The participating teams shall be drawn to play against each other in two (2) matches. The winner of each match shall then meet each other in final match.

#### 6. Duration of Matches

The duration of matches shall be ninety (90) minutes - two periods of forty-five (45) minutes each. If after ninety minutes a match shall end in a draw, penalty-kicks shall be taken in accordance with the Laws of the Game to determine the winner of the match.

#### 7. Laws of the Game and the Competition Rules of the Association

Unless stated to the contrary in the Rules, the Laws of the Game and the Competition Rules of the Association shall apply to the Tournament.

#### 8. Winner of the Tournament and presentation of trophies

- (i) The winner of the Tournament shall be declared to be the winner of the Quadrangular Tournament for the Top Clubs of the Malta Football Association.
- (ii) The winner of the Tournament shall be presented with a trophy and with a miniature trophy for retention.
- (iii)
  - (a) The Trophy is the property of the Association and the holder shall be responsible to return it to the Association in good condition within one month of its presentation. Failure by the Club to return any trophy which belongs to the Association within this time limit shall be punished by the Control and Disciplinary Board of the Association with a fine of one thousand and five hundred euro (€1500), provided that seven days written notice would have been given by the Association to the Club concerned to return the Trophy concerned.
  - (b) Should the Cup be damaged or destroyed by accident whilst under the care and custody of the Club, such Club shall refund to the Association the costs of repairs or the full value of the Cup, as the case may be. In any other case of damage, the Club shall be punished by the Control and Disciplinary Board of the Association with a fine not exceeding five hundred euro (€500).

(c) Should the Cup be damaged or destroyed through any other cause, besides the obligations of the Club under sub-clause (b) above, the Club shall be punished by the Control and Disciplinary Board of the Association with a fine not exceeding one thousand five hundred euro (€1500).

**9. Matters not provided for in these Rules**

Any matter not provided for in these Rules shall be decided by the Executive Board.

## MALTA FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

### RULES GOVERNING THE EURO CUP COMPETITION OF THE MALTA FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

#### 1. Name

The Competition shall be known as the “Euro Cup Competition”, hereinafter the Competition. However, in case that the Competition is sponsored by an individual or by a company, the name of such individual or company may, at the discretion of the Executive Board, be added to the official name.

#### 2. Owner of the Euro Cup

The Euro Cup is the property of the Malta Football Association.

#### 3. Management and Control of the Competition

The entire management and control of the Competition shall vest in the Executive Board of the Association. Unless otherwise stated in these rules, matches shall be played in accordance with the rules, regulations and bye-laws of the Association and the Laws of the Game.

#### 4. Annual Competition

- (i) (a) The competition shall be held annually, provided that the Executive Board does not rule otherwise.
  - (b) The Clubs entitled and obliged to take part in this Competition shall be those four (4) Member Clubs representing the Association in the current season’s two major UEFA Competitions for Clubs, namely the UEFA Champions League and the UEFA Europa League.
  - (c) In the case that a Club does not take part in the Competition, the Association may withdraw its participation from the UEFA Competition for Clubs in which it is due to take part. Any decision in this regard shall be taken by the Executive Board of the Association whose decision shall be final and binding.
- (ii) The Competition shall be held before the commencement of the two major UEFA Competitions for Clubs for that season.

#### 5. Mode of the Competition

- (i) The Competition shall be played on a one-round league basis, each team playing the other team once.
- (ii) The Competition shall be played on those days and at those times as may be decided by the Executive Board.
- (iii) The teams shall play against each other in accordance with a draw which shall take place prior to the start of the Competition but not necessarily in the same order of the draw.

#### 6. Eligibility of Players

- (i) (a) The players who may take part in the Competition shall be those ‘bona fide’ players duly registered for the Club for which they play. However, each Club may make use of a maximum of five (5) Guest Players even if these are registered for another local or foreign Club.
  - (b) Any of the Guest Players may only play for the same Club during the Competition. In the case of the other players the rules and regulations of the Association shall apply.
  - (c) The provisions of rule 9 (iii)(b) of the Competition Rules of the Association shall not apply to this Competition.
- (ii) (a) In the case of a Guest Player registered for a local Club, in order that such a player may be eligible to play for a Club taking part in the Competition, prior to the commencement of the Competition, such player must obtain the written consent of his Club to take part in the Competition with a specified Club. Such written consent must be on the official form to be established by the Executive Board. The official form must also provide for the request of the Club intending to make use of the Guest Player. The official form must be filed with the Association by the Club for which such player is invited to play prior to the commencement of the Competition.
- (b) Only a written notice under the signature of the General Secretary of the Association shall constitute proof of the receipt on time of the relative official form.

