



REGULATIONS

The CONCACAF Beach Soccer Championship is the qualifying tournament for the FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup Bahamas 2017.



PREAMBLE

- A. The CONCACAF Beach Soccer Championship is an official event of the Confederation of North, Central America and Caribbean Association Football (CONCACAF) that serves as a qualifying event for the FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup.
- B. It is played as a CONCACAF Championship Phase.
- C. Any rights that these regulations do not cede to a Member Association participating in the CONCACAF Championship Phase shall belong to CONCACAF.

I. TITLE - THE CONCACAF BEACH SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIP

- A. The CONCACAF Beach Soccer Championship shall take place every two years. The Member Associations affiliated to CONCACAF are invited to participate with their national beach soccer team.
- B. CONCACAF will present the winning national team with the CONCACAF Beach Soccer Championship trophy.
- C. The CONCACAF champion shall receive 15 gold medals, the runner-up 15 silver medals and the third place team 15 bronze medals.
- D. Certificate of Participation will be provided to all players participating in the Final Phase.

II. ENTRIES

- A. National Beach Soccer teams of all Member Associations affiliated to CONCACAF have the right to participate in the Beach Soccer Championship.
- B. The competition will serve to qualify the Member Associations affiliated to CONCACAF for places in the FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup and shall start and complete, except if circumstances do not permit, in the year of the FIFA Tournament.
- C. Notwithstanding the aforementioned, only Member Associations affiliated to CONCACAF that are eligible to compete in the FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup shall be permitted to advance from this competition.

III. ORGANIZATION OF THE COMPETITION

A. The CONCACAF Championship Phase

1. CONCACAF shall be responsible for organizing and staging the CONCACAF Championship Phase of the Beach Soccer Championship.
2. The matches of the Championship Phase shall be played in a site or sites and on such dates and terms as determined by the CONCACAF Council.
3. The CONCACAF Championship Phase shall take the form of Group Stage and Knock-Out Stage.
4. The Groups should be formed taking sports, geographic and economic factors into consideration.
5. The CONCACAF Championship Phase shall be governed by these Regulations.

B. Member Associations participating in the Beach Soccer Championship shall:

1. Fully respect and comply with:
 - the CONCACAF Statutes;
 - all Beach Soccer Championship rules, regulations, directives and decisions (including these regulations);
 - all other CONCACAF rules, regulations, directives and decisions;
 - all decisions and directives of the CONCACAF Council ;
 - the FIFA Disciplinary Code and, upon its enforcement, with the CONCACAF Disciplinary Code;
 - all FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations;
 - the CONCACAF Code of Ethics and the CONCACAF Code of Conduct;
 - all CONCACAF anti-match manipulation and anti-racism stipulations;
 - all CONCACAF marketing and media requirements.
2. Take all necessary actions for its players, officials and staff to be bound by and comply with all the aforementioned rules, regulations, directives and decisions, including but not limited to, all disciplinary and appeals rules and procedures, all anti-doping

requirements, all anti-match manipulation and anti-racism stipulations and all marketing and media requirements.

3. Expressly recognize and bind itself to CONCACAF's protocol for racist incidents during matches and agree to fully cooperate in its enforcement.
4. Refrain from any illegal, immoral or unethical behavior that damages, or could damage, the integrity and reputation of football and must cooperate fully with CONCACAF at all times in its efforts to prevent, investigate and sanction such behavior.

IV. WITHDRAWALS

- A. Teams having entered the competition are obligated to play all their matches until they are eliminated. After entering the tournament, a Team that fails to participate, shall be penalized as follows, except in unforeseen circumstances and cases of force majeure as determined by the CONCACAF Council.
- B. If a withdrawal takes place:
 1. After the Preliminary Phase but before the start of the CONCACAF Championship Phase of the Tournament: a fine of \$15,000 USD.
 2. Anytime during the CONCACAF Championship Phase of the Tournament: a fine of \$20,000 USD.
 3. Depending on circumstances and the decision of the CONCACAF Council, a team which withdraws at any stage of the competition may be ordered to reimburse the particular Local Organizing Committee, the opposing team and CONCACAF for any expenses they have already incurred as a result of its proposed involvement or non-involvement in the competition and also pay compensation for any damages or losses arising from its withdrawal.
 4. Penalties specified herein will not be applied in cases of force majeure, as verified by the CONCACAF Council.
 5. The Member Association of any penalized team shall be responsible for ensuring that the specified sanctions are complied with.

