



FOOTBALL RESTART ROAD MAP

Redefining A New Normal : Safe Football Enviroment in The Presence of COVID 19 Pandemic

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Football Association of Malawi

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Football is not feasible under the most severe restrictions during a pandemic. A “new normal” is required moving forward,

This blueprint will attempt to define the new normal for

Malawi football.

Walter Nyamilandu,

FAM President

Executive Summary

The declaration of a State of National disaster due to the coronavirus by the State President Prof. Arthur Peter Mutharika, on 20th March 2020, led to restrictions that have affected gathering of people, which includes football, in Malawi. It was immediately evident that football, as an industry, was impacted seriously. This is because of football’s generic contribution to the physical, psychological and emotional well-being of Malawians.

Football is a substantive source of economic activity for clubs, players, sponsors, facility owners and a cross-section of stakeholders. The COVID-19 pandemic has had devastating effects due to the significant restrictions on football. Resumption of football can, therefore, significantly contribute to the return to normality.

The principles outlined in this document apply equally to Elite League football, Regional Leagues, Youth and Grassroots as well as Women football. This strategy is a proposal for restart of football activity in a cautious and methodical manner, to optimize players’, officials’ and fans’ safety.

The timing on the resumption of football activity (the ‘when’) will be made in close consultation with Government through Malawi National Council of Sports. The priority at all times shall be to preserve public health to minimize the risk of COVID 19-transmission.

The Power Of Football

Globally football has been placed on hiatus during the COVID-19 pandemic.

However, football has health, social and economic benefits for the individual and society.

FIFA May, 2020

We can also fight the COVID 19 pandemic by coming up with strategies to live with it, as we define our new normal in football.

Strategies that will demonstrate how much we value the health and safety of our Players, Officials and Fans in line with our business continuity plan

Chimango Munthali

*FAM COVID 19 Taskforce
Chairperson*

Introduction

The World Health Organization (WHO) has categorized COVID-19 as a pandemic that is expected to pose a profound challenge in all aspects of life. The pandemic has notably resulted in large-scale morbidity, a global recession and the progressive shift of what we have come to expect as social norms. The high transmissibility of the causative virus strain – severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) – and its elevated virulence have been detailed as the basis for the raised mortality and morbidity rates compared to other respiratory infections.

Mitigation measures advocated by the WHO and enforced by national governments, local authorities, sports organizing bodies, businesses and individuals have saved, and will continue to save, lives. However, the indefinite continuation of movement restrictions, and other constraints on everyday lifestyles, is unfeasible. The current public health and social measures, which have varied from region to region, are not designed to be a complete and final strategy but rather an opportunity to buy valuable time for an international and intersectoral collaboration between governments and health authorities to build the resources and systems required to:

- Test: every case where testing is indicated while having effective prevention strategies in place;
- Trace: follow up all confirmed cases of COVID-19 and contact-trace every contact to identify and deter transmission; and
- Treat: manage all cases effectively with adequate health system capacity, ventilators and staff.

Football has been placed on hiatus during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, it has health, social and economic benefits for the individual and society. Given the novel status of the COVID-19 virus, there is a dearth of scientific evidence with regard to the role that sports participation and physical activity play in the transmission of the infection. One thing, however, that Stakeholders should understand is that the characteristics of COVID-19 may well remain unknown up to this point in time.

