



Concacaf
**CENTRAL
AMERICAN
CUP**

2023

REGULATIONS

ORGANIZERS

Confederation Of North, Central America, And Caribbean Association Football (Concacaf)

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GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. NAME OF COMPETITION

- 1.1 The official name of the tournament is the Concacaf Central American Cup (hereinafter: The Competition). Concacaf, at its sole discretion, can change the official name of The Competition and include a title or presenting sponsor in the official name and the official marks. The Competition is played every year.
- 1.2 The Competition is an official event of The Confederation of North, Central America and Caribbean Association Football (Concacaf).
- 1.3 The Competition consists of four (4) rounds:
 - 1.3.1 Group Stage
 - 1.3.2 Quarterfinals
 - 1.3.3 Semifinals & Play-In
 - 1.3.4 Finals
 - 1.3.5 When referring to all four (4) stages – hereinafter: The Competition.
- 1.4 Concacaf's Central American Member Associations (hereinafter: Associations) may enter a certain number of clubs for The Competition in accordance with the qualification process as defined by Concacaf for each Association.
- 1.5 Concacaf is the sole owner of The Competition and of all rights emanating from The Competition and has the exclusive right to organize, control and manage this competition. These rights include, among others, every kind of financial rights, audiovisual and radio recording, reproduction and broadcasting rights, multimedia rights, marketing, sponsorship and promotional rights and incorporeal rights such as emblems and rights arising under copyright law. Any rights relating to The Competition that these Regulations do not specifically grant to a participating club or Member Association will belong to Concacaf.
- 1.6 This Competition will also serve as the qualifying tournament for the 2024 Concacaf Champions Cup.

1.7 The Competition's Regulations (hereinafter: Regulations) govern the rights, duties, and responsibilities of all taking part in The Competition. The Regulations, Technical Guide, Concacaf Statutes and all other Concacaf rules, regulations, circulars, directives, and decisions in force will apply and are binding for all participating associations, officials, players and their respective clubs and for all persons involved in the preparation, organization and hosting of The Competition.

2. **SCHEDULE**

- Official Draw and Workshop: June 2023
- Group Stage Week 1: August 1-3, 2023
- Group Stage Week 2: August 8 -10, 2023
- Group Stage Week 3: August 15-17, 2023
- Group Stage Week 4: August 22-24, 2023
- Group Stage Week 5: August 29-31, 2023
- Quarterfinals: September 26-28 and October 3-5
- Semifinals & Play-In: October 24-26 and October 31-November 2, 2023
- Finals: November 28-30 and December 5-7, 2023

3. **CONCACAF**

3.1 The responsibilities of Concacaf, among other matters, include but are not limited to:

3.1.1 Organizing The Competition

3.1.2 Supervising general preparations, deciding on The Competition format draws and forming the pairings.

3.1.3 Determining the match schedule and kick-off times for The Competition.

3.1.4 Setting the dates and approving the venues of the matches during The Competition.

3.1.5 Appointing Venue Coordinators, Match Coordinators, Match Commissioners, Technical Study Group, Referees, Referee Assessors, Disciplinary Committee Members and any other delegates (hereinafter: Match Officials) for The Competition

3.1.6 Daily per-diem and international traveling expenses for the Concacaf Match Officials

- 3.1.7 Approving the choice of the WADA-accredited laboratory that will carry out the doping analyses.
 - 3.1.8 Deciding which matches will be subject to doping tests.
 - 3.1.9 Informing the Disciplinary Committee of any breach of any applicable regulations for appropriate action.
 - 3.1.10 Replacing clubs that have withdrawn from The Competition and on what basis such a replacement occurs.
 - 3.1.11 Settling cases of force majeure.
 - 3.1.12 Selecting the official match ball and the stipulated technical material.
 - 3.1.13 Organizing and coordinating the post-match ceremony immediately following the 2nd leg match of the Final Round
 - 3.1.14 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.
- 3.3 Concacaf may modify these Regulations, from time to time, in order to comply with the laws of a specific jurisdiction, when applicable. All parties' responsibilities, rights and obligations hereunder shall be subject to the compliance of local laws, regulations, ordinances, and other rules issued by competent authorities from the applicable jurisdictions.

4. **PARTICIPATING CLUBS**

- 4.1 Each Participating Club 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 Providing Concacaf with all the information and/or documentation requested within the stipulated deadlines. Clubs that fail to provide Concacaf with all requested information and/or documentation within the stipulated deadlines shall be imposed a fine except in unforeseen circumstances and cases of force majeure as determined by the Concacaf General Secretariat.
- 4.1.4 Applying for visas within the required time as stated by the diplomatic missions of the countries to be visited, when necessary.
- 4.1.5 Attending press conferences and other official media activities organized by Concacaf and in accordance with its instructions.
- 4.1.6 Attending the mandatory Match Coordination Meeting (MCM), at the predesignated time and location.
- 4.1.7 Allowing Concacaf to use their marks for the promotion of The Competition, and allow the event sponsors to use the marks in a collective form only, for the sole purpose of promoting The Competition as per The Competition's Commercial Regulations (hereinafter: Commercial Regulations).
- 4.1.8 Collaborating and supporting Concacaf with the promotions and activations of tournament sponsors as per the Commercial Regulations.
- 4.2 Each Host Club shall be responsible throughout The Competition for:
 - 4.2.1 Providing a stadium that meets the criteria established by Concacaf.
 - 4.2.2 Ensuring that the stadium is made completely available on Match Day -1 and Match Day -2 for the Final Round, for sole use by Concacaf Staff and Officials, to conduct walk-throughs, install signage and conduct any other activity reasonably requested. No other activities, unrelated to The Competition, may be held during this time.
 - 4.2.3 Providing access to a training field that is similar in size and surface type for use on MD-1 if the stadium is unavailable due to weather issues.
 - 4.2.4 Providing for the local transportation of the designated Concacaf Delegates and Match Officials upon arrival until departure for all official functions.

- 4.2.5 Providing for the local hotel rooms (including breakfast and internet) for the designated Match Officials.
- 4.2.6 Reserving and providing the necessary rooms and/or equipment for the Team Arrival Meeting (TAM) and MCM).
- 4.2.7 Providing all local information as may be reasonably requested by their visiting opponent in accordance with the schedule determined by Concacaf.
- 4.2.8 Recommending hotels to the visiting team and advise which hotel is being used by the Match Officials to avoid conflict.
- 4.2.9 Providing all water and isotonic beverages as detailed by Concacaf in The Competition's Technical Guide (hereinafter: Technical Guide).
- 4.2.10 Obtaining insurance for the training fields.
- 4.2.11 Ensuring that the match field is available for the team's official training session.
- 4.2.12 Ensuring that the police escort (unless otherwise agreed is not necessary by both teams and match officials) is arranged and on time for all official movements.
- 4.2.13 Providing a team liaison who will be responsible for and available to the visiting team throughout their stay and must:
 - 4.2.13.1 Speak the language of the team.
 - 4.2.13.2 Meet the team upon arrival at the airport and accompany them to training and the match.
 - 4.2.13.3 Assist the team with special requests such as arranging special menus.
 - 4.2.13.4 Arranging the transportation to and from the MCM for the team's delegation.
 - 4.2.13.5 Make certain that the team locker room is cleaned and ready with the required provisions as per the Technical Guide.
 - 4.2.13.6 Confirm the seating arrangements for the visiting team VIPs as outlined.

- 4.2.13.7 Any reasonable requests for the locker room on match day by the visiting club or Concacaf.
- 4.2.14 Providing the match tickets by the stipulated deadline, as explained in the Commercial Regulations.
- 4.2.15 Guaranteeing law and order as well as safety in the stadium in collaboration with the relevant authorities as established in the Concacaf Safety and Security Guidelines.
- 4.2.16 Providing a segregated safe section for the visiting club's supporters.
- 4.2.17 Undertaking and arranging adequate liability insurance coverage with respect to the stadium in which the match is to be held, and adding Concacaf and The Competition's marketing parts as an "Additional Insured" party in the policy and providing Concacaf with a copy of such policy prior to the club's first match in The Competition.
- 4.2.18 Providing an office at the stadium with a dedicated wireless internet connection for the Match Officials.
- 4.2.19 Providing twelve (12) practice balls and at least twenty (20) bibs, ten (10) each of two (2) colors, to the visiting team to utilize for their official practice on MD-1 and for the pre-match warmup, if requested by the visiting team.
- 4.2.20 Providing for a minimum of ten ball kids for each match who are 14 years of age or older.
- 4.2.21 If the case of hosting the final match of The Competition, assisting, and cooperating with Concacaf to coordinate the arrangements for the post-match awards presentation on the field immediately following the match.
- 4.2.22 Covering all costs associated with section 4.2.
- 4.3 Each Visiting Club shall be responsible throughout The Competition for:
- 4.3.1 Arriving to the host city no later than 48 hours prior to kick-off to conduct the uniform and player checks as well as fulfill their media obligations.
- 4.3.2 Providing for their own international and local travel and transport and any costs incurred in obtaining visas.