V. CONCACAF ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

- A. The Organizing Committee for the CONCACAF Beach Soccer Championship, appointed by the CONCACAF Council, is responsible for the organization of the competition.
- B. The Organizing Committee shall, amongst other matters, be responsible for:
 - 1. Supervising general preparations, deciding on the match system, the draws and forming the groups.
 - 2. Fixing dates, venues and stadia for the matches.
 - 3. Determining kick-off times.
 - 4. Appointing match commissioners, technical study group and security officers.
 - 5. Deciding which laboratories will carry out the doping tests.
 - 6. Informing the CONCACAF Disciplinary Committee of any breaches of the applicable doping regulations.
 - 7. Deciding which matches will be subject to doping tests.
 - 8. Choosing the official football and the stipulated technical material.
- C. The Organizing Committee's decisions shall be final.

VI. DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

- A. The CONCACAF Disciplinary Committee is responsible for enforcing these Regulations. The CONCACAF Disciplinary Committee may suppletorily apply the FIFA Disciplinary Code until the entree into force of the CONCACAF Disciplinary Code (when it will apply subsidiarily). In particular, the CONCACAF Disciplinary Committee may pronounce the sanctions described in these regulations, the CONCACAF Statutes and all other CONCACAF rules and regulations as well as the FIFA Disciplinary Code (and, upon its enforcement, in the CONCACAF Disciplinary Code).
- B. In cases of infringement of these and all applicable Regulations or unsporting behavior on the part of the participating Teams, their

players, officials and/or staff, or in any kind of incident, the CONCACAF Disciplinary Committee shall be empowered to:

1. Admonish, sanction, fine, suspend and/or disqualify teams, their players, officials and/or staff.
 2. Take any disciplinary measure against any person(s) or Member Association(s) which may violate the Competition Regulations, the Laws of the Game or the rules of Fair Play.
 3. Prohibit violators from participating in a specific number of CONCACAF organized tournaments in which they might otherwise have participated.
- C. 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.
- D. The decisions of the Disciplinary Committee will be based on written record or by conducting a hearing.
1. When making a decision, the CONCACAF Disciplinary Committee may refer to the reports made by the referees match commissioners, referee assessor, general coordinator, technical delegate, security officer, diversity officer and any other CONCACAF staff or officials present. 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.
 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.
- E. The following decisions of the Disciplinary Committee shall not be subject to appeal:
1. Cautions and censures imposed on players and officials and any other persons or Member Associations.
 2. Suspensions from up to two matches or of up to two months imposed on players and officials or any other persons.

3. Fines imposed on players and officials or any other persons (not exceeding \$3,500 USD) or on Member Associations (not exceeding \$10,000 USD).
- F. The appropriate Member Association under the provisions of its own regulations shall punish any other offenses that may be committed during the course of the Beach Soccer Championship by its officials or any other personnel used for the competition. For this purpose, the Disciplinary Committee shall refer the referee's report of the match in question to the appropriate Member Association. The Member Association will, in turn, report back to the Disciplinary Committee on the resolution of the matter and any disciplinary action taken.
- G. Except in cases of force majeure as recognized by CONCACAF, if a team does not report for a match, or if it refuses to commence or continue to play, or leaves the stadium before the end of the match, the team shall be considered to have lost the match with a score of 3-0 or more. If in the case of an abandoned match during the group stage, the winning team will be awarded a 3-0 score, or higher depending on the result of the match.
- H. 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 Beach Soccer Championship.
- I. 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 General Secretariat for consideration by the CONCACAF Council
- J. All economic sanctions assessed must be paid by the appropriate Member Association no later than sixty (60) days after notification. Unless otherwise specified, the total amount of all fines will accrue to CONCACAF.
- K. Cautions and suspensions:

- a) Cautions received during any other competition are not carried over to the Competition.
- b) Cautions received in the Preliminary Competition are not carried over the Competition.
- c) Pending match suspensions (in relation to a direct red card or an indirect red card) will be carried over to the Competition.
- d) Single yellow cards will get eliminated at the end of the quarter-finals.
- e) Two (2) cautions received in different games of the Competition shall result in an automatic suspension from the next game in the Competition.
- f) Red card (direct or indirect) suspensions shall be served regardless of the stage of the Competition.
- g) Match suspensions not served during the Competition shall be carried over to the representative team's next official beach soccer match per the FIFA Disciplinary Code (art. 38 par. 2), including to the first match(es) of the FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup in Bahamas for the teams that qualify.

