

# **CONSTITUENCY FOOTBALL TOURNAMENTS**

## **PLAY RULES AND REGULATIONS**

### **NOVEMBER 2016**

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#### **PREAMBLE**

The Constituency Football Tournaments is a mass participation programme Government of Botswana.

These Rules and Regulations have been established to provide guidance and foster compliance to the tournament to ensure fair play and honesty. The tournament shall be played under the auspices of the Ministry of Youth, Sport & Culture

Any rights which are not ceded by these Regulations to any team taking part in the Tournament shall belong to the Ministry of Youth, Sport and Culture.

#### **ARTICLE 1 – TITLE**

- 1.1. The Constituency Football Tournaments shall be played every year on a three (3) months cycle with a one month break in between the cycles where possible.

#### **ARTICLE 2 - LAWS OF GAMES**

- 2.1. The Constituency Football Tournaments shall be played on a Tournament basis. Where there are **not** more than 6 (six) teams in a Council ward, teams shall play a round robin system and where there are more than 5 [five] teams in a Council Ward, teams will be grouped into pools and winners from each pool will play each other so as to have a champion.
- 2.2. All games are to be played in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the tournament coordinated by various structures established by Ministry of Youth, Sport and Culture in the Districts
- 2.3 All games shall be officiated by the appointed competent referees by the Coordinating Committees

## **ARTICLE 3 – REGISTRATION AND TRANSFERS OF THE PLAYERS**

- 3.1. Each team shall be permitted to register twenty-five (25) of which twenty-two (22) are players and three (3) are officials/managers.
- 3.2. The minimum quota required for registration is fifteen (15) players. Any registration team list with less the number than required shall be NOT accepted.
- 3.3. A player shall only play for the team he has registered with, thus no player shall be permitted to play or register for more than one team in the same cycle.
- 3.4. Each team shall be permitted to register three (3) employed players and they must be indicated with the letter **E** in the registration form and the teams are at liberty to field all the players.

### **3.4.1. According to Employment Act 14 Dec 1994, Chapter 47:01:**

***“An employee shall refer to any person who has either, before or after the commencement of the Act entered into a contract of employment for the higher of his/her labour” for instance people working in the farms or house assistants are employees.***

### **3.4.2. Exemption for registration and participation in the tournament as per above section, shall be given to people working in Ipelegeng Programme, Tirelo Sechaba, Herdboys, House Assistants, Farm Assistants and Government Volunteer Scheme**

- 3.5. Any team which has been found to have violated section 3.4 shall forfeit 3 points 2 goals to the opposing team or for any team they played with in the tournament. If the player if found to have scored the goals such goals will also be forfeited
- 3.6. All teams are expected to bring approved Registration Lists and certified copies of National Identity Document (Omang) during registration and for inspection before commencement of the game. Any team that fails to comply shall not be permitted to play.
- 3.7. All the registering teams are required to submit completed surety forms comprising of the Team`s Treasurer details.
- 3.8. Certified IDs should be three (3) months or less, any certified copy of ID which is more than three (3) will not be accepted. Those with expired IDs will not be permitted to register with the tournament.

- 3.9. Registration of teams will only take place once, in the entire financial year commencing April to March every year, thus no new team will be accepted during the financial year. New participants willing to join the Constituency Sport Tournament are at liberty to join the existing teams.
- 3.10. Exemption for registration of new teams will only be considered when the existing team`s registration forms within the same wards are complete with required maximum quota of twenty-two (22) players. Section 3.2 shall apply for the new registering teams.
- 3.11. Teams will only be allowed to participate in the tournament when they have registered with the various structures.
- 3.12. Movement of players shall only be permitted during registration period. No transfer of players shall be allowed during a Tournament cycle. Registration closing date marks the end of movement of players, thus no transfer shall be allowed during the cycle commencement.
- 3.13. Players eligible for participation are those forty (40) years and below.
- 3.14. Constituency Sport Tournaments is illegible to be played by people residing **within** the constituency by virtue of work, birth, relocation and residing with spouses or relatives
- 3.15. Employed players are not allowed to form their own teams, instead former players and community leaders are permitted to guide the youth teams in relation to coaching and financial advice. Police, Dikgosi and Councillors shall be Exco-fio members of the Committees in wards and are NOT permitted to form their own teams or affiliate to a single team
- 3.16. No person or group of people are allowed to manage more than one (1) club(s). A club may have several sporting codes bearing the same name.