- (c) The Association shall not recognize and/or enforce any condition agreed to between the Member Club of the player and the Club for which such player is invited to play or between such player and the Club for which such player is invited to play unless the conditions are made by means of a written agreement and a copy of such agreement is filed with the Association together with the official form mentioned in clause (ii)(a) above or by the Club of the player or by the player, as the case may be, prior to the commencement of the Competition.
- (iii)
  - (a) In the case of a Guest Player registered for a foreign Club, in order that such a player may be eligible to play for a Club taking part in the Competition, prior to the commencement of the Competition, either the National Association of the Club of such player must have sent to the Association the International Clearance Certificate with regards to such player or such player must have obtained the written consent of his Club to take part. In the latter case, the written consent of the foreign Club must be sent to the Association through the National Association of the player's Club.
  - (b) The International Clearance Certificate or written consent, as the case may be, must reach the Association prior to the commencement of the Competition in which such player is invited to take part. Furthermore, prior to the commencement of the Competition, the Club wishing to make use of the services of such player must file with the Association an official form to be established by the Executive Board requesting to use the services of such player in the Competition. This request will only be valid if prior to the commencement of the Competition either the International Clearance Certificate or the written consent of the foreign Club has been received by the Association.
  - (c) Only a written notice under the signature of the General Secretary of the Association shall constitute proof of the receipt on time of the relative International Clearance Certificate or the foreign Club's written consent and/or of the request of a Club on the official form to use the services of such player in the Competition.
  - (d) The Association shall not in any way or manner be responsible for the of non-observance of any condition by a Member Club agreed to between such Club and the player and/or the foreign Club of the player and/or the National Association of the Club of the player or vice-versa and shall not in any way or manner interfere in the case of non-observance of any condition by a Member Club agreed to between such Club and the player and/or the foreign Club of the player and/or the National Association of the Club of the player or vice-versa.
- (iv) In the case that a Club files more than five (5) requests to make use of Guest Players, all the requests of such Club shall be invalid and all the Guest Players requested by such Club to take part in the Competition shall be ineligible to take part unless prior to the commencement of the Competition such Club, by means of a written notice to be filed with the Association, withdraws its request/s above the quota of Guest Players allowed to take part.

## **7. Winner of the Competition**

- (i) The winner of the Competition shall be that Club which has obtained the greatest number of points at the end of the Competition.
- (ii) If at end of the Competition more than one team finishes equal on points, the following criteria will be used in the following order to determine the ranking:
  - (a) the highest number of points in the direct encounters;
  - (b) in case of equal number of points in the direct encounters, the best goal difference in the direct encounters;
  - (c) in case of equal number of points and same goal difference in the direct encounters, the highest number of goals scored in the direct encounters;
  - (d) in case of equal number of points, same goal difference and same number of goals scored in the direct encounters, the best goal difference in the Competition;
  - (e) in case of equal number of points, same goal difference, same number of goals scored in the direct encounters and same goal difference in the Competition, the highest number of goals scored in the Competition; and
  - (f) in case of equal number of points, same goal difference, same number of goals scored in the direct encounters, same goal difference and same number of goals scored in the Competition, the drawing of lots.



## 8. Winner of the Competition and presentation of trophies

- (i) The winner of the Competition match shall be declared to be the winner of the Euro Cup Competition of the Malta Football Association.
- (ii) The winner of the Competition shall be presented by the Association with the Euro Cup, which belongs to the Association, and with a miniature trophy for retention.
- (iii)
  - (a) The holder of the Cup shall return it to the Association in good condition within one month of its presentation. Failure by the Club to return to the Association the Euro Cup within this time limit shall be punished by the Control and Disciplinary Board of the Association with a fine of one thousand and five hundred euro (€1500), provided that seven days written notice would have been given by the Association to the Club concerned to return the Trophy concerned.
  - (b) Should the Cup be damaged or destroyed by accident whilst under the care and custody of the Club, such Club shall refund to the Association the cost of repairs or the full value of the Cup.
  - (c) Should the Cup be damaged or destroyed through any other cause, besides the obligations of the Club under sub-clause (b) above, the Club shall be penalised by the Control and Disciplinary Board of the Association with a fine not exceeding five hundred euro (€500).

