



2023 Castel Challenge Cup Round of 64 and 32 Draw Procedure

Introduction

The Castel Challenge Cup is a National Knockout Cup organised by the Football Association of Malawi (FAM). It is sponsored by Castel Malawi to the tune of K320 million. The 2023 Edition will be played for six months between July and December 2023.

Participation

About 934 teams; 16 Super League teams, 102 Regional Leagues teams (36 from the South, 29 from the Centre and 37 from the North) and 816 District teams (344 from the South, 261 from the Centre and 209 from the North) registered for the 2023 Castel Challenge Cup

Format

The Cup is being played in the following phases:

District Preliminary Phase

The District teams competed in their district respective district to determine a district champion to qualify for the Round of 64. A total of 31 district champions from all 3 regions will be pooled with other teams in the Round of 64 and the following are the qualified district teams:

- **Southern Region**

Siyahamba Nselema (Machinga), Nsuwadzi (Mulanje), Nsulupi Gunners (Thyolo), Mapira Stars (Mangochi), Gande FC (Chiradzulu)

Umodzi FC (Nsanje), Ma Proffe (Balaka), BT Rural Champion, BT Urban Champion, Zomba Champion, Phalombe Champions, Chikwawa Champion, Mwanza Champion, Neno Champion.

- **Central Region**

Nkangazaona FC (Mchinji), Kamsonga United (Ntchisi), Mgwirizano (Salima) Ergo (Kasungu), ST Louis High School (Dedza) Ntcheu Young Soccer (Ntcheu), Welfare(Nkhotakota), Dowa Hammers (Dowa), Gunners FC (Lilongwe Urban) and Chikuni FC (Lilongwe Rural)

- **Northern Region**

Mwazisi United (Rumphi), Mzalongwe (Mzimba), Mafana Mafana (Chitipa), Zolozolo Rangers (Mzuzu), Eleven Champion (Nkhatabay), Hope FC (Karonga), Red Devils FC (Likoma)

Regional Leagues Preliminary Phase

The Regional League teams, both Premier League and Divisions One, played in a knockout regional championship in their respective regions and 17 teams have qualified for the Round of 64 as follows:

- **Southern Region**

White Eagles, MDF Marine, Soccer Rangers, Lipulumundu Stars, Fomo and Zingwangwa United.

- **Centre Region**

St Gabriel Medicals Zitha, Mtengenji Monaco, Mitundu Strikers, Leyman Panthers and Chisomo Academy

- **Northern Region**

Ekwendeni United, Kadona Stars, Iponga FC, Luviri FC, Raiply and Khuyu Cobras

Super League Teams

All the 16 Super League teams FCB Nyasa Big Bullets, Blue Eagles, Kamuzu Barracks ,Mighty Mukuru Wanderers, Silver Strikers, MAFCO, Moyale, Civil Services, Dedza Dynamos, Ekwendeni Hammers, Karonga United, Mighty

Tigers FC, Red Lions, Chitipa United, Extreme FC and Bangwe All Stars will join the Competition at round of 64.

Round of 64 and 32 Draw Procedure

The Castle Challenge Cup Round of 64 and 32 will be played in a regional playoff format where the District Champions, Regional League Teams will join Super League teams in their respective regions to compete on a knockout basis to identify regional representatives to qualify for the Round of 16 as follows:

- Southern Region – 6 teams
- Central Region – 6 teams
- Northern Region – 4 teams

Southern Region

The draw will attract 25 teams comprising of:

- *14 Districts champions:* Siyahamba Nselema (Machinga), Nsuwadzi (Mulanje), Nsulupi Gunners (Thyolo), Mapira Stars (Mangochi), Gande FC (Chiradzulu) Umodzi FC (Nsanje), Ma Proffe (Balaka), BT Rural Champion, BT Urban Champion, Zomba Champion, Phalombe Champions, Chikwawa Champion, Mwanza Champion, Neno Champion.
- *Six regional League teams:* White Eagles, MDF Marine, Soccer Rangers, Lipulumundu Stars, Fomo and Zingwangwa United.
- *Five Super League teams:* (FCB Nyasa Big Bullets, Mighty Mukuru Wanderers, Mighty Tigers, Bangwe All Stars and Red Lions)

Playoff

The six Regional League teams and 14 District teams will be put in one pot where two teams will be drawn out to play in a playoff to determine one team to join the round of 64.

