

## 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  
05-06-23*

#### 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) sixteen (16) Clubs in the second highest division, to be known as the Challenge League;
- (iii) League;
- (iv) 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  
28-05-24*

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

There shall be no changes in the composition of the 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.

*Amended:  
29-07-20*

- (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.

#### 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  
05-06-23  
28-05-24*

## **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 twelve (12) clubs in the League as laid down in this section. 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 Clubs placed in eleventh and twelfth position in the official Classification Table, at the end of the league, shall be relegated to the following season's Challenge League;

*Amended:  
07-07-20  
05-06-23  
28-05-24  
09-07-24*

#### **A. League Format**

- i. The league shall be played on two rounds to be referred to as the "Opening Round" and the "Closing Round".
- ii. Both rounds shall be played on a round-robin basis of one (1) round of fixtures involving all the twelve (12) Premier League clubs and at the end of each round the clubs shall be divided into two sections to be referred to "Top 6 Group" and "Bottom 6 Group" respectively.
- iii. The teams ranked in the last two positions of the Final Classification Table shall be relegated to the Challenge League for the following season.

#### **B. Opening Round**

- i. The Opening Round of the Premier League shall consist of eleven (11) match days on a single round-robin basis between the twelve (12) Premier League teams. At the end of these matches the six (6) teams with the highest number of points shall be placed in the "Top 6 Group" whilst the remaining six (6) teams shall be placed in the "Bottom 6 Group".
- ii. Should there be two or more teams with the same points when determining which of the teams shall join the "Top 6 Group", Article 35 II (i) (a) - (f) of the Competition Rules (Section V) shall apply.
- iii. The teams in each of the above-mentioned groups shall then play five (5) matches each on a single round-robin basis which shall commence once the two groups have been formed by the teams as aforesaid. Teams shall carry over the number of points obtained during the round-robin phase.
- iv. At the end of the matches of the respective groups the teams shall be classified in accordance with the number of points achieved in all the sixteen (16) matches played.
- v. The team obtaining the highest number of points in the Top 6 shall be declared as the Winner of the Opening

Round.

- vi. Should there be two or more teams with the same number of points when determining their ranking in the respective group, Article 35 II (i) (a) - (f) of the Competition Rules (Section V) shall apply in relation to matches played in the Opening Round, including the “Top 6” or “Bottom 6” Group as the case may be.

#### C. Closing Round

- i. The Closing Round shall commence immediately after the closure of the Opening Round and all teams participating shall commence this round afresh at zero (0) points.
- ii. The Closing Round of the Premier League shall consist of eleven (11) match days on a single round-robin basis between the twelve (12) Premier League teams. At the end of these matches the six (6) teams with the highest number of points shall be placed in the “Top 6 Group” whilst the remaining six (6) teams shall be placed in the “Bottom 6 Group”.
- iii. Should there be two or more teams with the same points when determining which of the teams shall join the “Top 6 Group”, Article 35 II (i) (a) - (f) of the Competition Rules (Section V) shall apply in relation to matches played during the Closing Round.
- iv. The teams in each of the above-mentioned groups shall play five (5) matches each on a single round-robin basis which shall commence once the two groups have been formed by the teams as aforesaid. Teams shall carry over the number of points obtained during the round-robin phase.
- v. At the end of the matches of the respective groups the teams shall be classified in accordance with the number of points achieved in all the sixteen (16) matches played.
- vi. The team obtaining the highest points in the Top 6 shall be declared as the Winner of the Closing Round.
- vii. Should there be two or more teams with the same number of points when determining their ranking in the respective group, Article 35 II (i) (a) - (f) of the Competition Rules (Section V) shall apply in relation to matches played in the Closing Round including the “Top 6” or “Bottom 6” Group of the Closing Round as the case may be.

#### D. Final League Classification

##### a. Champion and Runner Up

- i. The final classification of the league shall depend on the ranking of the respective clubs in the Opening and the Closing rounds.
- ii. Where the winner of both rounds is the same team, then that team shall be declared as the Champion of the Premier League. Moreover, in such instance, where the runner-up of the “Top 6 Group” for both rounds is the same team, then that team shall be declared as the runner up of the Premier League.

Furthermore, where the first and second places are determined in the manner provided above, and the same team places third in both the Opening and the Closing Round, then that team shall be declared as third-placed in the final classification.