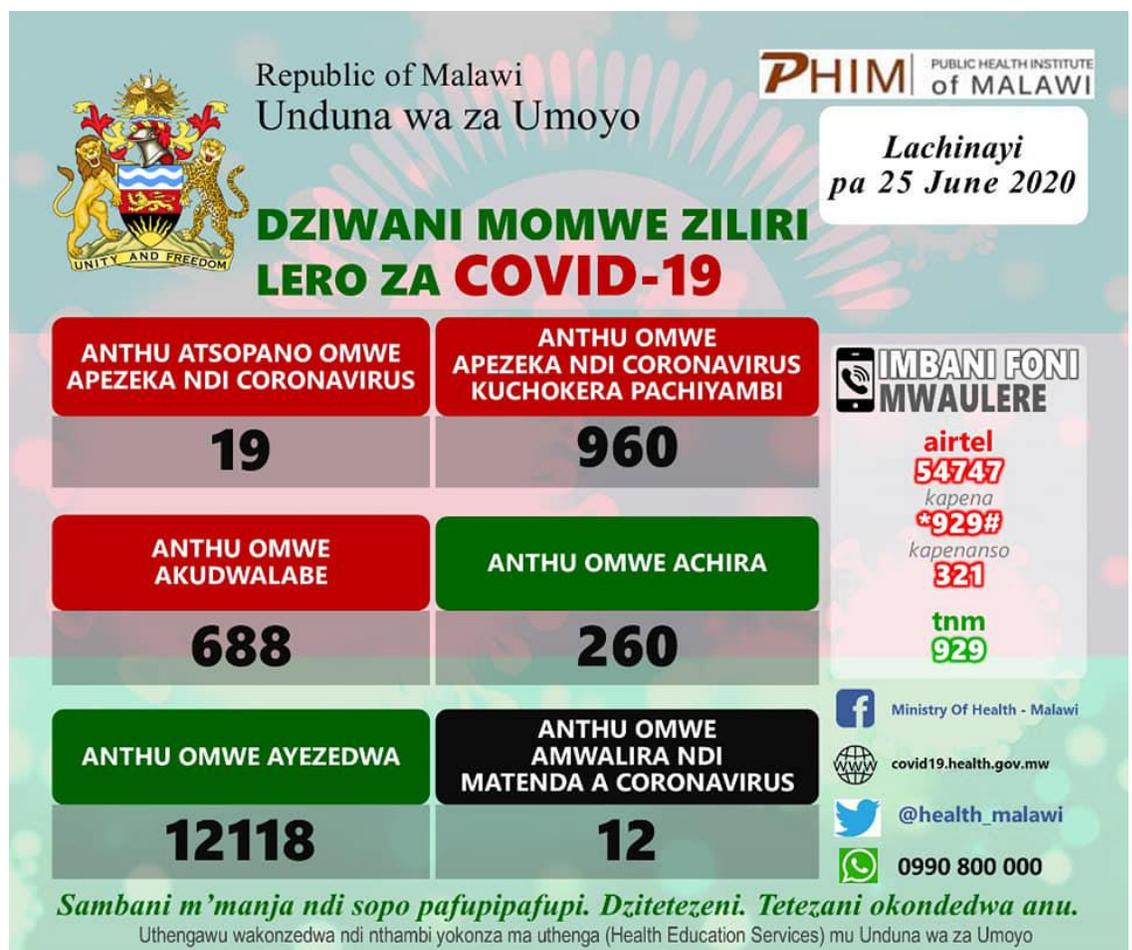
Situation Analysis

This section highlights the COVID 19 status update and how it is affecting the Football Association of Malawi's (FAM's) area of interest which is organized football industry in Malawi.

COVID 19 IN MALAWI

Since 20th March 2020, the number of confirmed cases has been on the rise as per the dashboard below from Ministry of Health

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Soon after the State President's declaration of COVID 19 as a national disaster, FAM followed suit and suspended all association football activities in line with government

guidelines. The effects of the football shutdown on different stakeholders have been highlighted below.

overview of the status of covid-19 in malawi and its effects on the game of football

1. Change of Football Calendar

The Malawi Football season runs from March to December. Now that we did not start in March 2020 and with prospect of not starting before the next three months it means our football calendar will automatically change from a one-year calendar (2020) to a two-year calendar (2020-2021).

2. Effect on Sponsorships

Malawi Football has been hit by holding back of sponsorships due to the COVID-19 and the suspension of the calendar. First Capital Bank (FCB) have indicated that they will not sponsor the FCB Under 20 Youth League, which they bankroll to the tune of K30 million. Be Forward have also cut by 50 percent sponsorship for Be Forward Wanderers Football club.

3. Prolonged off season which will affect players performance

As of 7th June 2020, FAM had missed 12 weeks of football which translate to at least 12 match days of League football. Prior to FAM postponing the League on 20th March 2020, the teams had been on off season for 14 weeks, meaning there has not been football for the past six months since the 2019 season ended on 22nd December 202. This long period will affect players as it will take long time for most to regain shape while others may completely leave the game for good.

4. Loss of revenue

Having stayed for 12 weeks without official football, the Malawi football industry continue to lose revenue. The Football Season was due to start month end of March 2020. During the start of the season there is always high spectator turn out and revenue recorded for the 1st half of the season is almost 50% of total gross revenue for the season. The 1st half of the season was due to end on 21st July 2020. By that time 120 games could have been played. It is estimated that MWK300, 000,000.00 has been

lost due to non-playing of league games. During the same period, the Association was to organize a charity shield event involving topflight league teams. Estimated revenue lost from charity shield is estimated at 40m. During the same period, the association organizes airtel Top 8 competition involving top 8 super league teams. Estimated revenue lost from airtel top 8 is MWK 140,000,000.00 . The total estimated revenue due to suspension of games for the period stands at MWK550m

Football offers a source of income to a lot of people that includes Football Players, coaches, Referees, Secretariat staff for clubs and associations, game stewards and many more.