#### **ARTICLE 4 – ENTRY QUALIFICATION**

- 4.1 Qualification for participation in the Games for Constituency Tournaments shall be for teams and players not affiliated and/or registered with the Botswana Football Association (BFA). Only teams and players not registered with any team affiliated to the National Sports Associations (BNSC affiliates) shall be eligible to play
- 4.2. Those players in possession of registration books for clubs affiliated to Botswana Football Association shall not be permitted to register in the tournament regardless of their playing time at their respective clubs.

Movement of such players shall take place only within the structures Botswana Football Association.

- 4.3. School going girls/boys/men/women from Primary to Tertiary institutions are **NOT** eligible to compete in the tournament. Only BOCCODOL students are allowed to participate. The youth awaiting Form 5 results shall register for participation in the coming cycle(s) provided that they completed studies while registration is on-going. Furthermore, the youth that are admitted to different schools after registration are allowed to continue playing till the end of the cycle.
- 4.4. In the event of a ward having 1 [one] team in any given sport code, the team shall either qualify for the next match stage without the prize money or use the nearest neighbour index to qualify for the next round. However, where there are at least two teams in a ward, they will play against each other with a view to determine a champion.
- 4.5. All participants of the tournament who registered and are admitted as students are allowed to continue playing till the end of the cycle.
- 4.6. For purposes of this Tournament, teams shall be eligible to participate in the following Constituencies:

**REGION 1**

1. Ghanzi North
2. Ghanzi South
3. Kgalagadi North
4. Kgalagadi South
5. Jwaneng/Mabutsnae

**REGION 2**

6. Okavango
7. Ngami
8. Maun East
9. Maun West
10. Nata/Gweta
11. Chobe
12. Boteti West

**REGION 3**

13. Gaborone Central
14. Gaborone North
15. Gaborone South
16. Gaborone Bonnington North
17. Gaborone Bonnington South
18. Mochudi East
19. Mochudi West
20. Tlokweng

**REGION 4**

- 21. Tati East
- 22. Tati West
- 23. Francistown East
- 24. Francistown West
- 25. Francistown South
- 26. Shashe West
- 27. Tonota South
- 28. Nkange

**REGION 5**

- 29. Bobirwa
- 30. Mmadinare
- 31. Selibe Phikwe East
- 32. Selibe Phikwe West
- 33. Lerala/Maunatlala
- 34. Palapye

**REGION 6**

- 35. Mahalapye East
- 36. Mahalapye West
- 37. Shoshong
- 38. Serowe West
- 39. Serowe North
- 40. Serowe South
- 41. Sefhare/Ramokgonami
- 42. Boteti East

**REGION 7**

- 43. Gabane/Mmankgodi
- 44. Thamaga/Kumakwane
- 45. Molepolole South
- 46. Molepolole North
- 47. Lentsweletau/Mmopane
- 48. Letlhakeng/Lephephe
- 49. Takatokwane
- 50. Mogoditshane

**REGION 8**

- 51. Lobatse
- 52. Moshupa/Manyana
- 53. Ramotswa
- 54. Kanye North
- 55. Kanye South
- 56. Mmathethe/Molapowanbojang
- 57. Goodhope/Mabule

## **ARTICLE 5 – ORGANISATION OF THE COMPETITION**

- 5.1. The Organising Committee for the Constituency Tournaments shall comprise the following: Coordinating Committee; Regional Committee Constituency Committee and Council Ward Committee where the Ministry of Youth, Sport and Culture serves as the Secretariat at Constituency & Regional level an as part of the Coordinating structures in all levels of the games.
- 5.2. The National finals shall be organised by the Local Organising Committee in conjunction with the National Committee
- 5.3. The Committees shall assume full responsibility of the management of the finals which shall include fixtures, venues and overseeing the tournament.

## **ARTICLE 6 – QUALIFICATION TO THE NEXT LEVEL**

- 6.1. The Constituency Games shall be played on a round robin point system. Three points shall be awarded for a win, one point for a draw and no points for a loss.
- 6.2. Each game shall be played in the period of forty-five (45) minutes which shall have a break of fifteen (15) minutes and complete the other period of forty-five (45) minutes to make it ninety (90) minutes.
- 6.3. The teams shall be divided into two (2) pools where the winning team in the pool shall play the other team in another pool to determine the champion for the ward, constituency and regional levels.
- 6.4. The games at a ward level shall be played on home and away routine basis to determine the winner of the pool. The championship level shall be played once to determine the winner.
- 6.5. The National Finals shall be played into two (2) pools, with a round robin system in which section 6.3 will also apply.
- 6.6. Three points shall be awarded for a win, one point for a draw and zero points for a loss. The team with the highest number of points shall be declared the winner of the pool in all levels.
- 6.6. In the event that two teams have an equal number of points at the end of the game, a better goal difference will determine the winner and if the goals difference is the same, then the team with more goals for, will advance. If after 90 minutes of play, the two teams have equal number of goals, a penalty shoot-out shall be conducted in order to determine the winning team.