Furthermore, where the first, second, and third places are determined in the manner provided above, and the same team places fourth in both the Opening and the Closing Round, then that team shall be declared as fourth-placed in the final classification

Provided that if the Champion is declared under the aforesaid Article 4.ii, and two different teams have ranked second in the Opening and the Closing rounds respectively, their position in the final Premier League Classification shall be determined on the basis of the aggregate points obtained in the Opening and the Closing Round, including the “Top 6 Group” of both rounds. Provided that where any of the teams in question failed to play in the “Top 6 Group” of either Round, only the results achieved in the Opening and Closing Rounds excluding the “Top/Bottom 6” of each round shall be taken into account. Where the aggregate number of points obtained by such two teams is the same, the ranking shall be determined on the basis of the criteria established in Article 35 II (i) (a) - (f) of the Competition Rules (Section V) applied in relation to matches played in both the Opening and the Closing Round, including the “Top 6 Group” of both rounds. Provided further that where any of the teams having the same number of points failed to play in the “Top 6 Group” of either Round, only the results achieved in the Opening and Closing Rounds excluding the “Top 6” of each round shall be taken into account.

- iii. Where the winner and the runner-up of the “Top 6 Group” of the Opening Round, and the winner and the runner-up of the “Top 6 Group” of the Closing Round are the same two (2) teams but with a different ranking

in each Round, then a play-off between the two (2) teams shall take place and the winner of the match shall be declared as the Champion of the Premier League whilst the loser shall be declared as the Runner-Up of the Premier League.

- iv. Where the winners and the runners-up of the “Top 6 Group” of the Opening Round and of the Closing Round are four (4) different teams, to determine the Champion and the Runner-Up of the Premier League a series of four (4) play-off matches shall take place whereby the winner of the “Top 6 Group” of the Opening Round plays against the runner-up of the “Top 6 Group” of the Closing Round and the winner of the “Top 6 Group” of the Closing Round plays against the runner-up of the “Top 6 Group” of the Opening Round.

The winners of these two matches shall then play a further play-off between them and the winner of that match shall be declared as the Champion of the Premier League whilst the loser shall be declared as the Runner-Up. The losers of the initial two (2) play-offs shall then play against each other and the winner shall be ranked as the third-placed team in the final Premier League classification whilst the loser shall be ranked as the fourth-placed team in the final Premier League classification.

Provided that, without prejudice to the provisions of D(a)(ii) above, should the winners and the runners-up of the “Top 6 Group” of the Opening Round and of the Closing Round be three (3) different teams, the four teams competing in the plays-offs as aforesaid in the preceding paragraph shall be the three (3) teams that placed first and second in the two rounds of the “Top 6 Group” and the fourth team shall be that team from the remaining teams which on aggregate achieved the highest number of points out of all the matches played in both the Opening and the Closing Round, excluding the matches which the respective teams played either in the Top 6 Group or the Bottom 6 Group.

Provided further that in the eventuality mentioned in the preceding paragraph, the team which ranked in the first two places in both the Opening and the Closing Round shall play against the the fourth team as provided above..

The winners of these two matches shall play a further play-off and the winner of this final play-off match shall be declared as the Champion of the Premier League whilst the loser shall be declared as the Runner-Up. The losers of the initial two (2) play-offs shall then play against each other and the winner shall be ranked as the third-placed team in the final Premier League classification whilst the loser shall be ranked as the fourth-placed placed team in the final Premier League classification.

#### b. Relegated Teams

- i. To determine the two (2) teams to be relegated to the Challenge League the ranking of the teams in the Bottom 6 Group of both rounds shall be taken into consideration.
- ii. Should the teams ranked last and penultimate (i.e. 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>) in the Bottom 6 Group of both rounds be the same two teams, both such teams shall be relegated to the Challenge League and for the purposes of the Final Classification Table of the Premier League the standing of the teams shall be determined on the basis of the aggregate points obtained in the Opening and the Closing Round, including the “Bottom 6 Group” of both rounds. Where the aggregate number of points obtained by such two teams is the same, the ranking shall be determined on the basis of the criteria established in Article 35 II (i) (a) - (f) of the Competition Rules (Section V) applied in relation to matches played in both the Opening and the Closing Round, including the “Bottom 6 Group” of both rounds.

