



REGULATIONS CONCACAF NATIONS LEAGUE

[2018/2020 Edition - English]

ORGANIZERS

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GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. NAME OF COMPETITION

1.1. The CONCACAF Nations League (“The Competition”), is an official CONCACAF National teams’ competition. The Competition shall be played between the years 2018 and 2020 and shall take place in the dates and venues the CONCACAF Council determines. All Member Associations affiliated to CONCACAF are invited to participate.

1.2. The Competition consists of Three (3) stages:

1.2.1. Nations League Qualifying;

1.2.2. Nations League Group Phase;

1.2.3. Nations League Final Championship;

1.2.4. When referring to all three (3) stages - hereinafter: The Competition.

2. THE HOSTING MEMBER ASSOCIATION

2.1. The Hosting Member Associations (hereinafter: HMA) shall work with CONCACAF to organize, host and stage the matches in Nations League Qualifying and Nations League Group Phase as well as the security for the duration thereof. The Nations League Final Championship shall be organized and managed strictly by CONCACAF.

2.2. The HMA shall be subject to the supervision and control by CONCACAF, which has the final word on all matters relevant to Nations League Qualifying and Nations League Group Phase. 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 Team Participation Agreement and the CONCACAF Nations League (“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 FIFA and/or CONCACAF Stadium Safety and Security Regulations shall apply as the minimum standards and guidelines 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 of the Visiting Team 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. The HMA shall ensure that any decision taken by CONCACAF or judicial bodies relating to its duties and responsibilities are enforced immediately.

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 in the Nations League Qualifying and Nations League Group Phase. CONCACAF retains the right to determine the dates and select the venue for the Nations League Final Championship;
- 3.1.3. Determining the match schedule and kick-off times for The Competition;

- 3.1.4. Choosing the official football for the Nations League Final Championship and approving the official football for the Nations League Qualifying and Nations League Group Phase and stipulated technical materials 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. Appointing Match Coordinators, Venue Coordinators, Match Commissioners, Technical Study Group, Referees, Referee Assessors, Disciplinary Committee Members and any other delegates (hereinafter: Match Officials) for The Competition;
- 3.1.7. Daily per-diem and international traveling expenses for the CONCACAF Match Officials;
- 3.1.8. Replacing Associations (as seen fit by CONCACAF) that have withdrawn from The Competition;
- 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. Deciding cases of participating Member Associations failing to adhere to the time limits and/or the formal requirements for submitting the necessary documents;
- 3.1.11. Collecting of team information (i.e., team lists, rooming lists, menus, travel itineraries, VISA information, uniform colors, etc.)
- 3.1.12. Dealing with cases of abandoned matches (as per the 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. Daily assignment of officials for the matches;
- 3.1.16. Providing practice balls to the teams qualified to the CONCACAF Nations League Final Championship upon arrival and match balls to

venue;

3.1.17. Provide the trophy for the Champions and medals for the third-place (when applicable), runner-up and champion;

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.

3.2. 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 competition related expenses, for both home and away matches, incurred by its Team Delegation Members for the Nations League Qualifying and Nations League Group Phase;

4.1.4. For the Nations League Final Championship, each PMA shall be responsible for covering the extended stay of any member from their delegation. Each PMA shall also be responsible to cover the costs of any additional member of their delegation above the number approved by CONCACAF.

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 of \$5,000 USD, except in unforeseen circumstances and cases of force majeure as determined by the CONCACAF General Secretariat. The fine shall be increased by 50% for each time the offence is repeated
 - 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 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, including but not limited to, the Team Media Day in which individual and group photos and video will be taken of each team upon their arrival at the venue of their first match.
- 4.2.10. FIFA Regulations in relation to the eligibility of players.
- 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 PMA's 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 PMA's, their Team Delegation Members, their affiliates and any third parties contracted to the PMA.

5. ENTRIES FOR THE "COMPETITION"

- 5.1. On entering The Competition; the PMA and their Team Delegation Members automatically undertake to:
 - 5.1.1. 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;
 - 5.1.2. Accept CONCACAF's right to use and/or CONCACAF's right to sublicense 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 PMA 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 sublicense 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 PMA's and their Team Delegation Members shall ensure that such third party waives, pledges and unconditionally assigns and/or transfers to

CONCACAF 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;

- 5.1.3. Observe 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 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 periods of 15 minutes each, with an interval of five minutes at the end of normal playing time, but with no interval between the two periods of extra time.
- 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.

COMPETITION

7. WITHDRAWAL, UNPLAYED MATCHES AND ABANDONED MATCHES

- 7.1. After the participation agreement is signed, all PMA's have the obligation to play all of their matches until eliminated from The Competition.
- 7.2. Any PMA that withdraws before the Nations League Qualifying is liable to a fine of at least USD 10,000. Any PMA that withdraws after the start of the Nations League Qualifying is liable to a fine of at least USD 25,000.
- 7.3. Any PMA that withdraws after the conclusion of the Nations League

Qualifying and up to 30 days prior to the start of the Nations League Group Phase is liable to a fine of at least USD 50,000. Any PMA that withdraws within 30 days before the start of the Nations League Group Phase, or during the Nations League Group Phase itself, shall be fined at least USD 100,000.