## MALTA FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

### RULES GOVERNING THE FUTSAL COMPETITIONS OF THE MALTA FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

#### 1. Organisation of Futsal Competitions

- (i) The Association may organise, on an annual basis, Football Competitions for Futsal both in the form of a National League, in which case it shall be known as the Futsal National League of the Malta Football Association, and/or in the form of a Knock-Out Competition, in which case it shall be known as the Futsal KO Competition of the Malta Football Association. In case that more than one Futsal KO Competition is organized, the name of the Division/s relative to the KO Competition concerned shall also be inserted in the official name.
- (ii) In the case that the League and/or the KO Competition/s are sponsored by an individual or a company, the name of such individual or company may, at the discretion of the Executive Board, be added to the official name.

#### 2. Control and Management of the Futsal Competitions

- (i) The entire control and management of the Futsal Competitions shall vest in the Executive Board of the Association. However, the Executive Board may delegate all or part of its powers of such control and management to the Futsal Committee of the Association.
- (ii) Competitive matches shall be played in accordance with these regulations and with the other Rules, Regulations, Bye-laws and decisions of the Association and the Laws of the Game for Futsal promulgated by FIFA provided these are not in conflict with the provisions of these regulations.

#### 3. Futsal Committee

- (i) The Executive Board shall appoint a Futsal Committee to deal with matters concerning Futsal.
- (ii) The Committee shall consist of a Chairman, a Secretary and those members which the Executive Board may deem fit. However, the Clubs and Teams in each Division of the Futsal National League shall be entitled to nominate one (1) representative from each such Division to sit on the Futsal Committee. Such nominated persons shall require the Executive Board's approval.

#### 4. Participation in the Futsal Competitions

- (i) Subject to the conditions mentioned in these regulations and in the other Rules, Regulations, Bye-Laws and decisions of the Association all the Member Clubs of the Association shall have the right to take part in the Futsal Competitions organized by the Association.
- (ii) The Executive Board may admit other clubs or teams to take part in Futsal competitions organized by the Association provided that these are affiliated to the Association.
- (iii) The Executive Board shall establish the fees payable by Member Clubs and by Futsal Affiliated Clubs or Teams to take part in such competitions.
- (iv) The period of the Futsal Season of the Association shall be the same one as that for the Football Season of the Association.

#### 5. Registration and Eligibility of Players for Futsal Competitions

- (i) Players taking part in Futsal Competitions organized by the Association shall be at least sixteen (16) years old.
- (ii)
  - (a) Players taking part with a Futsal Affiliated Club or Team in Futsal Competitions organized by the Association must have an amateur status. However, those players playing Futsal for their own Member Club may have an amateur or a professional status.
  - (b) Players taking part in Futsal Competitions organized by the Association must be registered with the Association and with a Member Club or with Futsal Affiliated Club or Team of the Association in accordance with these rules and/or in accordance with the other Rules, Regulations and Bye-Laws of the Association provided these are not contrary to the provisions of these regulations.
  - (c) Players transferred on loan by a Member Club to another Member Club to play Futsal and all players registering for a Futsal Affiliated Club or Team must be registered by means of a 'Futsal Players Registration Form' to be approved by the Executive Board. This form duly filled in and duly signed, together with all the other required documents, must be filed with the Association within seven (7) days