- 6.7. In circumstances where the game fail to be completed within stipulated ninety (90) minutes due to darkness or rainfall, such game shall be rescheduled to a date & time determined by the Organising Committee. The rescheduled game shall be freshly started.
- 6.8. In the event that there is a delay beyond fifteen (15) minutes of ***kick off***, on account of clash of colours, late arrives without satisfactory explanation, the host team shall be held responsible for the delay and shall accordingly be sanctioned by the Council Ward, Constituency and/or Coordinating Committee. Such sanction may be forfeiture of points
- 6.9. Any team that consistently and deliberately fails to honor or complete the games for various levels without valid or satisfactory explanation shall be declared to have withdrawn from the tournament, forfeit all points gained in the matches and shall not be eligible for any prize money. The persistent offenders shall be seriously dealt with.

#### **ARTICLE 7 - GENERAL MISCONDUCT**

- 7.1. Teams shall be held responsible for the misconduct of their members / supporters during these competitions. Suspension or disqualification of one (1) cycle shall be imposed upon any team if found guilty of misconduct by the Coordinating Committee.
- 7.2. Teams which vandalize the school property where they have been accommodated will be liable to pay for the damage caused and untidy premises. Such payments will be deducted from their prize money
- 7.3. Use of abusive language, violent behaviour or consumption of alcohol by spectators shall constitute disqualification from the competition

#### **ARTICLE 8 - FORMATION OF STRUCTURES**

- 8.1. A Council Ward Committee shall be appointed by respective teams registered in that particular ward. The membership shall be chosen from Community leadership or retired/former players
- 8.2. Constituency Committee shall be appointed and constituted by members elected by various wards.
- 8.3. Regional Committee shall be constituted by Chairmen/Coordinators form various Constituencies

- 8.4. National Coordinating Committee shall constitute of Coordinators from the eight (8) Regions. The membership shall be eight (8) people with one person from Ministry HQ to serve as the Secretary of the Committee.
- 8.5. National Coordinating Committee Chairperson shall be recommended and endorsed by the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Youth, Sport & Culture.

## **ARTICLE 9 – DISPUTES RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEES**

- 9.1. A majority decision of the Council Ward Organising Committee on all matters relating to the Constituency Tournaments Games shall be final, provided that a decision by this Committee may be reviewed by the Constituency Committee.
- 9.2. A majority of the Constituency Committee on all matters relating to the Constituency Tournament Games shall be final, provided that a decision by this Committee may be reviewed by the Regional Committee. The Secretary position shall lie with MYSC office.
- 9.3. All matters relating to the tournament regarding disputes, misconduct and protests shall be referred to the Appeals Committee for adjudication and resolution
- 9.4. The members aligned to their own teams should recuse themselves from the hearings to avoid conflicts interests
- 9.5. Majority of the Regional Committee on all matters relating to the constituency tournament games shall be final, provided that a decision by this committee may be reviewed by the Constituency Sport Tournament Appeals Committee (CSTNC) which is the last resort body.

## **ARTICLE 10 – WITHDRAWAL AND PENALTY FOR FAILING TO HONOR GAMES**

- 10.1. All teams that are qualified to play in the Constituency Tournaments games are obliged to play all their competition matches.
- 10.2. A team that withdraws from the Constituency Tournaments games shall not be replaced once the competition has commenced. If a team withdraws from the competition once it has started, the Council Ward, Constituency, Regional and/or National Committee shall determine a way of dealing with the withdrawal without disadvantaging any team, thus all the points of withdrawn teams shall be discarded and log shall be constituted from the remaining teams and the games they have played against each other



- 10.3. If a team does not report for a match, except in cases of force majeure recognised by the Council Ward, Constituency, Regional and/or Coordinating Committee, or if it refuses to continue to play or leaves the ground before the end of the match, the team shall be considered as having lost and shall not proceed with the Competition. The other team shall be declared winners of the match and awarded three points and two (2) goals.
- 10.4. The coordinating committee at each level shall take whatever action it deems necessary in cases of force majeure
- 10.5. A team that gained soft points from a team that failed to honor the match shall NOT proceed to the next stage of competition with soft/free points in case it leads the log. Such teams will be eligible for a replay match with the next team below in the log to determine the winner. This article will not be applicable for teams that play the champion or deciding game, i.e. team that fail to honor the game for championship will be considered to have lost and the opposing team shall progress to the next level.
- 10.6. Matters of violence and any other disciplinary matter relating to the Games and considered relevant by the Coordinating Committee, shall be referred to the Disputes Resolutions Committees