- 7.4. Any PMA that withdraws after the conclusion of the Nations League Group Phase and up to 30 days prior to the start of the Nations League Final Championship is liable to a fine of at least USD 200,000. Any PMA that withdraws within 30 days before the start of the Nations League Final Championship, or during the Nations League Final Championship itself, shall be fined at least USD 500,000.
- 7.5. Depending on the circumstances of the withdrawal, the CONCACAF Disciplinary Committee may impose sanctions in addition to those provided for in par. 6.2, 6.3 and 6.4 above, including the expulsion of the Member Association concerned from subsequent CONCACAF competitions.
- 7.6. 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.
- 7.7. 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.
- 7.8. 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.
- 7.9. 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.

- 7.10. 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:
- a. The match shall recommence at the minute at which play was interrupted rather than being replayed in full and with the same score line;
 - b. The match shall recommence with the same players on the pitch and substitutes available as when the match was abandoned;
 - c. No additional substitutes may be added to the list of players on the team sheet;
 - d. The teams can make only the number of substitutions to which they were still entitled when the match was abandoned;
 - e. Players sent off during the abandoned match cannot be replaced;
 - f. Any sanctions imposed before the match was abandoned remain valid for the remainder of the match;
 - g. 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.
 - h. The kick-off time, date (which shall be foreseen for the following day) and location shall be decided by CONCACAF.
 - i. 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, the CONCACAF Council shall decide whether to replace or not 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:
- all players shall hold the nationality of its country and be subject to its jurisdiction;
 - 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 Member Association entering the Nations League Qualifying and the Nations League Group Phase must provide the CONCACAF General Secretariat with a final list of a minimum of 18 and up to 23 players (3 must be goalkeepers) no later than 18:00 EST, 2 days prior to 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, the player jersey number. In addition to any other information requested by CONCACAF.
- 10.2. Each Member Association participating in the Nations League Final Championship must provide the CONCACAF General Secretariat with a provisional list up to 40 players (5 must be goalkeepers) no later than 30

days prior to the start of the Nations League Nations League Final Championship, which CONCACAF will provide specifics by way of a circular. 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.

- 10.3. Each PMA participating in the Nations League Final Championship shall submit to the CONCACAF General Secretariat its final list of a minimum of 18 and up to 23 players (3 must be goalkeepers), no later than 10 days prior to the opening match, which CONCACAF will provide specifics by a way of a circular. The Final List of Players must come from the previously submitted Provisional List which becomes binding 10 days prior to the opening match.
- 10.4. A player listed on the final list may only be replaced during the Nations League Nations League Final Championship in the event of serious injury up until 24 hours before the kick-off of his team's first match and must come from the preliminary list. Such replacements must be approved in writing by CONCACAF or the Medical Committee upon receipt and acceptance of a written detailed medical assessment with doctor's stamp or valid letterhead in one of the four official CONCACAF languages. CONCACAF or the Medical Committee shall approve the request if the injury is sufficiently serious to prevent the player from taking part in The Competition. Upon approval, the association shall immediately nominate a replacement and inform the CONCACAF general secretariat accordingly. The replacement player must be assigned the shirt number of the injured player being replaced.
- 10.5. The only document considered to be valid proof of a player's identity and nationality shall be a 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 PMA's shall present each player's valid national passport for the country of the PMA to the Match Coordinator on the day before the match. A player without a valid passport shall not be entitled to play.
 - 10.5.1. CONCACAF reserves the right to request additional information from the player to confirm eligibility, such as birth certificate from the player, his 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 three of the substitutes may take the place of the selected players 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, number 1 shirt must be reserved for one of the goalkeepers.

- 11.3. Both teams must arrive to the stadium at latest 90 minutes prior to kick-off and return their start list to the Match Coordinator at the latest 90 minutes prior to kick-off. Both 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 Match Coordinator and if the match has not yet kicked off, the following instructions apply:
 - a) If any of the starting 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 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, three players may still be substituted.
 - b) If any of the 12 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, three 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 indicated on the "Officials on the Substitutes' Bench" form to be provided to the CONCACAF Match Coordinator. A suspended player or official will not be allowed in The Competitions area (i.e. locker room and/or tunnel), field of play and sit on the substitutes' bench.
- 11.7. The use of any electronic communication equipment and/or systems between and/or amongst players and/or technical staff is not permitted with the exception of communication equipment used for medical matters.
- 11.8. CONCACAF shall issue each of the official Team Delegation Members with an accreditation bearing a photograph for the Nations League Final Championship. In addition, CONCACAF shall provide a certain number of Supplementary Accreditation Devices (SADs), where applicable, to each team in order to control and restrict access to the dressing rooms and field of play on matchdays. Further details will be given to the teams by means

of a circular letter. To clarify, for the Nations League Qualifying and the Nations League Group Phase, it is the responsibility of the Host Association to provide each of the official Team Delegation Members and CONCACAF Officials with an accreditation device.