VII. APPEALS COMMITTEE

- A. The CONCACAF Appeals Committee shall hear appeals eligible to be lodged against decisions taken by the CONCACAF Disciplinary Committee.
- B. The CONCACAF Appeals Committee may suppletorily 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 may conduct any appeals procedures in accordance with the FIFA Disciplinary Code.
- C. 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.
- D. Decisions pronounced by the Appeal Committee are final and binding.

VIII. PROTESTS

- A. Protests subject to the following provisions, are objections of any kind connected with matches of the CONCACAF Championship Phase of the Beach Soccer Championship.
- B. Protests shall be submitted, except if the following provisions stipulate a different procedure, in writing to the match commissioner or CONCACAF representative at the match no later than two hours after the game and followed up immediately with a written report, including the original protest, to be sent to the CONCACAF General Secretariat by fax/scan (via email) within 24 hours of the match in question.
- C. Protests for reasons outlined in paragraphs D, E and F below must be accompanied by a check in the amount of \$500 USD payable to CONCACAF.
- D. Protests against the eligibility of players chosen to take part in the CONCACAF Championship Phase shall be submitted in writing to the match commissioner or general coordinator no later than two hours after the match in question and confirmed by fax/ scan (via email) or registered letter to be sent to the CONCACAF General Secretariat within 24 hours of the match in question.
- E. Protests against any incidents that occur during a match shall be directed to the referee by the team captain immediately after the disputed incident and before play has been resumed. The protest shall be confirmed in writing to the match commissioner or the CONCACAF representative at the match no-later than two hours after the match in question.
- F. Protests against the state of the pitch, the markings, the accessory equipment (goals, etc.) or the football shall be made in writing to the referee before the start of the match by the official responsible for the team lodging the protest. If the turf becomes unplayable during the match, the captain of the team concerned shall immediately inform the referee in the presence of the opposing team's captain.
- G. No protests may be made against the referee's decisions on points of fact connected with play, such decisions being final.
- H. Member Associations may not bring disputes with CONCACAF before a Court of Justice and they shall undertake to submit any such disputes without reservation to the jurisdiction of the competent authority of CONCACAF and FIFA.

- I. If an unfounded or irresponsible protest is lodged, a fine may be imposed.
- J. The expenses, which arise from a protest, shall be charged by CONCACAF, either wholly or in part, to the losing party.
- K. Once the winning team of the CONCACAF Beach Soccer Championship has been proclaimed, any protest or complaint about the sports procedure followed during the competition shall be disregarded.

IX. MEDICAL AND DOPING CONTROL

- A. In order to protect players' health as well as to prevent players from experiencing sudden cardiac death during matches at the Competition, each Participating Member Association shall ensure and confirm to the Organizing Committee that its players underwent 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 echocardiogram and EKG to identify any cardiac abnormality. The medical assessment must be carried out between 270 days and 35 days prior to the start of the Competition. The Organizing Committee will provide the PCMA form to all Participating Member Associations.
- B. The duly licensed medical representative of each Participating Member Association (i.e., national team doctor) will be required to sign the PCMA 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 Participating Member Association and shall be received by the Organizing Committee General Secretariat at the latest seven (7) business days prior to the start of the competition.
- C. Further to the above, each Participating Member Association 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.
- D. The Organizing Committee, the Host Association and CONCACAF shall not be held liable for any injury sustained by any participating player or