- 4.3.3 Providing for their own hotel accommodation and meal expenses.
 - 4.3.4 Paying any airport taxes, laundry costs and tips as a customary.
 - 4.3.5 Having a cell phone during away matches that has the capacity to make and receive phone calls while abroad.
 - 4.3.6 Making any reasonable request for guidance, information, and assistance from the home club in good time.
 - 4.3.7 Advising the home club of any special requests, no later than one week before the match of their travel and accommodation arrangements.
 - 4.3.8 Advising the home club of any special requests such as a training field, transportation needs, beverages for training, etc. no later than one week prior to the match.
 - 4.3.9 Advising the home club of the approximate number of supporters who will be attending and if they are aware of any problematic supporters who might attend or might try to access the stadium.
 - 4.3.10 Traveling with a minimum of 18 players from the approved 23-Player Roster for any match.
 - 4.3.11 Covering all costs associated with section 4.3 unless otherwise agreed by the host club.
- 4.4 Clubs and their players and officials participating in The Competition shall agree to fully respect and comply with:
- 4.4.1 The Laws of the Game and the principles of Fair Play.
 - 4.4.2 The Concacaf Statues and all Concacaf regulations, rules, codes, protocols, circulars, directive, guidelines, and decisions (including these Regulations and the Technical Guide).
 - 4.4.3 All decisions and directives of the Concacaf Council.
 - 4.4.4 The FIFA Disciplinary Code of Ethics and the Concacaf Code of Conduct.
 - 4.4.5 The FIFA Doping Control Regulations.

- 4.4.6 All Concacaf protocols during matches and fully cooperate in their enforcement (e.g., Concacaf protocol for racist incidents during matches).
- 4.4.7 All Concacaf anti-match manipulation and anti-discrimination stipulations.
- 4.4.8 All Concacaf marketing and media requirements, as stipulated in the Media and Commercial Regulations.
- 4.4.9 All kit and equipment requirements as per section 16 of these Regulations.
- 4.4.10 Providing to Concacaf prior to the start of The Competition, statistics, players, photographs, stadium information, to include aerial photographs, and any additional information as requested to assist in the promotion of The Competition.
- 4.4.11 Responsible for fielding only eligible players. Failure to do so will lead to the consequences stipulated in the applicable regulations.
- 4.5 Clubs shall take all necessary actions for their players and officials to be bound by and comply with all the statutes, regulations, rules, codes, protocols, circulars, directives, decisions, stipulations, and requirements.
- 4.6 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 efforts to prevent, investigate and sanction such behavior.
- 4.7 All clubs who have entered The Competition shall not refer (directly or indirectly) to its team as an inferior team publicly or in the print and/or electronic media.

5. **ENTRIES FOR THE COMPETITION**

- 5.1 The specific entry criteria for each Association will be agreed upon between Concacaf and each Association in question.

5.1.1 Belize's qualification criteria:

- 5.1.1.1 Seasonal champion of the Premier League of Belize (PLB) which has accumulated the most amount of points in the Opening or Closing tournaments.

- 5.1.1.2 If one or more clubs are tied on total points, then the club with the best goal difference from the combined Opening and Closing tournaments will qualify to the Concacaf Central American Cup.
 - 5.1.1.3 If the clubs are still tied, then the club having scored the most goals in the combined opening and closing tournaments will qualify to the Concacaf Central American Cup.
- 5.1.2 Costa Rica's qualification criteria:
- 5.1.2.1 2022 Apertura champion of the Liga Promerica Primera Division.
 - 5.1.2.2 2023 Clausura champion of the Liga Promerica Primera Division.
 - 5.1.2.3 Non-Champion which has accumulated the most amount of points in the 2022 Apertura and 2023 Clausura tournaments.
 - 5.1.2.4 Non-Champion which has accumulated the second most amount of points in the 2022 Apertura and 2023 Clausura tournaments.
 - 5.1.2.5 If the same club wins both the Apertura and Clausura tournaments: The two non-champion clubs which have accumulated the most amount of points in the Apertura and Clausura tournaments will qualify to the Concacaf Central American Cup.
 - 5.1.2.6 If one or more clubs are tied on total points, then the club with the best goal difference from the combined Apertura and Clausura tournaments will qualify to the Concacaf Central American Cup.
 - 5.1.2.7 If the clubs are still tied, then the club having scored the most goals in the combined Apertura and Clausura tournaments will qualify to the Concacaf Central American Leagues Cup.
- 5.1.3 El Salvador's qualification criteria:
- 5.1.3.1 2022 Apertura Champion of Primera División de Fútbol de El Salvador, in first place.
 - 5.1.3.2 2022 Apertura Runner-up of Primera División de Fútbol de El Salvador, in second place.
 - 5.1.3.3 The Team with the highest number of points in the accumulated table of the 2022-2023 Opening and Closing regular season, in third place.

5.1.4 Guatemala's qualification criteria:

- 5.1.4.1 2022 Apertura champion of Liga Nacional de Fútbol de Guatemala.
- 5.1.4.2 2023 Clausura champion of Liga Nacional de Fútbol de Guatemala.
- 5.1.4.3 Non-Champion which has accumulated the most amount of points in the 2022 Apertura and 2023 Clausura tournaments.
- 5.1.4.4 If the same club wins both the Apertura and Clausura tournaments: The two non-champion clubs which have accumulated the most amount of points in the Apertura and Clausura tournaments will qualify to the Concacaf Central American Cup.
- 5.1.4.5 If one or more clubs are tied on total points, then the club with the best goal difference from the combined Apertura and Clausura tournaments will qualify to the Concacaf Central American Cup.
- 5.1.4.6 If the clubs are still tied, then the club having scored the most goals in the combined Apertura and Clausura tournaments will qualify to the Concacaf Central American Cup.

5.1.5 Honduras' qualification criteria:

- 5.1.5.1 2022 Apertura champion of Liga Betcris de Honduras.
- 5.1.5.2 2023 Clausura champion of Liga Betcris de Honduras.
- 5.1.5.3 Non-Champion which has accumulated the most amount of points in the 2022 Apertura and 2023 Clausura tournaments.
- 5.1.5.4 Non-Champion which has accumulated the second most amount of points in the Apertura and Clausura tournaments.
- 5.1.5.5 If the same club wins both the Apertura and Clausura tournaments: The two non-champion clubs which have accumulated the most amount of points in the Apertura and Clausura tournaments will qualify to the Concacaf Central American Cup.
- 5.1.5.6 If one or more clubs are tied on total points, then the club with the best goal difference from the combined Apertura and Clausura tournaments will qualify to the Concacaf Central American Cup.

5.1.5.7 If the clubs are still tied, then the club having scored the most goals in the combined Apertura and Clausura tournaments will qualify to the Concacaf Central American Cup.

5.1.6 Nicaragua's qualification criteria:

5.1.6.1 2022 Apertura champion of Liga Primera de Nicaragua.

5.1.6.2 2023 Clausura champion of Liga Primera de Nicaragua.

5.1.6.3 If the same club wins both the Apertura and Clausura tournaments: The two non-champion clubs which have accumulated the most amount of points in the Apertura and Clausura tournaments will qualify to the Concacaf Central American Cup.

5.1.6.4 If one or more clubs are tied on total points, then the club with the best goal difference from the combined Apertura and Clausura tournaments will qualify to the Concacaf Central American Cup.

5.1.6.5 If the clubs are still tied, then the club having scored the most goals in the combined Apertura and Clausura tournaments will qualify to the Concacaf Central American Cup.

5.1.7 Panama's qualification criteria:

5.1.7.1 2022 Clausura champion of Liga Panameña de Fútbol.

5.1.7.2 2023 Apertura champion of Liga Panameña de Fútbol.