#### **ARTICLE 11 - SUBSTITUTIONS AND AWARDING OF CARDS**

- 11.1. Only 3 players shall be substituted per an organised game.
- 11.2. If a player is given two (2) consecutive yellow cards in two different games and if a player or coach is red carded, he/she shall miss the next game.
- 11.3. Serious fouls committed by players shall lead to suspension of two games

#### **ARTICLE 12 – PROTESTS**

- 12.1. The coordinating committees at each level of the Tournament have the power to review and deal administratively with any reported irregularities. It is upon the coordinate Committee to call a team/individual for a hearing.
- 12.2. Protest shall be lodged at the beginning of the match and shall be registered with the Match officials or Coordinating Committee. Any team which make verbal protest without proper follow-up through the letter shall be considered to have lost the protest.

- 12.3. The protest shall be made in writing and submitted to the Secretary of the Coordinating Committee for adjudication
- 12.4. The protesting team shall notify the opposing team with a letter of protest. Failure to follow the procedure shall constitute to dismissal of the protest.
- 12.5. In the event that a team uses a defaulter, a penalty of suspension from the cycle shall apply for such a player and 3 points and 2 goals shall be forfeited by the guilty team.
- 12.6. All appeals should be submitted in writing within three (3) working days after the game and it must be indicated in the match sheet. The appeal should be accompanied by adequate evidence. The team that is appealing is responsible for searching for evidence.
- 12.7. The same evidence of documents submitted at the lower structures for determining the matter, shall be submitted to upper structures when appealing
- 12.8. No protests shall be permitted based on the points or arguing against the decision of the referee. Such matters will be reviewed and determined by the Coordinating Committee.

#### ARTICLE 13 - FORGERY OF EVIDENCE- DOCUMENTS

- 13.1. If the appealing is found to have altered the evidence, such teams will be expelled from the tournament and handed to the investigating authority for necessary action.

#### ARTICLE 14 – MATCHES PLAYED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAWS OF THE GAME

- 14.1. All matches shall be played in accordance with the laws of the game governing the tournament.
- 14.2. All teams participating in these games are requested to observe and abide strictly by these Regulations.
- 14.3. A game shall be started by tossing of a coin to determine sides from which will be changed at half time as the tournament Rules and Regulations.
- 14.4. In all matters that are not covered by these Rules and Regulations the National Coordinating Committees shall make a final decision as it is the case with International Standards.

## **ARTICLE 15 – TEAM COLOURS**

**15.1.** In the event of a clash of colours at any game, the host team shall change to an alternative colour. The host team shall be the team appearing first on the fixture schedule. The host team shall be expected to have brought with them to the ground an alternative playing outfit, provided that the change of kit shall not take more than fifteen (15) minutes from the time the Referee orders it.

## **ARTICLE 16 – REFEREES AND ASSISTANT REFEREES**

**16.1.** Referees and Assistant Referees shall be appointed by the Coordinating Committee for purposes of the Constituency Tournaments Games.

**16.2.** In the event the Referees and Assistant referees do not show up at Games, the teams involved may appoint officials at their discretion.

**16.3.** Teams are encouraged to look for competent referees.

## **ARTICLE 17 – GATE TAKINGS**

**17.1.** Where applicable, the teams shall share Gate takings on 50/50 basis.

**17.2.** A total of 25 persons per team including players and officials shall be allowed free access into the ground and a team that fails to observe this requirement shall forfeit its share of the gate takings from that particular match to the opponent. If they are not playing, they shall forfeit gate takings at the very next match they play.

## **ARTICLE 18 - CEREMONIES**

**18.1.** Competing teams at the National finals shall be expected to conform to the proper sport attire and etiquette of awards ceremonies which will be organised at the end of the games

## **ARTICLE 19 - SAFETY AND SECURITY**

**19.1.** The National Committee and Local Organising, Constituency and Regional Committees shall ensure that adequate security personnel is provided at all matches and lodging facilities for the safety of participants and their property as well as the unruly behaviour from spectators.

**ARTICLE 20 - OTHER MATTERS**

**20.1.** Teams are reminded that assistance with transport might **ONLY** be provided at Regional and National Final Championships.

**CHANGES OR ALTERATION**

No team/individual/committee shall modify/use/develop its own set of rules other than the ones captured on this edition.

.....  
**NATIONAL COORDINATING  
CHAIRPERSON**

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**DPS (R & D)  
MYSC**