- official. Equally, the Organizing Committee, the Host Association and 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.
- E. As stated in these Regulations, each Participating Member Association shall be responsible throughout the Competition for providing medical, travel and accident insurance coverage for all the members of its delegation throughout the Competition. Proof of insurance must be provided to the Organizing Committee no later than 14 days before the start of the Competition. In addition, and in accordance with the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players, the club 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.
- F. Failure to comply with the aforementioned provision shall be sanctioned by the Disciplinary Committee.
- G. In regards to non-traumatic loss of consciousness during a game, the referee will assume sudden cardiac failure until proven otherwise. In such instances, the referee will signal (hand to the chest) 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 Hosting Association to ensure that there is a properly functioning AED immediately at hand and that there is an ambulance with an access and egress plan.
- H. 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. In these instances, the referee will signal (hand to the top of the head) to the team doctor to enter the field to assess and manage the player. Up to three minutes should be sufficient time to make this assessment. Once the player has left the field of play, he must be given a Sideline Concussion Assessment Test (SCAT) or similar test. It is the responsibility of the team doctor to determine the player's ability to return to play.
- I. Further to the above, in regards 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.

- J. 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.

X. MATCHES PLAYED ACCORDING TO THE LAWS OF THE GAME

- A. All matches will be played in accordance with the Beach Soccer Laws of the Game published by FIFA.
- B. In the case of any discrepancy in the interpretation of the Laws of the Game, the English text shall be authoritative.
- C. A maximum of ten (10) persons shall be allowed on the team bench, three (3) appropriately credentialed team officials and up to seven (7) player substitutes. The names of all these persons and their functions shall be indicated on the form provided prior to the match.

XI. STADIUM INFRASTRUCTURE, TRAINING SITES AND BALLS

- A. The Organizing Association shall ensure that the stadium and facilities in which the matches take place, comply with the minimum standards announced by CONCACAF and be consistent with the FIFA Stadium and Security Regulations and other FIFA guidelines and instructions for international matches in force. The stadium selected for use during the CONCACAF Beach Soccer Championship shall be subject to approval by CONCACAF. The Organizing Association is responsible for safety and order around in and around the stadium before, during and after the matches.
- B. Matches may be played in daylight or under floodlight. Matches played at night may be played only at a venue with floodlighting installations that ensure that the whole pitch is evenly lit according to the CONCACAF and FIFA specifications. An emergency independent power generator shall also be available in the stadium in the event of a power failure, guarantees at least two-thirds of the CONCACAF/FIFA specified intensity of light for the whole pitch and

ensures emergency lighting in the whole stadium. CONCACAF is entitled to grant exceptions, which are final.

- C. The Organizing Association shall provide training sites for the teams. These training sites shall be in good condition and approved by CONCACAF at least 21 days before the start of the competition.
- D. The stadium and training sites shall be available and free from any and all commercial activities and identifications (e.g. board and other signage) other than those of CONCACAF's commercial Affiliates at least five days prior to the first match of the CONCACAF Beach Soccer Championship.
- E. The footballs for the CONCACAF Championship Phase shall be selected and supplied by CONCACAF.

XII. DURATION, EXTRA TIME AND PENALTY KICKS

- 1. The match lasts three equal periods of 12 minutes each. There is a three-minute interval between each period of play. The duration of each period may be prolonged to enable a penalty kick or a direct kick to be taken.
- 2. If the score is level after normal playing time, extra time of three minutes is played. If the score is level after extra time, penalty kicks are taken from the imaginary penalty mark in accordance with Law 18 of the FIFA Beach Soccer Laws of the Game.

XIII. UNPLAYED AND ABANDONED MATCHES

- A. If a match cannot be played or is abandoned as a result of force majeure (which includes the loss of power at the stadium), the Organizing Committee shall decide on the matter at its sole discretion and take whatever action is deemed necessary.
- B. 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:
 - 1. The match shall recommence at the minute and second at which play was interrupted rather than being replayed in full, and with the same score line;

2. The match shall recommence with the same players on the pitch and substitutes available as when the match was abandoned;
3. No additional substitutes may be added to the list of players on the team sheet;
4. Players who was sent off during the abandoned match may not re-enter the match, but may be replaced by another player after a lapse of two minutes (cf. Law 3 of the Beach Soccer Laws of the Game);
5. Any sanctions imposed before the match was abandoned remain valid for the remainder of the match;
6. The kick-off time, date and location shall be decided by the Organizing Committee.