Provided that if in the classification of the Bottom 6 Group of both rounds there is only one (1) team which has ranked in both classifications as either last or penultimate (5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup>), that team shall be automatically relegated to the Challenge League and classified as the last-placed (12<sup>th</sup>) team in the Final League Classification. The other team to be relegated shall be determined by means of a play-off between the other teams which in the Bottom 6 Group of the Opening Round and of the Closing Round classified in the last or penultimate (5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup>)-place as the case may be. The loser of this play-off shall be relegated and ranked as penultimate (11<sup>th</sup>) in the final league classification whilst the winner of the play-off shall be ranked in the tenth (10<sup>th</sup>) position of the final league classification.

Provided further that a team which ranked eleventh or twelfth in the Bottom 6 Group of either Round and which also ranked as Winner or Runner Up of the Top 6 Group of either Round shall not be considered for the play-off referred to in this subclause and consequently the team against whom the playoff would have been played shall be considered as automatically relegated.

- iii. Should the last and penultimate (5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>) ranked teams of the “Bottom 6 Group” for the Opening Round and Closing Round respectively be four (4) different teams, in determine the last and penultimate (12<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>) ranked teams in the Final Classification of the Premier League, two (2) play-off matches shall take place whereby the penultimate (5<sup>th</sup>) ranked team of the “Bottom 6 Group” of the Opening Round plays against the last-placed (6<sup>th</sup>) team of the “Bottom 6 Group” of the Closing Round and the last-placed (6<sup>th</sup>) team of the “Bottom 6 Group” of the Opening Round plays against the penultimate (5<sup>th</sup>) ranked team of the “Bottom 6 Group” of the Closing Round. The winners of these two matches shall be ranked in the ninth (9<sup>th</sup>) and (10<sup>th</sup>)

place of the Final Classification on the basis of the criteria established in Article 35 II (i) (a) - (f) of the Competition Rules (Section V) applied in relation to the results achieved in the Opening and Closing Rounds including the “Bottom 6” of each round.

The losers of the two (2) play-offs shall be relegated to the Challenge League and for the purposes of the Final Classification Table of the Premier League the classification of the teams (11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>) shall be determined on the basis of the criteria established in Article 35 II (i) (a) - (f) of the Competition Rules (Section V) applied in relation to the results achieved in the Opening and Closing Rounds including the “Bottom 6” of each round.. Provided further that where any of the teams having the same number of points did not play in the “Bottom 6 Group” of either Round, only the results achieved in the Opening and Closing Rounds excluding the “Top or Bottom 6” of each round shall be taken into account.

Provided that a team which ranked last or penultimate (5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup>) in the Bottom 6 Group of either Round and which also ranked as Winner or Runner Up of the Top 6 Group of either Round shall not be considered for the play-off referred to in this subclause and consequently the two (2) teams to be relegated shall be decided on the basis of the criteria established in Article 35 II (i) (a) - (f) of the Competition Rules (Section V) applied in relation to the results achieved in the Opening and Closing Rounds excluding the “Top/Bottom 6” of each round..

Provided that where any of the teams having the same number of points did not play in the “Bottom 6 Group” of either Round, only the results achieved in the Opening and Closing Rounds excluding the “Top or Bottom 6” of each round shall be taken into account.

#### c. Ranking for teams not being determined elsewhere

- i. Teams that do not classify in accordance to any of the clauses aforementioned shall be ranked in accordance to their aggregate points obtained in all matches played excluding matches played in the group stages (Top 6 and Bottom 6) of both the Opening and Closing round.
- ii. Unless specifically provided in these Regulations, where two or more teams have the same number of points, the ranking between those teams shall be determined in accordance with Article 35 II (i) (a) - (f) of the Competition Rules (Section V).

#### E. Duration of the competition format and regulations

These regulations governing the format of the Premier League shall remain in force for five (5) consecutive seasons, commencing with the 2024/2025 season up to and including the 2028/2029 season.

All other Rules and Regulations of the Malta Football Association shall continue to be in force during the duration of these regulations in respect to the Premier League unless in contradiction to these Regulations in which case the provisions of these Regulations shall prevail.

Where in the course of the competition any clarification on the application or interpretation of these regulations is necessary, the Executive Board shall be competent to decide and its decision shall be final and binding.

