

Concacaf 

ROAD TO GOLD CUP

2023 REGULATIONS



ORGANIZERS

CONFEDERATION OF NORTH, CENTRAL AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL (Concacaf)

President:	Victor Montagliani
General Secretary:	Philippe Moggio
Address:	161 NW 6 th Street Suite 1100 Miami, Florida 33136 USA
Telephone:	+1 305 704 3232
Telefax:	+1 305 675 0145
Internet:	www.Concacaf.com

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GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. NAME OF COMPETITION

- 1.1. The Road to Concacaf W Gold Cup™ (hereinafter: "The Competition"), is an official Concacaf National Women's "A" teams' competition. The Competition shall be played in 2023 and shall take place in the dates and venues Concacaf determines. The competition is played every four years. All Member Associations affiliated to Concacaf are invited to participate.
- 1.2. The Member Associations are required to participate with their Women's "A" National Team.
- 1.3. The Competition consists of one (1) stage:
 - 1.3.1. Group Stage (hereinafter: The Competition):
 - 1.3.2. Concacaf shall be the responsible for organizing, hosting, and staging The Competition.
- 1.4. Qualifying to The Competition
 - 1.4.1. The Competition will serve as the qualifiers to advance to the 2024 Concacaf W Gold Cup (hereinafter: The Championship) shall be played among the National Teams of the Member Associations of Concacaf.
 - 1.4.2. Upon entering the Competition, all Member Associations automatically undertake to accept that all administrative and refereeing matters related to such Competition shall be dealt with the approved regulations.
 - 1.4.3. Upon entering the Competition, all Member Associations automatically undertake to accept that all disciplinary and appeals matters (e.g., sanctions, procedures, etc.) will be dealt with in accordance with the submitted and approved regulations.
 - 1.4.4. The two Concacaf qualified representative teams for the Olympic Football Tournament Paris 2024 will be automatically qualified to the Concacaf W Gold Cup Group Stage.
 - 1.4.5. Concacaf will invite four (4) non-Concacaf guest teams to that will be automatically qualified to the Concacaf W Gold Cup Group Stage.

2. HOST MEMBER ASSOCIATION

- 2.1. The Host Member Association (hereinafter: HMA) shall work with Concacaf to organize, promote, host and stage the matches in The Competition as well as the security for the duration thereof.
- 2.2. The HMA shall be subject to the supervision and control by Concacaf, which has the final word on all matters relevant to The Competition. The decisions of Concacaf are final and binding and not subject to appeal.
- 2.3. Working relations between the HMA and Concacaf are regulated by the Team Participation Agreement (TPA) and the 2023 Road to Concacaf W Gold Cup Regulations ("The Regulations"). The Regulations and all directives, decisions, guidelines, and circulars issued by Concacaf shall be binding for all parties participating and involved in the preparation, organization, and hosting of The Competition.
- 2.4. Any rights that are not ceded by these regulations to any Participating Member Association or any other party previously in writing or by circular shall exclusively belong to Concacaf.
- 2.5. The responsibilities of the HMA shall include but not be limited to:
 - 2.5.1. Guaranteeing, planning, and implementing law and order as well as safety and security in the stadiums and other relevant locations in conjunction with the local authorities. The Concacaf Stadium Safety and Security Regulations or Guidelines shall apply as the minimum standards to be used during The Competition;
 - 2.5.2. Ensuring the presence of a sufficient number of ground staff and security stewards to guarantee safety of teams, Match Officials, and spectators;
 - 2.5.3. Securing insurance policies in consultation with Concacaf to cover all risks relating to the organization of all home matches, in particular, adequate and broad liability insurance in respect to the stadiums, members of the HMA, employees, volunteers and any other persons involved in the organization of The Competition with the exception each of the Visiting Teams' Delegation Members.
 - 2.5.4. Securing liability insurance against possible spectator accidents or deaths.
- 2.6. The HMA shall discharge Concacaf from all responsibility and relinquish any

claim against Concacaf and the members of its delegation for any damages resulting from any act or omission relating to the organization and course of The Competition.

- 2.7. Stadium and Training Facilities – Ensuring that both, the stadium, and training fields are in line with the latest Concacaf Stadium Guidelines. Also, they must be in conditions suitable for a Concacaf Tournament, based on discussions during site inspection, including but not limited to all the equipment for the field, i.e., nets, goals, and corner flags, covered benches (if required) for the teams and fourth official which should be of a professional standard.
- 2.8. Laundry – Make facilities available or recommend facilities for the teams to do their laundry. Advise teams of cost prior to the tournament.
- 2.9. Media – Appoint an individual who shall be responsible for media relations and advise Concacaf’s Communications Department thirty (30) days in advance of the event, the name of the person together with his/her contact numbers (phone/cellular, phone/fax, e-mail address); before, during and after the event, the person appointed will:
 - 2.9.1. Ensure that the media facilities are in the best possible condition;
 - 2.9.2. Assist the media in their general inquiries;
 - 2.9.3. Ensure that the team sheets with correct player name/number/position, etc. are available to the media in timely manner, prior to kick-off;
 - 2.9.4. Distribute to the media copies of the Media Guide or any other materials that will be supplied by Concacaf;
 - 2.9.5. Arrange for the installation of one (1) dedicated phone line for Concacaf use only;
 - 2.9.6. Arrange for the installation of internet connection for the host broadcaster and the designation of radio booths for each right holder;
 - 2.9.7. Assure that the stadium has wireless internet for the media throughout the stadium, including the field of play;
 - 2.9.8. Arrange and provide the meals for the media and photographers as approved by Concacaf.
- 2.10. Visas for visiting teams – will request handling from the government agency

responsible for visas to expedite request for teams and delegates as much as possible.

- 2.11. During the Competition, the HMA's are responsible for the cost of single room accommodations, breakfast, and local transportation for all appointed Concacaf match officials.
- 2.12. Provide training balls to the visiting team upon arrival and match balls on the match day to the Concacaf Venue Coordinator.
- 2.13. The HMA shall ensure that any decision taken by Concacaf or judicial bodies relating to its duties and responsibilities are enforced immediately.
- 2.14. Guarantee any local protocols for COVID-19 are followed as well as the Concacaf COVID-19 Return to Play Guidelines.
- 2.15. Proposed COVID-19 testing authorized laboratories and conduct testing for all HMA staff operating the tournament as per Concacaf requirements.

3. Concacaf

- 3.1. The responsibilities of Concacaf include but are not limited to:
 - 3.1.1. Supervising general preparations and deciding on the structure and format of The Competition;
 - 3.1.2. Setting the dates and approving the venues of the matches during The Competition;
 - 3.1.3. Determining the match schedule and kick-off times for The Competition;
 - 3.1.4. Approving the official football for The Competition.
 - 3.1.4.1. Only footballs abiding by the FIFA Quality Mark standard (FIFA Quality PRO, FIFA Quality, International Match Standard) will be approved;
 - 3.1.5. Approving the choice of the WADA-accredited laboratory that will carry out the doping analyses as proposed by the FIFA Anti-Doping Unit;
 - 3.1.6. Deciding which matches will be subject to doping test;
 - 3.1.7. Appointing Venue Coordinators, Match Coordinators, Match

Commissioners, Referees, Referee Assessors, VAR Officials (if applicable), Disciplinary Committee Members and any other delegates (hereinafter: Match Officials) for The Competition;

- 3.1.8. Daily allowance and international traveling expenses for the Concacaf Match Officials;
 - 3.1.9. Assessing protests and taking appropriate steps to verify their admissibility, with the exception of protests concerning the eligibility of players, which are dealt with by the Concacaf Disciplinary Committee;
 - 3.1.10. Collecting of team information (i.e., team lists, rooming lists, menus, travel itineraries, visa information, uniform colors, etc.);
 - 3.1.11. Deciding cases of Participating Member Associations failing to adhere to the time limits and/or the formal requirements for submitting the necessary documents;
 - 3.1.12. Dealing with cases of abandoned matches (as per the IFAB Laws of the Game) in accordance with these Regulations;
 - 3.1.13. Deciding on the rescheduling of matches due to extraordinary circumstances or force majeure;
 - 3.1.14. Disciplinary measures and communication of actions taken;
 - 3.1.15. Officials' appointments for all matches;
 - 3.1.16. Replacing Associations (as seen fit by Concacaf) that have withdrawn from The Competition;
 - 3.1.17. Settling cases of force majeure;
 - 3.1.18. Dealing with any other aspect of The Competition that is not the responsibility of any other body under the terms of these Regulations;
 - 3.1.19. Conduct COVID-19 testing for all Match Officials and Concacaf Staff per established requirements (if applicable).
- 3.2. The decisions taken by Concacaf are final and binding and not subject to appeal.