- 11.9. Only those players who are in possession of such accreditation are entitled to play in the matches of the Nations League Final Championship. The accreditation should always be available for inspection prior to the start of the match.
- 11.10. Injured players who are replaced up until 24 hours before the kick-off of their team's first match must return their accreditation to CONCACAF. Accordingly, players who have returned their accreditation shall no longer be considered members of the Official Team Delegation list.
- 11.11. The PMA's shall ensure that all accreditation data required by CONCACAF is submitted by the deadline stipulated by CONCACAF. Further details including SADs, accreditations, and other particular items will be outlined in the relevant CONCACAF circular letter.

12. FORMAT AND STRUCTURE OF THE COMPETITION

- 12.1. CONCACAF retains the right to determine the structure, format of play and match calendar for The Competition.
- 12.2. The Nations League Qualifying will be played in a format which features four (4) rounds of competition. The PMAs that participate in the Nations League Qualifying would include all eligible CONCACAF MAs with the exception of the 6 MAs that participated in the hexagonal round of the FIFA World Cup Qualifiers Russia 2018. Each PMA will be ranked and grouped into 4 tiers to ensure that each PMA plays an opponent from each of the four tiers including their own, at least once. Given the possible unequal distribution of PMA's per tier, a possibility exists that some PMA's may play up to two different PMAs from their own tier. The decisions of the CONCACAF Council are final and not subject to appeal.
- 12.3. The matches in Nations League Qualifying will grant two (2) home and two (2) away matches, with three points for a win, one point for a draw and zero points for a defeat (league format). Given the possible unequal distribution of PMA's per tier, in the particular case in which a PMA is granted a bye week, said PMA will be granted a win of 1-0 score, will receive 3 points for the win and will only play a total of three (3) matches. Matches may not be played in another country without CONCACAF's express permission.

12.4. At the conclusion of the Nations League Qualifying, PMAs shall be ranked according to the following criteria:

12.4.1. greatest number of points obtained in all matches;

12.4.2. goal difference in all matches;

12.4.3. greatest number of goals scored in all matches.

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

12.4.4. greatest number of goals scored in all away matches.

12.4.5. The lowest number of points based on the number of yellow and red cards in all 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;

12.4.6. Drawing of lots by CONCACAF

12.5. The Nations League Group Phase will be played in a league format dividing the PMAs into three (3) leagues (League A, League B, League C). The Nations League Group Phase will commence in 2019 and the distribution of PMAs per league will be determined based on the results of the 2018 Nations League Qualifying; for any future editions of the Nations League, there will be a promotion and relegation system where the bottom four (4) teams from the groups in leagues A & B will be relegated to leagues B & C correspondingly and the top four (4) teams from the groups in leagues B & C will be promoted to leagues A and B correspondingly.

12.5.1. Nations League A: The 2019 Nations League A will be composed by the six (6) PMAs from the hexagonal round of the FIFA World Cup Qualifying Russia 2018 plus the top six (6) ranked PMAs from the Nations League Qualifying. These 12 PMAs will be drawn into four (4) groups of three (3) teams each.

12.5.2. Nations League B: The 2019 Nations League B will be composed by the next sixteen (16) ranked PMAs from the Nations League Qualifying. These 16 PMAs will be drawn into four (4) groups of four (4) teams each.

12.5.3. Nations League C: The 2019 Nations League C will be composed by the next thirteen (13) ranked PMAs from the Nations League Qualifying. These 13 PMAs will be drawn into three (3) groups of three (3) teams and one (1) group of four (4) teams.

12.6. The matches in the Nations League Group Phase will be played in a home-and-away format, with three (3) points for a win, one (1) point for a draw and zero (0) points for a defeat (league format). Matches may not be played in another country without CONCACAF's express permission.

12.7. At the conclusion of the Nations League Group Phase, PMAs shall be ranked in each group according to the following criteria:

12.7.1. greatest number of points obtained in all group matches;

12.7.2. goal difference in all group matches;

12.7.3. greatest number of goals scored in all group matches.

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

12.7.4. greatest number of points obtained in the group matches between the teams concerned;

12.7.5. goal difference resulting from the group matches between the teams concerned;

12.7.6. greater number of goals scored in all group matches between the teams concerned;

12.7.7. greater number of goals scored away from home between the teams concerned (if the tie is only between two teams).

12.7.8. 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;

12.7.9. Drawing of lots by CONCACAF

12.8. The Nations League Final Championship will be composed by the four (4) group winners from Nations League A that will play a semifinal match, a third-place match and a final match to determine the champion of The Competition.

12.9. The four (4) PMAs will be ranked to determine the match-ups based on the following criteria;

12.9.1. greatest number of points obtained in all group matches;

12.9.2. goal difference in all group matches;

12.9.3. greatest number of goals scored in all group matches.

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

12.9.4. greatest number of goals scored in all away matches.

12.9.5. 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;

12.9.6. drawing of lots by CONCACAF.

12.10. The four group winners of Nations League A will play the semi-finals as follows: (1 vs 4 and 2 vs 3)

12.11. In the Nations League Final Championship PMAs will play their matches in a centralized location determined by CONCACAF. In the Semi-Final, if the score is tied at the end of regulation time, no extra time will be played. Instead the matches will go straight to kicks from the penalty mark per the Laws of the Game. In the Final match, if the score is tied at the end of regulation time, extra time will be played. If the score is tied at the end of extra time the matches will go straight to kicks from the penalty mark per the Laws of the Game.