XIV. RESPONSIBILITIES OF EACH ENTITY INVOLVED

A. Participating Member Associations

1. Behavior of the members of its delegation (officials and players);
2. Health, travel and accident insurance cover for its full delegation;
3. Paying for their own air travel to and from the host country, any costs in obtaining visas for their delegation, and all tips for services rendered as appropriate at the hotels, airports, taxis, etc.
4. Paying for incidental expenses incurred by delegation members during the course of their stay in the host countries, including laundering of team uniforms, and for any costs incurred by additional members of the delegation in excess of the 15 persons allotted for. Twelve (12) players and three (3) team delegates, one of them must be a medical delegate;
5. Paying for any costs of extending their stay;
6. 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 Council. The fine shall be increased by 50% for each repeated offence.

7. Applying for visas in good time from the diplomatic mission of the organizing country or countries, as necessary.
 8. Attending press conferences and other official media activities organized by CONCACAF in a timely manner.
 9. Complying with all media/advertising/merchandising provisions issued by CONCACAF.
- B. Host Association**
1. The Organizing Committee
 - a. Overall - Staging the competition in a professional manner.
 - b. Execution, Promotion & Finances - Executing, promoting and financing of the above mentioned tournament, as approved by CONCACAF, providing a final accounting for the tournament, including payment of the percentages due to CONCACAF within thirty (30) days of the final match of the Tournament.
 - c. Security - Providing adequate security for all participants, Member Association officials and match officials from arrival to departure.
 - d. Insurance - Providing liability insurance coverage for each venue in the amount of at least one million dollars (\$1,000,000) USD. A copy of the insurance coverage must be received by the CONCACAF General Secretariat no later than thirty days (30) prior to the first match of the competition.
 - e. Stadium and Training Facilities - Ensuring that both, the stadium and training pitches are in a condition suitable for a FIFA qualifier, based on discussions during site inspection, including but not limited to all of the equipment for the field, i.e. nets, goals, and corner flags, covered benches for the teams which should be a professional; standard.
 - f. Liaisons - Assigning a dedicated individual, for the duration of the event (arrival to departure), who shall be responsible for assisting in the coordination of local transportation, changes to hotel/meal arrangements, and baggage collection, and any other needs as they arise, for:
 - i. Each of the participating Member Associations. Thereby

- the liaison must be fluent in the primary language of the country assigned;
 - ii. The game officials;
 - iii. Match Commissioners and Commission representatives.
- g. 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:

- i. Ensure that the media facilities are in the best possible condition.
 - ii. Assist the media in their general inquiries.
 - iii. Ensure that team sheets with correct player names/number/ positions, etc. are available to the media in a timely manner, prior to kick-off.
 - iv. Distribute to the media copies of the Media Guide or any other materials that will be supplied by CONCACAF.
 - v. Arrange for the installation of one dedicated phone line for CONCACAF use ONLY for charge calls.
 - vi. Arrange for the installation of the phone lines for the radio broadcasters and the designation of radio booths for each rights holder.
 - vii. Assure that the stadium has wireless internet for the media throughout the stadium.
 - viii. Arrange and provide the meals for the media and photographers as approved by CONCACAF.
- h. MATCH REPORTS - arrange for the General Coordinator to scan (via email) the CONCACAF Match Reports (provided by CONCACAF) within ninety (90) minutes of completion of each match to CONCACAF at matchreports@concacaf.org

C. CONCACAF

1. Overall supervision of the Championship.
2. Accommodations (Room and Meals): CONCACAF will provide quality accommodations for all participants in the Championship in accordance with all requirements as detailed in Appendix 6 of

this HRA (attached). Accommodations will be provided starting two (2) days before the date of the opening match (except for CONCACAF Staff, which may arrive up to five (5) days in advance). Officials and CONCACAF staff will be housed in a different hotel from the competing National Teams. The HMA is responsible for assisting CONCACAF with negotiations and operations with local hotels to secure the best possible rate and service. CONCACAF will select the hotels to be used for the event and the HMA will be responsible for signing the contracts the hotels selected.