4. PARTICIPATING MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

- 4.1. Each Participating Member Association (hereinafter: PMA) shall be responsible throughout The Competition for:
 - 4.1.1. The conduct of all players, coaches, managers, officials, media officers, representatives, and guests of its delegation (hereinafter: Team Delegation Members), and of any person carrying out duties on its behalf throughout The Competition;
 - 4.1.2. Ensuring the provision of adequate insurance to cover its Team Delegation Members and any other persons carrying out duties on its behalf against all risks, including but not limited to health, injury, accident, disease, and travel in consideration of the relevant rules or regulations;
 - 4.1.3. Covering all travel related expenses incurred by its Team Delegation Members to and from the host country, any cost in obtaining visas for their delegation and all tips for services rendered as appropriate at the hotels, airports, taxis, etc.;
 - 4.1.4. Covering all competition related expenses, for both home and away matches, incurred by its Team Delegation Members for The Competition.
 - 4.1.5. Applying in a timely manner for any required visas to the consulate or embassy of the Host Countries where their matches will be played and covering any costs associated with these visas; for this process, the assistance of the HMA is to be sought out as early as possible;
 - 4.1.6. Attending media conferences and other official media activities organized by Concacaf and/or by the HMA in accordance with the applicable regulations;
 - 4.1.7. Ensuring that every member of its delegation or, where applicable, a duly appointed representative, completes the Concacaf Team Participation Agreement and signs the required documents;
 - 4.1.8. Ensuring that every member of its delegation complies with all applicable regulations (including The Regulations), directives, guidelines and circulars, decisions made by Concacaf and its Council, Referees Committee, Disciplinary Committee, Ethics Committee and Appeal Committee;
 - 4.1.9. Providing Concacaf with all the information and/or documentation requested within the stipulated deadlines. Member Associations that

fail to provide Concacaf with all requested information and/or documentation within the stipulated deadlines shall be imposed a fine, except in unforeseen circumstances and cases of force majeure as determined by the Concacaf General Secretariat. Member Associations shall be imposed a fine of ten thousand dollars (USD 10,000) for late submission of roster.

- 4.1.10. Allowing Concacaf to use its Association Marks for the promotion of The Competition as stipulated in the Commercial Regulations governing each phase of The Competition, for the sole purpose of promoting The Competition.
- 4.2. Member Associations and their players and officials participating in The Competition shall agree to fully respect and comply with:
 - 4.2.1. The IFAB Laws of the Game and the principles of Fair Play;
 - 4.2.2. The Concacaf Statutes and all Concacaf regulations, rules, codes, protocols, circulars, directives, guidelines, and decisions (including The Regulations);
 - 4.2.3. All decisions and directives of the Concacaf Council;
 - 4.2.4. The FIFA Disciplinary Code and, upon its entry into force, the Concacaf Disciplinary Code;
 - 4.2.5. The Concacaf Code of Ethics and the Concacaf Code of Conduct;
 - 4.2.6. The FIFA Doping Control Regulations;
 - 4.2.7. All Concacaf protocols during matches and fully cooperate in their enforcement (e.g., Concacaf protocol for racist incidents during matches);
 - 4.2.8. All Concacaf anti-match manipulation and anti-racism stipulations;
 - 4.2.9. All Concacaf marketing and media requirements, as stipulated in the Commercial Regulations.
 - 4.2.10. FIFA Regulations in relation to the eligibility of players;
 - 4.2.11. Concacaf COVID-19 Return to Play Guidelines.
- 4.3. Member Associations shall take all necessary actions for their players and

officials to be bound by and comply with all the aforementioned statutes, regulations, rules, codes, protocols, circulars, directives, decisions, stipulations, and requirements.

- 4.4. All PMAs shall indemnify, defend and hold Concacaf, the HMA, and all of their officers, directors, employees, representatives, agents, and all other auxiliary persons free and harmless against any and all liabilities, obligations, losses, damages, penalties, claims, actions, fines and expenses (including reasonable legal expenses) of whatsoever kind or nature resulting from, arising out of, or attributable to, any non-compliance with these Regulations by the PMAs, their Team Delegation Members, their affiliates and any third parties contracted to the PMA.
- 4.5. All PMAs which have entered the Competition shall not refer (directly or indirectly) to its selection as an inferior selection publicly or in the print and/or electronic media. A team, which fails to heed this requirement, shall (at a minimum) be sanctioned as determined by the Concacaf Disciplinary Committee.
- 4.6. Conduct COVID-19 testing for all members of the delegation as per Concacaf requirements (if applicable).

5. ENTRIES FOR THE COMPETITION

- 5.1. The Women's "A" National Team of all Member Associations affiliated to Concacaf, and any other guest Associations invited by Concacaf have the right to participate.
- 5.2. Notwithstanding the aforementioned, participating in this competition is both an honor and responsibility. Therefore, Concacaf Member Associations have the obligation to participate in the Competition once qualified or may be suspended from Concacaf. Upon suspension, a fine of ten thousand dollars (USD 10,000) shall be paid to obtain readmission, unless the Concacaf Council accepts that failure to enter was due to force majeure.
- 5.3. Each PMA is required to have in their Official Delegation the following roles: Head Coach, Team Manager/Delegate, Team Doctor, Equipment Manager, Team Safeguarding /Welfare Officer, and Team Media Officer. Furthermore, it is mandatory that the specified roles of: Team Doctor, Physio and Safeguarding / Welfare Officer respectively within the official delegation management must be performed by females.
- 5.4. Team Safeguarding/Welfare Officer - Each Participating Member Association

shall appoint a designated Team Safeguarding/Welfare Officer (female) to act as a focal point for all matters related to the safeguarding and well-being of the players and team delegation. This role does not have to be exclusive and can be assigned to the medical doctor or other trained member of the team delegation. It is a mandatory requirement that the designated Team Safeguarding/Welfare Officer complete the FIFA Guardians Safeguarding Essentials online course (<https://safeguardinginsport.fifa.com/>). The role of the Team Safeguarding/ Welfare Officer is to:

- 5.4.1. Act as the first point of contact and lead for all safeguarding matters within the team delegation during The Competition;
 - 5.4.2. Take all reasonable steps to ensure that the players' mental and physical well-being is prioritized;
 - 5.4.3. Liaise with the Concacaf designated official in venue should a concern or an allegation of harassment or abuse (be it psychological, physical or sexual, or neglect) arise; and
 - 5.4.4. Know the specific safeguarding measures for The Competition and the avenues available for reporting concerns.
- 5.5. On entering The Competition, the PMA and their Team Delegation Members automatically undertake to:
- 5.5.1. Participate and refer to their team as the best available team in all matches of The Competition in which their team is scheduled to take part;
 - 5.5.2. Accept Concacaf's right to use and/or Concacaf's right to sub-license the right to use on a non-exclusive basis, in perpetuity and free of any charge, any of their records, names, photographs and images (including any still and moving representation thereof), which may appear or be generated in connection with the participation of the Team Delegation Members of all PMAs in The Competition in accordance with the relevant terms of the Concacaf Media and Marketing Regulations for The Competition (as applicable). To the extent that Concacaf's right to use and/or Concacaf's right to sub-license the right to use any of the records, names, photographs and images may fall in the ownership and/or control of a third party, the PMAs and their Team Delegation Members shall ensure that such third party waives, pledges and unconditionally assigns and/or transfers to Concacaf's with immediate effect, with full title guarantee in perpetuity and without any restriction, any such rights to ensure Concacaf's

unfettered use as set out above;

- 5.5.3. Respect the principles of Fair Play. Subject to any other decision by the Concacaf Council, the Member Associations shall complete and send the official Team Participation Agreement to the Concacaf General Secretariat in accordance with the deadline stipulated in the relevant Concacaf circular. Only the Team Participating Agreements sent to the Concacaf General Secretariat by the deadline set shall be valid and taken into consideration unless approved in writing by Concacaf.

6. LAWS OF THE GAME

- 6.1. All matches shall be played in accordance with the IFAB Laws of the Game in force at the time of The Competition and as laid down by the International Football Association Board. In the case of any discrepancy in the interpretation of the Laws of the Game, the English version shall be authoritative.
- 6.2. Each match shall last 90 minutes, comprising two periods of 45 minutes, with a half-time interval of 15 minutes.
- 6.3. If, in accordance with the provisions of these Regulations, extra time is to be played as the result of a draw at the end of normal playing time, it shall always consist of two (2) periods of fifteen (15) minutes each, with an interval of five (5) minutes at the end of normal playing time, but with no interval between the two (2) periods of extra time. Further to the above, if extra time is to be played, each team will have the option to make one (1) additional substitution.
- 6.4. If the score is still level after extra time, penalty kicks shall be taken to determine the winner in accordance with the procedure described in the IFAB Laws of the Game published by FIFA.
- 6.5. Each team will be permitted to use a maximum of five (5) substitutes. To reduce disruption to the match, each team will have a maximum of three (3) opportunities to make substitutions during the game; substitutions may also be made at half-time. Substitutions made during half time, before the start of the extra time and at half-time of the extra time will not reduce the substitution opportunities available. If both teams make a substitution at the same time, this will count as one of the three opportunities for each team. Unused substitutions and opportunities are carried forward into extra time. Where competition rules allow an additional substitution in extra time, teams will each have one additional substitution opportunity; substitutions may also be made before the start of extra time and at half-time in extra time.
- 6.6. Video Assistant Referee (VAR) may be used for reviewing match-changing

decisions/incidents as per the protocol established by The IFAB.

