



To Members of the EFA

*Circular No. 142*

Mbabane, 17<sup>th</sup> June 2020

## **Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on EFA Members –EFA Relief Funding**

The EFA Members will note that the universal health environment linked to COVID-19 continues to have a severely adverse effect on football universally.

### ***Fiscal distress on EFA Members due to COVID-19***

The EFA understands that this has presented unprecedented challenges in terms of the discharge of customary and fundamental football business activities and mundane statutory responsibilities, as well as causing severe short-term financial distress to the EFA Members. EFA members will also note that in April 2020, in thoughtfulness of the fiscal needs of her members and the larger football development intents, received additional grant amounts. The EFA Executive Committee has therefore been enthusiastically examining the evolution of this universal health threat and its impact on the domestic football business.

### ***Mitigation of the COVID-19 pandemic effects to Members of the EFA***

As a result, and as had earlier been asserted, the EFA Executive Committee has established an exceptional financial relief reflective of this extraordinary emergency. To this end, whilst waiting for the mooted FIFA's COVID-19 Relief Fund, the Executive Committee, having analyzed its financial capacities in careful consideration of its continuance to assure the survival of the association and inherent pertinent football business prospectively, has established an allocation amounting to E2, 275, 000 (*Two Million Two Hundred and Seventy-Five Thousand Emalangen*), to the EFA members to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 threat.

The abovementioned allocation, through meticulous consideration of the magnitude of the football business and existent dynamic environments within each of the EFA Members, albeit imperfectly, will be distributed as follows:

- Regional Football Associations - E1, 200, 000 (@ E300, 000 per Regional FA)
- Premier League of Eswatini - E700, 000
- Women Football Association - E125, 000
- Eswatini Coaches Association - E125, 000
- Eswatini Referees Association - E125, 000

The respective allocated funds will be transmitted to the EFA members' respective bank accounts within the next few days.

### ***Update on the FIFA's COVID-19 Relief Fund***

The definite FIFA COVID-19 Relief fund, for which the subject of the relief fund was borne, has not yet been determined by FIFA, as FIFA and its functional legislative organs, are currently finalizing the impact assessment of the COVID-19 pandemic across the 211 Member Associations of FIFA, including the consideration of germane financial governance processes.

The Executive Committee, will on confirmation and communication of EFA's determined respective relief fund with inherent conditions, by FIFA, assemble to appropriately determine the FIFA COVID-19 Relief Fund utilization, in compliance with the financial controls and statutory requirements, that will be prescribed for it.

### ***Remaining Grant to EFA members for the 2020 Financial Year***

The remaining grant funds due to EFA Members for the 2020 Financial Year will still be transmitted to respective member association. This will be received in the originally prescribed period of August of every year.

### ***Utilization and accountability of the allocated COVID-19 Relief Funds***

This funding should be utilized to mitigate the financial impact of COVID-19 in the EFA member associations. The standard obligation and responsibilities in relation to financial accountability in relation to the use of these funds, as are all other funds granted to EFA members (*the maintenance of all supporting documentation, purchase orders, invoices, claim forms, receipts, etc.*), remain fully applicable.

These funds will therefore also be subjected to the independent statutory audit, in compliance with the FIFA Forward Regulations. Financial jurisprudence is accordingly critical.

### ***Status of football competitions***

As originally directed, all football competitions (*leagues, knockouts, etc.*) countrywide, still remain suspended and will resume from the point where they were, at the point when they were suspended and be implemented until their conclusion, with the current football season (2019/2020) extended accordingly.

Whilst this is done, the EFA remains in close collaboration with the Government of the Kingdom of Eswatini and its international football governing bodies, as it continues to analyze the evolution of the COVID-19 situation.

In doing all these, the EFA will remain in conformity of the guiding principle of placing the health of all individuals who participate in the game of football at various levels first.

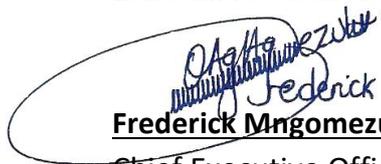
## Conclusion

In inference, the EFA Members and football family are still implored to endure to comply with the prescribed interventions prescribed by the Government of the Kingdom of Eswatini and competent health authorities, nationally and internationally, as a conquest strategy against this health threat, is being deliberated.

The EFA would like to take this opportunity to thank its members associations for their cooperation and tolerance during this challenging period. The spirit of solidarity and cooperation already exhibited by many in the face of this unprecedented crisis will ensure that the EFA together with its members overcome this unique challenge and emerge stronger than ever before.

The EFA, as always, remain fully open and available, whilst counting on your usual good cooperation which has always been held in the highest esteem.

Yours in Football,  
**Eswatini Football Association,**

  
**Frederick Mngomezulu**  
Chief Executive Officer