12.12. The dates of the matches shall be fixed by CONCACAF. If a PMA wants to submit a request to change the date this request must be submitted to the CONCACAF General Secretariat no later than 30 days prior to the match in question.

12.13. 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 shall be submitted to CONCACAF by the host association concerned and the matches may only be played in stadiums that have been inspected and approved by CONCACAF. CONCACAF will send a circular indicating deadlines for the submission of these venues.

13.2. The opponents and the General Secretariat shall be notified by the host association at least one (1) month 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 flight directly to this airport. If the Member Association cannot agree on the venues for the matches, CONCACAF shall make the final decisions.

13.3. The venue of the match shall have sufficient high-standard hotels to accommodate the home team, the visiting team and CONCACAF delegation.

13.4. CONCACAF shall inform all interested parties of the kick-off time at least 25 days before the match in question is due to be played. If the host association requests a change, the written approval from CONCACAF must be obtained by 20 days before the match at the latest based on well-founded and documented reasons.

13.5. On the day before the match and weather permitting, the visiting team is entitled to have one training session, 60 minutes on a natural grass pitch or 120 minutes if an artificial pitch is used where the match is due to take place. Prior to their arrival in the host country, the exact time and duration of the training session shall be mutually agreed, and then confirmed and accepted by CONCACAF. In the event of severe adverse weather conditions, the CONCACAF Match Coordinator may cancel the training session. In this case, the visiting team 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. If the HMA considers the pitch unfit for play, CONCACAF's General Secretariat shall be informed immediately, as well as the visiting Association and the Match Officials before their departure. If the host

Association fails to do this, it shall be obliged to cover all of the expenses incurred for travel, board and lodging of the parties involved.

- 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 art. 6.
- 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, i.e. that the whole pitch shall be evenly lit, with a recommended lighting level of at least 1,000 lux or as specified per tournament. 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. All matches in Nations League Qualifying, Nations League Group Phase and Nations League Final Championship must be identified, promoted and advertised matches in accordance with CONCACAF's relevant Commercial, Media and Marketing Regulations and qualifying competition branding guidelines.
- 13.10. On matchdays, the teams must be entitled to warm up on the pitch before the match, weather and pitch condition permitting. In principle, such warm-up will be 30 minutes in length. 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. VENUES, DATES, ARRIVALS AT THE VENUES AND OFFICIAL TEAM HOTELS

- 14.1. CONCACAF retains the right to set the match dates and confirm the venues of all matches in Nations League Qualifying, Nations League Group Phase and Nations League Final Championship.
- 14.2. The PMA shall arrange for their representative teams to arrive at the venue no later than 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 2 days prior to each match at 18:00 EST and the visiting Association shall have made provisions for obtaining the visas, if applicable.
- 14.3. Each PMA taking part in the Nations League Final Championship must arrive in the host city no later than 2 days prior to their first match.

- 14.4. During the Nations League Final Championship, only official team hotels under contract with CONCACAF or CONCACAF's designated service company shall be used for the teams' accommodation. CONCACAF will provide further details about accommodation policies, and in particular about the use of venue-specific team hotels, in a circular letter.

15. STADIUM INFRASTRUCTURE AND EQUIPMENT

- 15.1. Each Association organizing matches in Nations League Qualifying must ensure that the stadiums and facilities in which the matches take place fulfil the requirements described in the Football Stadiums Technical Recommendations and Requirements publication and 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 Laws of the Game and all other relevant regulations (including the international dimensions of the field per FIFA 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 spare goals, 2 spare nets and 4 spare corner flags located in close proximity to the field of play for contingency purposes.
- 15.2. Periodic safety checks for the benefit of spectators, players and officials must be carried out on the stadiums selected for matches in Nations League Qualifying, Nations League Group Phase and Nations League Final Championship 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 year old.
- 15.3. Only stadiums that have been inspected and approved by CONCACAF may be selected for the Nations League Qualifying, and the Nations League Group Phase. 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.
- 15.4. 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.

- 15.5. The field of play, accessory equipment and all facilities for each match of the Nations League Final Championship shall be in optimum condition and comply with the Laws of the Game and all other relevant regulations.
- 15.6. If a stadium has a retractable roof, in consultation with the Match 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 Match 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.
- 15.7. 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. In this case, the visiting team is entitled to have a 120-minute practice session before the match, if requested.
- 15.8. Each stadium shall have sufficient space for warm-up during the match, ideally behind the goals. A maximum of six (6) players shall warm up at the same time (with a maximum of two (2) officials without any balls). If there is not sufficient space behind the goals, 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 Match Coordinator and the Referees and communicated in the Match Coordination Meeting (One (1) official per team will be allowed in the warm up area without any balls).
- 15.9. 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 45 and 90 minutes respectively. This stipulation shall also apply if extra time is played (i.e. after 15 minutes of each half). The half-time interval shall be 15 minutes.
- 15.10. At the end of the two periods of normal playing time (45 and 90 minutes), the referee must indicate to the fourth official, either orally or by gesturing with his hands, the number of minutes that he has decided to allow for time lost. This also applies to the two periods of 15 minutes of extra time.