- 6.7. Goal-line technology may be used for the purpose of verifying whether a goal has been scored to support the referee's decision. The participating teams shall consent, without reservation, to the use of goal-line technology in The Competition, and unconditionally and irrevocably waive any and all rights and interests they may have in connection with or as a result of the use of goal-line technology in matches of The Competition.

COMPETITION

7. WITHDRAWAL, UNPLAYED MATCHES AND ABANDONED MATCHES

- 7.1. After the team participation agreement is signed, all PMAs have the obligation to play all of their matches until eliminated from The Competition.
- 7.2. Any PMA that withdraws up to 30 days prior to the start of The Competition is liable for a fine of at least thirty thousand dollars (USD 30,000). Any PMA that withdraws within 30 days before the start of The Competition or during The Competition itself, shall be fined at least sixty thousand dollars (USD 60,000).
- 7.3. Depending on the circumstances of the withdrawal, the Concacaf Disciplinary Committee may impose sanctions in addition to those provided for in par. 7.2 above, including the expulsion of the Member Association concerned from subsequent Concacaf competitions.
- 7.4. Any match which is not played, or which is abandoned – except in cases of force majeure recognized by Concacaf – may lead to the imposition of sanctions against the relevant Member Associations by the Concacaf Disciplinary Committee in accordance with the FIFA Disciplinary Code and upon its entry into force, the Concacaf Disciplinary Code. In such cases, the Concacaf Disciplinary Committee may also order that the match be replayed.
- 7.5. Any PMA that withdraws or whose behavior is liable for a match not being played or being abandoned may be ordered to reimburse Concacaf, the opposing team, or any other PMA involved, any expenses incurred as a result of its behavior. In such cases, the Member Association concerned may also be ordered by Concacaf to pay compensation for any damages incurred by Concacaf or any other Member Association. The PMA in question will also forfeit any claim to financial remuneration from Concacaf.
- 7.6. If a PMA withdraws or a match cannot be played or is abandoned as a result of force majeure, Concacaf shall decide on the matter at its sole discretion and

take whatever action is deemed necessary. If a match is not played or is abandoned as a result of force majeure, Concacaf may in particular, order a replay. If the circumstances of withdrawal are sufficiently serious, the Concacaf Disciplinary Committee may also take additional actions if necessary.

- 7.7. If a team does not report for a match, except in cases of force majeure, or refuses to continue to play, or leaves the pitch before the end of the match, the mentioned team shall be considered to have lost the match 3-0 and three points shall be awarded to its opponent. If in the case of an abandoned match, the winning team had already reached a higher score at the time the team in question left the field, then the higher score shall remain. The Concacaf Disciplinary Committee will decide if a team that has withdrawn will be excluded from further participation in The Competition and the results of those matches shall be considered to have lost them by a result of 3-0 and three points shall be awarded to those opponents. The results of any matches played before by the team in question, those results will remain as the final result of the match.
- 7.8. In addition to the above, the team in question shall pay compensation for any damages or losses suffered by Concacaf, the HMA and/or the other PMAs, and shall forfeit any claim to financial remuneration from Concacaf.
- 7.9. No appeals can be lodged against these decisions.
- 7.10. Further to the above provision, in the case of a match being abandoned as a result of force majeure after it has already kicked off, the following principles will apply:
 - 7.10.1. The match shall recommence at the minute at which play was interrupted rather than being replayed in full and with the same score line;
 - 7.10.2. The match shall recommence with the same players on the pitch and substitutes available as when the match was abandoned;
 - 7.10.3. No additional substitutes may be added to the list of players on the team sheet;
 - 7.10.4. The teams can make only the number of substitutions to which they were still entitled when the match was abandoned;
 - 7.10.5. Players sent off during the abandoned match cannot be replaced;

- 7.10.6. Any sanctions imposed before the match was abandoned remain valid for the remainder of the match;
- 7.10.7. The match shall restart at the place where play was stopped when the match was abandoned (i.e., with a free kick, throw-in, goal kick, corner kick, penalty kick, etc.). If the match was abandoned while the ball was still in play, it shall restart with a dropped ball from the position of the ball when play was stopped;
- 7.10.8. The kick-off time, date (which shall be foreseen for the following day), and location shall be decided by Concacaf;
- 7.10.9. Any matters requiring a further decision shall be handled by Concacaf.

8. REPLACEMENTS

- 8.1. If any PMA withdraws or is excluded from The Competition, Concacaf shall decide whether to replace the Member Association in question with another Member Association.

9. ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

- 9.1. Each PMA must ensure the following, when selecting its representative team, for The Competition:
 - 9.1.1. All players shall hold the nationality of its country and be subject to its jurisdiction;
 - 9.1.2. All players shall be eligible for selection in accordance with the FIFA Statutes, the Regulations Governing the Application of the FIFA Statutes and other relevant FIFA rules and regulations.
- 9.2. Protests regarding the eligibility of players shall be decided by the Concacaf Disciplinary Committee in accordance with the FIFA Disciplinary Code and upon its entry into force, the Concacaf Disciplinary Code.
- 9.3. The Member Associations shall be responsible for fielding only eligible players. Failure to do so shall lead to the consequences stipulated in the FIFA Disciplinary Code and upon its entry into force the Concacaf Disciplinary Code.
- 9.4. If Concacaf believes a player's eligibility is in question, Concacaf reserves the right to consider the said player ineligible to participate in any stage of The Competition until the player's eligibility status is confirmed by Concacaf in

accordance with the applicable regulations.

10. PLAYERS' LISTS

- 10.1. Each PMA must select its national representative teams from the best players who are nationals of its country and under its jurisdiction and are eligible for selection in accordance with the provisions of the applicable FIFA Regulations.
- 10.2. Each Member Association entering The Competition must provide Concacaf with a final list of a minimum of 18 and up to 23 players (2 must be goalkeepers) no later than 48 hours before each match. This list shall reflect each player's last name, first name, date of birth and passport number as specifically noted in their International Passport, in addition to any other information requested by Concacaf. This information must be submitted through the Comet platform as it will be time stamped.
- 10.3. The only document considered to be valid proof of a player's identity and nationality shall be a valid national passport that explicitly states the player's day, month, and year of birth. Identity cards or other supporting official documents shall not be accepted as a valid means of identification. The PMAs shall present each player's valid national passport for the country of the PMA to the Venue Coordinator on the day before the match. A player without a valid national passport shall not be entitled to play.
 - 10.3.1. Concacaf reserves the right to request additional information from the player to confirm eligibility, such as birth certificate from the player, her parents, or grandparents.

11. START LIST AND SUBSTITUTES ON THE BENCH

- 11.1. Up to 23 players may be entered on the start list (11 starters and 12 substitutes). Up to a maximum of five (5) substitutes may take place at any time during the match. The start list shall be signed by the head coach.
- 11.2. The numbers on the players' shirts must correspond with the numbers indicated on the start list (numbers 1-23 only). All goalkeepers and the captain must be identified as such, the number 1 shirt must be reserved for one of the goalkeepers.
- 11.3. Teams must arrive at the stadium at the latest 90 minutes prior to kick-off and return their start list to the Venue Coordinator at the latest 90 minutes prior to kick-off. Teams will receive a copy of the start list 75 minutes prior to kick off.

- 11.4. After the start lists have been completed, signed by the head coach, and returned to the Venue Coordinator and, if the match has not yet kicked off, the following instructions apply:
- 11.4.1. If any of the starting eleven (11) players listed on the start list are not able to start the match for any reason, they may be replaced by any of the twelve (12) substitutes. The replaced player(s) may no longer take part in the match, and the quota of substitute players shall be reduced accordingly. During the match, five players may still be substituted.
- 11.4.2. If any of the substitutes listed on the start list are not able to be fielded for any reason, the player(s) concerned may not be replaced on the bench by an additional player, which means that the quota of substitutes shall be reduced accordingly. During the match, five (5) players may still be substituted.
- 11.5. Although no longer eligible to play as a substitute, the injured or ill player who was removed from the start list may be seated on the substitutes' bench, and if so, would then also be eligible for doping control selection.
- 11.6. No more than 23 people (11 officials and 12 substitutes) shall be allowed to sit on the substitutes' bench. The names of these officials must be submitted via COMET to the Concacaf Venue Coordinator. A suspended player or official will not be allowed in The Competitions area (i.e., locker room and/or tunnel), field of play, sit in the technical seats or on the substitutes' bench.
- 11.7. Team officials and substitutes shall remain within the technical area during the match except in special circumstances, e.g., a physiotherapist/doctor entering the field of play, with referee's permission, to assess an injured player. Team officials and substitutes who fail to abide by the aforementioned provision can be sanctioned and reported to the Disciplinary Committee.
- 11.8. The Host Member Association shall issue each of the official Team Delegation Members with an accreditation during The Competition.