3. Ground Transportation: CONCACAF will provide quality ground transportation to all participants, in accordance with all requirements as detailed in Appendix 7 of this HRA (attached). Ground transportation will be provided starting two (2) days before the date of the opening match (except for CONCACAF Staff, which may arrive up to five (5) days in advance). The HMA is responsible for helping CONCACAF with negotiations and operations with local transportation companies to secure the best possible rate and service. CONCACAF will select the local transportation companies for the event and the HMA will be responsible for signing the contracts with the local transportation companies selected.
4. Assisting the HMA with the daily operations of the Championship.
5. Arranging for and payment of the air transportation of Championship officials and staff.
6. Providing the daily per-diems for the tournament officials.
7. Collecting of National Team information (i.e. Team lists, rooming lists, menus, visa information and uniform color chart).
8. Management and administration of all disciplinary matters/measures and communication of actions taken in these instances.
9. Managing and implementing the daily assignments of all Match Officials for all matches in the Championship.
10. Provision and delivery of game balls to the Stadium for each match of the Championship.

11. Provision of practice balls to the participating National Teams in the Championship upon arrival in the HMA country.
12. Provision of the event bibs for teams, media, TV and medical personnel for all match days in the Championship.
13. Provision of all event polo shirts and/or T-shirts for the staff of the event, with the exact numbers to be determined in advance by CONCACAF.
14. Provision of signage for in stadium use for all match days in the Championship, including those required for team benches, locker rooms, accreditation, media, etc.
15. Provision of signage for the flash zone, mixed zone and press conference areas.
16. Provision of field board signage and artwork for CONCACAF assets, including CONCACAF partners.
17. Development and provision of the official Qualifying Championship logo and/or emblem, in close coordination with the HMA.
18. Provision of the official Qualifying Championship trophy for the champion, as well as individual tournament awards (including medals) to be decided upon by CONCACAF.
19. Organization and funding of the official Qualifying Championship Draw, to be held, ideally, in the HMA country in close coordination with the HMA.
20. Organization and funding of the awards ceremonies of the Qualifying Championship.
21. Provision of Certificates of Participation for all participating Member Association National Teams in the Qualifying Championship.
22. Direction of all aspects of the Media programming and functions during the Qualifying Championship and provision of the Qualifying Championship Media Guide.

XV. ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

- A. Each participating Member Association shall select its national representative team from the best players who are nationals of its country and subject to its jurisdiction.
- B. Each player must be in possession of a legal individual passport containing an up to date photograph and giving full particulars on the date of birth (day, month and year) of the player. If a player is not in possession of a legal individual passport, he shall not be allowed to participate in the tournament.
- C. ROSTERS FOR THE CONCACAF CHAMPIONSHIP PHASE
1. Provisional List of Players
Participating Member Associations must provide their “List of Players” on the official form provided, to the office of the CONCACAF General Secretariat, at least thirty five (35) days prior to the first match. This list is not binding and must contain the names of at least 20 players and not more than a maximum of 30 players. The list will be used for event promotion and data management.
 2. Team Delegations and Final Roster
Each participating Member Association shall submit to the CONCACAF General Secretariat its Final Delegation list of up to 15 persons, which may include up to 12 players (including two mandatory goalkeepers), no later than fifteen (15) days prior to the first match of the CONCACAF Championship Phase. Only these 12 players will (except in the case of force majeure recognized by the organizing committee for the CONCACAF Beach Soccer Championship) be permitted to compete in the CONCACAF Championship Phase.
- D. Confirmation of Eligibility
1. Inspection Meeting - The General Coordinator or his/her designee will check the passport details with each player no later than the day before their opening match.
 2. Uniform Numbers - The required numbers on the front and back of the shirts and on the pants of the uniforms shall correspond to the numbers indicated on the Final Roster.
 3. Upon arrival at the venue of the Tournament each Member Association's head of delegation shall immediately submit

the individual passports of its players for verification to the designated representative of CONCACAF.