Currently the super league clubs employ 560 players and officials that are linked directly to the game and about 160 support staff at their secretariat. The women clubs employ 630 people, the regional leagues employ 1,860 people. The Football Association of Malawi employs 200 Referees and 60 secretariat staff. Total estimated personnel that benefits from the game are 3,460. These people are directly paid by under grants but majority by revenue generated from football games.

5. Suspension of Development Programme

FAM has suspended key developmental projects and programmes for the year 2020 as it has diverted respective funds to the COVID 19 Relief funds. The affected projects and programmes include:

- I. FAM Football Academy.
- II. FAM Under 15 League.
- III. FAM Under 14 League.
- IV. Grassroots Football Festivals and Tournaments.
- V. Trainings of coaches, referees and football administrators.
- VI. Infrastructure development at Luwanga Technical Centre in Mzuzu.
- VII. Renovations at Chilomoni Stadium in Blantyre.

Football's Response to COVID-19

FIFA COVID 19 Medical Working Group:

On 16 April 2020, FIFA established a working group in response to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic to examine the medical considerations for a return to footballing activity, at all levels, throughout the world. A medical/scientific representative of each of the six confederations was invited to consider the risk assessments and critical factors required for football to resume safely. All personnel were consulted in an open-ended format so that they could provide their key planning considerations for football to resume safely. The draft was shared with an expert group within the WHO and the FIFA Medical Committee for their recommendations, which were included in the final document. A liaison was assigned to collate all the panel's responses. Accordingly, FAM's Malawi football restart proposal to Government of Malawi is guided by recommendations of this working group. Refer to Appendix 1 report of the FIFA medical working group guiding on how football can restart without compromising the safety and health of players, officials and other stakeholders.

FAM COVID 19 Task Force

FAM Executive Committee set up a COVID-19 task force headed by Mr. Chimango Munthali, with Ms. Felister Dossi, Mr. Madalitso Kuyera and FAM CEO Alfred Gunda as members. The task force conducted a situation analysis of the effects of COVID-19 on Malawi football and came up with a football business continuity plan.

Among others, the football business continuity plan recommended the set-up of a MK362,670,000 FAM Covid-19 Relief fund aimed at cushioning football stakeholders who have been negatively affected by the football lockdown. The Breakdown for the Relief fund is as follows:

Beneficiary	Total
Super League Teams	139,440,000.00

Women Elite Clubs	73,500,000.00
Referees	52,080,000.00
Regional Teams	97,650,000.00
Total	362,670,000.00

In addition, the task force worked jointly with the FAM Competitions and Marketing Committee to develop a roadmap that will guide a safe return of the game of football in Malawi as presented below. This roadmap was reviewed and approved by FAM Executive Committee on 30th May 2020.

Football Restart Proposal

FAM believes that football should only resume when all health, social and economic benefits exceed the risks of COVID-19. The resumption will be affected while maximizing the safety of players, staff, supporters and the wider society. In the three months that football has been on hiatus, FAM has had an opportunity to do a thorough investigation and analysis on how the game of football can adapt the “new normal “of coexisting with COVID 19 without compromising the health and safety of players, staff, supporters and the wider society.

It is against this background that FAM Executive Committee made a resolution to engage government, through the Malawi National Council of Sports, with a proposal of re-starting football in country beginning with the National League followed by Regional Leagues in August this year. In line with the football restart proposal, FAM has drafted a roadmap and detailed preventive measures to guide the running of competitions in the face of COVID 19 as explained later in the document.

FAM is seeking approval from government to restart its official football activities that were put on hold due to the Covid-19 measures and they include:

- Elite Football – Super League and Elite Cup Competitions
- Semi- Elite- Regional Leagues
- Amateur at all levels- Women’s, Youth Leagues and Beach Soccer
- Technical Capacity Building Programmes

FAM is proposing a staggered approach in the resumption of football, starting with a kickoff of super league in August to be followed up by the other leagues a month later. This approach will give FAM an opportunity to demonstrate its commitment and capacity to implement and enforce the prescribed COVID 19 preventive measures outlined in this road map.