- of the player's signature.
- (d) Amateur players who during the current football season have not played in any competitive Futsal match may, until such day that the registration of football players is allowed, register with a Member Club to play Futsal or with a Futsal Affiliated Club or Team.
  - (e) Subject to what is hereunder stated with regards to transferred or released players, during the same football season, a player may only play Futsal for the same Member Club/Futsal Affiliated Club or Team.
- (iii)
- (a) The registration of Futsal players, except in the case of players registered with Member Clubs as football players, shall only be valid for two (2) consecutive football seasons, including the football season during which it is made. However, such players may, during the obligatory period of service of two (2) football seasons, be given a free release. Furthermore, the Association's Regulations Regarding Players Registered with Member Clubs applicable to amateur players shall also apply to such players.
  - (b) Member Clubs are also allowed to register with them players for the only purpose of playing Futsal. In this case, such players must be registered on the Futsal Players Registration Form and the same rules applicable to Futsal Affiliated Clubs or Teams and their players shall as well apply to such Member Clubs and their Futsal players. Professional players registering with Member Clubs, even if only for the purpose of playing Futsal, may only register during such periods that the registration of professional football players is allowed.
- (iv)
- (a) A player who is registered as an amateur football player with a Member Club that has applied to take part or that is currently taking part in a Futsal competition is only eligible to play in a Futsal competition for the Member Club with which he is registered as a football player unless such player is definitely transferred or unless he is transferred on loan as a Futsal player to another Member Club or unless he is transferred on loan to a Futsal Affiliated Club or Team. However, an amateur player who has been transferred on loan to play Futsal may not at the same time be transferred on loan to different Member Club to play football. In the transfer on loan of a player to play Futsal with another Member Club or to a Futsal Affiliated Club or Team no compensation may be asked for. However, the Club loaning the player may require the other Member Club or Futsal Affiliated Club or Team to take out an insurance policy to cover the player in the case of an injury sustained whilst training or playing Futsal for such Club or Team. The conditions of the insurance cover shall be decided by the Member Club loaning the player.
  - (b) Any transfer on loan must be made on the 'Transfer on Loan of a Futsal Player Form' to be approved by the Executive Board. In this case, such player must be registered as a Futsal player with the new Member Club or with the Futsal Affiliated Club or Team concerned on the Futsal Player Registration Form. This registration will lapse at the end of the current football season. However, during such time that such a player is registered as a Futsal player with another Member Club or with a Futsal Affiliated Club or Team, he may still play football, but not Futsal, for the Member Club with which he is registered as a football player. In the case of clash of fixtures of a competitive football match and a competitive Futsal match in which a player may take part both with his Member Club as a football player and with another club or team to play Futsal, that is for the whole period starting forty-eight (48) hours before such competitive football match, such player shall be ineligible to take part in a competitive Futsal match for the club or team with which he has been transferred on loan to play Futsal unless his Member Club with whom he plays football gives him permission in writing to do so. In case that the Member Club of the player gives its consent in writing such written consent must be kept by the club or team with which such player was transferred to play Futsal.
  - (c) A player who is registered as an amateur football player with a Member Club that has not applied to take part or is not currently taking part in the National Futsal League of the Association may be transferred on loan to another Member Club which has applied to take part or is currently taking part in the National Futsal League of the Association for the only purpose of playing Futsal with such Member Club or to a Futsal Affiliated Club or Team of the Association by means of a 'Futsal Transfer On Loan Form' to be approved by the Executive Board. In this case, such player must be registered as a Futsal player with the new Member Club or Futsal Affiliated Club or Team on the Futsal Player Registration Form. This registration will lapse at the end of the current football season. However, an amateur player who has been transferred on loan to play Futsal may not at the same time be transferred on loan to different Member Club to play football. Furthermore, during such time as such player is registered as a Futsal player with another Member Club or with a Futsal Affiliated Club or Team, he may still play football for the Member Club with which such player is registered as a football player. In the case of clash of fixtures of a competitive football match and a competitive Futsal match in which a player may take part both with his Member Club as a football player and with another club or team to play Futsal, that is for the whole period starting forty-eight (48) hours before such competitive football match, such player shall be ineligible to take part in a competitive Futsal match for the club or team with which he has been transferred on loan to play Futsal unless his Member Club with whom he plays football gives him permission in writing to do so. In case that the Member Club of the player gives its consent in writing such written consent must be kept by the club or team with which such player was transferred to play Futsal.