*Amended:  
29-07-20  
21-07-21  
05-06-23  
28-05-24*

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

- (a) The Challenge League shall take the form of a league which shall be played by all the sixteen (16) clubs in the Division 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 sixteen (16) clubs on a single round-robin basis.
  - (ii) At the end of the First Phase, the clubs classified in the first eight (8) places in the League during the First Phase shall play against each other on a Single Round Robin basis known as Top Eight Round. The clubs classified between the ninth (9th) and sixteenth (16th) 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 Eight Round shall be declared the Champion of the Challenge League, and shall be promoted to the Premier League;
  - (ii) the Club classified second (2nd) in the official Classification Table of the Top Eight Round shall be declared the Runner-Up of the Challenge League, and shall be promoted to the Premier League;

- (iii) the Clubs placed in the last and penultimate places in the official Classification Table of the Play-Out Round 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 be divided into two (2) hierarchical leagues, National Amateur League 1 and National Amateur League 2.

- (a) The National Amateur League 1 shall be composed of twelve (12) teams and shall be played on a double round-robin basis.

At the end of the league the following shall apply:

- i. the Club placed in the first (1st) position in the official Classification Table shall be declared the Champion of the National Amateur League 1 and shall be promoted to the Challenge League.
- ii. the Club classified second (2nd) in the official Classification Table shall be declared the Runner-Up of the National Amateur League 1 and shall be promoted to the Challenge League.
- iii. the Clubs placed in the last two positions in the official Classification Table shall be relegated to the National Amateur League 2.

- (b) The National Amateur League 2 shall be composed of such other number of teams as established by the Executive Board under these regulations, and shall be played on a double round-robin basis.

At the end of the league the following shall apply:

- i. the Club placed in the first (1st) position in the official Classification Table shall be declared the Champion of the National Amateur League 2 and shall be promoted to the National Amateur League 1.
- ii. the Club classified second (2nd) in the official Classification Table shall be declared the Runner-Up of the National Amateur League 2 and shall be promoted to the National Amateur League 1.
- iii. the clubs placed in the last two positions in the official classification table shall drop out of the National League. Such Clubs 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.

MALTA FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

**MOTION REGARDING THE NATIONAL 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 National League matches may not play more than one-half of its league matches at such a stadium.

**COMPOSITION OF THE NATIONAL LEAGUE FOR SEASON 2024/25**  
(approved during the General Assembly of the 19th July 2024)

Provided that:

- a) the General Assembly in its meeting of the 13th April 2023, resolved to change the composition of the National League as of Season 2024/25;
- b) the Executive Board on the 5<sup>th</sup> June 2023 approved the regulations governing such composition and agreed on a transition which shall lead thereto over the course of two football seasons;
- c) the General Assembly in its meeting of the 19<sup>th</sup> July 2024 further resolved to increase by one further season the transition towards the regular composition of the National Amateur League 1 and the National Amateur League 2.

1. For Season 2024/25 only, Article 7(III) of the Rules Governing the National League of the Malta Football Association shall read as follows:

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

The National Amateur League shall be divided into two (2) hierarchical leagues, National Amateur League 1 and National Amateur League 2.

- (a) The National Amateur League 1 shall be composed of sixteen (16) teams. It shall take the form of a league which 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 sixteen (16) clubs on a single round-robin basis.
- ii. In the Second Phase, the clubs classified in the first six (6) places in the League during the First Phase shall play against each other on a Single Round Robin basis known as Top Six Round. The clubs classified between the seventh (7<sup>th</sup>) and sixteenth (16<sup>th</sup>) 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.

Provided that should there be two or more teams with the same points when determining which of the teams shall play in the “Top 6 Group” during the second phase, Article 35 (II) (i) (a) - (f) of the Competition Rules (Section V) shall apply.

- iii. At the end of the Second Phase:
  - a. the Club placed in the first (1<sup>st</sup>) position in the official Classification Table of the Top Six Round shall be declared the Champion of the National Amateur League 1, and shall be promoted to the Challenge League;
  - b. the Club classified second (2<sup>nd</sup>) in the official Classification Table of the Top Six Round shall be declared the Runner-Up of the National Amateur League 1, and shall be promoted to the Challenge League;
  - c. the Clubs placed between the thirteenth (13<sup>th</sup>) and sixteenth (16<sup>th</sup>) place in the official Classification Table of the Play-Out Round shall be relegated to the National Amateur League 2.

- (b) The National Amateur League 2 shall be composed of ten (10) teams and shall be played on a double round-robin basis.