Below FAM presents the two options in order of priority on how football can restart in August 2020.

principal Proposal: Restarting Football with Football spectators

The game of football is all about atmosphere of the whole package, namely; players and fans, and as such, where safety conditions allow, FAM would like to resume the game with spectators for the following’s reasons:

- Most of clubs do not have steady sponsorships and most of their income is generated from Match Day revenue i.e. gate collections and sales of food and merchandise. Playing without fans will be costly to these teams as they rely on Match Day revenue for most of their operational costs. As such, to maintain competitive balance among the teams it is paramount that games be played with fans.
- The Malawi Football Industry is yet to make a broadcasting breakthrough to have most matches televised to large audience that may compensate playing without fans. Our television stations have no capacity to beam more matches as on average they beam only 15% of matches the whole year. This because in the absence of Tv subscriptions TV stations depend on advertisers and currently they

do not rake in enough revenue from advertisers to enable them to meet their operational costs of broadcasting matches. The revenues from TV rights are very minimal to compensate for the gate takings Hence we still need people in the stadiums.

- All our contractual agreements with sponsors are based on the principal that all matches will be open to fans. This is where they do activations and marketing of their brands. In the absence of a reliable TV deal to produce and beam all matches week in week out, the Sponsors will have no leverage/ Return on Investment for their sponsorship. This will result in sponsors pulling out and without sponsors we will not have competitions and no football at all.
- FAM would like to complement government and other Health authorities' efforts in Preventing the COVID-19 by using the match days as a platform for massive awareness campaign on COVID-19 by among others.
 - Erecting banners with Covid messages at match venues
 - Each Venue will have a PA system and will be playing COVID-19 jingles
 - Special COVID-19 Jingles during all Radio and TV broadcast of matches
- Organizing matches with fans is the only we would be costly to organize matches in Malawi as per the football financing structure, on average 90 percent of overall match organization expenses (i.e. ground hire, Security services, medical service, Protocol services) come from the gate takings. (Figures from Last season on other costs can be provided to build a case)

FAM is committed to work with Government and in ensuring that preventive measures proposed in this document are adhered to during matches to ensure safety of the spectators and the entire society.

Worse Case ALTERNATIVE: Restarting Football without Football fans in the stadium

Despite acknowledging that football and spectators are a glove and a hand, FAM still consider selected scenarios which may require football to be played without spectators such as non-adherence to the set measures by the playing teams and any other principle health concern that may be deemed a risk factor for the players.

Therefore, playing without spectators is considered a worst-case scenario by FAM as it has some serious financial implication on teams, sponsors, organizers and the entire football industry. This option will only be triggered for the following reasons:

- If it is the only option to save the football calendar and the game itself. There is danger that we may miss the whole calendar year, as we are already set to miss six months of football if we start in August.
- It will be in the best interest of the players to start playing to maintain their performance.
- If It will be the only safest way possible of mitigating the COVID19 measures.

Key Restart RoadMap Milestones

Milestone One: Consultation and buy in (JUNE 2020)

Consultation with MNCS, Ministry of Sports and Presidential Taskforce on COVID 19:

FAM to seek government approval through the Malawi National Council of Sports and once it is given, the Association will engage the following stakeholders for their buy in and sign off.

Other stakeholders Buy-in

- CAF and, FIFA
- Sponsors
- Member Associations: Leagues' and Competitions' Organisers and Referees
- Clubs
- Match Organization Stakeholders: Stadium Owners, First Aid/ Health, Police and Stewards
- Media

Milestone two: Testing Of Teams and Commencement of Training (JULY 2020)

It is extremely important that sufficient time is allowed for the teams' return to competitive matches. At the time of resuming football FAM will ensure suitable health

screening and testing to allow objective evaluation of the players' physical and mental condition is performed.

Testing

There will be mandatory testing of teams before the start of training to be done the first week of July (1-6th July 2020) or as may be guided by the Health Authorities. For the Elite league it means testing 640 players, 160 team officials, 186 Referees, 100 competition organisers. In total 1060 people will be tested, and this gives health authorities an opportunity to increase the number of tested individuals across the country.

Training

FAM will ensure there is an appropriate pre-competition period with a training plan, including both aerobic and strength conditioning training. Players are expected to undergo a six-week pre competition training programme before they get into official action

Between 6th July 8th August 2020, Teams will be following training guidelines:

1. Isolation Individual fitness training.
2. small group/ Shadow training without opponents.
3. Team training and combinational play with opponents.

Milestone three: Pre-season Friendlies and Leagues Kick OFF (August)

Pre-Season Friendly matches

Between 11th and 16th August 2020 teams will be allowed to go into organized training matches and fully-fledged friendly matches.

OFFICIAL CALEDNERS Kick OFF

FAM expects the season to kick off the seasons with the with FAM Charity Shield which will be used as platform to disseminate the COVID 19 messages.

The Super League on 29th August 2020 then to be followed by other Leagues a month later.