5.1.7.3 Non-Champion which has accumulated the most amount of points in the 2022 Clausura and 2023 Apertura tournaments.

5.1.7.4 If the same club wins both the Apertura and Clausura tournaments: The two non-champion clubs which have accumulated the most amount of points in the Apertura and Clausura tournaments will qualify to the Concacaf Central American Cup.

5.1.7.5 If one or more clubs are tied on total points, then the club with the best goal difference from the combined Apertura and Clausura tournaments will qualify to the Concacaf Central American Cup.

- 5.1.7.6 If the clubs are still tied, then the club having scored the most goals in the combined Apertura and Clausura tournaments will qualify to the Concacaf Central American Cup.
- 5.2 In the event of any disagreement in establishing or applying the entry criteria, Concacaf will determine and apply the entry criteria at its sole discretion.
- 5.3 As a matter of principle, clubs will earn the right to be entered by their Association into The Competition through:
- 5.3.1 Fair play and sporting merit.
- 5.3.2 Compliance with their Association's Regional Club Licensing requirements.
- 5.3.3 Financial good standing with their Association and Concacaf.
- 5.3.4 Qualified clubs must submit:
- 5.3.4.1 The signed participation agreement by the date specified by Concacaf, at which point they will be officially registered for The Competition.
- 5.3.4.2 All other documents required by the dates specified as per Concacaf.
- 5.3.5 Upon entering The Competition each club agrees:
- 5.3.5.1 To play in The Competition until their elimination.
- 5.3.5.2 To ensure that their league schedule does not conflict with The Competition's dates and times as determined and approved by Concacaf.
- 5.3.5.3 To field their strongest team throughout The Competition.
- 5.3.5.4 To ensure that its home venue meets the criteria established in section 13 and 15 of these Regulations.
- 5.3.5.5 To play all scheduled matches on dates and times as determined by Concacaf and set forth in accordance with these Regulations.
- 5.3.5.6 To provide Concacaf with any requirements defined in these Regulations.

5.3.5.7 To take all necessary actions for its players, officials, and staff to be bound by and comply with all applicable laws, regulations, rules, codes, protocols, 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-discrimination stipulations and all marketing and media requirements.

5.3.5.8 To 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 always, in its efforts to prevent, investigate and sanction such behavior.

5.3.5.9 That the club itself as well as its players, officials and staff recognize the jurisdiction of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), as defined by the Concacaf and FIFA Statutes.

5.3.6 The Competition's Champion:

5.3.6.1 Does not gain automatic entry to the next edition of The Competition.

5.3.6.2 Will qualify to the 2024 Concacaf Champions Cup Round of 16.

5.3.7 The runner-up, losing semifinalists and the Play-In Winners will qualify to the 2024 Concacaf Champions Cup Round One.

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 of two periods of 45 minutes, with a half-time interval of 15 minutes.

COMPETITION

7. WITHDRAWAL, UNPLAYED MATCHES AND ABANDONED MATCHES

7.1 If an Association does not properly enter an eligible club or clubs into The Competition, or such clubs are unable to meet the criteria established in these Regulations (considered "non-entry"), then Concacaf will decide, at its sole discretion, the course of action in relation to the vacant space(s) in The Competition. The same will also apply in cases where an Association and/or a club are not in good standing with Concacaf, or a club is not in good standing with its Association. This decision may include:

- 7.1.1 Providing for an alternate club(s) from the Association(s) in question.
- 7.1.2 Providing for an alternate club from a different Association(s).
- 7.1.3 Leaving a space vacant and granting a “bye” to their opponent(s).
- 7.2 Once having entered The Competition, participating clubs must meet all obligations including participating in all matches. Failure to participate in any match may be considered by Concacaf, at its sole discretion, as a withdrawal from the event. A withdrawal may have a serious impact on the integrity of the event and as such, the penalties as specified below will apply, except in cases of force majeure or unforeseen circumstances deemed acceptable by Concacaf.
- 7.3 The following fines will apply in the case of a withdrawal of a club:
 - 7.3.1 After signing the Participation Agreement up to one week prior to the draw: A fine of USD 15,000.
 - 7.3.2 From one week prior to the draw up to the first match in The Competition: A fine of USD 30,000.
 - 7.3.3 From the first match in The Competition to the Quarterfinals: A fine of USD 60,000.
 - 7.3.4 Any time after the start of the Quarterfinals: A fine of USD 100,000.
- 7.4 Failure to play or complete any specific match does not release a team from its obligation to play in other matches as scheduled in The Competition. All cases will be subject to review by the Concacaf Disciplinary Committee (hereinafter: Disciplinary Committee) for possible sanctions and/or fines.
- 7.5 Except in cases of force majeure or unforeseen circumstances as deemed acceptable by Concacaf, a club that withdraws at any stage of The Competition:
 - 7.5.1 May be ordered to reimburse the opposing club(s) and/or Concacaf of any expenses that they have already incurred as a result of its proposed involvement or non-involvement in The Competition.
 - 7.5.2 May be required to pay compensation for any damages or losses arising from its withdrawal.
 - 7.5.3 May be disqualified from taking part in the next two editions of The Competition.

- 7.5.4 Will be referred to the Disciplinary Committee for additional sanctions.
- 7.6 The Association of any penalized club will be responsible for ensuring that specified sanctions are carried out and complied with.
- 7.7 Failure of The Competition's Champion to participate in the 2024 Concacaf Champions Cup will result in a fine of will result in a fine of USD 100.000 payable to Concacaf.
- 7.8 No appeal can be lodged against these decisions.
- 7.9 If a match cannot commence on-time or is stopped by the Referee before the end of normal time due to force majeure or any other incidents such as, but not limited to, the field is not fit for play, weather conditions, floodlight failure, etc. the following procedures must be followed:
- 7.9.1 The match must first be delayed for a minimum of 30 minutes, unless the Referee decides that the match can commence earlier, before a decision to reschedule the match is taken.
- 7.9.2 At the discretion of the Referee, another delay of a maximum of 30 minutes will be allowed if in their opinion this extra period of delay will allow the match to commence.
- 7.9.3 Otherwise, at the end of this second 30-minute period, the Referee must declare the match to have been cancelled.
- 7.9.4 In the case of a cancelled match, Concacaf will decide within two hours of the Referee's decision to cancel the match, whether the match can be rescheduled (taking sporting and organizational considerations into account), or whether any other action and decision is needed to continue with The Competition. Any disciplinary sanctions resulting from the cancelled match will remain in force.
- 7.9.5 If the match is stopped and cannot resume for the reasons stated above, then it will be considered abandoned. Play will resume the following day at the point where it was stopped and played to completion, thus avoiding considerable extra expense for the visiting club. If it is still impossible to complete the match the next day for the same reasons, Concacaf will determine how and when the match will be completed. The expenses thus incurred by the visiting club will be divided equally between the two clubs.
- 7.10 The following principles will apply to the recommencement of the match:

7.10.1 The match will recommence with the same players on the field and substitutes available as when the match was initially abandoned.

7.10.2 No additional substitutes may be added to the list of players on the Start List.

7.10.3 The teams can only make the number of substitutions to which they were still entitled when the match was abandoned.

7.10.4 Players sent off during the abandoned match cannot be replaced.

7.10.5 Any sanctions imposed before the match was abandoned remain valid for the remainder of the match.

7.10.6 The kick-off time, date (foreseen for the following day) and location will be decided by Concacaf in consultation with the participating clubs.

7.10.7 Any matters requiring further decision will be treated by Concacaf.

8. **REPLACEMENTS**

8.1 If any Club withdraws or is excluded from The Competition, the Concacaf Council shall decide whether to replace the Club in question with another Club.

9. **ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS**

9.1 A player who is elected to represent his club in The Competition, must comply with all Concacaf statutory requirements for eligibility of players.

9.2 Protests regarding the eligibility of players shall be decided by the Disciplinary Committee in accordance with the FIFA Disciplinary Code and upon its entry into force, the Concacaf Disciplinary Code.

9.3 The club 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.

9.5 Any team found to have fielded an ineligible player will forfeit the match. If the result of the match was a victory for the club fielding the ineligible player, three points will be awarded to the opposing club on the basis of a 3-0 score, or higher depending on the

result of the match. This incident will be submitted to the Disciplinary Committee for further review.