- 15.11. 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.
- 15.12. The use of giant screens must be in compliance with the relevant CONCACAF instructions.
- 15.13. 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.
- 15.14. 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 participating member associations 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, etc.) or body is prohibited. 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 any official activity organized by CONCACAF (including in the stadiums for official matches and 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 different and contrasting colors (one predominately dark and one predominately light kit) for its official and reserve team kit (shirt, shorts, socks, all three goalkeeper's kits, gloves, caps, wristbands and headbands etc.). In addition, each team shall provide three contrasting colors for the goalkeepers. These three goalkeeper kits must be distinctly different and contrasting from each other as well as different and contrasting from the official and reserve team kits. The physical kits must be sent to CONCACAF 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 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 his/her team shirt and on his/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. It is not compulsory for the name of the player to appear on his shirt during Nations League Qualifying and the Nations League Group Phase. All players' names must appear on their shirt for the Nations League Final Championship.
- 16.6. CONCACAF shall supply each team with 50 sleeve patches (tournament patches) per game 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 participating Member Associations 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.
- 16.7. Each player shall wear the number allotted to him on the final list in accordance with the Equipment Regulations.
- 16.8. The player's last name or popular name (or abbreviation) shall be affixed above the number on the back of the shirt and shall be clearly legible in accordance with the FIFA Equipment Regulations. The name on the shirt must bear a strong resemblance to the player's popular name as indicated on CONCACAF's official list of players and in any other official CONCACAF documentation. In case of doubt, CONCACAF shall have the final decision regarding the name that appears on the shirt.
- 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 Nations League Qualifying and Nations League Group Phase. Moreover, the HMA must provide the visiting team with a total of 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 12 match balls in good conditions that meet FIFA Quality Mark standard (FIFA Quality PRO, FIFA Quality, International Match Standard)
- 17.3. CONCACAF will supply the footballs to be used in all matches during the CONCACAF Nations League Final Championship. Moreover, CONCACAF must provide the teams with a total of 23 match balls that will only be used for training purposes.

18. FLAGS AND ANTHEMS

- 18.1. During the Nations League Qualifying, the Nations League Group Phase, and Nations League Final Championship, the CONCACAF flag, and the national flags of both PMA's 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 PMA's (maximum 90 seconds each, no lyrics permitted) shall be played after the teams have lined up. For competitions, only the CONCACAF anthem will be played during the protocol.

19. TICKETING

- 19.1. The HMA is responsible for all match ticketing during the Nations League Qualifying and the Nations League Group Phase and shall manage the ticketing operations in a manner that meets all applicable security and safety standards. It shall set aside a minimum of 100 Category A complimentary tickets - any additional tickets to be fixed by mutual agreement and in writing - of complimentary and purchasable tickets for the visiting association. At least five representatives from the visiting Association shall be seated in the VIP tribune. The visiting Association shall inform CONCACAF and the HMA in writing no later than 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 amount of complementary tickets and suites (where applicable) as stipulated in the Commercial Regulations ten 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. At least 5% of the total stadium capacity must be available exclusively for visiting supporters in a secured, segregated area of the stadium. Field-side seating is NOT permitted and all non-permanently fixed seating must be approved by CONCACAF.
- 19.5. 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 Nations League Qualifying and Nations League Group Phase.
- 19.6. CONCACAF is responsible for the entire ticketing operation for the Nations League Final Championship.
- 19.7. Each participating Member Association is entitled to receive complimentary tickets for the Nations League Final Championship. The number of complimentary tickets will be defined at a later date.

20. TROPHY, AWARDS AND MEDALS

- 20.1. The winner of the Nations League Final Championship will be presented with the Championship Trophy (hereinafter: The Trophy) The winning team will be provided with the Trophy during a ceremony immediately following the final whistle.
- 20.2. Thirty-four (34) medals will be presented to each of the top three teams in the Nations League Final Championship, i.e. gold medals to the winners, silver medals to the runners-up and bronze medals to the team ranked third.
- 20.3. Medals will be presented to each of the officials who officiate at the play-off for third place and the final.
- 20.4. A fair play contest will be held during the Nations League Final

Championship, for which CONCACAF will draw up special regulations. CONCACAF shall determine the ranking at the end of the Nations League Final Championship.

20.5. At the conclusion of the Nations League Final Championship, the following special awards will be presented:

Fair Play trophy

The Fair Play trophy will be presented to the team finishing first in the fair play contest. The applicable rules are in the fair play contest regulations.

Golden Boot

The Golden Boot will be awarded to the player who scored the most goals throughout Nations League Group Phase and Nations League Final Championship. If two or more players score the same number of goals, the number of assists (as determined by CONCACAF) shall be decisive. If two or more players are still equal after taking into account the number of assists, the total minutes played in both competitions will be taken into account, with the player playing fewer minutes ranked first.

Golden Ball

The Golden Ball will be awarded to the best player throughout Nations League Group Phase and Nations League Final Championship.

Golden Glove

The Golden Glove will be awarded to the best goalkeeper throughout Nations League Group Phase and Nations League Final Championship (as determined by CONCACAF).

Best Young Player

The Young Player Award will be presented to the best young player throughout Nations League Group Phase and Nations League Final Championship (as determined by CONCACAF).