At the end of the league the following shall apply:

- i. The clubs finishing in the top four positions (first, second, third, fourth) shall participate in the Top Four Round which shall be played in the form of a league between them on a single round robin basis. The winner of the Top Four Round shall be declared Champion of the National Amateur League 2 and promoted to the National Amateur League 1. The club finishing second in the Top Four Round shall be declared the Runner-Up of the National Amateur League 2, and shall be promoted to the National Amateur League 1.
- ii. The clubs placed in the last two positions in the official classification table shall drop out of the National

League. Such Clubs may apply for re-instatement.

2. For Season 2025/26, Article 7(III) of the Rules Governing the National League of the Malta Football Association shall read as follows:

*Amended:  
26-05-25*

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

The National Amateur League shall be divided into two (2) hierarchical leagues, National Amateur League 1 and National Amateur League 2.

- (a) The National Amateur League 1 shall be composed of fourteen (14) teams and shall be played on a double round-robin basis.
  - i. At the end of the league, the Club placed in the first (1st) position in the official Classification Table shall be declared the Champion of the National Amateur League 1 and shall be promoted to the Challenge League;
  - ii. the Club classified second (2nd) in the official Classification Table shall be declared the Runner-Up of the National Amateur League 1 and shall be promoted to the Challenge League;
  - iii. the Clubs placed between the eleventh (11th) and fourteenth (14th) place in the official Classification Table shall be relegated to the National Amateur League 2.
- (b) The National Amateur League 2 shall be composed of the remaining teams and shall be played on a double round-robin basis.
  - a. At the end of the league, the Club placed in the first (1st) position in the official Classification Table shall be declared the Champion of the National Amateur League 2 and shall be promoted to the National Amateur League 1;
  - b. the Club classified second (2nd) in the official Classification Table shall be declared the Runner-Up of the National Amateur League 2 and shall be promoted to the National Amateur League 1;
  - c. the clubs placed in the last two positions in the official classification table shall drop out of the National League. Such Clubs may apply for re-instatement.

**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.

## 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.

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

- (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>.

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 team had not been expelled or had not withdrawn from the league in the past season,

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

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.

*Amended:  
28-05-24*

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

- (i) All the teams in Sections A, B, and C shall play each other on a single round-robin basis.
- (ii) At the end of such round, a second phase is played wherein the teams classified in the first six (6) places in the League during the First Phase shall play against each other and the teams classified seventh (7<sup>th</sup>) to twelfth (12<sup>th</sup>) in the League during the First Phase shall play against each other. In the case of Section A and B this second phase shall be played on a double-round robin basis, whereas in Section C it shall be played on a single round-robin basis.
- (iii) Should there be two or more teams with the same points when determining which of the teams shall play in the "Top 6 Group" during the second phase, Article 35 (II) (i) (a) - (f) of the Competition Rules (Section V) shall apply.
- (iv) 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.

Provided that players eligible to participate in both the Women's Senior Competition and the U21 Competition shall not exceed a cumulative total of one hundred and thirty-five (135) minutes of regular playing time across two (2) consecutive matches in the two (2) different categories.

- (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. Provided that a player can only be listed in not more than two squad lists between the Club's Senior, Under 21, and Under 16 squads participating in the respective competitions.
  - (b) 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.

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

- (c) 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:
  - 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.

*Amended:  
08-06-20  
23-06-21  
05-06-23  
28-05-24  
26-05-25*

*Amended:  
26-05-25*

- (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  
05-06-23  
26-05-25*

The Women's 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 clubs on a double round robin basis.
- (b) At the end of the First Phase, the clubs classified in the first four (4) places in the League during the First Phase shall play against each other on a triple round robin basis, known as Top Four. The clubs classified in the remaining places in the League at the end of the First Phase shall play against each other on a triple round robin basis known as the Play-Out Round.

At the end of the league the highest placed Club in the Top Four shall be declared the Champion of the Women's National League.

Upon confirmation of the number of participating clubs, the Women's Football Department may propose a modification to the competition format, subject to consultation with the Women's Football Committee.

## 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; 05-06-2023; 04-09-2023, 26-05-2025)

Amended:  
23-06-21  
05-06-23  
26-05-25

#### 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 National Women's Youth League of the Malta Football Association, and/or in the form of a Knock-Out Competition, which shall be known as the National Women's Youth 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  
05-06-23  
26-05-25

#### 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  
05-06-23  
26-05-25

#### 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 19 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  
05-06-23  
04-09-23  
28-05-24  
26-05-25

#### 4. Eligibility of Players

(i) 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.