10. PLAYERS' LISTS

10.1 Competition Roster

10.1.1 Clubs must provide their 35-player roster to Concacaf no later than 14 days prior to start of The Competition, on July 18th, 2023. This list is binding and must contain the names of no less than 18 players and no more than 35.

10.1.2 If The Competition roster does not include the maximum 35 players, then additional players may be added provided the maximum of 35 players is not exceeded.

10.1.3 Clubs must provide their 23-player final match roster (with a minimum of 18), selected from their approved 35-player competition roster, to Concacaf no later than 44 hours prior to each match kickoff.

10.1.4 A player already registered by a club cannot be deleted from the roster regardless of the reason.

10.1.5 Clubs must register at least three (3) goalkeepers on their 35-player roster of which a minimum of two (2) must be listed on the 23-player roster.

10.1.6 If any registered goalkeeper on the 23-player roster suffers long-term injuries or illness, then the club may replace the goalkeeper in question with a goalkeeper at any time during The Competition from the 35-player roster. An injury or illness is considered long-term if it incapacitates the goalie for longer than 35 days. A medical report must be submitted to Concacaf detailing the extent of the injury to the goalkeeper before a replacement player, from the 35-player roster, will be permitted as a replacement.

10.1.7 All rosters and team officials must be approved by club's Federation prior to being sent to Concacaf.

10.2 Once a player has had active time on the field for a club in The Competition, that player may not be registered for any other club during the same edition of The Competition.

10.3 All players must be registered with the club and the appropriate Federation and eligible to play in any league match for the current playing season per the FIFA transfer deadlines in each country.

10.4 All participating players must have a legal and valid government issued identification containing a photograph and giving full particulars on the date of birth (day, month, and year).

11. START LISTS AND SUBSTITUTES ON THE BENCH

- 11.1 Up to twenty-three (23) players may be entered on the start list (11 starters and 12 substitutes). Up to a maximum of five (5) substitutes may take the place of the selected players during the three substitution windows. Halftime does not count as a substitution window. The Start Lists shall be signed by the head coach upon arrival at the stadium on matchday.
- 11.2 Upon arrival at the venue and no later than ninety (90) minutes prior to any match, a representative from each team must submit their Start List to the Venue Coordinator or other authorized Concacaf official and should also have the identification documentation for verification if needed. Any player without the relevant documentation may be deemed ineligible to play. Both teams will receive a copy of the start list no later than seventy-five (75) minutes prior to kickoff.
- 11.3 After the start lists have been completed, signed by the head coach, and returned to the Venue Coordinator and if the match has not yet kicked off, the following instructions will apply:
- 11.3.1 If any of the starting eleven (11) players listed on the start list are not able to start the match for any reason, they may be replaced by any of the twelve (12) substitutes. The replaced player(s) may no longer take part in the match, and the quota of substitute players shall be reduced accordingly. During the match, five (5) players may still be substituted within the allowed substitution windows.
- 11.3.2 If any of the twelve (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, five (5) players may still be substituted within the allowed substitution windows.
- 11.4 If a starting player sustains a serious injury or is so ill that he cannot longer be expected to play, he may be replaced prior to pregame protocol without penalty by an eligible substitute from the start list but must be listed as injured on the Start List and will be ineligible to play the match.
- 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 A maximum of twenty-one (21) people (twelve (12) substitute players and nine (9) club officials) are permitted on the substitutes' bench. The club officials must have their names and functions indicated on the official form provided by Concacaf prior to the match. Note: suspended players or officials are not permitted to sit on the substitutes' bench.

12. **FORMAT AND STRUCTURE OF THE COMPETITION**

12.1 Matches in The Competition will be evening matches and played on either Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday as decided by Concacaf.

12.2 Clubs agree to play at their home venues, which must be approved by Concacaf, and must ensure that their league schedule does not conflict with the dates and times as determined and approved by the Confederation.

12.3 As previously mentioned, The Competition will consist of four (4) rounds:

12.3.1 Group Stage

12.3.2 Quarterfinals

12.3.3 Semifinals & Play-in

12.3.4 Finals

12.4 The Group Stage round consists of four (4) groups of five (5) teams. Each Team will play two (2) home and two (2) away matches per team with three (3) points awarded for a win, one (1) point awarded for a tie, and zero (0) points awarded for a defeat. The winner and runner-up from each group will advance to the Quarterfinals.

12.5 The Quarterfinals rounds will consist of a home and away series with the winners of the Quarterfinals advancing to the Semifinals and the losing quarterfinalists advancing to the Play-In round.

12.6 The Play-In round will consist of a home and away series with the winners qualifying to the 2024 Concacaf Champions Cup Round One.

12.7 The Semifinals round will consist of a home and away series with the winners advancing to the Finals Round.

12.8 The Finals round will consist of home and away series with the winners being crowned champions.

12.9 Format

12.9.1 The winners and runners-up of each group will advance to the Quarterfinals (QF).

12.9.2 The four (4) group stage winners will be ranked 1-4 based on point standings from the Group Stage.

12.9.3 The four (4) group stage runners-up will be ranked 5-8 based on point standings from the Group Stage.

12.9.4 The higher ranked club in each pairing will host the 2nd leg match in the Quarterfinals.

12.9.5 The Teams will be paired as follows:

- QF1: Team 1 vs Team 8
- QF2: Team 4 vs Team 5
- QF3: Team 2 vs Team 7
- QF4: Team 3 vs Team 6

12.9.6 The losing clubs from each QF series will advance to the Play-In round.

- Play-In 1: Loser QF1 vs Loser QF2
- Play-In 2: Loser QF3 vs Loser QF4

12.9.7 The winning clubs from each QF series will advance to the Semifinals.

- SF1: Winner QF1 vs Winner QF2
- SF2: Winner QF3 vs. Winner QF4

12.9.8 The winners of each SF series will advance to the Finals.

- Finals: Winner SF1 vs Winner SF2

12.10 Tie-Breaking Procedures

12.10.1 Group Stage: At the conclusion of each group in the Group Stage, clubs shall be ranked according to the following criteria:

12.10.1.1 Greatest number of points obtained in all group matches.

12.10.1.2 Goal difference in all group matches.

12.10.1.3 Greatest number of goals scored in all group matches.

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

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

12.10.1.4.2 Greater goal difference in matches between the tied teams (if more than two (2) teams finish equal on points).

12.10.1.4.3 Greater number of goals scored in matches among the tied teams (if more than two (2) teams finish equal on points).

12.10.1.4.4 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

12.10.1.5 Drawing of lots by Concacaf.

12.10.2 Quarterfinals, Semifinals:

12.10.2.1 If the aggregate goals between the two teams are equal at the end of regulation time of the 2nd leg match, the tie-breaker criteria will be determined as follows:

12.10.2.1.1 Greater number of away goals scored in regulation time in the two matches.

12.10.2.1.2 If still tied, then kicks from the penalty spot procedure will take place as per the IFAB Laws of the Game.

12.10.3 Play-In and Finals:

12.10.3.1 If the aggregate goals between the two teams are equal at the end of regulation time of the 2nd leg match, the tie-breaker criteria will be determined as follows:

12.10.3.1.1 Greater number of away goals scored in regulation time in the two matches.

12.10.3.1.2 If still tied, there will be two (2) periods of fifteen (15) minutes of extra time with a five-minute break between the end of regular time and start of extra time. As a rule, the players will remain on the field of play during this five-minute break, at the discretion of the referee.

12.10.3.1.3 Away goals will not serve as a tie-breaking criteria during the extra time periods.

12.10.3.1.4 If the result is still tied after the 2nd period of extra-time, then kicks from the penalty spot procedure will take place as per the IFAB Laws of the Game.

12.10.3.1.5 A sixth substitution will be allowed in extra time.

12.11 Determining the 2nd leg hosts per round:

12.11.1 Quarterfinals: The group winners will host the 2nd leg match in the Quarterfinals.

12.11.2 Semifinals and Play-in: The highest ranked clubs, based on total points accumulated in the Group stage and the Quarterfinals will host the 2nd leg matches of the Semifinals and Play-in matches respectively.

12.11.3 Finals: The highest ranked club based on total points accumulated in The Competition, will host the 2nd leg Final. The below criteria will be used in deciding the ranking of the clubs, having in mind all Group Stage, Quarterfinals and Semifinals matches.