12. FORMAT AND STRUCTURE OF THE COMPETITION

Concacaf retains the right to determine the structure, format of play and match calendar for The Competition.

2023 Road to Concacaf W Gold Cup

- 12.1. The Road to Concacaf W Gold Cup will be played in a format dividing the PMAs

into three (3) leagues (League A, League B, and League C). The distribution will be determined based on the Concacaf Women's Senior Ranking. After the first edition, promotion and relegation will determine where teams will participate in the next edition of The Competition. The bottom ranked three (3) teams from Leagues A and B will be relegated to Leagues B and C respectively and the top ranked three (3) teams from group Leagues B and C will be promoted to Leagues A and B respectively.

12.1.1. Road to Concacaf W Gold Cup League A: Will be composed of nine (9) PMAs which are drawn into three (3) groups of three (3) teams each.

12.1.2. Road to Concacaf W Gold Cup League B: Will be composed of twelve (12) PMAs which are drawn into three (3) groups of four (4) teams each.

12.1.3. Road to Concacaf W Gold Cup League C: Will be composed of fourteen (14) PMAs which are drawn into two (2) groups of four (4) teams and two (2) groups of three (3) teams.

12.2. The matches in the groups shall be played in a home and away format, each team playing one match against each of the other teams in the same group, with three (3) points for a win, one (1) point for a draw, and zero (0) points for a defeat. Matches may not be played in another country without Concacaf's expressed permission.

12.3. At the conclusion of League A, B, and C in The Competition, PMAs shall be ranked according to the following criteria:

12.3.1. Greatest number of points obtained in all matches

12.3.2. Goal difference in all group matches;

12.3.3. Greatest number of goals scored in all group matches.

If two (2) or more teams are equal on the basis of the above criteria, their rankings shall be determined as follows:

12.3.4. Greater number of points obtained in matches between the tied teams;

12.3.5. Greater goal difference in matches between the tied teams (if more than two teams finish equal on points);

12.3.6. Greater number of goals scored in matches among the tied teams (if

more than two teams finish equal on points):

12.3.7. The lowest number of points based on the number of yellow and red cards in all group matches is considered according to the following additions:

- first yellow card: plus 1 point
- second yellow card/indirect red card: plus 3 points
- direct red card: plus 4 points
- yellow card and direct red card: plus 5 points;

12.3.8. Drawing of lots by Concacaf

12.4. At the conclusion of League C in The Competition, the top PMAs from each group in League C shall be ranked according to the following criteria to determine the promoted teams to League B:

12.4.1. Greatest number of points obtained in all matches divided by the number of matches;

12.4.2. Goal difference in all group matches divided by the number of matches;

12.4.3. Greatest number of goals scored in all group matches divided by the number of matches.

If two (2) or more teams are equal on the basis of the above criteria, their rankings shall be determined as follows:

12.4.4. The lowest number of points divided by the number of matches based on the number of yellow and red cards in all group matches is considered according to the following additions:

- first yellow card: plus 1 point
- second yellow card/indirect red card: plus 3 points
- direct red card: plus 4 points
- yellow card and direct red card: plus 5 points;

12.4.5. Drawing of lots by Concacaf

12.5. The qualified PMAs to the 2024 Concacaf W Gold Cup Prelims and Championship will be determined as follows:

12.5.1. The top teams from each of the three (3) League A groups of the Concacaf W Road to Gold Cup will qualify for the 2024 Concacaf W Gold Cup Group Stage.

12.5.2. The second-place teams from each of the three (3) League A groups of The Competition will qualify for the Concacaf W Gold Cup Prelims.

12.5.3. The top teams from each of the three (3) League B groups of The Competition will qualify for the Concacaf W Gold Cup Prelims to play against the three (3) League A second place teams.

12.5.4. The six (6) teams qualifying for the Concacaf W Gold Cup Prelims will be a matchup according to the Concacaf Women's Senior Rankings published immediate after the last match of The Competition in the following manner:

- Ranking 1st vs Ranking 6th
- Ranking 2nd vs Ranking 5th
- Ranking 3rd vs Ranking 4th

12.6. The winners of these matchups will qualify for the 2024 Concacaf W Gold Cup Group Stage.

12.7. The dates of the matches shall be fixed by Concacaf.

12.8. The decisions of Concacaf on the structure and format of The Competition are final. In the event of any withdrawals, Concacaf may change the structure and format in accordance with the provisions.

13. VENUES, KICK-OFF TIMES AND TRAINING SESSIONS

13.1. The venues of the matches for The Competition shall be submitted to Concacaf by the Host Member Association concerned and the matches may only be played in stadiums that have been inspected and approved by Concacaf. Concacaf will send a circular informing the deadline for the submission of these venues.

13.2. All venues shall comply with the Concacaf Technical Guide for Stadiums and Training Sites.

- 13.3. The HMA shall notify Concacaf of the venue and kick-off time, at least sixty (60) days before the match in question is due to be played. In principle, the venue is to be located at a maximum distance of 150km, which shall not exceed a maximum two-hour drive, from the nearest international airport, unless an exception is specified by Concacaf. The airport should offer landing possibilities for charter flights in the event that the visiting association opts to charter its delegation's flights directly to this airport. If the Member Association cannot agree on the venues for the matches, Concacaf shall make the final decisions.
- 13.4. Concacaf shall inform all interested parties of the kick-off times at least thirty (30) days before the match in question is due to be played. If the host association requests a change, a written approval from Concacaf must be obtained twenty (20) days before the match at the latest based on well-founded and documented reasons.
- 13.5. The venue of the match shall have sufficient high-standard hotels to accommodate the home team, the visiting teams, and Concacaf delegation.
- 13.6. On the day before the match of The Competition stage and weather permitting, the visiting team is entitled to have one (1) training session of sixty (60) minutes on natural grass pitch or up to one hundred and twenty (120) minutes if an artificial pitch is used where the match is due to take place. In the event of severe adverse weather conditions, the Concacaf Venue and Match Coordinator may cancel the training session and the HMA must provide an alternative location for the visiting team to conduct the MD-1 training session. In this case, the teams shall be allowed to inspect the pitch wearing training shoes. Should both teams wish to train at the same time, the visiting team shall be given priority.
- 13.6.1. Drones may only be used during practice for technical purposes. Concacaf reserves the right to approve or deny the use of such devices. The use of drones and/or recording devices to scout and/or observe other teams' training sessions may lead to disciplinary sanctions.
- 13.6.2. Seven (7) days prior to the arrival of the visiting team, the exact time and duration of the training session shall be mutually agreed and confirmed to Concacaf.
- 13.7. If there is any doubt regarding the condition of the pitch once the visiting association has already left to play the match, the referee shall decide whether the pitch is playable or not. If the referee declares the pitch

unplayable, the procedure to be followed is described in Article 7 of these Regulations.

- 13.8. The matches may be played in daylight or under floodlight. Matches played at night may be played only at venues where the floodlighting installations meet the minimum lighting requirements laid down by Concacaf Stadium Guidelines, i.e., that the whole pitch shall be evenly lit, with a minimum requirement lighting level of at least 1,000 vertical EV lux. Additionally, the uniformity gradient of light on the field of play should be of 1.4:1. An emergency power generator must also be available which, in the event of a power failure, guarantees at least two-thirds of the aforementioned intensity of light for the whole pitch. Concacaf is entitled to grant exceptions.
- 13.9. On matchdays, the teams must be entitled to warm up on the pitch before the match, weather and pitch condition permitting. In principle, the first game will be entitled to warm up on the field of play before the match for thirty (30) minutes. If the pitch is not in good condition or the warm-up would negatively affect the state of the pitch for the match, Concacaf may limit the area on the field of play for the warm-up or shorten or cancel the warm-up session.

14. DATES AND ARRIVALS AT THE VENUES

- 14.1. Concacaf retains the right to set the match dates and confirm the venues of all matches in The Competition.
- 14.2. The PMA shall arrange for their representative teams to arrive at the venue no later than thirty-six (36) hours before the match is due to be played. Concacaf and the host association shall be informed of the travel itinerary of the visiting association no later than two (2) weeks prior to each match and the visiting associations shall have made provisions for obtaining the visas, if applicable.

15. STADIUM INFRASTRUCTURE AND EQUIPMENT

- 15.1. Concacaf and the HMA must ensure that the stadiums and facilities in which the matches take place fulfill the requirements described in the Concacaf Technical Guide for Stadiums and Training Sites comply with the safety and security standards and other Concacaf and FIFA regulations, guidelines, and instructions for international matches. The fields of play, accessory equipment and facilities must be in optimum condition and comply with the IFAB Laws of the Game and all other relevant regulations (including the international dimensions of the field per IFAB Laws of the Game). Each stadium must be equipped with a minimum of 2 white goal posts and white goal nets with dark-colored support posts and a minimum of 2 white spare goals, 2 spare white

goal nets and 4 spare corner flags located in close proximity to the field of play for contingency purposes.