- (v) (a) For the purpose of participating in Futsal competitions organized by the Association, during the same football season, Member Clubs and Futsal Affiliated Clubs or Teams shall be allowed to have registered with them a maximum of five (5) during season 2009/2010 and as from season 2010/2011 onwards a maximum of three (3) amateur players who are ineligible to play for the National Futsal Team of the Association. In case that a Member Club or a Futsal Affiliated Club or Team has registered with it more of such players than is allowed, all the registered players of such Club or Team which are not eligible to play for the National Futsal Team shall be ineligible to play Futsal and shall remain so ineligible until such Club or Team has registered with it the allowed number of such players. In the case of doubt whether a player is eligible to play for the National Futsal Team, the Executive Board shall decide on the matter. Any such decision shall be final and binding and shall have immediate effect.
- (b) In the case of a Member Club that has applied or is currently participating in the Futsal National League of the Association or in any other Futsal competition, may not make use of players referred to in sub-clause (a) above to play football for such Club unless these also satisfy the criteria on foreign players established in these rules and in the other Rules, Regulations and Bye-Laws of the Association.
- (c) In the case of players defined by FIFA as foreign Futsal players who were not registered with the Association specifically as Futsal players by the 7<sup>th</sup> June 2009, prior to registering with the Association and with a Member Club as Futsal players or with a Futsal Affiliated Club or Team, the relative International Futsal Clearance Certificate (IFTC) established in the relevant FIFA rules regarding such players must be obtained in accordance with the same rules. A Member Club which registers with it a player following the issuance of the International Futsal Clearance Certificate may not make use of the services of such player as a football player since such player would be ineligible to play football.
- (vi) (a) Futsal Affiliated Clubs or Teams are allowed to have registered with them at any one time a maximum of twenty (20) players during the football season. Any extra registered player is ineligible to play and when such fact is established the Executive Board shall cancel such registration. If more than one player is registered with the Association at the same time and through such registrations the above mentioned quota is surpassed, all such newly registered players will be ineligible to play Futsal and the Executive Board shall cancel all such registrations. However, the provisions of this rule shall not apply to a Member Club participating in any Futsal Competition since such Club may have registered any number of players, including players transferred to it on loan.
- (b) A Futsal Affiliated Club or Team may during the football season substitute any of the twenty (20) Futsal registered players with other players until such day as the release of football players and the registration of amateur football players is permitted. In such a case the registered players to be substituted must be given a free release. However, in the case of released players that had been transferred on loan to such Futsal Affiliated Club or Team by a Member Club, such players shall automatically return to their Member Club even if such Club is not currently participating in any Futsal Competition. In order to be valid, the Futsal Free Release Certificate Form, duly filled in and duly signed, must be filed with the Association within seven (7) days of its issuance.
- (c) The 'Futsal Free Release Certificate Form' shall be established by the Executive Board.
- (vii) (a) Players who had been included on the Official Match Report Form of any competitive Futsal match and who are released by the last day of January may play Futsal for another Member Club or for a Futsal Affiliated Club or Team during the current season provided that these were not loaned by a Member Club and must have registered for the new Club or Team by not later than the last day of January. However, if such players had not been loaned by a Member Club and had not been included on the Official Match Report Form for any competitive Futsal match may register for a Member Club to play Futsal or for a Futsal Affiliated Club or Team until such day as the registration of amateur football players is allowed.
- (b) A player who had been transferred on loan by a Member Club to another Member Club to play Futsal or to a Futsal Affiliated Club or Team and has been released by the Club or Team with which he was on loan may not during the remainder of the season play Futsal for any Club, including his own, or another Team, if he had been included on the Official Match Report Form of any competitive Futsal match with such Club or Team. If such a player, during the time that he was on loan, had not been included on the Official Match Report Form of any competitive Futsal match, he may play Futsal for his own Member Club provided that the Futsal Committee, at the written request of both his own Club and the player himself, authorizes in writing such player to play Futsal. Furthermore, such a player may register with another Member Club to play Futsal or may register with a Futsal Affiliated Club or Team provided that his Member Club transfers him definitely or on loan to another Member Club or transfers him on loan to a Futsal Affiliated Club or Team. However, in any such case, the written authorization of the Futsal Committee, at the written request of the Member Club or of the Futsal Affiliated Club or Team which wishes to register such player and the player himself, must be obtained.  
Any decision of the Futsal Committee on any such request shall be final and binding.
- (c) Any transfer on loan by a Member Club shall expire at the end of the football season during which the

loan has been made.

## **6. Futsal National League**

- (i) The Futsal National League shall be organized in Divisions and Sections depending on the number of participating teams.
- (ii) Decisions regarding the formation of Divisions and Sections and the mode of play shall be taken by the Executive Board prior to the commencement of the Futsal Competitions for the season concerned.
- (iii) Prior to the commencement of the Futsal National League, the Executive Board shall decide on the number of rounds to be played in each Division and/or Section as well as on the number of teams to be promoted and relegated and on the mode of promotion and relegation from one Division to another. A Member Club or a Futsal Affiliated Club or Team which had won promotion to a higher Division or which has been relegated to a lower Division in one season shall retain such status during the following season. However, in the case of vacancies in any of the Divisions of the National League, the relevant provisions of the Association's Rules Governing The National League of the Malta Football Association shall apply with regards to the filling of such vacancies.
- (iv) In the event that during the season a Member Club or an Affiliated Club or Team withdraws its participation from the Futsal National League the players registered with such team shall not be eligible to play Futsal for another team during that same season unless authorised in writing to do so by the Futsal Committee of the Association.
- (v) The first classified team in each Division of the Futsal National League shall be declared the champion of the Division concerned and the second classified team shall be declared the runner-up.