FAM Motivation for Football Return

FAM is motivated to re-start the game for the following reasons:

- FAM, with guidance from Local Health Authorities and scientific approved FIFA and World Health Organization football -specific risk assessment tools, has come up with Covid 19- preventative measures that will enable football to resume safely.
- Save football teams and players: Worth noting is that club owners have in the past months struggled to pay remuneration and, in some cases, cut the wages to manage generic survival. Apart from clubs sponsored by government institutions, the others are business based as well community owned whose income has been affected by the pandemic. There are fears that the prolonged period of no action may lead to a number of teams disbanding as well as a number of players quitting the game, which may put the future of game in the country in jeopardy.
- Save Football Sponsorships: There are fears that football may lose sponsorships if we do not restart football. Already some sponsors like First Capital Bank and Be Forward Japan have withheld sponsorship like First Capital Bank and Be Forward Japan. Sponsorship for the Super League from TNM is in the last year of contract and the company has indicated if the league does not start by September it will be forfeited. The FISC Challenge Cup sponsorship from FISC Limited is also due to expire this year and FAM may lose the 2020 funding and jeopardize chance of renewing the contract. If there is no green light to start Football by June FAM is set to lose the 2019 Presidential Initiative on Sport funding from government.

There have been calls from other key stakeholders that FAM should re start football because of the socio-economic effects of the suspension of the games which have affected the various stakeholders who earn a living through football.

Proposed Safety Measures and Enforcement

Safety Measures

PREAMBLE

In consultation with Ministry of Health, Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture and members of the Presidential Taskforce on COVID 19, FAM has taken time to adapt the CAF and FIFA medical working groups guidance aimed at the safe restart of football in the presence of COVID 29 pandemic. The association believes that the implementation of these measures remains critical pre, during and post football activities

TERMS OF REFERENCE

- 1.1 The following guidelines will guide all Football stakeholders on the process to be followed in a bid to restart football in the safest way possible.
- 1.2 All stakeholders under FAM and all those involved in the organization of the matches Under FAM are bound by these guidelines.
- 1.3 These Guidelines will at times be read in conjunction with organizational medical standards, international and national guidelines on public health and mass gatherings

PRE- TRAINING TESTING

- 1.4 All Clubs to submit names of their players and backroom Staff to FAM or relevant Football Authority before resuming any football activities.
- 1.5 All players, referees and managers who return to football must be tested for COVID-19 in order to safeguard and strengthen the psychological confidence within the team and the environment.
- 1.6 FAM in conjunction with Health Authorities and Club Medical Personnel to conduct complete medical check-up and tests of all players and Technical Staff of each team and the first test to be performed 72 hours

before resuming football activities to prevent false negatives (asymptomatic carriers of the virus).

- 1.7 Only those that will test Negative will be allowed to start football activities. Participants whose tests are positive should follow the recommendation of the health authorities on treatment and recovery.

- 1.8 Football participants must be tested at their club's designated sites
- 1.9 Clubs will cover cost of travelling to the nearest COVID 19 testing Centre in their region of residence.
- 1.10 Continued close monitor of participants for any flu-like symptoms and immediately entrust medical staff if respiratory illness is noted.
- 1.11 Each Club shall designate or recruit a person (Corona officer) in charge of coordinating all actions related to the pandemic. Ideally a person who loves football, with good medical and technical knowledge, and who uses modern means of communication and Oriented on COVID1-19.
- 1.12 All referees enlisted for officiating Malawi football shall be tested and the National Referees Association shall provide the list and coordinate the testing and only those who will test negative to be allowed to officiate game.

TRAINING

- 1.13 All Clubs under Association Football will not resume training until notified to do so by FAM.

- 1.14 When planning for training sessions teams must consider the level of fitness of footballers returning to normal training and the measures to be taken to prevent the proposed increased risk of injury.

- 1.15 Training will resume in the following stages as follows:
 - 1.15.1 The first period will be dedicated to medical and athletic tests. (3 to 4)
 - 1.15.2 **Virtual Individual Training-** Players to be training individually at home without Contact for at least a week.
 - 1.15.3 **Training in Small Groups 6-7 Players-** Small-group/ Shadow training in groups but without opponents in the second week. In groups of six or seven, every other day in the field and in Gyms. They have no right to

contact, there is no game, no opposition. These are exercises based on passing circuits or ball races.