Provided that players eligible to participate in both the Women's Senior Competition and the U21 Competition shall not exceed a cumulative total of one hundred and thirty-five (135) minutes of regular playing time across two (2) consecutive matches in the two (2) different categories.

(ii) Clubs may also include on the Official Match Report Form not more than one (1) over-age player who did not play (even if listed on the Official Match Report Form) in the last three (3) months in the Women's Seniors Competitions prior to the match in question.

In any case, such an over-age player may not, at any point of the season, play more than three (3) consecutive games with the Under 21 team.

(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 in such competitive matches. Provided that a player can only be listed in not more than two squad lists between the Club's Senior, Under 21, and Under 16 squads participating in the respective competitions.

(iv) 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.

(v) 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.
- (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:  
08-06-20  
23-06-21  
05-06-23  
26-05-25*

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

The Women's Under 21 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 clubs on a double round robin basis.
- (b) At the end of the First Phase, the clubs classified in the first four (4) places in the League during the First Phase shall play against each other on a double round robin basis, known as Top Four. The clubs classified in the remaining places in the League at the end of the First Phase shall play against each other on a double round robin basis known as the Play-Out Round.
- (c) At the end of the league the highest placed Club in the Top Four shall be declared the Champion of the Women's Under 21 League.
- (d) Upon confirmation of the number of participating clubs, the Women's Football Department may propose a modification to the competition format, subject to consultation with the Women's Football Committee.

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

*Amended:  
23-06-21  
05-06-23  
26-05-25*

- (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  
26-05-25*

## **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  
08-06-23  
26-05-25*

## **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  
05-06-23  
26-05-25*

## 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 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.
  - (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.
- (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.
- (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 CHALLENGE CUP OF THE MALTA FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION**  
*Introduced 12.03.2025, Amended 07.07.2025*

**1. Name of the Competition**

*Amended:  
07-07-25* The Competition shall be known as the Challenge Cup. 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**

*Amended:  
07-07-25* (i) This Competition shall be held annually. All Challenge League Clubs and Gozo First Division 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.

**5. Mode of the Competition**

(viii) This Competition shall be played on a knock-out basis.

(ix) A Preliminary Round shall be played if the total number of participating Clubs is more than sixteen (16). The number of preliminary round matches is determined so as to reduce to sixteen (16) the number of Clubs which will take part in the Round of 16 of the Competition.

(x) (a) If the number of Clubs participating in the Competition is more than sixteen (16), the Round of 16 of the Competition shall be played between the Clubs which qualify from the Preliminary Round and the remaining Challenge League teams from the Preliminary Round draw (bye).

(b) If the number of Clubs participating in the Competition is sixteen (16), the Round of 16 of the Competition shall be played between all the Clubs according to the draw.

(xi) The eight (8) Clubs which qualify from the Round of 16 shall play against each other in the Quarter Finals.

(xii) The four (4) winners of the Quarter-Finals shall play in the Semi Finals.

(xiii) 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**

*Amended:  
07-07-25* (i) The winner of the final match shall be declared to be the winner of the Challenge Cup Competition.

(ii) (a) The winner shall, at the end of the match, be presented by the Association with the Challenge Cup 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).

*Amended:  
07-07-25*

- (iv) (a) The twenty (20) 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.
- (d) The twenty (20) 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.
- (e) 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.
- (w) 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.

**1. Name of the Competition**

The Competition shall be known as the Jubilee Cup. 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 is being held in occasion of the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Malta Football Association. All Member Clubs including Gozo FA 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) Teams representing the Member Associations shall be invited to participate in this competition.

**5. Mode of the Competition**

(xiv) This Competition shall be played on a knock-out basis.

(xv) The Competition shall be played in two phases.

a) Phase One - Member Clubs

(i) Phase One shall be played between all Clubs participating in the National Amateur League 1 and National Amateur League 2 together with all Gozo FA Clubs.

(ii) Participating Clubs will be divided in three sections, namely North, South and Gozo.

(iii) In each respective section, a Preliminary Round shall be played if the total number of participating Clubs is more than twelve (12). The number of preliminary round matches is determined so as to reduce to twelve (12) the number of Clubs which will take part in the Phase One Round 1 of the Competition.