## **7. Futsal Knock-Out Competition/s**

- (i) In the event that the Association decides to organise a Futsal Knock-Out Competition or different Futsal Knock-Out Competitions during the season all the teams taking part in the Futsal National League during the current season shall be entitled to participate in such competition/s provided that by the time-limit established by the General Secretary of the Association such teams would have confirmed in writing that these are willing to participate in such competition. If more than one Futsal Knock-Out Competition is organized, the Executive Board shall also decide in which of each of such competitions the different teams will be able to participate. Such decision shall be based on the Division in which the teams are participating in the Futsal National League. The Executive Board may also admit other teams to take part in such competition/s.
- (ii) The Executive Board shall decide whether in the Futsal Knock-Out Competition/s to be organized teams will be seeded or not and in case of seedings which teams will be seeded and at which stage. The Executive Board may delegate these decisions to the Futsal Committee.

## **8. Number of Players in a Competitive Match**

- (i) A competitive match shall be played by two (2) teams, each consisting of not more than five (5) players, one of whom shall be the goalkeeper.
- (ii) Players who are not included on the Referee's Match Report shall be ineligible to take part in a competitive match.
- (iii) At the start of a competitive match the minimum number of players per team shall be five (5).
- (iv) In the event that less than three (3) players are left on the field of play in either team the match shall be abandoned.
- (v) During the whole match, use of substitutes may be made in accordance with article 9 point (v) of these Regulations, provided that the substitutes are included in the Official Match Report Form.

## **9. Laws of the Game for Futsal**

Futsal competitive matches organized by the Association shall be played in accordance with the Futsal Laws of the Game as promulgated by FIFA for its competitions. In this respect, prior to the commencement of the Futsal Competitions for the coming season, the Executive Board, in consultation with the Futsal Committee of the Association, shall decide on the mode of application regarding any or all of the following Futsal Rules which will apply for the new football season:

- (i) Size of the field of play.
- (ii) Size, weight and material of the ball.
- (iii) Width between the goalposts and height of the crossbar from the ground.

- (iv) Duration of the periods of play.
- (v) Substitutions.

## 10. Disciplinary Sanctions

- (i) The Regulations for the Control of Misconduct and all Kinds of Incidents during Competitive Football Matches, the Players' and Club Officials' Disciplinary Code, the Rules for the Investigation of Allegations of Bribery in Football under the Jurisdiction of the Association and the Regulations On Bribery And Betting Regarding Football Matches shall also apply to competitive Futsal matches.
- (ii) In the case of disciplinary sanctions to be imposed on players and/or on Clubs'/Teams' Officials for offences committed in connection with Futsal competitive matches, notwithstanding the monetary sanctions mentioned in the Players' and Club Officials' Disciplinary Code, when the penalty which the Disciplinary Commissioner must or may impose in accordance with the said Disciplinary Code consists of a fine, the Disciplinary Commissioner shall, instead of imposing a fine, suspend the person concerned for one (1) match if the fine to be imposed is ten euro (€10) or less, two (2) matches if the fine to be imposed is more than ten euro (€10) but not more than twenty euro (€20) and three (3) matches if the fine to be imposed is more than twenty euro (€20).