- 1.15.4 **Collective Team Recovery** - Team to Progressive collective recovery by group and maximum of 14 players after 14 days
- 1.15.5 **Full Team Training - Full Team training** to follow a week later.
- 1.16 Clubs will be allowed to train only in the presence of Medical Officer registered with the Medical Council of Malawi, who will be conducting medical examination of all players and officials. The Doctors will be oriented on COVID 19 in conjunction with MoH.
- 1.17 All training balls and equipment must be disinfected before use. Disinfect all technical equipment, including ball gear, including after training and match sessions
- 1.18 Players Shall arrive at the training centre already in uniform with gloves and a mask.
- 1.19 No exchange of training kit.
- 1.20 All personnel should wear masks
- 1.21 Teams to ensure every player and personnel has own drinking water
- 1.22 Teams to provide water and soap for washing hands before and after training.
- 1.23 Training to be conducted behind closed doors without supporters even in venues that are not in fences.
- 1.24 FAM with a team from Health Authorities to conduct independent audit inspection at every training ground to ensure compliance, FAM will impose sanctions for noncompliance.
- 1.25 Team members must observe Mutual protection: Distancing, wearing a mask and gloves.

Pre-Season Training and Friendly Match

- 1.26 All Pre-Seasons Training and Friendly Match shall be sanctioned by FAM. Clubs must Write FAM seeking permission to host a training or friendly match. For A training match Requests must be sent at least 48 hours before the match while for a friendly match at least 96 hours before the match.

- 1.27 Training matches and Friendly matches will be played behind closed doors.
- 1.28 Matches to be played only in the presence of a FAM designated Match Inspector and Medical Personnel.
- 1.29 All matches to be played in the Presence of Medical Doctor and team.
- 1.30 All personnel to be checked temperature and only players with COVID-19 Negative results to be allowed to play.

TEST MATCHES

- 1.31 FAM will host three trial matches in the three regions to test and demonstrate mechanisms to be used in full official matches.
- 1.32 Test matches to be played a week before the official kickoff with fans to try the match day operations to be used in official matches as stipulated below

OFFICIAL KICK OFF

- 1.33 Official Football Season will kick off on 29th August with the Charity Shield.
- 1.34 This will be followed by the Super League Kickoff a week later. Other Leagues will follow a month a later.
- 1.35 Matches to be played only in certified venues that FAM will pre-inspect
- 1.36 Players and managers to undergo second test before the start of Official competitions.
- 1.37 Matches will be organized in accordance with the match organisations as stipulated in subsequent chapters.

MATCH ORGANISATION

- 1.38 The date, time and venue of the matches shall be communicated at least seven days before the match and confirmed at least 48 hours before kick-off.
- 1.39 FAM and relevant competition authorities shall set a Match Coordination team comprising of a FAM Delegate (Match Commissioner), A Covid 19-Oriented Health Authority Official, Stadium Manager and Security Personnel that will ensure that all Measures and standards put in place are adhered to at each match venue.
- 1.40 The Match Coordinating Team shall inspect the Venue at least 48 hours before the game to certify if it is in condition to host the particular match.
- 1.41 FAM shall a month before the start of the official matches train at least 38 Match Commissioners and Coordinators across the country

MATCH DAY MINUS 1

- 1.42 Teams shall be allowed just a walkthrough (NOT Training) at the match venue on the eve of the match.
- 1.43 All walkthroughs will be done behind closed doors and only in the presence of a Match Commissioner
- 1.44 Only those that tested negative will be allowed to do walkthrough.
- 1.45 The FAM Delegate shall on the eve of the match lead the Match Coordinating team in convening a Match Coordination Meeting (MCM) of the officials of all teams with the Referee and Assistant Referees designated for each match. This will be a consultative meeting aimed at underlining and clarifying the main points of the Rules and Regulations governing this Competition including the Laws of the Game. The Match

Commissioner shall ensure the fulfilment of all conditions necessary for the regularity of the matches (security services, COVID-19 safety Measures, etc).

Match Day

- 1.46 The Match Coordination team shall arrive at the Match venue at least Five Hours before kick-off.
- 1.47 The Match Commissioner and his team shall ensure that the following are in place before teams' arrival and gates are opened for the public:
 - 1.47.1 The Dressing Rooms are cleaned and have running water and soap.
 - 1.47.2 There is water and soap/ acholic sanitisers for washing hands at all entrances.
 - 1.47.3 Infrared Thermometers are available for temperature checking for all those getting into the stadiums in all gates and in dressing rooms
 - 1.47.4 Match balls, dressing room walls, corner flags, nets and all necessary equipment are sanitised.
 - 1.47.5 There is a public announcement system in place with set Covid 19 Messages.
 - 1.47.6 Ball Boys Kits are clean and sanitized and Ball boy's temperature checked. Ball Boys are supplied with gloves.
 - 1.47.7 All service providers and match organisation personal shall have their temperature checked and wash hands with soap.
 - 1.47.8 The capacity to referrer suspected cases to health authorities.
 - 1.47.9 Medical masks must be made available to medical staff and stakeholders.
 - 1.47.10 Team staff and all services providers have received information about COVID-19
 - 1.47.11 Respect for physical distance in the locker room, substitute bench and stands.

