



For Immediate Release

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CASTLE LAGER ANNOUNCES DEFERMENT OF 2021 AFRICA 5'S PREMIER SOCIAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE!

Johannesburg – The 2021 Africa 5's social football league has been deferred to 2022, Castle Lager announced in a statement today.

The brand, which has been responsible for putting together the much-loved league since 2018, made the announcement today, saying that the decision, sad as it may be for all concerned, comes out of great care for the health and safety of all participants in every market that Africa 5's takes place in.

“We take the utmost care for consumers, staff and participants in all that we do. Given the current climate, as our continent continues to battle against the scourge of COVID-19 in many countries, we felt it best to hold off on moving forward with the tournament this year,” said Castle Lager Brand Director, Kudzi Mathabire.

“Public gatherings are prohibited in many nations across Africa at this time as they pose a great threat to the public in their ability to be super spreaders of the virus. And since we want people to come together in their numbers to enjoy the incredible experience that is the annual Africa 5's league, we had to hold off for this year and focus our efforts on protecting our consumers,” Mathabire continued.

Castle Lager says the Africa 5's league is engagement-centric and only works when fans can come out to enjoy and participate in the tournament. The brand says it just simply would not work without the involvement of the fans who have made the tournament such an esteemed event on the African footballing calendar.

Although this will be the second year in a row without the prestigious tournament, Castle Lager says it remains hopeful that our great continent will see better days as vaccination efforts begin to roll out across our nations. It is their greatest hope that from next year, the tournament will move ahead uninterrupted.

Meanwhile, Cameroonian footballing legend, Samuel Eto'o, who was meant to serve as the ambassador of the tournament in 2020 has also joined Castle Lager in asking fans to remain safe and hopeful. “We are as disappointed as the fans



will be at the news of the 2021 Africa 5's being deferred. But we must all stand united in our fight against the coronavirus so that we may all see the day when we can come together once again and enjoy the beautiful game together ,” said Eto'o.

Not all is lost though, says Castle Lager, all received entries from teams who wished to participate in the League in 2020 and/or 2021, will gain automatic promotion into the tournament as soon as it is safe to proceed. Entrants will also be the first to be notified by Castle Lager should anything change regarding the tournament and its entries.

Africa 5s is a continental social football league that launched with five countries in 2018. The year 2019 saw the league's expansion from five countries to eight countries as well as the inclusion of a woman's league. And in 2020, the league was set to grow even further with the addition of eight more countries as well as a partnership with sister brands Dourada, Club, Carling Black Label, Castle Free, Nile Special, Safari as well as Trophy. Castle Lager now hopes to take things to a whole new level when the tournament returns in 2022.

For more information consumers can visit the Africa 5s website on www.africafives.com.

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