- 15.2. The pitch shall have international dimensions. In addition, the total surface area shall have sufficient space to ensure safety, as well for warm-up and pitch-side photographer positions.
- 15.3. Periodic safety checks for the benefit of spectators, players and officials must be carried out on the stadiums selected for matches in The Competition by the authorities responsible. If requested, the associations shall provide Concacaf with a copy of the relevant safety certificate, which shall not be more than one (1) year old.
- 15.4. Only stadiums that have been inspected and approved by Concacaf may be selected for The Competition. Should a stadium no longer comply with Concacaf standards, Concacaf may reject the selection of the stadium concerned. Brand-new stadiums are to be inspected prior to use; the application for the final inspection and subsequent use of the facilities must be filed with the Confederation at least six (6) months prior to the match concerned. Refurbished or renovated stadiums are to be inspected prior to use; the application for the final inspection and the subsequent use of the facilities shall be filed with Concacaf at least four (4) months prior to the match concerned.
- 15.5. As a general rule, matches may only be played in all-seater stadiums. If only stadiums with both seating and standing areas are available, the standing space shall remain vacant. Regarding the spectator areas, the FIFA Stadium Safety and Security Regulations apply.
- 15.6. The field of play, accessory equipment, and all facilities for each match of The Competition shall be in optimum condition and comply with the IFAB Laws of the Game and all other relevant regulations.
- 15.7. If a stadium has a retractable roof, in consultation with the Venue Coordinator, referee, and the two teams' officials, must decide before the match whether the roof must be open or closed during the match. This decision must be announced at the Match Coordination Meeting, although it may subsequently be modified prior to kick-off in the event of sudden and significant weather condition changes. If the match starts with the roof closed, it must remain closed for the entire match. If the match starts with the roof open and there is a serious deterioration in the weather conditions, the Venue Coordinator and the referee have the authority to order its closure during the match, provided that the safety and security of all spectators, players and other stakeholders remain fully guaranteed by the host association. In such an event, the roof shall

remain closed until the end of the match.

- 15.8. Matches may be played on natural or artificial surfaces. Where artificial surfaces are used, the surface must meet the requirements of the FIFA Quality Program for Football Turf or the International Artificial Turf Standard, unless special dispensation is given by Concacaf. All Artificial Turf Standards certifications must be up to date, two (2) months before the start of the match.
- 15.9. Each stadium shall have sufficient space for warm-up during the match, ideally behind the goal line. A maximum of six (6) players shall warm up at the same time (with a maximum of one (1) official without any balls). If there is not sufficient space behind the goal lines, each team shall warm up in the designated area beside their substitute bench. In this case, the maximum number of players will be determined by the Venue Coordinator and the Referees and communicated in the Match Coordination Meeting.
- 15.10. Clocks in the stadium showing the length of time played may run during the match, provided that they are stopped at the end of normal playing time in each half, i.e., after forty-five (45) and ninety (90) minutes respectively. This stipulation will also be valid if extra time is played (i.e., after every 15-minute period). The half-time interval shall be fifteen (15) minutes.
- 15.11. At the end of the two (2) periods of normal playing time (45 and 90 minutes), the referee must indicate to the fourth official, either orally or by gesturing with his/her hands, the number of minutes that he/she has decided to allow for time lost. This also applies to the two (2) periods of fifteen (15) minutes of extra time.
- 15.12. Panels or electronic display boards, numbered on both sides for clarity, must be used to indicate the substitution of players and the number of minutes to be allowed for time lost.
- 15.13. The use of giant screens must be in compliance with the relevant Concacaf instructions.
- 15.14. Smoking is not permitted in the technical area or in the vicinity of the field of play or within competition areas such as the dressing rooms.
- 15.15. The stadiums must be made available to Concacaf for its exclusive use and must be free of any and all commercial activities and identifications not previously approved by Concacaf, e.g., boards and signage other than those of Concacaf's Commercial Affiliates, from at least five (5) days prior to the match and up to two (2) days after the match.

16. TEAM EQUIPMENT

- 16.1. The PMAs shall comply with the FIFA Equipment Regulations in force. The display of political, religious, or personal messages or slogans in any language or form by players and officials on their playing or team kits, equipment (including kit bags, beverage containers, medical bags, captain armbands, etc.) or body is prohibited, and disciplinary actions could be taken including but not limited to match suspensions and/or fines, based on the severity of the incident. The similar display of commercial messages and slogans in any language or form by players and officials is not allowed for the duration of their time at official activity any organized by Concacaf (including in the stadiums for official matches and official training sessions, as well as during official press conferences and mixed-zone activities).
- 16.2. Each team shall provide Concacaf of a minimum of two (2) different and contrasting colors (one predominately dark and one predominately light kit) for its official and reserve team kit (shirt, shorts, socks, all three (3) goalkeeper's kits, gloves, caps, wristbands and headbands etc.). In addition, each team shall provide three (3) contrasting colors for the goalkeepers. These three (3) goalkeepers kits must be distinctly different and contrasting from each other as well as different and contrasting from the official and reserve team kits. Pictures of the kits must be sent to Concacaf sixty (60) days prior to their first match of The Competition for Concacaf approval. Only these colors may be worn at the matches. Any requests to change these kits must be submitted to Concacaf for approval ten (10) days prior to the match in question.
- 16.3. Each team shall supply a set of goalkeeper shirts without names or numbers. These shirts will only be used in those special circumstances in which an outfield player must take the position of goalkeeper during a match. This extra set of goalkeeper shirts must be provided in the same three (3) colors as the regular goalkeeper shirts.
- 16.4. Concacaf strives to assign each team their full official or reserve kits. However, in some cases, this may not be possible. In these situations, one team will be assigned a predominantly dark kit and the other team will be assigned a predominantly light kit. Only uniforms approved and designated by Concacaf may be used for all matches. Concacaf reserves the right to make changes to these designations based on the contrast of the uniforms, any changes will be notified by Concacaf.
- 16.5. Each player shall wear a number between 1 and 23 (number 1 being reserved exclusively for one of the goalkeepers) in the front and back of her team shirt and on her playing shorts. The color of the numbers must contrast clearly with the main color of the shirts and shorts (light on dark or vice versa) and be

legible from a distance for spectators in the stadium and television viewers in accordance with the FIFA equipment regulations.

- 16.6. The player's last name or common name (or abbreviation) may be affixed above the number of the back of the shirt and shall be clearly legible in accordance with the FIFA Equipment Regulations. If the common name will be used, such name to be approved by Concacaf.
- 16.7. Concacaf shall supply each team with fifty (50) sleeve patches (tournament patches) per match with the official competition logo, which shall be affixed on the right-hand sleeve of each shirt as stipulated by Concacaf before The Competition. Concacaf shall also issue the PMAs with guidelines for the use of official terminology and graphics which also contain instructions for the use of the players' sleeve badges per the Marketing Regulations.
- 16.8. Each player shall wear the number allotted to them on the final list in accordance with the Equipment Regulations.
- 16.9. The official and reserve team kits and all goalkeeper kits (including the goalkeeper shirts without names and numbers) shall be taken to every match.
- 16.10. Only warm-up bibs provided by Concacaf may be used during official training sessions held at the stadium/venue and for the pre-match warm-up and the warm-up of substitute players during the match.

17. FOOTBALLS

- 17.1. The HMA must supply the footballs to be used in all matches during the Competition. Moreover, the HMA must provide the visiting team upon arrival to the country with a total of twenty-three (23) match balls that will only be used for training purposes. The visiting team must return the practice balls before departing the venue.
- 17.2. The HMA must supply for each match a minimum of twelve (12) match balls (additional to the visiting team training match balls) in good conditions that meet FIFA Quality Programme Mark standard (FIFA Quality PRO, FIFA Quality, International Match Standard).

18. FLAGS AND ANTHEMS

- 18.1. During The Competition, the Concacaf flag and the national flags of the PMAs shall be flown inside the stadium at every match. In addition, a ceremonial procession of flags onto the pitch will take place, followed by the entry of the

teams as the Concacaf anthem is being played, according to Concacaf's pre-match protocol. The national anthems of the two (2) PMAs (maximum 90 seconds each, no lyrics permitted) shall be played after the teams have lined up.

19. TICKETING

- 19.1. The HMA is responsible for all match ticketing during The Competition and shall manage the ticketing operations in a manner that meets all applicable security and safety standards. It shall set aside a minimum of fifty (50) Category A complimentary tickets – any additional tickets to be fixed by mutual agreement and in writing – of complimentary and purchasable tickets for the visiting associations. At least five (5) representatives from the visiting Associations shall be seated in the VIP tribune for their match. The visiting Association shall inform Concacaf and the HMA in writing no later than fifteen (15) days before the match of the total number of tickets requested for the match. If there is failure to submit request before the deadline, the HMA will not be held responsible to grant additional request.
- 19.2. The HMA shall agree to provide to Concacaf, upon request and free of charge, the number of complementary tickets and suites (where applicable) as stipulated in the Commercial Regulations ten (10) business days prior any home match.
- 19.3. All ticket designs must be pre-approved by Concacaf. The Association must work with Concacaf to make sure their ticketing systems comply with this requirement and must inform Concacaf if there are any potential issues as soon as these are identified.
- 19.4. Concacaf reserves the right to require terms and conditions to be included in the match tickets in addition to the terms and conditions by the HMA, during The Competition.