TEAM CONDUCT ON MATCH DAY

- 1.48 Teams will be required to submit the list of their delegation a day before match and it must certify all are tested and negative.

- 1.49 Teams to be advised to travel in more cars and with a small delegation wherever possible. Each Team will be allowed to travel with at least 20 players and Seven officials.
- 1.50 Team's travel mode must be sanitized
- 1.51 Team delegation will be allowed out of the bus and into the dressing room/ Stadium only upon production of their Mpira connect accreditation and Licence, having their temperature checked, washing hands and verification of their covid-19 Negative Status.
- 1.52 Save for the players on the field of play, and during warm up, all members of the delegation must at all times have a mask on.
- 1.53 Only Seven Substitutes and Seven Mpira Connect licenced and accredited team officials namely Coach, Assistant Coach, Team Doctor, Team Manager, Goalkeeper Trainer, Kit Master and Physiotherapist/ Physical trainer as registered in the Mpira Connect shall be allowed to sit on the bench. Only those with accreditation cards will be allowed access in the Technical Area.
- 1.54 Teams must arrive at the match venue at least 120 minutes before kick-off.
- 1.55 Players and team official must respect for physical distance in the locker room.
- 1.56 There will no children to accompany the players and Referees and the two tams shall Enter the field separately.
- 1.57 There will be no Meet and greet at the beginning of the match. Handshakes or hugs to celebrate goals are prohibited.

FANS ACCESS AND CONTROL

- 1.58 Match tickets will be sold in advance and on the match, they will not be sold at the match venue.
- 1.59 FAM and relevant competition organisers to produce limited number of tickets, half the total capacity of each venue to control fans.
- 1.60 All high-profile matches will be played in bigger stadiums regardless of the draw or fixture. (Lilongwe and Blantyre Derbies, all matches involving Nyasa Big Bullets, Mighty Be-forward Wanderers and Silver)
- 1.61 **All fans to observe the following safety Measures:**
 - 1.61.1 To put on a mask always (no mask no entry)
 - 1.61.2 To wash hands with soap before getting into the stadium
 - 1.61.3 To have their temperature checked at the entrance and those with high temperatures will be sent back.
 - 1.61.4 FAM to sensitive fans that tickets are non-refundable for those that will be sent back due to high temperatures.
 - 1.61.5 To observe social distancing in the stands which will be enforced by stewards. Seats to be marked accordingly at 1 metre apart.
 - 1.61.6 Fans will be encouraged to come early to the matches to reduce waiting time.
 - 1.61.7 Gates to open 10 minutes before end of the match for fans to get out with controlled measures not let in fans who have not been tested. Gates to be opened in the presence of security personnel to ensure that no one is allowed into the stadium.

MEDIA OPERATIONS

- 1.62 Only FAM accredited media will be allowed in the venue and in media designated areas.
- 1.63 Only Mpira connect registered Photographers and Cameramen with special bibs will be allowed in the technical area. The rest of the Journalists should sit in a special media stand to be allocated at each venue.

- 1.64 All Photographers to sit behind the goal posts.
- 1.65 Social Distancing during pre- and post-match interviews as Players and managers will be were interviewed by television reporters with microphones on sticks, keeping to a safe distance. There will be No press conference only flash interviews to be conducted respecting the physical distancing

SENSITIZATION AND COMMUNICATION

- 1.66 FAM to ensure massive sensitisation to all stakeholders on and off the pitch
- 1.67 FAM with guidance from the Ministry of Health to create messages and jingles to be played during matches on P/A system at the matches and on radios during sports programmes and Football commentary
- 1.68 FAM to print flies and posters to be used at the Match venues
- 1.69 FAM and Match organisers to Print Covid -19 information at the back of the Match day tickets.
- 1.70 FAM open to partnership with organisation in the public sensitisation on COVID 19.

POST MATCH DEBRIEF

- 1.71 After the match the Match Commissioner shall convene a debrief meeting to analyse the operations of the match.
- 1.72 Reports from all relevant stakeholders must be submitted to FAM at least 48 hours after the match.

Misconduct

- 1.73 FAM shall impose sanctions to stakeholders that will not adhere to the Standards and Guidelines as follows (Sanctions List to be developed)

GENERAL

- 1.74 Any matter not specifically covered in these Rules and Regulations shall be decided by FAM in accordance with the Presidential COVID 19 Task Force Measurers, Laws of the Game of Football as stipulated by FAM Constitution, FAM Disciplinary Code and those of FIFA where applicable.