12.11.4 Teams will be awarded three (3) points for every match they win and one (1) point for every match they tie. No points will be awarded for matches lost. To determine the ranking of the clubs the following tie-breaker criteria will apply:

12.11.4.1 Most points awarded.

12.11.4.2 Best goal difference.

12.11.4.3 Most goals scored.

12.11.4.4 Most away goals scored.

12.11.4.5 Most wins.

12.11.4.6 Most away wins.

12.11.4.7 The lowest number of points accumulated based on the number of yellow and red cards per match according to the following parameters:

- First yellow card: + 1 point
- Second yellow card (Indirect Red Card): + 3 points
- Direct Red Card: + 4 points
- Yellow card and direct red card: + 5 points

12.11.4.8 Drawing of lots by Concacaf.

13. **VENUES, KICK-OFF TIMES AND TRAININGS SESSIONS**

13.1 Each club is responsible for the inspection of the venue which will be utilized for this competition. This inspection must be completed no later than 90 days prior to the start of The Competition utilizing Concacaf's inspection forms.

13.2 Unless stipulated otherwise in these Regulations, matches in The Competition must be played in a stadium which meets all the requirements and standards as stated in these Regulations. Participating clubs must ensure that their stadium meets the requirements and standards no later than 60 days prior to the first match.

13.3 Lighting

13.3.1 The Field of Play must comply with the illumination requirements as per the Technical Guide and Concacaf Stadium Guidelines.

13.3.2 The field lights must be fully turned on 75 minutes prior to kick off or sunset, whichever comes first.

- 13.3.3 Clubs must ensure that field lighting installations are maintained and provide Concacaf with a valid lighting certificate issued within the previous 12 months. Concacaf may conduct an independent assessment of lighting levels in stadiums and will notify the clubs in good time of the results of such assessments and of any corrections to be made.
- 13.3.4 An emergency power generation system must be available which, in the event of a power failure, guarantees sufficient light for the safe egress of those in attendance.
- 13.3.5 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 intensity of light for the whole pitch. Concacaf is entitled to grant exceptions.
- 13.4 The practice field must be the same size and type (artificial or natural pitch) as the match field and will be subject to approval by Concacaf. The practice field will only be utilized if the teams are unable to conduct their official practice at the stadium due to severe weather or unless such training would, in the view of the Referee, Match Commissioner or other Concacaf Officials, cause excessive damage to the playing surface.
- 13.5 If the visiting club cannot train on the match field, the home club must advise the reasons why the field is not available, allow the visiting club to do a walk around the field to get used to the stadium, and make a field of comparable quality and surface available at no cost to them.
- 13.6 Clocks in the stadium showing the amount of time played may run during the match if they run up (from 0'-45' in the 1st half and 45'-90' in the second half) and that they are stopped at the end of normal playing time in each half.
- 13.7 Each home club must open stadium doors to spectators a minimum of two (2) hours prior to scheduled kick-off, unless otherwise approved by Concacaf.

13.8 Official Training

- 13.8.1 Weather permitting and based on the condition of the pitch, both teams will be allowed to train for a maximum of one hour for their official practice at the stadium on MD-1 to preserve the pitch.
- 13.8.2 The visiting team will be given preference to the time they wish to train on MD-1. If stadium lighting is required for training, then it must be provided by the home club at no extra charge to the visiting team.
- 13.8.3 If the match is to be played on an artificial pitch, then each team will be permitted a maximum of two hours training session.
- 13.8.4 Clubs must inform Concacaf of their official training time one week prior the match.
- 13.8.5 The match officials will also be allowed a one-hour training session on MD-1 at the stadium.
- 13.8.6 If either club chooses not to train at the stadium or to conduct a training on MD-1, they must inform the Venue Coordinator and Concacaf HQ to coordinate their media obligations at least 48 hours prior.
- 13.8.7 For the Finals, clubs must hold an official training session in the match stadium and these sessions shall be open to the media for 15 minutes.
- 13.8.8 All official trainings must end by a minimum of 22 hours prior to the scheduled kick-off time.

14. **STADIUM AVAILABILITY**

- 14.1 The stadium must be made available solely to be used by Concacaf starting the day prior (MD-1) to the club's home matches to conduct walk-throughs, install signage, branding and to conduct any other activity reasonably requested. If a substitute stadium is used, Concacaf will request verification of compliance from the ownership ensuring its availability for the match dates.
- 14.2 Stadiums must be made available to the visiting team and Match Officials for the purposes of training the day before the scheduled match.

15. STADIUM INFRASTRUCTURE AND EQUIPMENT

15.1 Each participating club will be responsible to ensure that their home stadium and its facilities comply with the standards of safety and security required for international matches, including venue staffing levels as per the FIFA Stadium Regulations and Concacaf Stadium Guidelines. The fields of play, facilities and accessory equipment will be in optimum conditions and must comply with the provisions stipulated in the Laws of the Game and all other relevant regulations.

15.2 Concacaf will conduct stadium inspections:

15.2.1 If deemed necessary by Concacaf before or during The Competition.

15.2.2 No later than 45 days prior to a match in any round for a stadium that will act as a substitute for the participant's home stadium, after initial inspections have already been conducted.

15.2.3 If a substitute stadium must be utilized after inspections of the primary stadium have already been completed, and at any time after the commencement of The Competition, the cost of the inspection will be charged to the club and/or the Association who requested this change.

15.2.4 If a secondary or a follow-up inspection is required, the cost of the additional inspection(s) will be charged to the club.

15.3 Home Stadium

15.3.1 The home stadium selected by the participating club should be the regular stadium used by the club for its home matches.

15.3.2 The stadium must be made available for the exclusive use of football and no other events for at least five (5) days prior to the match.

15.3.3 In the event that the club's usual stadium does not meet the minimum criteria established in these Regulations and other Concacaf policy documents, the club will be required to make all reasonable efforts, to meet such standards at no cost to Concacaf.

15.3.4 If after exhausting all reasonable efforts, the club's home stadium does not meet the minimum criteria, then the participating club will be permitted to select an alternate stadium, which is subject to the approval by Concacaf, as their home stadium provided such stadium is located within the same country.

- 15.3.5 Any club permitted or required, under the terms of these Regulations, to play a home match in a stadium not ordinarily their own, does so at entirely its own cost.
- 15.3.6 If no alternative stadium is available, then the club will forfeit their entry into the tournament and Concacaf will decide on a replacement at its sole discretion.

15.4 Field Surface and Condition

- 15.4.1 The matches of The Competition may be played on natural or artificial surfaces.
- 15.4.2 If an artificial pitch is used, the club must provide to Concacaf a valid FIFA licensing certificate which meets the requirements of the FIFA Quality Programme for football turf. This certification may be either FIFA Quality or FIFA Quality Pro and must be valid for the entirety of The Competition.
- 15.4.3 Each participating club will guarantee that the match and practice fields chosen for The Competition are of international standards and comply with the Laws of the Game. They will also be subject to the approval of Concacaf.
- 15.4.4 Clubs must comply with Concacaf's match-day field watering guidelines as described in the Technical Guide.
- 15.4.5 If the home club considers the field unfit for play, Concacaf will be informed immediately, as well as the visiting team and the Match Officials before their departure. If the host club fails to do this, it will be obliged to cover all expenses incurred for travel, board and lodging of the parties involved.
- 15.4.6 However, if prior to the match kickoff time the home club is not able to rectify the pitch in accordance with the Laws of the Game, the home club will forfeit the match. The victory, a score of 3-0, and the resulting three points will be awarded to the opposing team. The matter will also be referred to the Disciplinary Committee for appropriate action.
- 15.4.7 If there is any doubt regarding the condition of the field once the visiting team and the Match Officials have already left for the host city, the Referee will decide whether the field is playable or not.
- 15.4.8 Each stadium must have sufficient space to allow the substitutes to warm up during the match, in accordance with the Technical Guide.