20.6. There are no official awards other than those listed above, unless otherwise decided by the CONCACAF.

21. REFEREEING

21.1. The referees, assistant referees and fourth officials (hereinafter referred to collectively as Match Officials) for Nations League Qualifying Nations League Group Phase and Nations League Final Championships shall be appointed for each match by the CONCACAF Referee Committee. They shall be neutral. The decisions of the CONCACAF Referee Committee are final and not subject to appeal.

- 21.2. 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.
- 21.3. Match Officials shall be given the opportunity to use training facilities.
- 21.4. If the referee is prevented from carrying out his duties, such referee shall be replaced by the fourth official. If one of the assistant referees is prevented from carrying out his duties, such assistant referee shall be replaced by the fourth official or by the reserve assistant referee (when appointed).
- 21.5. After each match, the referee shall complete and sign the official match report form. In Nations League Qualifying, he/she shall hand it over to the Match Commissioner when applicable at the stadium/venue immediately after the match and to the Match Coordinator in Nations League Group Phase and Nations League Final Championship. 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

22. Disciplinary Committee

- 22.1. The CONCACAF Disciplinary Committee is responsible for enforcing the Regulations. The CONCACAF Disciplinary Committee may apply the FIFA Disciplinary Code until the entree into force of the CONCACAF Disciplinary Code (when it will apply subsidiarity). In particular, the CONCACAF Disciplinary Committee may apply the sanctions described in the Regulations, the CONCACAF and FIFA Statutes and all other CONCACAF rules, circulars, guidelines and regulations as well as the FIFA Disciplinary Code (and, upon its enforcement, in the CONCACAF Disciplinary Code).

- 22.2. The players agree in particular to:
- 22.2.1. Respect the spirit of fair play, non-violence and the authority of the Match Officials;
 - 22.2.2. Behave accordingly;
 - 22.2.3. Refrain from doping as defined by the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations as well as to accept all other relevant FIFA regulations, circulars and directive.
- 22.3. The PMA and their Team Delegation Members shall comply with CONCACAF and FIFA Statutes, the FIFA Disciplinary Code (until the entree 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.
- 22.4. 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:
- 22.4.1. Admonish, sanction, fine, suspend and/or disqualify the national teams, their players and/or officials.
 - 22.4.2. Take action against any person(s) or PMA's which may violate these Regulations, the Laws of the Game or the rules of Fair Play.
 - 22.4.3. Prohibit violators from participating in a specific number of the CONCACAF-organized tournaments in which they might otherwise have participated.
- 22.5. 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.
- 22.6. The CONCACAF Disciplinary Committee decisions may be based upon written record or by conducting a hearing.
- 22.6.1. When making a decision, the CONCACAF Disciplinary Committee may refer to the reports made by the referee, assistant referees, fourth official, match commissioners, referee Assessor, venue coordinator, technical delegate, security officer, diversity officer and/or any other CONCACAF staff or officials present. Additional reports include declarations from the parties and witnesses, material evidence, expert opinions, audio 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 shall not affect a referee's decision regarding facts connected with play.

22.6.2. At its discretion, the CONCACAF Disciplinary Committee may convene a personal hearing and will decide any procedures to be followed. Decisions of such hearings shall only be valid if at least three members of the CONCACAF Disciplinary Committee are present.

The following decisions of the Disciplinary Committee shall not be subject to appeal:

- a. Cautions and censures imposed on Member Associations, players, officials and other persons.
 - b. Suspensions of up to two matches, or of up to two months, imposed on Member Associations, players, officials or any other persons.
 - c. Fines imposed on Member Associations (not exceeding \$30,000 USD) or on players, officials or any other persons (not exceeding \$10,000 USD).
- 22.7. All imposed economic penalties must be paid by the appropriate Member Association no later than sixty (60) days after notification thereof.
- 22.8. Cautions and suspensions:
- 22.8.1. Cautions received during any other competition are not carried over to The Competition.
 - 22.8.2. Cautions received in Nations League Qualifying are not carried over to Nations League Group Phase
 - 22.8.3. Cautions received in Nations League Group Phase are not carried over to the Nations League Final Championship.
 - 22.8.4. Two (2) cautions received in different games during Nations League Qualifying, the Nations League Group Phase or the Nations League Final Championship shall result in automatic suspension for the next game in The Competition.
 - 22.8.5. Red card (direct or indirect) suspensions shall be served regardless of the stage of The Competition.

- 22.8.6. 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.
- 22.9. The appropriate Association under the provisions of its own Regulations shall punish any other offenses that may be committed during the course of the Competition by team officers, technicians or other personnel. For this purpose, the Disciplinary Committee shall refer the referee's report of the match in question to the appropriate Association. The Association will, in turn, report back to the Disciplinary Committee on the resolution of the matter and any disciplinary action taken.
- 22.10. 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 editions of The Competition.
- 22.11. 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.