20. REFEREEING

- 20.1. The referees, assistant referees and fourth officials (hereinafter referred to collectively as Match Officials) for The Competition must be appointed for each match by the Concacaf Referee Committee and shall be neutral. The decisions of the Concacaf Referee Committee are final and not subject to appeal.
- 20.2. The Match Officials shall receive their official refereeing kit and equipment from Concacaf. They shall wear and use only this kit and equipment on match

days.

- 20.3. Match Officials shall be given the opportunity to use training facilities.
- 20.4. If the referee is prevented from carrying out his/her duties, such referee shall be replaced by the fourth official. If one of the assistant referees is prevented from carrying out his/her duties, such assistant referee shall be replaced by the fourth official or by the reserve assistant referee (when appointed).
- 20.5. After each match, the referee shall complete and sign the official match report form. He/she shall do it through Comet immediately after the match at the stadium. On the report form, the referee shall note all occurrences, such as misconduct of players leading to caution or expulsion, unsporting behavior by supporters and/or by officials or any other person acting on behalf of an Association at the match and any other incident happening before, during and after the match in as much detail as possible.

DISCIPLINARY MATTERS

21. CONCACAF DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

- 21.1. The Concacaf Disciplinary Committee (hereinafter: the Disciplinary Committee), will apply the Competition Regulations and the FIFA Disciplinary Code, until the Concacaf Disciplinary Code enters into force. In addition, it may apply the Concacaf Statutes as appropriate.
- 21.2. The players agree in particular to:
 - 21.2.1. Respect the spirit of fair play, non-violence and the authority of the Match Officials;
 - 21.2.2. Behave accordingly;
 - 21.2.3. Refrain from doping as defined by the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations as well as to accept all other relevant FIFA regulations, circulars and directives.
- 21.3. The PMA and their Team Delegation Members shall comply with Concacaf and FIFA Statutes, the FIFA Disciplinary Code (until the entry into force of the Concacaf Disciplinary Code) and the Concacaf Code of Ethics, in particular in matters regarding the fight against discrimination, racism and match-fixing activities.

- 21.4. In cases of infringement of these and all applicable regulations or unsporting behavior on the part of the participating national teams, their players and/or officials, or in any kind of incident, the Concacaf Disciplinary Committee shall be empowered to:
- 21.4.1. Warn, caution, admonish, sanction, fine, deduct points, suspend and/or disqualify the national teams, their players and/or officials.
 - 21.4.2. Take action against any person(s) or PMAs which may violate these and / or applicable Regulations, the IFAB Laws of the Game and / or the rules of Fair Play.
 - 21.4.3. Prohibit violators from participating in a specific number of the Concacaf-organized tournaments in which they might otherwise have participated.
- 21.5. The Concacaf Disciplinary Committee may refer to the Concacaf Council any matter relating to an infringement of these Regulations as it sees fit whether for further sanction or any other reason.
- 21.6. The Disciplinary Committee decisions may be based upon written record or videos. Additionally, hearings may be held to investigate a case.
- 21.7. When making a decision, the Disciplinary Committee may refer to the reports made by the Match Delegates, Officials or any other Concacaf Official or staff present. Reference may also be made to additional reports including such as declarations from the parties and witnesses, material evidence, expert opinions, audio and/or video recordings. Such reports may be used as evidence but only in so far as the disciplinary aspects of the case being dealt with are concerned and will not affect a referee's decision regarding facts connected with play.
- 21.8. The Disciplinary Committee may convene a personal hearing and will decide any procedures to be followed in such hearing.
- 21.9. Sessions may be held with a single member. Decisions will be made by the sole judge, or they will be adopted by a simple majority of the members present. In the event of a tie, the president will have the casting vote.
- 21.10. The following decisions of the Disciplinary Committee shall not be subject to appeal:
- 21.10.1. Cautions, warnings, and censures imposed on Member Associations, players, officials, and other persons.

- 21.10.2. Suspensions of up to two matches, or of up to two (2) months, imposed on Member Associations, players, officials, or any other persons.
- 21.10.3. Fines imposed on Member Associations not exceeding thirty thousand dollars (USD 30,000) or on players, officials or any other persons not exceeding ten thousand dollars (USD 10,000).
- 21.10.4. Decisions made in compliance with Article 21 of the FIFA Disciplinary Code.
- 21.11. All imposed economic penalties must be paid by the appropriate Member Association no later than sixty (60) days after notification thereof.
- 21.12. Cautions and suspensions:
 - 21.12.1. Cautions received in any other competition are not carried over to The Competition.
 - 21.12.2. Pending match suspensions (in relation to the direct red card or an indirect red card) will be carried over to The Competition.
 - 21.12.3. Single yellow cards will get eliminated at the end of The Competition.
 - 21.12.4. Two (2) cautions received in different games during The Competition shall result in an automatic suspension for the next game in The Competition.
 - 21.12.5. Red card (direct or indirect) suspensions shall be served regardless of the stage of The Competition.
 - 21.12.6. Unserved suspensions outstanding at the end of a team's participation in The Competition will be carried over to the next official match of the player's National Team per the FIFA Disciplinary Code and, upon its entry into force, the Concacaf Disciplinary Code.
- 21.13. If a game is suspended due to withdrawal, the team(s) refusing to complete the match shall be ineligible to participate in the next two (2) editions of The Competition.
- 21.14. Any other infringement of these Regulations, whether by players, referees, officials, coaches or officers that are punishable by economic sanctions shall be reported to the Concacaf General Secretariat for consideration by the

Concacaf Council.

22. CONCACAF APPEALS COMMITTEE

- 22.1. The Concacaf Appeals Committee (hereinafter: the Appeals Committee), will hear the appeals that meet the requirements that will be said, against the decisions made by the Disciplinary Committee.
- 22.2. The Appeals Committee will apply these Regulations and the FIFA Disciplinary Code, until the entry into force of the Concacaf Disciplinary Code.
- 22.3. The Appeals Committee shall reach its decisions on the basis of the documents and other means of evidence contained in the Disciplinary Committee's file. The Appeals Committee may additionally, at its sole discretion, also consider additional evidence, including television and video recordings, which it considers relevant.
- 22.4. The parties must notify the Appeals Committee of their intention to appeal the decision, by writing within three (3) days, counting from the notification of the grounds for the decision. Said notification must be made via email to the Concacaf General Secretariat, to general.secretariat@concacaf.org with a copy to disciplinary@concacaf.org.
- 22.5. Once the period for communicating the intention to appeal has elapsed, the appellant will have five (5) days to present the formal appeal letter. It should contain the appellant's requests, a statement of the facts, evidence, a list of the proposed witnesses (with a brief summary of the foreseeable testimony) and the appellant's conclusions. The latter will not be authorized to present further documentation or evidence once the deadline for submitting the appeal letter has expired.
- 22.6. Appeals are subject to the payment of a fee of USD 1,000, which must be paid, at the latest, at the time the document is delivered. The appellant must send confirmation of said transfer by email to the Concacaf General Secretariat, to general.secretariat@concacaf.org with a copy to disciplinary@concacaf.org.
- 22.7. Failure to comply with any of the aforementioned requirements will result in the appeal not being admitted.
- 22.8. Sessions may be held with a single member. Decisions will be made by the sole judge, or they will be adopted by a simple majority of the members present. In the event of a tie, the president will have the casting vote.

23. PROTESTS

- 23.1. For the purpose of these Regulations, protests are objections of any kind related to events or matters that have a direct effect on matches organized in The Competition, including but not limited to the state of and markings on the pitch, accessory match equipment, eligibility of players, stadium installations and footballs.
- 23.2. Unless otherwise stipulated in this article, protests shall be submitted in writing to the Venue Coordinator or Concacaf representative in the venue no later than two (2) hours after the end of the match in question and followed up within the next twenty four (24) hours with a full written report, including a copy of the original protest, to be sent by e-mail to the Concacaf General Secretariat at general.secretariat@concacaf.org with a copy to disciplinary@concacaf.org, otherwise they shall be disregarded. Such protests must be accompanied by a wire transfer confirmation in the amount of USD 500 payable to Concacaf.
- 23.3. Protests regarding the eligibility of players nominated for matches in The Competition shall be submitted in writing to the Concacaf General Secretariat by e-mail no later than two (2) hours after the match in question, at general.secretariat@concacaf.org with a copy to disciplinary@concacaf.org. Such protests must be accompanied by a wire transfer confirmation in the amount USD 500 payable to Concacaf.
- 23.4. Protests regarding the state of the pitch, its surroundings, markings or accessory items (e.g., goals, flag posts or footballs) shall be made in writing to the referee before the start of the match by the head of delegation of the team lodging the protest. If the pitch's playing surface becomes unplayable during a match, the captain of the protesting team shall immediately lodge a protest with the referee in the presence of the captain of the opposing team. The protests shall be confirmed in writing to the Venue Coordinator or Concacaf representative in the venue by the head of the team delegation no later than two (2) hours after the match in question. Such protest must be accompanied by a wire transfer confirmation in the amount of USD 500 payable to Concacaf.
- 23.5. Protests against any incidents that occur during the course of a match shall be made to the referee by the team captain immediately after the disputed incident and before play has resumed, in the presence of the captain of the opposing team. The protest shall be confirmed in writing to the Venue Coordinator or Concacaf representative in the venue by the head of the team delegation no later than two (2) hours after the match in question. Such protests must be accompanied by a wire transfer confirmation in the amount of USD 500 payable to Concacaf.