15.5 Stadium Signage and Audio/Visual Branding

- 15.5.1 Each stadium must provide Concacaf with “exclusive areas” that are free of any commercial signage and/or advertising (whether temporary or permanent) whatsoever, including corporate, civic, or club marks. The “exclusive areas” are further defined in the Commercial Regulations. These “exclusive areas” should be provided to Concacaf on both MD-1 and MD.
- 15.5.2 There can be no restrictions, except in cases of national law, on what signage may be permitted to be displayed in the stadium by Concacaf. Further details are included in the Commercial Regulations.
- 15.5.3 No commercial messages, other than those approved by Concacaf, may be read over the public-address system prior to, during and after a match. Further details are included in the Commercial Regulations.
- 15.5.4 Concacaf does not allow any violent, offensive, or discriminatory banners to be displayed inside the stadium. Any violation will result in a review by the Disciplinary Committee for possible fines or other sanctions.
- 15.5.5 If the stadium has a stadium video screen, message boards, LED boards, or any other similar digital medium, these will be exclusively reserved for Concacaf on MD-1 and MD. Usage of these assets by the club or any third party will need to be approved by Concacaf explicitly and in writing. The use of such digital mediums will be provided to Concacaf at no additional cost above and beyond the board operator expenses. Further detail included in the Commercial Regulations.
- 15.5.6 Each home club will provide a public-address announcer and scoreboard operator to serve at Concacaf’s direction during each match. Further detail included in the Commercial Regulations.

15.6 STADIUM SECURITY

- 15.6.1 For each match, the home club will be responsible for developing a security plan which will provide for the safety of all participants including home club, visiting team, Concacaf staff, Officials, and delegates from the time of arrival into the stadium until they depart. The plan will also provide for a safe environment for spectators attending the match including a separately secured access and segregated seating area for the visiting spectators, and individual security checks and any bags they wish to bring into the stadium.

- 15.6.2 This security plan must be provided to Concacaf no later than one week prior to each home match.
- 15.6.3 Home clubs will also ensure the ability to manage any controlled zones including areas reserved for clubs, Officials, guests, delegates, staff, media, or other groups as defined by Concacaf.
- 15.6.4 Concacaf will require the home stadium to implement The Competition's credentialing system which will focus on The Competition areas, tunnel, field and locker rooms, the broadcasting areas as well as the media areas. All other areas can be covered by the club's credentialing system.
- 15.6.5 Concacaf reserves the right to require additional security be provided, at its own discretion, and participating clubs agree to provide such cooperation as may be required at its own cost.
- 15.6.6 The home club and its Association may be subject to disciplinary measures if appropriate security arrangements are not provided. Sanctions may include fines and/or suspensions.
- 15.6.7 No smoke nor any flammable items are permitted inside the stadium.
- 15.6.8 All stadiums utilized in The Competition will be smoke free.
- 15.7 All beverages served inside the stadium (excluding bottles of water or isotonic beverages to be used by the teams during the match) must be served in open containers (without tops). No glass nor aluminum containers will be allowed inside the stadium.

16. **TEAM EQUIPMENT**

- 16.1 The Participating clubs will comply with the FIFA Equipment Regulations in force. The display of political, religious, or personal messages or slogans in any language or form by players and officials on their playing or team kits, equipment (including kit bags, beverage containers, medical bags, captain armbands, etc.) or body is prohibited and disciplinary actions could be taken including but not limited to match suspension and/or fines, based on the severity of the incident. The similar display of commercial messages and slogans in any language or form by players and officials is not allowed at any official activity organized by Concacaf (including in the stadiums for official matches and training sessions, as well as during official media conferences and mixed-zone activities). Any violations will be dealt with by the Disciplinary Committee.

16.2 Uniform Colors

- 16.2.1 Each club will provide Concacaf with a minimum of two field player kits (shirt, shorts and socks) of different and contrasting colors (one predominately dark and one predominately light) for its official and reserve field kits (shirt, shorts and socks) for all matches, by the timeline as stated in the Technical Guide. In addition, each club will have three goalkeeper kits which must be both distinctly different and contrasting from each other as well as different and contrasting from the official and reserve kits.
- 16.2.2 The approval of these kits is at the discretion of Concacaf, and final approval will be provided in writing to each club.
- 16.2.3 If any of the Concacaf approved uniforms kits are changed in any way from the point of approval until the point at which the club no longer participates in The Competition, it must be reviewed and approved again by Concacaf.
- 16.2.4 Concacaf will inform the clubs of the colors that they will wear one week prior to each match.
- 16.2.5 Each club must travel with:
- 16.2.5.1 Both sets of field player and goalie uniforms.
 - 16.2.5.2 A field player kit without a number in the event of damage to the primary uniform.
 - 16.2.5.3 In addition to all the above (and as the only exception), each club travel with a set of goalkeeper shirts without names or numbers to be used only if an outfield player must take the position of goalkeeper during a match. This extra set of goalkeeper shirts must be provided in the same colors as the regular goalkeeper shirts.
- 16.2.6 If players choose to wear additional undergarments such as thermals and these garments extend beyond the borders of the sleeves or shorts, then the color of this material must be the same as the uniform, or the same color that extends the border of the uniform.
- 16.2.7 If the referee determines that the colors utilized by the teams could lead to confusion, he may decide, in consultation with other Concacaf officials onsite, to issue a change. In this case, the home team would be required to change if the visiting teams second kit does not resolve the issue.

16.3 Team Kit approval procedures

16.3.1 Each participating club will provide Concacaf with exact samples with numbers, of the following equipment no later than The Competition's workshop, in June 2023:

16.3.1.1 Official and reserve player kits (one set each of shirts, shorts, socks).

16.3.1.2 Official and reserve goalkeeper's kit (shirts, shorts, socks).

16.4 Player Names

16.4.1 Players may be identified by their last name or nickname on their shirts, as long as the name is listed on the Player Roster and the player is officially recognized by that name publicly.

16.4.2 The size of the lettering must comply with the requirements in the FIFA Equipment Regulations.

16.5 Player Numbers

16.5.1 Only numbers between 1 through 99 will be displayed on the back of the jersey and on the front of the shorts in accordance with the FIFA Equipment Regulations and must correspond to the number listed on the start list.

16.5.2 Once a number is assigned to a specific player, it cannot be re-assigned to another player of the same team for the duration of The Competition.

16.6 Sponsor Advertising

16.6.1 Teams must wear the uniform worn in their domestic league competitions. This may include, but must not exceed, such sponsor advertising as is normally displayed on the uniform for such games.

16.6.2 The advertising of tobacco or distilled spirits, as well as slogans of a political, religious, or racist nature or for other causes that offend common decency, is prohibited.

16.6.3 All advertising and commercial use, including without limitation sponsors displayed on uniforms or equipment, may be subject to additional local laws or

regulations; all Teams shall comply with the requirements then-effective in the local jurisdiction.

16.7 The official Competition sleeve patches will be provided by Concacaf and affixed on the right-hand sleeve of each shirt. A different Concacaf campaign logo may be affixed on the left-hand sleeve. If the previous champion qualifies for this edition, they will be required to wear the gold Champions patch centered on the front of their jersey.

16.8 Concacaf will provide official Captains armbands for each team to wear during the matches.

16.9 Warm-Up Bibs

16.9.1 Only Concacaf provided warm-up bibs may be used during official training sessions held at the stadium and for the warm-up of players during the match.

16.9.2 The bibs used by each team must be in contrasting colors to their uniform color and the opposing team's uniforms and bibs.

16.9.3 The colors of the bibs used for each match will be decided by Concacaf and communicated to the teams prior to their departure to the venue.

16.10 Throughout The Competition, all items such as kit bags, medical bags, drink containers, etc., must be free of any sponsor advertising and/or manufacturer identification unless approved by Concacaf in writing. This also applies:

16.10.1 To any official training sessions before the match.

16.10.2 To any media activities (for interviews and press conferences and appearances in the mixed zone) before and after the match.

16.10.3 On the day of the match from arrival at the stadium until departure from the stadium.

16.11 Other Equipment

15.1.1 16.11.1 The use of any communication equipment and/or systems between and/or amongst players and/or technical staff is not permitted during the match unless where it relates directly with the welfare and safety of the players.

15.1.2 Team officials which will reside on the bench during the match must either wear colors that contrast with the colors of the bibs and uniforms worn by their team to

provide a clear distinction between player and staff.

17. FOOTBALLS

- 17.1 The footballs used in The Competition will be selected and exclusively supplied by Concacaf. The footballs will conform to the provisions of the Laws of the Game and the FIFA Equipment Regulations. They will bear one of the following two designations: the official “FIFA QUALITY PRO” logo or the official “FIFA QUALITY” logo and cannot be marked in any way by the club.
- 17.2 Prior to The Competition, each club will receive balls from Concacaf to be used for training and for the official match. Only these balls provided by Concacaf may be used.
- 17.3 Concacaf will supply forty-eight (48) Official Competition match balls. None of the 48 balls can be marked in any way and these balls will be used only for matches and official practices. 18 balls must be separated exclusively to be used in the matches and should not be used beforehand. More details can be found in the Technical Guide.

