



1. ELIGIBILITY

- (a) Only players born on or after **1 January 1996** are eligible to play in the **2015** Metropolitan Premier Cup.
- (b) Only bona-fide members of SAFA and their respective Provincial / Regional bodies are eligible for participation. Also, teams from foreign countries invited to participate by the tournament organizers.
- (c) All players must be registered for the **2015** season with their participating club. No player will be allowed to play without a SAFA / SAFA Cape Town or a SAFA card from his or her region (**Except for visiting teams where special permission has been granted by the Premier Cup Committee**).
- (d) All players must have their Identity document/smart card or valid passport available for purpose of registration and identification.
- (e) If a player is not able to produce proof of identification, such a player will be deemed to be ineligible and will not be allowed to play in the tournament.
- (f) Identity document/smart card or valid passport do not make a player eligible to play without proof of registration with SAFA. (**Except for visiting teams where the Premier Cup Committee has granted special permission.**)
- (g) All players are compelled to go through the scrutiny process before they will be allowed to play in the tournament.
- (h) The Premier Cup Committee reserve the right to perform random checks on players during the duration of the tournament.
- (i) Teams found using an ineligible player/s will be disqualified from the tournament.

2. TOURNAMENT FORMAT

- (a) Thirty-two (32) teams divided into eight (8) groups (A to H) of four (4) teams each shall contest the tournament.
- (b) The four (4) teams play each other once in their group and a league table of the results is drawn up.
- (c) The two (2) top teams in each group shall progress to the second round of the **Metropolitan Premier Cup Super (16) Championship Series** (Winner Section)



- (d) In the event of two (2) teams ending with the same number of points in their groups, the team with the superior goal difference shall be declared the higher group finisher.
- (e) If the teams cannot be separated by goal difference (refer to point above), the team that scored the highest number of goals will then be declared the higher group finisher.
- (f) If the teams cannot be separated by the highest number of goals scored, the corresponding result between the teams in the round robin stage will be declared the higher group finisher.
- (g) If the teams are still tied (having referred to the points above), kicks from the penalty mark shall be taken (as per FIFA guidelines). Both teams shall require not more than eleven eligible players on the field for the purpose of the penalty kicks.
- (h) Should a team refuse to take penalties, then the opponent will be declared the higher finisher in the respective group.
- (j) The third placed teams in each section (a-h) i.e. eight (8) teams shall contest the Metropolitan Premier Cup Plate Series.

3. **Match Duration:**

- a. **Round Robin stage:**
Each league round robin match shall consist of two (2) halves of 30 minutes each with no extra time.
- b. **Knockout format for winners' section.**
 - i. The duration of the last sixteen (16) matches will consist of two (2) halves of thirty (30) minutes each way.
 - ii. The quarterfinals, semi-finals will consist of two (2) halves of thirty five (35) minutes each way.
 - iii. The final will consist of two (2) halves of forty (40) minutes each way.
 - iv. In the event of the scores being level at full time, a further duration of eight (8) minutes each way shall be played.
 - v. If the match is still level after the extra time, the match will be decided by kicks from the penalty mark (as per FIFA regulations).



c. **Format for Dullah Omar mid – section.**

- i. The losers of the quarterfinals of the Winner's section will contest the **Dullah Omar Mid-Section** competition (Knock out).
- ii. The duration of play for this competition will be two (2) halves of thirty (30) minutes each way. **No extra time will be played.**
- iii. In the event that the match ends in a draw, the winner of the match shall be decided by kicks from the penalty mark (as per FIFA regulations).

d. **Format for Plate section:**

- i. The quarterfinal, semi-final and final shall consist of two (2) halves of thirty (30) minutes each way.
- ii. In the event of the scores being tied at full time, the winner of the match will be decided by kicks from the penalty mark (as per FIFA regulations). No extra time will be played.

e. **Draws for Knockout Stage:**

- i. The last sixteen (16) will be **BLOCK FIXTURES** as stipulated in the fixtures (i.e. winner group "A" vs ...).
- ii. The quarterfinal and semi-final of the Winner Section will be open draws.

f. The Mid Section and Plate Section quarterfinals and semi-finals will be **BLOCK FIXTURES**.

4. POINTS SYSTEM

The points system is applicable to the qualifying league round only and will be allocated as follows:

- a. Three (3) points for a win.
- b. Two (2) points for a score draw.
- c. One (1) point for a goalless draw.



5. GENERAL RULES OF THE COMPETITION

a. Registration

- i. Participating teams shall register a squad of twenty (20) players, of which 3 may be guest players. Plus four (4) members in the technical staff (24).
- ii. **Conditions for guest players:** The guest players must provide the committee with a letter of consent from their club with whom they are registered. It must be on the (**club letterhead**), accompanied with their player's registration card
- j. The managers and coach must be registered for the 2015 season with SAFA.
- k. A total of four (4) substitutes (including the goalkeeper) are allowed in all games.
- l. A player having received two (2) cautions in different matches shall serve an automatic one-match (1) suspension.
- m. All cautions will fall away after the round robin stage.
- n. A player dismissed from the field of play during any match shall serve a one-match (1) suspension.
- o. Such a player may be summoned to appear before the Tournament Disciplinary Committee at the discretion of the tournament organisers.
- p. The Disciplinary Committee will have the right to review the one-match suspension.
- q. If a player was sent-off in the last match of the round robin stage, the suspension will carry through to the knock-out stage.
- j. The referee's decision shall be final and binding and the Tournament Committee shall entertain no protests.
- k. In the event of a colour clash, the second (2nd) team mentioned on the fixture will affect the change of strip. Should a team fail to affect an alternative strip they will forfeit the match.
- l. All team shall have an alternative strip.
- m. The referee will decide if there is a clash of colours or not.



- n. All teams shall participate in all programs arranged by the organisers, and or sponsors as part of the tournament.
- o. Teams will not be allowed to display their sponsor's branding on the venue without consultation and permission from the organisers.
- p. Failure to do so will be deemed as misconduct, and bringing the tournament into disrepute.
- q. Any team bringing the tournament into disrepute shall not have any claim to any awards and/or prize monies.
- r. All teams shall make themselves available for squads, as well as individual photographs. Teams shall also avail themselves for media interviews if required to do so.

6. **INCENTIVES:**

The tournament organisers shall have the sole right to decide on the incentives to teams, players, managers or coaches.

Should there be more than one player with an equal number of goals scored, no trophy shall be awarded for top goal scorer.

The prize money for the top goal scorer will then be shared amongst the players with equal number of goals scored.

7. **DISCLAIMER:**

Neither the Premier Cup committee, nor the sponsors or the host club can be held responsible for the following:

- a. Damages to or theft of vehicles belonging to spectators, visitors or players.
- b. Any injuries sustained as a visitor or player. First aid will be available throughout the tournament especially for players.
- c. The loss of personal items.
- d. The loss of playing kit or valuables from the dressing rooms or anywhere in the proximity of the sports field.

The Metropolitan Premier Cup Tournament Committee will arbitrate any matter not covered by the rules of the tournament. Their ruling will be final and binding on the matter/s concerned.