- 23.6. Only protests regarding requests to review and rectify a clear and obvious case of error related to a disciplinary decision on the field of play by match officials for a direct red card shall be submitted in writing to the Match Commissioner or the Concacaf representative at headquarters no later than two (2) hours after the end of the match in question. The protest must be followed up within the next 48 hours with a full written report, including a copy of the original protest and any and all evidence (e.g., video, photography, written statements, others) supporting the protest, which must be sent in writing and by email to the Concacaf General Secretariat, to general.secretariat@concacaf.org with a copy to disciplinary@concacaf.org, otherwise they will be discarded. Such protests must be accompanied by proof of electronic transfer in the amount of USD 10,000 payable to Concacaf. This amount will be refunded if the protest is accepted in its entirety.
- 23.7. Member Associations may not bring disputes with Concacaf before a Court of Justice. They shall undertake to submit any disputes without reservation to the jurisdiction of the competent authority of Concacaf and FIFA.
- 23.8. If an unfounded or irresponsible protest is lodged, Concacaf may impose a fine.
- 23.9. The expenses, which arise from a protest, shall be charged by Concacaf, either wholly or in part, to the losing party.
- 23.10. If any of the formal conditions of a protest as set out in these Regulations are not met, such protest shall be disregarded by the competent body. Once the final match of The Competition has ended and/or once the winning team(s) of the Competition have been proclaimed, any protests described in this article or complaints about the sports procedure followed during The Competition shall be disregarded.

24. DISCIPLINARY POLICY

24.1. The following infractions will be sanctioned as follows:

24.1.1. Late Submission of Documentation, Uniform Kits and/or PCMA Medical Forms – Teams that submit their administrative documentation and/or physical uniform kits after the deadlines outlined in the Regulations and / or Circulars will be fined as follows:

24.1.1.1. 1st Offense USD 2,000;

24.1.1.2. 2nd Offense USD 3,000;

- 24.1.1.3. 3rd Offense and following USD 5,000.

- 24.1.2. Late Arrival at the Stadium - Due to the team's negligence, including late departure from team hotel causing late submission of the Start List (delays the match preparation and the submission of the start list to the broadcasters & media), will be fined as follows:
 - 24.1.2.1. 1st Offense USD 2,000;

 - 24.1.2.2. 2nd Offense USD 3,000;

 - 24.1.2.3. 3rd Offense and following USD 5,000.

- 24.1.3. Late departure from the locker rooms - Teams that delay the 1st half or the 2nd half Kick-Off, will be sanctioned as follows:
 - 24.1.3.1. 1st offense
 - a) If 1 minute or less USD 2,000;
 - b) If 2 minutes or more USD 3,000.

 - 24.1.3.2. 2nd Offense
 - a) If 1 minute or less USD 3,000;
 - b) If 2 minutes or more USD 5,000.

 - 24.1.3.3. 3rd offense
 - a) If 1 minute or less USD 5,000;
 - b) If 2 minutes or more USD 9,000.

- 24.1.4. Lack of Security - by the host team, will be sanctioned with fines between USD 2,000 and USD 10,000 depending on the severity of the Infraction, including but not limited to the following:
 - a) Inadequate inspection of spectators and their belongings, such as bags, backpacks, wallets and others;
 - b) Inadequate reaction to the use of flares and other fireworks in the stadium by spectators;
 - c) Inadequate reaction to the throwing of objects onto the field of play or in the stands by spectators;
 - d) Inadequate security personnel in the stadium;
 - e) Entrance of spectators to the field of play;

- f) Entry, by spectators, of flags, signs or banners not allowed.

24.1.5. Media Regulations Violations – Fines will be applied to the team and / or its members, between USD 1,000 and USD 6,000, depending on the severity of the offense Including but not limited to the following:

- a) Coach and/or players not attending mandatory media activities;
- b) Photographer or film crew inside the locker rooms;
- c) Non-compliance with minimum standards in accordance with the Media Regulations;
- d) Negative comments about the match officials or Concacaf.

24.1.6. Minimum Standard Violations - Fines will be applied to the PMA and / or its members, between USD 1,000 and USD 10,000, depending on the severity of the offense, in the following cases, including among others:

- a) Lack of compliance with the match protocol;
- b) Lack of compliance with the Competition Regulations, Concacaf Guidelines, and/or Circulars.
- c) Violating the basic norms of civic conduct;
- d) Making use of a sporting event to carry out demonstrations of a different nature than sport;
- e) Adopt conduct that discredits football or Concacaf;
- f) Actively modify the age of the players in the identity documents that the latter present in competitions in which there is an age limit.
- g) Misbehavior of the players and/or team officials in the technical seats.

24.2. The Disciplinary and Appeals Committee have the power to impose other disciplinary measures and, at its discretion, in accordance with the provisions of these Regulations and the FIFA Disciplinary Code, until the Concacaf Disciplinary Code enters into force.

24.3. The following sanctions will not be subject to appeal:

24.3.1. Warning;

24.3.2. Reprimand;

24.3.3. Suspensions of up to two (2) matches, or of up to two (2) months,

imposed on players, match officials, teams (staff and/or officials) or other persons (with exception from decisions related to doping);

- 24.3.4. Fines imposed on Member Associations not exceeding thirty thousand US Dollars (USD 30,000) or on players, officials, or any other persons not exceeding ten thousand US Dollars (USD 10,000).
- 24.3.5. Decisions made in compliance with Article 21 of the FIFA Disciplinary Code.

25. FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

25.1. For the matches in The Competition, the HMA is responsible for the operation and cost of:

25.1.1. Single room accommodations, breakfast, and local transportation for:

- Referees
- Referee Assessor
- Match Commissioner
- Venue Coordinator (when applicable)
- Match Coordinator (when applicable)
- Security Officer (when applicable)
- Any other official appointed by Concacaf

25.1.2. Operational cost of the Stadium for the matches and official use during The Competition;

25.1.3. Board and lodging in a high-standard hotel in the host country for the Match Officials, the Match Commissioner, the Referee Assessor, any other Concacaf officials (i.e., security officer, media officer etc.).

25.1.4. Training facilities approved by Concacaf for the PMAs to use during The Competition;

25.1.5. Volunteers and staff to assist with the operations of The Competition.

25.2. The following expenditure may be deducted from the gross receipts:

25.2.1. The levy due to the Confederation in accordance with the Confederation's statutes and regulations after deduction of the taxes mentioned under 25.2.2. The levies due to the Confederation shall be paid within 60 days of the match at the official rate of exchange on the

day the payment is due;

- 25.2.2. State, provincial, and municipal taxes as well as the hire of the ground, not exceeding 30% (cf. Regulations Governing the Application of the FIFA Statutes).
- 25.3. Concacaf shall bear the costs of:
 - 25.3.1. International travel and the daily allowances for the respective Concacaf delegation members, as fixed by Concacaf;
 - 25.3.2. Participation money for the PMA, the amount of which shall be determined by Concacaf (if applicable).
 - 25.3.3. Doping expenses;
 - 25.3.4. The costs of insurance taken out by Concacaf to cover its own risks.
- 25.4. The teams shall not be permitted to stay at the same hotel or at the hotel chosen for the Concacaf delegation unless written approval by Concacaf has been provided.
- 25.5. The PMAs shall be responsible for and bear the costs of the following:
 - 25.5.1. Costs for international travel, ground transportation, lodging and meals for the official delegation during The Competition.
 - 25.5.2. Adequate insurance to cover their Team Delegation Members and any other persons carrying out duties on their behalf against all risks, including but not limited to injury, accident, disease, and travel in consideration of the applicable FIFA and Concacaf rules or regulations.
 - 25.5.3. International travel, visas and the daily allowances for the respective delegation members;
 - 25.5.4. Any additional cost for lodging and meals for the additional staff traveling outside the official delegation from the PMA.
 - 25.5.5. COVID-19 related expenses as per the Concacaf Annex.
- 25.6. Any disputes arising from financial provisions shall be resolved amongst the Associations concerned but may be submitted to Concacaf for a final decision to be taken.

25.7. Any expenses and costs incurred by a PMA other than those mentioned in these Regulations shall be borne by the PMA concerned.