18. TICKETING

- 18.1 If a stadium with both seating and standing areas are available, the standing space must remain vacant.
- 18.2 At least 5% of the total stadium capacity must be available exclusively for visiting supporters in a secured, segregated area of the stadium.
- 18.3 Field-side seating is not permitted, and all non-permanently fixed seating must be approved by Concacaf.
- 18.4 The visiting club will be provided a suite for their visiting staff and officials or if the stadium does not have suites, then the home club must provide a minimum of 30 Class A tickets in an area that ensures protection to the visiting delegation.

19. TROPHIES, AWARDS, AND MEDALS

- 19.1 The Competition’s Champion will be entitled to be referred to as the “Concacaf Central American Champion.”
- 19.2 The Champion will be presented by Concacaf with an exact replica of The Competition’s trophy for its permanent possession and will also receive fifty (50) Gold medals.
- 19.3 The runner-up will receive fifty (50) Silver medals.

19.4 Referees for both Final matches will receive commemorative medals.

19.5 Additional medals may be produced upon request and at the cost of the requesting club.

19.6 Separate trophies will be given to individual award winners.

Fair Play trophy

The team with the best Fair Play performance (Fair Play Award). The Fair Play Award shall be awarded to the team, which has shown the best sporting spirit and fair play during The Competition as determined by Concacaf.

Golden Boot

The Golden Boot will be awarded to the player who scored the most goals throughout The Competition. 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 during The Competition 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 The Competition, as determined by Concacaf.

Golden Glove

The Golden Glove will be awarded to the best goalkeeper throughout The Competition, as determined by Concacaf.

Young Player Award

The young player award will be presented to the player with the biggest impact at the 2023 Concacaf Caribbean Cup, as determined by Concacaf.

20. REFEREEING

20.1 The Referees, Assistant Referees, and Fourth Officials (hereinafter referred to collectively as Match Officials) for the Competition must be appointed for each match by the Concacaf Referee Committee. They shall be selected from the Concacaf International Refereeing list in force and shall be neutral. The decisions of Concacaf are final and not subject to appeal.

20.2 If one of the Assistant Referees is unable to carry out his duties, such Assistant Referee will be replaced by the Reserve Assistant Referee (RAR), if a RAR is appointed to the match in question. If no RAR is appointed to the match, the 4th official becomes the Assistant Referee (AR), and the AR becomes the 4th official. In the case of force majeure, Concacaf will, at its sole discretion, be allowed to replace any Match Official with an official from any country.

- 20.3 If the referee is prevented from or unable to carry out his/her duties, such referee shall be replaced by the fourth official. If one of the assistant referees is prevented from or unable to carry out his/her duties, such assistant referee shall be replaced by the fourth official or by the reserve assistant referee (when appointed). Concacaf will, at its sole discretion, be allowed to replace any Match Official with an official from any country.
- 20.4 The Match Officials will be given the opportunity to use the training facilities.
- 20.5 Concacaf's decisions will be final and not subject to appeal.

DISCIPLINARY MATTERS

21. CONCACAF DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

- 21.1 The Concacaf Disciplinary Committee, hereinafter the Disciplinary Committee, will apply the Competition Regulations and the FIFA Disciplinary Code, until the Concacaf Disciplinary Code enters into force. In addition, it may apply the Concacaf Statutes as appropriate.
- 21.2 In cases of infringement of these or any other Regulations, or in the event of unsportsmanlike conduct, not regulated in these Regulations or in the FIFA Disciplinary Code, by the participating clubs, their players, officials and / or staff, or any type of incident, the Disciplinary Committee is authorized to apply the following sanctions and / or decisions:
- 21.2.1 Caution, warning, fine, deduction of points in the Group Stage, suspension and/or disqualification of clubs, their players, staff and/or officials.
 - 21.2.2 Take action against any person(s), club(s) or Association(s) which incurs in such infringement of these or any applicable Regulations (which include the Laws of the Game and the rules of Fair Play).
 - 21.2.3 Prohibit violators from participating in a specific number of Concacaf organized competitions in which they might otherwise have participated.
- 21.3 The Disciplinary Committee may refer to the Concacaf Council, any matter relating to an infringement of these Regulations as it sees fit whether for further sanction or any other reason.
- 21.4 The Disciplinary Committee's decisions may be based upon written record or videos. Additionally, hearings may be held to investigate a case.

- 21.5 When taking a decision, the Disciplinary Committee may refer to the reports made by the Match Delegates, Officials or any other Concacaf Official or staff present. Reference may also be made to additional reports including such as declarations from the parties and witnesses, material evidence, expert opinions, audio and/or video recordings. Such reports may be used as evidence but only in so far as the disciplinary aspects of the case being dealt with are concerned and will not affect a referee's decision regarding facts connected with play.
- 21.6 The Disciplinary Committee may convene a personal hearing and will decide any procedures to be followed in such hearing.
- 21.7 The following decisions of the Disciplinary Committee will not be subject to appeal:
- 21.7.1 Cautions and censures imposed on players, Match Officials, clubs (staff and officials), other persons, or Associations.
 - 21.7.2 Suspensions of up to two matches, or of up to two months, imposed on players, Match Officials, clubs (staff and officials) or other persons.
 - 21.7.3 Fines imposed on players, Match Officials, clubs (staff and officials), other persons (not exceeding USD 10,000) or Associations (not exceeding USD 30,000).
- 21.8 Sessions may be held with a single member. Decisions will be made by the sole judge, or they will be adopted by a simple majority of the members present. In the event of a tie, the president will have the casting vote.
- 21.9 Except in cases of force majeure as recognized by Concacaf, if a club does not report for a match, or refuses to commence or continue to play, or leaves the stadium before the end of the match, the club will be considered to have lost the match with a score of 3-0 or more. In any case, the matter will also be referred to the Disciplinary Committee for appropriate actions.
- 21.10 Any other infringement of these Regulations, whether by players, officials, clubs or Associations that are punishable by economic sanctions will be reported to the Concacaf General Secretariat for consideration by Concacaf.
- 21.11 All imposed economic sanctions must be paid no later than 60 days after notification of the relevant decision. Unless otherwise specified, the total amount of all fines will accrue to Concacaf. Concacaf may debit accounts of debtors to settle any amounts due to the Confederation.

22. CONCACAF APPEALS COMMITTEE

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

23. PROTESTS

- 23.1 For the purpose of these Regulations, protests are objections of any kind related to events or matters that have a direct effect on matches, including but not limited to the state of and markings on the pitch, accessory match equipment, eligibility of players, stadium installations and footballs.
- 23.2 Anyone wishing to lodge a protest must transfer a protest fee of USD 500 to Concacaf's bank account and submit confirmation of such transfer before expiry of the time limit for submitting the protest. Such confirmation must be e-mailed to the Concacaf General Secretariat at general.secretariat@concacaf.org. The protest filing fee is USD 500 and must be paid at the time it is presented. The fee must be paid by transfer to Concacaf's bank account and confirmation of said transfer must be sent before the expiration of the deadline for submitting the protest. Said confirmation must be sent by email to the Concacaf General Secretariat, to general.secretariat@concacaf.org with a copy to disciplinary@concacaf.org. This amount will be refunded if the protest is accepted in its entirety.
- 23.3 Unless otherwise stipulated in this article, protests must be submitted in writing to the Concacaf Match Commissioner within two hours after the end of the match in question. In addition, a full written report, including a copy of the original protest, to be sent by email to the Concacaf General Secretariat at general.secretariat@concacaf.org with a copy to disciplinary@concacaf.org, within 24 hours of the end of the match, otherwise they will be disregarded.
- 23.4 Protests regarding the eligibility of players registered in the competition must be submitted in writing to the Concacaf General Secretariat, to general.secretariat@concacaf.org with a copy to disciplinary@concacaf.org, by no later than two hours after the end of the match in question.
- 23.5 Protests regarding the state of the pitch, its surroundings, markings, or accessory items (e.g., goals, flag posts or footballs) must 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 must immediately lodge a protest with the referee in the presence of the captain of the opposing team. The protests must be confirmed in writing to the Concacaf Match Commissioner by the head of the team delegation no later than two hours after the match in question.
- 23.6 Protests against any incidents that occur during the course of a match must be made to the referee by the team captain immediately after the disputed incident and before play has resumed. The protest must be confirmed in writing to the Concacaf Venue Coordinator by the head of the team delegation no later than two (2) hours after the match in question.