## 11. Presentation of Trophies and medals and participation in the UEFA Futsal Cup

- (i) The winning team of each and every Division of the Futsal National League as well as the winner of the Futsal Knock-Out Competition/s shall be presented by the Association with the winner's trophy which is the property of the Association. Furthermore, the winner of each and every Division of the Futsal National League and the winner of the Futsal Knock-Out Competition/s shall also be presented with a miniature trophy for retention whilst both Clubs/Teams contesting the final match of the Futsal Knock-Out Competition/s shall be presented with a commemorative plaque denoting that these Clubs/Teams had contested the final match of the Futsal Knock-Out Competition/s in that particular season.
- (ii)
  - (a) The trophies belonging to the Association must be returned to the Association in good condition within one month of their presentation. Failure by the Club/Team to return any trophy which belongs to the Association within this time limit shall be punished by the Control and Disciplinary Board of the Association with a fine of five hundred euro (€500), provided that seven days written notice would have been given by the Association to the Club/Team concerned to return the Trophy concerned.
  - (b) Should any trophy be destroyed or damaged through accident whilst under the custody and care of a club, such club shall refund to the Association the full value of the trophy or the cost of repairs, as the case may be.
  - (c) Should any trophy be destroyed or damaged through any other cause whilst under the custody and care of a club/team, besides the obligation of the club under sub-clause (b) above, the responsible club/team shall be dealt with by the Control and Disciplinary Board of the Association in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Association.
- (iii)
  - (a) The players and the members of technical staff of the champion Club/team of the First Division of the Futsal National League shall be presented with a commemorative medal. Thus each such Club shall receive twenty (20) medals.
  - (b) In principle, the players and the members of the technical staff shall be presented with their medals in a medals award ceremony to be held immediately prior to the presentation of the trophy and the miniature trophy to the champion Club/Team. In this case the medals will be presented to the players and the members of the technical staff included on the Referee's Official Match Report Form of the match at the end of which the trophy and the miniature trophy are to be presented. However, a player and/or a member of the technical staff who was sent off by the referee before, during or after the match shall not be presented with a medal during the medals award ceremony. The remainder of the medals shall be handed over to the Club/Team to give to other deserving players and/or members of the technical staff. In case that the medals are not presented at the end of a match, all the medals will be given to the Club/Team to give to deserving players and members of the technical staff.
- (iv) The winner of the top Division of the Futsal National League shall have the right to participate in the UEFA Futsal Cup during the following season. If this team is prohibited and/or unable and/or refuses to participate, the runner-up of the top Division of the Futsal National League will be invited by the Association to participate in the UEFA Futsal Cup. However, the participation of the runner-up in the UEFA Futsal Cup will be subject to UEFA's approval. The participation of a Club or Team in the UEFA Futsal Cup shall also be subject to the rules, regulations, bye-laws and decisions of UEFA.

## **12. The Other Rules, Regulations and Bye-Laws of the Association**

Except in so far as otherwise stated in these regulations, the provisions of all the other Rules, Regulations, Bye-Laws and decisions of the Association, even if not expressly mentioned in these regulations, shall also apply to Member Clubs and Futsal Affiliated Clubs or Teams and to players and officials participating in Futsal competitions in so far as these may be applicable.



**Resolution of the Executive Board based on Article 6 of Section VII - Rules governing Competitions  
(Rules Governing the Futsal Competitions)**

- i. Futsal Malta Association (FMA) League Competition
- a) There shall be one (1) phase involving all FMA enrolled clubs, played on a round-robin basis of one (1) round of fixtures involving all FMA enrolled clubs, at the end of which the teams shall be divided into two (2) divisions known as the Premier Division and the Challenger Division;
  - b) The Premier division shall be composed of five (5) teams and the Challenger division shall be composed of the remaining number of teams ranked from sixth (6<sup>th</sup>) place onwards, which number shall vary according to the number of FMA enrolled clubs in each season;
  - c) Following the conclusion of the second phase of the Premier Division, which shall be played on the basis of a round-robin of two (2) rounds of fixtures involving all five (5) teams participating in the Premier Division, a subsequent playoff phase shall be played between the four teams ranked from first (1<sup>st</sup>) to fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) place; with the first (1<sup>st</sup>) ranked team competing in a two-legged semi-final against the fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) ranked team, and the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) ranked team competing in a two-legged semi-final against the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) ranked team;
  - d) The semi-finals of the Premier Division playoff shall not be settled on the basis of the aggregate score attained throughout the two legs but on the basis of who attains most points over the course of the two legs, provided that in the event of a tied semi-final (each team obtaining same amount of points during the regular time periods of both legs), there shall be a period of extra-time immediately following the end of the regular time period of the second leg, followed by a penalty shoot-out in case the deadlock is not broken during that extra-time period;
  - e) The winners of the two semi-finals shall be competing in a three-legged final, wherein the team which comes out best out of the three fixtures (3) shall be crowned the Champion of the Premier Division, provided that in cases wherein the teams remain tied at the end of the regular time period of the each and every leg, there shall be a period of extra-time immediately following the end of the regular time period in each and every leg, followed by a penalty shoot-out in case the deadlock is not broken during the respective extra-time period, so that a clear winner is ascertained in each and every leg of the final;
  - f) Following the conclusion of the second phase of the Challenger Division, which shall be played on the basis of a round-robin of two (2) rounds of fixtures involving all remaining teams participating in the Challenger Division, a subsequent playoff phase shall be played between the team ranked fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) in the Premier Division and the teams ranked sixth (6<sup>th</sup>) to tenth (10<sup>th</sup>) in the Challenger Division;
  - g) During the Challenger Division Playoff phase, the team ranked seventh (7<sup>th</sup>) shall be competing in a winner-takes-all one legged quarter-final against the tenth (10<sup>th</sup>) ranked team (hereinafter referred to as "Quarter-Final 1"), and the eight (8<sup>th</sup>) ranked team shall be competing in a winner-takes-all one-legged quarter final against the ninth (9<sup>th</sup>) ranked team (hereinafter referred to as "Quarter-Final 2");