Round of 64

The Five Super League teams will be seeded and will not face each other. They will be put in one pot and drawn against the other 19 teams (Regional League and Districts teams) in the other pot. However, during the draw involving the seeded teams there will be another draw to determine the home teams in the

matches while in the other draw the home team will be determined by the team drawn first.

Round of 32

The winners of the 12 Round of 64 matches will face each other to determine the six teams to qualify for the Round of 16. The teams will be paired based on their match numbers with the winner of match number one facing winner of match number 12 in that order up to last match pairing winner match number 6 and winner match number 7.

Central Region

The draw will attract 22 teams comprising of:

- *10 Districts champions:* Nkangazaona FC (Mchinji), Kamsonga United (Ntchisi), Mgwirizano (Salima) Ergo (Kasungu), ST Louis High School(Dedza) Ntcheu Young Soccer (Ntcheu), Welfare(Nkhotakota), Dowa Hammers (Dowa), Gunners FC (Lilongwe Urban) and Chikuni FC (Lilongwe Rural)
- *Five regional Leagues teams:* St Gabriel Medicals Zitha, Mtengenji Monaco, Mitundu Strikers, Leyman Panthers and Chisomo Academy
- *Seven Super League teams:* Silver Strikers, Civil Service, Kamuzu Barracks, MAFCO, Dedza Dynamos, Extreme and Dedza Dynamos)

Round of 64

The two top ranked teams as per the Super League log table of Monday 18th September 2022 (Silver Strikers and Kamuzu Barracks) will be seeded from this phase. The remaining five Super League teams will be seeded and will not face each other. They will be put in one pot and drawn against the other 15 teams (Regional League and Districts teams) in the other pot. However, during the draw involving the seeded teams there will be another draw to determine the home teams in the matches while in the other draw the home team will be determined by the team drawn first.

Round of 32

The winners of the 10 Round of 64 matches will join the two seeded teams in the round of 32 to determine the six teams to qualify for the National Round of 16. The two seeded teams 1 and 2 (Silver Strikers and Kamuzu Barracks) will face winner of match number 9 and 10 respectively. The other eight teams will

be paired based on their match numbers with the winner of match number one facing winner of match number 8 in that order up to last match pairing winner number 4 and winner match number 5.

Northern Region

The draw will attract 17 teams comprising of:

- *7 Districts champions:* Mwazisi United (Rumphi), Mzalangwe (Mzimba), Mafana Mafana(Chitipa), Zolozolo Rangers (Mzuzu), Eleven Champion (Nkhatabay), Hope FC (Karonga), Red Devils FC (Likoma)
- *Six regional Leagues teams:* Ekwendeni United, Kadona Stars, Iponga FC, Luviri FC, Raiply and Khuyu Cobras
- *Four Super League teams:* Moyale Barracks, Karonga United, Chitipa and Ekwendeni Hammers.

Playoffs

The six Regional League teams and 7 District teams will be put in one pot where two teams will be drawn out to play in a playoff to determine one team to join the round of 64.

Round of 64

The Four Super League teams will be seeded and will not face each other. They will be put in one pot and drawn against the other 12 teams (Regional League and Districts teams) in the other pot. However, during the draw involving the seeded teams there will be another draw to determine the home teams in the matches while in the other draw the home team will be determined by the team drawn first.

Round of 32

The winners of the 8 Round of 64 matches will face each to determine the four teams to qualify for the Round of 16. The teams will be paired based on their match numbers with the winner of match number one facing winner of match number 8 in that order up to last match pairing winner of match Number 4 and winner Match number 5.

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