(iv) If the number of Clubs participating in each respective section of the Competition is more than twelve (12), Phase One Round 1 of the Competition shall be played between the Club/s which qualify from the Preliminary Round and the remaining Clubs from the Preliminary Round draw (bye).

(v) The six (6) Clubs which qualify from Phase 1 Round 1 shall play against each other in Round 2. The three (3) winners of the respective section Round 2 will qualify for Phase Two of the Competition.

b) Phase One - Member Associations

(i) A Preliminary Round shall be played if the total number of participating Teams is more than four (4). The number of preliminary round matches is determined so as to reduce to four (4) the number of Clubs which will take part in the Phase One Round 1 of the Competition.

(ii) If the number of Clubs participating in the Competition is more than four (4), Phase One Round 1 of the Competition shall be played between the Club/s which qualify from the Preliminary Round and the remaining Clubs from the Preliminary Round draw (bye).

(iii) The two (2) Clubs which qualify from Phase 1 Round 1 shall play against each other in Round 2. The winner will qualify for Phase Two of the Competition.

c) Phase Two

(i) Phase Two shall be played between all Clubs participating in the Premier and Challenge League together with the ten (10) Clubs which qualified from Phase One.

- (ii) A Preliminary Round shall be played so as to reduce to thirty-two (32) the number of Clubs which will take part in Phase 2. The Preliminary Round shall be played between the Challenge League Clubs and the ten (10) Clubs which qualified from Phase One.
- (iii) The Phase Two Round 1 of the Competition shall be played between the Clubs which qualify from the Preliminary Round and the remaining Clubs from the Preliminary Round draw (bye) together with the Premier League Clubs. In this Round the Premier League Clubs will be seeded and will not play each other.
- (iv) The sixteen (16) Clubs which qualify from Round 1 shall play against each other in the Round of 16.
- (v) The eight (8) winners of the Round of 16 shall play 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. Eligibility of Players

Notwithstanding Article 9 of the MFA Competition Rules (Section V), the participation of players, who have not formed part of the Youth Sector of the Association, with a team for any match shall be as follows:

- (a) Not more than five (5) players on the field of play, during that time in the match when the ball is in play. Provided that the number of such players listed on the Official Match Report Form for such matches shall not exceed eleven (11).
- (b) A player is eligible to participate with only one (1) team representing a Member Association during the competition. Member Associations shall forward a squad list by the end of the Summer Transfer window.

## 7. Duration of Matches

- (i) The duration of matches shall be ninety (90) minutes.
- (ii) In all the matches of the competition, except in the case of Semi-Finals and Final, if at the end of normal playing time the match is still drawn, penalties shall be taken in accordance with the Competition Rules to determine the winner of the match.
- (iii) In the Semi-Finals and Final 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.

## 8. 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 Jubilee Cup (Men) Competition.
- (ii)
  - (a) The winner shall, at the end of the match, be presented by the Association with the Jubilee Cup (Men) 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 twenty-two (22) 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.
  - (f) The twenty-two (22) 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.

- (x) 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.

**1. Name of the Competition**

The Competition shall be known as the Women Jubilee Cup. 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**

This Competition is being held in occasion of the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Malta Football Association. All Women Clubs participating in the Women's League 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.

**5. Mode of the Competition**

- (i) The Competition shall be played on a knock-out basis.
- (ii) A Preliminary Round shall be played so as to reduce to eight (8) the number of Clubs which will take part in the Quarter Finals. Clubs which finished in position 1 to 4 of the previous season shall not take part in the Preliminary Round.
- (iii) The Quarter Finals shall be played between the Clubs which qualify from the Preliminary Round and the remaining Clubs from the Preliminary Round draw (bye) together with the Top 4 Clubs of the previous season. In the Quarter Finals the Top 4 Clubs of the previous season will be seeded and will not play each other.
- (iv) The four (4) winners of the Quarter-Finals shall play in the Semi Finals.
- (v) 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, except in the case of Semi-Finals and Final, if at the end of normal playing time the match is still drawn, penalties shall be taken in accordance with the Competition Rules to determine the winner of the match.
- (iii) In the Semi-Finals and Final 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 Jubilee Cup (Women) Competition.
- (ii) (a) The winner shall, at the end of the match, be presented by the Association with the Jubilee Cup (Women) 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 twenty (20) 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.  
(g) The twenty (20) 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.
- (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.