26. MEDICAL/DOPING

- 26.1. In order to protect players' health as well as to prevent players from experiencing sudden cardiac death during matches at The Competition, each PMA shall ensure and confirm to Concacaf that its players and officials undergo a pre-competition medical assessment (PCMA) prior to the start of The Competition. The PCMA will include a full medical assessment as well as an EKG to identify any cardiac abnormality. If the EKG is abnormal, an echocardiogram must be obtained and be normal before a player can be released to play. The medical assessment must be carried out between two hundred and seventy (270) days and ten (10) days prior to the start of The Competition. Concacaf will provide a PCMA form to all PMAs.
- 26.2. The duly licensed medical representative of each PMA (i.e., national team doctor) will be required to sign the PCMA declaration form certifying the accuracy of the results and confirming that the players and officials have passed the pre-competition medical assessment. The medical assessment form shall also include the signatures of the President and General Secretary of the PMA and shall be received by the Concacaf General Secretariat at the latest ten (10) days prior to the start of The Competition.
- 26.3. Further to the above, each PMA is required to have a duly licensed medical female professional (i.e., a female doctor) as part of their official delegation. Such doctor must be fully integrated and familiar with all medical aspects of the delegation and must remain with the delegation throughout the entire official period of The Competition. The Match Officials (the Referees) will refer to such team doctor in all cases as required and necessary.
- 26.4. Concacaf shall not be held liable for any injury sustained by any participating player or official. Equally, Concacaf shall not be held liable for any incident (including death) linked to any injury or health problem(s) of any participating player or official.
- 26.5. As stated in these Regulations, each PMA shall be responsible throughout The Competition for providing health, travel and accident insurance cover for all the members of its delegation throughout The Competition. In addition, and in accordance with the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players, the PMA with which any participating player is registered shall be responsible for player's insurance coverage against illness and accident during the entire period of the player's release.

- 26.6. Failure to comply with the aforementioned provision shall be sanctioned by the Concacaf Disciplinary Committee.
- 26.7. Regarding non-traumatic loss of consciousness or collapse during a game, the referee will assume sudden cardiac arrest until proven otherwise. The hand signal is the right-hand fist against the chest. Such signal will indicate to the team doctor and the medical emergency team (stretcher team) to immediately institute comprehensive resuscitation that includes the use of a defibrillator (AED) and CPR. It is the responsibility of the HMA to ensure that there is a properly functioning AED immediately at hand and that there is an ambulance with an access and egress plan. Additionally, the HMA should ensure an emergency action plan is in place and communicated with each team's medical staff in advance of each match.
- 26.8. During the match, if there is a traumatic head injury leading to a concussion to a player, and the player remains on the field of play, the referee shall stop play for as much as three minutes as injury time. The hand signal is the right fist on the top of the head. Such signal will indicate to the team doctor to enter the field to assess and manage the player. At this time, a Sideline Concussion Assessment Test (SCAT) will be administered. At the end of the three minutes, at the discretion of the team doctor, the player may be ready to return to play or immobilized appropriately and transported off the field using the standard protocol.
- 26.9. Further to the above, in regard to traumatic head injury and concussion, full return to play after a previous concussion must include no signs or symptoms of the previous head injury as well as an acceptable Sideline Concussion Assessment Test (SCAT) assessment, as well as a progressive/staged return to play protocol and return to baseline neuropsychological testing.
- 26.10. Doping is the use of certain substances or methods capable of artificially enhancing the physical and/or mental performance of a player, with a view to improving athletic and/or mental performance. If there is a medical need as defined by the player's doctor, then a Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) application must be filed 21 days prior to competition for chronic conditions and as soon as possible for acute situations. The TUE approval system includes a designated administrative and functional committee that will review applications and certify the exemption as the committee defines.
- 26.11. Doping is strictly prohibited. The FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations, the FIFA Disciplinary Code, and all other relevant FIFA as well as Concacaf Regulations, circulars, and directives shall apply to all Concacaf competitions.

- 26.12. Every player may be subject to in-competition testing at the matches in which the player competes and to out-of-competition testing at any time and place. Furthermore, reference is made to the FIFA Anti-Doping Control Regulations and the list of prohibited substances and methods per the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).
- 26.13. If, in accordance with the FIFA Anti-Doping Control Regulations, a player tests positive for the use of banned substances, the player shall be immediately declared ineligible for further participation in The Competition and shall be subject to further sanctions from the Concacaf Disciplinary Committee.

27. COMMERCIAL RIGHTS

- 27.1. Concacaf is the original and sole owner of all of the rights emanating from The Competition as a collective whole and any other related events coming under its jurisdiction, without any restrictions as to content, time, place and law. These rights include, among others, all kinds of financial rights, audiovisual and radio recording, reproduction and broadcasting rights, multimedia rights, marketing and promotional rights and incorporeal rights (such as those pertaining to emblems) as well as rights arising under copyright law whether currently existing or created in the future subject to any provision as set forth in specific regulations.
- 27.2. The Competition Marks and the Composite Logo may only be used by PMAs for the purpose of referring descriptively to their participation in the Competition. All commercial or promotional use of the Competition Marks and the Composite Logo by PMAs and/or their PMA Affiliates and/or any third party contracted to the PMAs is strictly prohibited.
- 27.3. To assist with the implementation of these Commercial Regulations, each PMA (i) must ensure that all Team Delegation Members participate in a Competition photo and video shoot (all such photographs and images to be used and/or sub-licensed by the Confederation in accordance with the remainder of this paragraph), and (ii) shall secure written confirmation from each Team Delegation Member of the Confederation's right to use and/or the Confederation's right to sub-license the right to use, in perpetuity and free of any charge, any of their records, names, photographs and images (including any still and moving representation thereof), which may appear or be generated in connection with the participation of the Team Delegation Members in the Competition (including, but not limited to photographs of Team Delegation Members taken for accreditation purposes).
- 27.4. PMAs are expressly prohibited from bringing beverage products or containers that compete with the Commercial Affiliate, as confirmed by Concacaf, into

the Controlled Areas. The winning Participating Team is expressly prohibited from bringing non-commercial affiliate product and/or branded items (i.e., different from Commercial Affiliate) during the competition period in controlled areas as referenced herein.

- 27.5. At all times, Concacaf reserves all its rights to exploit, sell, create, license, sublicense, and dispose of merchandising rights for the Competition, and to authorize and license others to do so. Participating Teams are not authorized to create or sell their own co-branded merchandise without the prior written approval of Concacaf; Concacaf, however, may appoint a third-party licensee to work directly with each participating Team and local licensees, if any, to establish any product offering and associated royalties from local merchandising of co-branded products, when previously authorized and confirmed in writing by Concacaf.
- 27.6. Concacaf will issue separate Commercial Regulations for The Competition specifying these commercial and intellectual property rights. All Concacaf members must comply with the Commercial Regulations for The Competition and must ensure that their members, official, players, delegates and other affiliates also comply with these regulations.

28. MEDIA

- 28.1. Concacaf will issue separate Media Regulations for The Competition specifying each Association's mandatory promotional and media activities that will take place prior to and during The Competition. These will include, among others, interview requests, pre- and post-match press conferences, and open training sessions.
- 28.2. Each Association must comply with The Competition Media Regulations and must ensure that their members, officials, players, delegates, and other affiliates also comply with these regulations.
- 28.3. For more details, please refer to the Media Regulations.

FINAL PROVISIONS

29. LIABILITY

- 29.1. The HMA of The Competition shall be exclusively responsible for the organization of the matches and shall discharge Concacaf from all responsibility and relinquish any claim against Concacaf and the members of

its delegation for any damages resulting from any claims relating to such matches.

30. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

30.1. Concacaf shall, issue any instructions necessitated by special circumstances that may arise related to The Competition. These provisions and/or instructions shall form an integral part of these Regulations.

31. MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR AND FORCE MAJEURE

31.1. Matters not provided for in these Regulations and any cases of force majeure shall be decided by Concacaf. All decisions shall be final and binding and not subject to appeal.

32. LANGUAGES

32.1. In the case of any discrepancy in the interpretation of the English, Spanish, French or Dutch texts of these Regulations, the English text shall be authoritative.

33. COPYRIGHT

33.1. The copyright of the match schedule drawn up in accordance with the provisions of these Regulations shall be the property of Concacaf.

34. NO WAIVER

34.1. Any waiver by Concacaf of any breach of these Regulations (including of any document referred to in these Regulations) shall not operate as, or be construed to be, a waiver of any other breach of such provision or of any breach of any other provision or a waiver of any right arising out of these Regulations or any other document. Any such waiver shall only be valid if given in writing. Failure by Concacaf to insist upon strict adherence to any provision of these Regulations, or any document referred to in these Regulations, on one or more occasions shall not be considered to be a waiver of or deprive Concacaf of the right to subsequently insist upon strict adherence to, that provision or any other provision of these Regulations, or any document referred to in these Regulations.

35. ENFORCEMENT

- 35.1. These regulations were approved by the Concacaf Council on February 24, 2023 and come into force immediately thereafter.

Concacaf 

ROAD TO GOLD CUP

2023 REGULATIONS