23. APPEALS COMMITTEE

- 23.1. The CONCACAF Appeals Committee shall hear appeals eligible to be lodged against decisions taken by the Disciplinary Committee.
- 23.2. The CONCACAF Appeals Committee will apply the FIFA Disciplinary Code until the entree into force of the CONCACAF Disciplinary Code (when it will apply subsidiarily). In particular, the CONCACAF Appeals Committee will conduct any appeals procedures in accordance with the FIFA Disciplinary Code.
- 23.3. The CONCACAF 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 CONCACAF Appeals Committee may additionally, at its sole discretion, also consider additional evidence, including television and video recordings, which it considers relevant.
- 23.4. Decisions pronounced by the Appeals Committee are final and binding.

24. PROTESTS

- 24.1. 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.
- 24.2. Unless otherwise stipulated in this article, protests shall be submitted in writing to the Match Coordinator or CONCACAF representative in the venue no later than two hours after the match in question and followed up within the next 24 hours with a full written report, including a copy of the original protest, to be sent in writing by scan and e-mail to the CONCACAF General Secretariat, otherwise they shall be disregarded. Such protests must be accompanied by a check in the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500 USD) payable to CONCACAF.
- 24.3. Protests regarding the eligibility of players nominated for matches in The Competition shall be submitted in writing to the CONCACAF General Secretariat by scan and e-mail no later than two hours after the match in question. Such protests must be accompanied by a check in the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500 USD) payable to CONCACAF, this check can be given to the Venue Coordinator or CONCACAF representative in venue.
- 24.4. 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 Match Coordinator or CONCACAF representative in the venue by the head of the team delegation no later than two hours after the match in question. Such protest must be accompanied by a check in the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500 USD) payable to CONCACAF.
- 24.5. 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 Match Coordinator or CONCACAF representative in the venue by the head of the team delegation no later than two hours after the match in question. Such protests must be accompanied by a check in the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500 USD) payable to CONCACAF.

- 24.6. No protests may be made about the referee's decisions regarding facts connected with play. Such decisions are final and not subject to appeal.
- 24.7. 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.
- 24.8. If an unfounded or irresponsible protest is lodged, CONCACAF may impose a fine.
- 24.9. The expenses, which arise from a protest, shall be charged by CONCACAF, either wholly or in part, to the losing party.
- 24.10. 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, any protests described in this article or complaints about the sports procedure followed during The Competition shall be disregarded.
- 24.11. CONCACAF shall pass decisions on any protests lodged, subject to the exceptions stipulated in these Regulations, the CONCACAF or FIFA Statutes or any other CONCACAF or FIFA regulations.
- 24.12. Once the winning team of The Competition have been proclaimed, any protest or complaint about the sports procedure followed during The Competition shall be disregarded.

25. FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

- 25.1. For the matches in the Nations League Qualifying and the Nations League Group Phase, the HMAs are responsible for the cost of the accommodation, breakfast, and local transportation for:
 - a. Referees
 - b. Referee Assessor
 - c. Match Commissioner
 - d. Venue Coordinator (when applicable)
 - e. Match Coordinator (when applicable)
 - f. Security Officer (when applicable)
- 25.1.1 Operational cost of the Stadium for the match and official use during the CONCACAF Nations League Qualifying and CONCACAF Nations League Group Phase.

- 25.1.2. Volunteers and staff to assist with the operations during the CONCACAF Nations League Qualifying and CONCACAF Nations League Group Phase.
- 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. The participating Member Associations shall settle the other costs among themselves. CONCACAF recommends the following provisions:
 - 25.3.1. The visiting Association shall cover its delegation's own international travel costs to the venue or the nearest airport, as well as board, lodging costs and incidental expenses;
 - 25.3.2. During the Nations League Qualifying and Nations League Group Phase for the HMAs to cover domestic transport costs for the entire official delegation of the visiting team.
- 25.4. The HMAs shall pay for board and lodging in a high-standard hotel and domestic transport in the host country for the Match Officials, the Match Commissioner, the Referee Assessor and any other CONCACAF officials (i.e. security officer, media officer etc.);
- 25.5. The teams shall not be permitted to stay at the same hotel as each other or at the hotel chosen for the CONCACAF delegation unless written approval by CONCACAF has been provided.
- 25.6. If the financial outcome of a match is insufficient to cover the expenses mentioned under par. 24.5. above, the host association shall bear the deficit.
- 25.7. CONCACAF shall bear the costs of:
 - 25.7.1. international travel and the daily allowances, as fixed by CONCACAF, for the respective CONCACAF delegation members, as fixed by CONCACAF;

- 25.7.2. prize money for the participating Member Associations, the amounts of which shall be determined by CONCACAF;
 - 25.7.3. doping expenses;
 - 25.7.4. the costs of insurance taken out by CONCACAF to cover its own risks.
- 25.8. The visiting Association shall be responsible for and bear the costs of the following:
- 25.8.1. 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.
 - 25.8.2. International travel, VISAS and the daily allowances for the respective team delegation members.
- 25.9. 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.
- 25.10. 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 270 days and 10 days prior to the start of each match during The Competition. CONCACAF will provide a PCMA form to all PMA's.
- 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. For every new player added, the PMA shall sign a new PCMA declaration at least ten (10) days prior to their next match.