- E. Replacement of Injured or Ill Players before the start of the Tournament
1. Players included in the Final Roster who suffer serious injuries or become ill so that they cannot play, as certified by the team's doctor via a medical report in English, may be replaced up to 24 hours prior to the team's first match. In those cases, the Member Association concerned will be authorized to add players not already included on the Final Roster and will immediately inform the General Coordinator in writing. The new players must be selected from the Provisional List of Players. The General Coordinator must be provided with all required information (if not previously provided) and passports upon the players' arrivals.
 2. No changes will be permitted within 24 hours of opening matches or thereafter.
- F. Any team found guilty of fielding an ineligible player shall forfeit the match. Victory and the resultant three points will be awarded to the opposing team as well as the score of 3-0, or more if the opposing team has already achieved a margin of difference in excess of 3-0.

XVI. REGULATIONS GOVERNING SPORTS EQUIPMENT

- A. The participating Member Association shall comply with the current FIFA Equipment Regulations with the exception of the provisions regarding player names as outlined below. Players and officials are not allowed to visibly display political, religious, commercial or personal messages in any language or form on their playing kit, equipment or body.
- B. On a date and a place to be determined by CONCACAF Organizing Committee, the finalist teams shall present the Organizing Committee with a sample of the official and reserve outfits (shirt, shorts, socks, goalkeeper's kit, etc.) for approval as well as the goalkeeper's gloves and cap that they intend to use during the final competition.

C. *Players' Names (optional)*

- i. Players may be identified by means of their surname or an abbreviation or nickname on their shirts. The player's name shall correspond with the name on the players' list.
- ii. If used, players' names shall be placed on the back of the shirt, above the number.
- iii. The capital letters used for the names shall not exceed 7.5 cm (seven and a half centimeters) in height. They may be surrounded by a border or shadow outline to ensure better legibility.
- iv. The color of the names shall contrast clearly (light on dark, or vice versa) with the colors of the players' shirt, or appear on a neutral-colored patch.
- v. The capital letters used shall be of one single color and shall be free of advertising, design features or other elements.

XVII. REFEREES AND ASSISTANT REFEREES

- A. The referees and assistant referees chosen for the matches in the CONCACAF Championship Phase shall be from a country whose team is not included in the same group in the Group Stage and are neutral in the Knockout Stages. They shall be selected from the current FIFA International Lists.
- B. CONCACAF's Referees Committee shall appoint the referees and assistant referees for the matches in the CONCACAF Championship Phase. Two referees and two assistant referees shall be appointed for each match.
- C. The Referees Committee decisions shall be final and not subject to appeal.
- D. After each match the referee shall complete the official CONCACAF report forms. In the CONCACAF Championship Phase, he shall hand it over immediately after the match to the Match Commissioner or the CONCACAF General Coordinator at the venue.
- E. On the report form, the referee shall note all occurrences before, during, and after the match in as much detail as possible, such as:

- a. Misconduct of players, leading to caution or expulsion;
- b. Unsporting behavior of officials, supporters and any person acting on behalf of a national association at a match;
- c. Any other incidents.

XVIII. TECHNICAL RULES

A. CONCACAF Championship Phase

The CONCACAF Championship Phase shall be played among no more than sixteen (16) teams.

1. Only eligible Member Associations affiliated to FIFA can qualify for the FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup 2017.
2. Officials from the teams participating in the CONCACAF Championship Phase are obliged to attend the Championship Phase draw and related tournament workshop. CONCACAF will cover the airfare, accommodation and ground transportation for each head coach and team administrator to attend such events.
3. The CONCACAF Championship shall be played in one venue. The sixteen (16) teams shall be divided into a Group Stage consisting of four groups of four teams followed by Quarter-Finals; Semi-Finals and Finals. Matches for 5th and 7th places shall also be played.
4. The top two teams from each Group shall advance to the knock-out phase. The quarterfinal match ups shall be decided by a draw. Group winners shall be matched up randomly with the 2nd place teams. The winner of the first quarterfinal shall play against the winner of the second quarterfinal as semifinal 1. The winner of the third quarterfinal shall play the winner of the fourth quarter final as semifinal 2.
5. The two semifinal winners shall advance to the final to determine the CONCACAF Champion. The two finalists will automatically qualify for the FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup 2017.
6. The semifinal losers shall playoff to determine the third and fourth place positions.
7. Should any team already qualified for the FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup or ineligible to participate in FIFA competitions finish first to second place in the Championship, such team shall be replaced by the next team with the highest obtained points which is eligible to

participate in FIFA competitions. The CONCACAF tie breaker procedure established in Article XVIII.8 below will be used to rank replacement teams which are tied on points.

