

USSSA Mukono on the spot after disputed rulings

BY GEORGE KATONGOLE

KAMPALA. Tension is mounting in Mukono District after controversial disciplinary decisions marred the Uganda Secondary Schools Sports Association (USSSA) football qualifiers held over the weekend.

Eight teams, Latifah Mixed, Merryhill, Kasana Vocational, Central College Kabimbiri, Dynamic, Seroma, Mukono Kings and Namilyango College, sealed places in the quarter-finals, automatically progressing to the regional play-offs where three teams will represent the district. In the national finals in Lira. However, the competition was thrown into disarray two days later following a series of rulings on ineligible players that have left several schools questioning the integrity

TEAMS

Qualified teams: Latifah Mixed, Merryhill, Kasana Voc., Central College Kabimbiri, Dynamic, Seroma, Mukono Kings, Namilyango College



Shield.

Dynamic SS and Mount St Henry's players battle for possession during a tense USSSA Mukono qualifiers clash at St Andrew's Ndwadde mutwe. PHOTO/ GEORGE KATONGOLE

ty of the process. Mount St Henry's, who had topped their group with six points, were disqualified after it was established that they fielded four ineligible players under questionable identities. David Tumwine, now an S6 student, reportedly featured in last year's U-16 competition under the name Jeremiah Tumwine, while his index number corresponds to Ian Kasedde (born May 4, 2005).

Edrine Mufumbiro, who was registered as an S2 student born in 2008

last year, is linked to the same index number used this year under the name Imran Kalulu, a Senior Four student. Another player, Edrine Were, is listed under an index number belonging to Imran Nsobya, while Solomon Kakuuto reportedly featured last year as Elshad Ssemakula Mukuba. Vision for Africa were also eliminated after it emerged that Banaalya Raphael Nkajja, a Senior One student aged 14, had conflicting age records. His index number indicates a birth year of

2012, while the school's Games teacher maintained he was born in 2010.

Seroma Girls were also petitioned by Latifah Mixed over two players with inconsistent identities. Mariam Mukose reportedly used the same passport photograph under different names and dates of birth — one record showing she was born July 20, 2009, while another linked her to Busoga Queens under the name Mariam Namukobe (born December 8, 2002).

Anita Namubiru, whose school records indicate a birth date of March 7, 2008, was also flagged for appearing under the name Najat Namusabi while playing for Kangulumira, with differing details. The disciplinary committee, chaired by Hilton head teacher Gordon Katimbo, ruled that only matches involving petitioning teams would be affected in terms of points deduction. Critics argue that the ruling contradicts Article 6.6 (b) of the 2026 USSSA competition rules, which states that any team fielding an ineligible player should be disqualified and banned for a minimum of two years.