Enforcement of Measures

- 1.75 FAM will put the following measures to ensure that the above is enforced:
 - 1.75.1 Incorporate government and specialists in FAM taskforce to lead in the monitoring and compliance of teams, Match officials, stadium owners and other stakeholders.
 - 1.75.2 To come up with a matrix on the expected standards of infrastructures and conduct of stakeholders.
 - 1.75.3 Outlines sanctions like Points deductions, Fines, suspension and bans to institutions not observing the measures. The sanctions will be included in our standard rules and regulations of the competitions.

Financial implications

The implementation of the safety measure will require a huge financial and human resource outlay for the delivery of the games. It is in this respect that FAM will require support from Government agencies to mitigate against the overhead's requirements in the following

- Medical Expertise for stadium health and hygiene measures implementation.
- Security and safety for the observation of minimum requirements for social distancing.
- Cushioning of utility bills for facility owners, especially water whose use will be an essential for every stakeholder accessing stadia.
- Sanitizing and/or disinfecting the common facilities used by players and officials at every match (dressing rooms and tunnel).
- Personal Protective Equipment for Match organization officials, security and technical personnel of clubs at all matches.
- Isolation facility and availability of medical personnel to deal with on the sport suspected cases for facilitation of testing.
- Basic temperature detecting equipment.
- Introduction of innovations in ticketing and enforcement of sales of the same in advance prior to matches which requires investment in technologies.

Conclusions

Protecting the health and well-being of all out-football stakeholders remains of paramount importance to FAM. Much as we would like to return to the field of play to save the game, we are determined to do it systematically and in the safest way possible. Planning for a safe return to football must start now given the health, social and economic benefits of the game in the country. This is why we are cautiously and methodically preparing for a Post- Pandemic return to footballing activities. Every person involved in a football team or game will have a responsibility to prevent the spread of COVID-19. This is why it is important that the following measures continue to be advocated: enhanced hygiene, physical distancing, healthy lifestyle choices, eating well and avoiding non-essential travel.

Appendices

APPENDIX 1 – CONTACT DETAILS

Footballs Association of Malawi
Chiwembe Technical Centre
P. O. Box 51657
LIMBE

Tel: +265 111 621586
Fax: +265 1 875109 attention: FAM
Email: gs@fam.mw

Appendix 2: Standard Match Programme (Sample)

FOOTBALL RESTART MATCH PROGRAMME

TEAM A vs. TEAM B

Date:

Venue:

Kick Off:

Day 1: Day before the Match

10:00- 11:00hrs:	Walk Through TEAM A on match venue
14:00hrs	Match Coordinating Meeting at Match Venue
14:30-13:30hrs	Walk Through TEAM B on match venue

Day 2: Match Day.

8:30 hrs	Arrival of the Match Coordinating team and inspect that all COVID- 19 Prevention Measures are being followed
10:00hrs	Gates open at Match Venue

12:30hrs	Arrival of Team A immediately followed by accreditation validation, temperature check and washing of hands before proceeding to the dressing room.
12:50	Arrival of Team B immediately followed by accreditation validation, temperature check and washing of hands before proceeding to the dressing room.
Approx. -75 mins	4 th Official with Match Commissioner visit team dressing rooms for equipment and safety check of players. Both teams to hand over the start list (list of players, duly signed) to the referee
Approx. -50 mins	Teams and Goalkeepers warm-up on the pitch (conditions permitting)
Approx. -20 mins	End of warm-up and 2 nd check on pitch and pitch equipment
Approx. -10 mins	Team A walks into the field of play
Approx. -7 mins	Team B walks into the field of play
Approx. -5 mins	Team photos & Coin Toss
14:30hrs	Kick Off
15:15hrs	Half-Time
15:30hrs	Second Half Starts
16:15hrs	End of Match
16:40hrs	Post Match Debrief

Appendix 3: Match Coordinating Meeting Agenda

Date:

Venue:

Kick-off:

Subject: Match Coordinating Meeting for Team A vs. Team B

Agenda

- **Referees Issues**
- **Security (Police and Stewards)**
- Number of gates and time to open
- Gates Management
- VIP arrangements – Protocol
- Tickets
 - Mode of sale
 - Type of tickets
- Gate Charges
- Invited Guests
- First Aid and Medical Issues
- Covid-19 Measures

Company Information

Football Association of Malawi

Off Chiwembe Road,
P. O Box 51657, Limbe

Tel: 265 1875109

Email: gs@fam.mw

www.fam.mw