8. At the end of group play, if two or more teams are equal on points (including ties among third place teams), the manner in which teams will advance to the next round will be resolved as follows and in the order indicated:
 - a. Greater number of points in matches between the tied teams;
 - b. Greater goal difference in matches between the tied teams (if more than two teams finish equal on points);
 - c. Greater number of goals scored in matches among the tied teams (if more than two teams finish equal on points);
 - d. Greater goal difference in all group matches;
 - e. Greater number of goals scored in all group matches;
 - f. Lower number of red cards received during the group round
 - g. Lower number of yellow cards received during the group period
 - f. Drawing of lots.

XIX. MEDIA, ADVERTISING AND MERCHANDISING

- A. Marketing, Radio, Television, Promotion and Advertising rights for the CONCACAF Championship Phase belong exclusively to CONCACAF.
- B. Concessions for souvenir sales, official programs and others of a similar nature are fully vested with CONCACAF.
- C. Rights for the merchandising of the event, both on and off site, exclusively belong to CONCACAF.
- D. Technical Films / Tapes - Permission to make technical films/tapes, exclusively reserved for the use of participating Member Associations, must be obtained from the CONCACAF General Secretariat.
- E. Logo - Only the Logo sent by CONCACAF may be used for promoting the event. Such Logo shall be used in accordance with its use regulations. All use must be pre-approved by CONCACAF before publication.
- F. Web Pages - Before attaching the CONCACAF web page, approval

by CONCACAF must be granted.

- G. The participating Teams shall agree, as a condition of their participation, that the terms “CONCACAF”, “The Confederation of North, Central America and Caribbean Association Football”, “Confederación Norte, Centroamericana y del Caribe Asociación de Fútbol”, “CONCACAF Beach Soccer Championship”, “Campeonato de Futbol Playa de CONCACAF”, “Campeonato Beach Soccer de CONCACAF” and “ Championnat de Beach Soccer de CONCACAF” commonly used to identify the CONCACAF Beach Soccer Championship, and their equivalent, abbreviated or as translated into other languages, may only be used by such Teams in a sporting context with no commercial implications. CONCACAF owns the copyright for all the mentioned terms.
- H. They shall abide by the Commercial Guidelines and/or the Commercial Regulations as issued by CONCACAF.

XX. FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

1. The Host Member Association shall retain all revenue from:
 - a. Admission tickets sales.
 - b. Concessions granted by the Organizing Committee for the sale of food and beverages.
 - c. Other rights specifically granted by CONCACAF.
2. CONCACAF shall retain all revenue from:
 - a. All commercial rights
 - b. From the Gross Receipts from Admission Ticket Sales, the Organizing Committee shall deduct 5% (minimum \$300 USD) in favor of CONCACAF and 2.5% (minimum \$150 USD) in favor of the Regional Union in which the finals are played. These percentages shall be paid within a thirty (30) day period after each match of the Preliminary Phase has ended or after the Final Phase has concluded. In the event there is not an established Regional Union, CONCACAF shall receive 7.5% of the gross receipts (minimum \$450 USD).
 - c. Any other revenue source not mentioned herein.

XXI. PROTOCOL

During the CONCACAF Championship, the FIFA fair play flag, the CONCACAF flag and the flags of the host country and both competing Member Associations shall be flown at every match inside the ground. The CONCACAF anthem shall be played while the teams are entering the field, followed by the national anthems of the two participants during the line-up. A minimum of 5 flag poles need to be available within the stadium for the presentation of the flags, all located next to each other. An additional pole may be made available for the country's National Flag.

XXII. COPYRIGHT

Copyright of the fixtures and matches adopted by the CONCACAF Council and drawn up in accordance with the provisions of these regulations are the exclusive property of CONCACAF.

XXIII. MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR

- A. The CONCACAF Council will resolve all matters not provided for in these Regulations. All decisions of the CONCACAF Executive Committee shall be final.
 - B. In the case of any discrepancy in the interpretation of the English, Spanish or French texts of these regulations, the English text shall be authoritative.
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