- h) Subsequently, the fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) ranked team in the Premier Division shall compete against the winner of Quarter-Final 2 in a winner-takes-all one-legged semi-final, whilst the sixth ranked team in the Challenger Division shall compete against the winner of Quarter-Final 1 in a winner-takes-all one-legged semi-final, with the winners of both semi-finals competing against each other in a winner-takes-all one-legged final, wherein the winner shall be crowned the Champion of the Challenger Division;
- i) A graphical representation of the proposed league competition format is hereby being annexed and marked as Annex I.
- j) Any yellow cards accumulated until that point of the season shall cease to count prior to the Final Four Play-off phase of the competition.

Amended  
31-05-2022

ii. Homegrown and non-homegrown rules applicable to the League Competition:

- a) Throughout the full course of the first phase of the FMA Enemed League Competition, clubs may field non-homegrown players as follows:
  - o A maximum of one (1) non-homegrown registered player on the field of play and three (3) non-homegrown registered players as substitutes; or
  - o A maximum of two (2) non homegrown registered players on the field of play and two (2) non-homegrown registered players as substitutes, provided that, on the field of play concurrently and during the same period, a minimum of one (1) homegrown player who shall not be older than twenty three (23) years<sup>2</sup> old is also playing;
  - o If more than two (2) non-homegrown players are on the field of play, the non-homegrown players shall for all intents and purposes be deemed to be non bona fide players;
  - o In the eventuality of non bona fide players, the opponent club shall have the right to refer the matter to the protests board, in the manner and form determined by the regulations of the Malta Football Association;
- b) From the 2022/23 season onwards, the above exemption requiring the concurrent participation of a homegrown player shall be modified to reflect a lowering of the age from twenty-three (23) to twenty (20)<sup>3</sup>.
- c) The above rules shall also apply *mutatis mutandis* throughout the whole course of the second phase and playoff phases of the Challenger Division only.

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<sup>2</sup> For the purposes of this provision, the homegrown player shall be that player who has not reached the age of 24 prior to the 31 December 2021.

<sup>3</sup> For the purposes of this provision, the homegrown player shall be that player who has not reached the age of 21 prior to the 31 December of each applicable calendar year.

- d) Without prejudice to the above, throughout the second phase and playoff phase of the Premier Division only, there shall be a maximum of two (2) non-homegrown registered players on the field and two (2) non-homegrown registered players as substitutes, with no further restrictions.

iii. Futsal Malta Association (FMA) Enemed Knock-Out Cup Competition

- a) There shall be a Knock-Out Cup Competition involving all FMA enrolled clubs, with all clubs being randomly drawn against each other in several rounds of winner-takes-all one-legged knockout fixtures, which shall culminate in a winner-takes-all one-legged final, the winner of which shall be crowned the Champion of the Knock-Out Cup Competition;
- b) Those teams which place in the top four (4) places in the national league shall be seeded when the Futsal Knock-Out competition draws are made.
- c) Throughout all rounds of the Knock-Out Cup Competition, clubs may field non-homegrown players as follows:
  - o A maximum of one (1) non-homegrown registered player on the field of play and one (1) non-homegrown registered player as substitute.

iv. Futsal Malta Association (FMA) Invitational Cup Competition

- a) There shall be an Invitational Cup Competition involving, but not limited to, all FMA enrolled clubs, with all participating clubs being randomly drawn against each other in several rounds of winner-takes-all one-legged knockout fixtures, which shall culminate in a winner-takes-all one-legged final, the winner of which shall be crowned the Champion of the Invitational Cup Competition;
- b) Throughout all rounds of the Invitational Cup Competition, clubs shall have no restrictions with regards to fielding non-homegrown players.

v. Duration of the competition arrangements and regulations

The stipulations governing the format and regulations of the three (3) competitions described in this resolution shall remain in force for three (3) consecutive seasons, commencing in the 2021/22 season, and shall be only be revised by the concerned parties following the termination of the 2023/24 season.

**ANNEX 1 – Graphical Representation of FMA Enemed League Competition Format in the 2022/23 season**