- 26.3. Further to the above, each PMA is required to have a duly licensed medical professional (i.e., a 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 during a game, the referee will assume sudden cardiac failure 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.
- 26.8. During the match if there is a traumatic head injury and 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.
- 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 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 he 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 from 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 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. Some of these CONCACAF rights have been granted back to the PMAs for Nations League Qualifying and Nations League Group Phase as specified in the Team Participation Agreement signed by each MA.

27.2. CONCACAF will issue separate, Commercial, Media and Marketing 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, officials, players, delegates and other affiliates also comply with these regulations.

27.3. For more details please refer to Commercialization Regulations.

28. MEDIA

28.1. Media Officer Assignment: Each Association shall appoint, at a reasonable time before the start of each tournament, a dedicated Media Officer to facilitate cooperation between the Member Associations, CONCACAF and the media in accordance with these Regulations. The Association Media Officer must ensure that the media facilities and services provided comply with the Association Media Regulations. The Media Officer shall coordinate all media arrangements including pre-match and post-match activities.

28.2. Media Accreditation: CONCACAF shall manage all media accreditation process for the Competition and shall be the ultimate authority for final responses to media accreditation applications. All applications shall be submitted through the CONCACAF Media Center. No applications will be accepted via any other process or on site at any venues. Attempts shall be made by each Association to reach potential media with accreditation information. CONCACAF will not bear accountability for any individual media member's responsibility in seeking proper accreditation in a timely manner.

28.3. Match Day minus One: On the day before each match, each Association shall arrange and participate in all mandatory media activities as delineated by the Association Media Regulations. In principle, such media activities shall be staged in the stadium in which the match is to be played, unless an alternative location is agreed and approved by CONCACAF. Each Association's Media Officers shall be responsible for coordinating the activities and informing CONCACAF and the media accordingly about all media activities.

- 28.4. **Media Access to Official Training:** Association shall follow the Association Media Regulations regarding access to the media for a required period on the day before the match. In principle, the official training sessions shall take place in the stadium where the match will take place. Open training session shall be open to all media members, regardless of national origin or other incidentals.
- 28.5. **Match Day Required Media Activities:** Each Association shall be responsible for participation in all match day media activities listed in the Association Media Regulations. All match day media activities shall be mandatory for all Associations.
- 28.6. **Media Infrastructure:** The host Association shall be responsible for providing the necessary technical infrastructure and services at each media activities and on match days, according to the requirements delineated in the Association Media Regulation. This includes a centrally located seating area in a secure space, separate from the public, and shall include desks, properly functioning cabled and/or WI-FI internet and power. The capacity shall meet the minimum capacity listed in the Association Media Regulations. Internet connections for the media shall be dedicated networks, free of charge and available from two hours prior to kick-off until two hours after the end of the match, and meet other specifics outlined in the Association Media Regulations. The Member Association is responsible for the proper provision of regulatory media infrastructure, including instances in which the stadium utilized is under the control of a third party.
- 28.7. **Access Prohibitions:** The team dressing rooms and other competitions areas, as delineated in the Association Media Regulations, shall be off limits to representatives of the media before, during and after the matches. No media representatives shall be allowed to go on to the field of play, field tunnels and dressing rooms during, before or after the match. This limitation included media who are part of and/or traveling with an Association. A limited number of photographers, and cameramen/production staff of the host broadcaster and TV Rights Holders - equipped with appropriate field-access accreditation - shall be allowed to work in the field of play areas listed in the Association Media Regulations.
- 28.8. **General Communication Requirements:** Associations shall make specific attempts in their communications with the public and the media to respect The Competition regulations and guidelines in terms of branding and communications. Additionally, Association officials, staff, players and other designees shall refrain from comments to the media which could be construed as negative regarding the organization or

execution of The Competition, including but not limited to refereeing and logistical matters. Any intentional act in official media areas by players, coaches, and/or Association staff that could be considered disrespectful toward media members shall be strictly prohibited.

- 28.9. **Technical Filming:** Each Association shall be permitted to use one designated camera to make a technical copy of their match. The technical filming shall take place from a position pre-determined by CONCACAF. Technical filming must follow the rules and conform to the usage outlined in the Association Media Regulations. Any other match day video recording by the Associations, including the use of cellphones or internet-based transmission from inside the stadium, including but not limited to video for social media and/or streaming via social media, shall be strictly prohibited.
- 28.10. **General Media Availability:** Associations shall generally be required to make staff and players available to CONCACAF on an unlimited number of occasions during the duration of The Competition, with the purpose of gathering interviews and other information for general promotion of The Competition. The exact date(s) shall be established with due notice and anticipation through direct contact with the Association Media Officer, but shall ultimately be designated by CONCACAF.
- 28.11. **Incorporation of Association Media Regulations:** The Association Media Regulations, published and distributed separately, form an integral part of these Regulations. Upon notification to the participating Associations, CONCACAF may amend the Association Media Regulations at any time and at its own discretion. CONCACAF, at any time prior/during The Competition and at its own discretion, remains entitled to publish guidelines and circulars specifying these media regulations or parts hereof.

FINAL PROVISIONS

29. LIABILITY

The HMAs of a Nations League Qualifying and Nations League Group Phase match shall be exclusively responsible for the organization of its home 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 match.

30. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

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

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

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

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

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

These regulations were approved by the CONCACAF Council on January 25, 2018 and come into force immediately thereafter.