23.7 Only protests regarding requests to review and rectify a clear and obvious case of error related to a disciplinary decision on the field of play by match officials for a direct red card shall be submitted in writing to the Match Commissioner or the Concacaf representative at headquarters no later than two (2) hours after the end of the match in question. The protest must be followed up within the next 48 hours with a full written report, including a copy of the original protest and any and all evidence (e.g., video, photography, written statements, others) supporting the protest, which must be sent in writing and by email to the Concacaf General Secretariat, to general.secretariat@concacaf.org with a copy to disciplinary@concacaf.org, otherwise they will be discarded. Such protests must be accompanied by proof of electronic transfer in the amount of USD 10,000 payable to Concacaf. This amount will be refunded if the protest is accepted in its entirety.

23.8 If any of the formal conditions of a protest as set out in these Regulations are not met, such protest will be disregarded by the competent body. Once the final match of The Competition has ended, any protest described in this article will be disregarded.

24. **DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE**

24.1 Notwithstanding the above provisions, any player cautioned or sent off from the field of play by the Referee will be subject to the sanctions specified in sections 24.2, 24.3 and 24.4. Such sanctions will be automatically applied and are not subject to appeal. However, if they are increased by the Disciplinary Committee, they may be appealed in accordance with the previously defined appeal process.

24.2 Any player sent off the field of play, whether directly (a straight red card) or as a result of two yellow cards in the same match, is at a minimum, suspended for the next match in the competition.

24.3 Any player who accumulates two single yellow cards in two different matches in The Competition will be suspended for the following match.

24.4 All single yellow cards will be eliminated after the completion of the Group Stage and Semifinals

24.5 Any substitute player, member of the technical staff or official that enters the field of play in an aggressive manner and/or without being summoned by the referee, may be expelled by the referee and reported in the referee's report. The Disciplinary Committee may impose a fine and / or additional suspensions.

24.6 Unserved suspensions as a result of a red card will be carried over to the next edition of the Concacaf Central American Cup in which the player or Club official is eligible to participate in.

24.7 The violation of Article 12 paragraph 5 of the FIFA Disciplinary Code shall result in a fine amounting to USD 1,000 for the first five team members sanctioned, plus USD 200 for each additional person of the team that has been sanctioned. An additional USD 500 will be added to the respective fine for each case of repetition.

24.8 Clubs and other persons bound by these regulations will not bring disputes before ordinary courts of law. Once the instances in the different Concacaf bodies have been exhausted, the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Switzerland (TAS) may be appealed within 21 days after being notified of the final decision. The foregoing in accordance with Article 52 of the Concacaf Statutes.

25. **DISCIPLINARY POLICY**

25.1 The following infractions will be sanctioned as follows:

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

25.1.1.1 1st Offense USD 2,000.

25.1.1.2 2nd Offense USD 3,000.

25.1.1.3 3rd Offense and following USD 5,000.

25.1.2 Late arrival at the stadium - Due to the team's negligence, including late departure from team hotel causing late submission of the Start List (delays the match preparation and the submission of the start list to the broadcasters & media), will be fined as follows:

25.1.2.1 1st Offense USD 2,000.

25.1.2.2 2nd Offense USD 3,000.

25.1.2.3 3rd Offense and following USD 5,000.

25.1.3 Late departure from the locker rooms – Teams that delay the 1st half or the 2nd half Kick Off, will be sanctioned as follows:

25.1.3.1 1st offense

- a) If 1 minute or less USD 2,000.
- b) If 2 minutes or more USD 4,000.

25.1.3.2 2nd Offense

- a) If 1 minute or less USD 3,000.
- b) If 2 minutes or more USD 6,000.

25.1.3.3 3rd offense

- a) If 1 minute or less USD 4,500.
- b) If 2 minutes or more USD 9,000.

25.1.4 Lack of Security – by the host team, will be sanctioned with fines between USD 2,000 and USD 10,000 depending on the severity of the Infraction, including but not limited to the following:

- a) Inadequate inspection of spectators and their belongings, such as bags, backpacks, wallets, and others.
- b) Inadequate reaction to the use of flares and other fireworks in the stadium by spectators.
- c) Inadequate reaction to the throwing of objects onto the field of play or in the stands by spectators.
- d) Inadequate security personnel in the stadium.
- e) Entrance of spectators to the field of play.
- f) Entry, by spectators, of flags, banners or banners not allowed.

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

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

25.1.6 Minimum standard Violations: Fines will be applied to the club and / or its members, between USD 1,000 and USD 10,000, depending on the severity of the offense, in the following cases, including among others:

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

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

25.1.8 The following sanctions will not be subject to appeal:

25.1.8.1 A Warning.

25.1.8.2 A Reprimand.

25.1.8.3 Suspensions of up to 2 matches, or of up to 2 months, imposed on players, match officials, clubs (staff and/or officials) or other persons (with exception from decisions related to doping).

25.1.8.4 Fines imposed on players, match officials, clubs (staff and/or officials), or other persons (not exceeding USD 10,000) or Associations (not exceeding USD 30,000).

25.1.8.5 Decisions made in compliance with Article 21 of the FIFA Disciplinary Code.

26. FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

26.1 A club may be refused participation in The Competition in case of the existence of outstanding debts towards Concacaf. At Concacaf's sole discretion, the club may be allowed participation in The Competition if it fulfils its financial obligations within the deadlines stipulated by Concacaf.

- 26.2 Concacaf will provide each club with participation money. These funds will be paid directly to the club at least one month prior to the start of the competition, when possible.
- 26.3 All revenues from gate receipts accrue to the home club, subject to the provisions of these Regulations including any levy on gross gate receipts payable to Concacaf.
- 26.4 Participating clubs agree to submit to Concacaf for pre-approval, the pricing plan for match tickets within ten business days of the announcement of the schedule in addition to at least 15 business days prior to any upcoming match that is not already covered by the initial pricing plan.
- 26.5 Participating clubs agree to submit to Concacaf for pre-approval, ten business days prior to the match, any plan to issue in excess of 1,500 complimentary tickets for any home match.
- 26.6 Using forms provided by Concacaf, participating clubs agree to submit the Financial Report, the Box Office Report and the Ticket Report within 15 business days of each match. The clubs that submit their forms after the deadlines outlined above will be fined accordingly to the established disciplinary policy.
- 26.7 Clubs will also be required to provide to Concacaf, a detailed accounting of travel expenses on a form provided by Concacaf, within 15 business days of each match to be utilized for auditing purposes.
- 26.8 Clubs will provide to Concacaf a detailed accounting of ticket sales and will, upon request, make their records available to Concacaf for inspection within 15 business days after each match.
- 26.9 Participating clubs agree to pay 5% of the gross ticket revenues (or a minimum of USD 500) to Concacaf for each match within 30 days after each match. Additionally, the clubs agree to reimburse Concacaf for any liabilities paid by the Confederation on behalf of the club including but not limited to the daily meal allowance.
- 26.10 Concacaf may deduct from any amounts owed to the club to settle any amounts past due to the Confederation.
- 26.11 All other revenues from the commercial exploitation of The Competition including but not limited to the sale of broadcast rights, sponsorship rights and merchandising rights, through whatever means, will be retained by Concacaf as described in detail in the Commercial Regulations.

26.12 Any disputes arising from financial provisions shall be resolved amongst the delegations concerned but may be submitted to Concacaf for a final decision to be taken.

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

27. **MEDICAL/DOPING**

27.1 To protect players' health as well as to prevent players from experiencing sudden cardiac death during matches at The Competition, each Participating Club will ensure and confirm to Concacaf 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 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 PMAs.

27.2 The duly licensed medical representative of each club 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 will also include the signatures of the President and General Manager of the participating club and must be received by the Concacaf General Secretariat at the latest seven (7) business days prior to the start of The Competition.

27.3 Further to the above, each team must have a duly licensed medical professional (i.e., a doctor) as part of their official delegation. Such doctor should 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.

27.4 Concacaf will not be held liable for any injury sustained by any participating player. Equally, Concacaf will not be held liable for any incident (e.g., death) linked to any injury or health problems of any participating player.

27.5 Each club will be responsible, throughout The Competition, for providing health, travel, and accident insurance coverage for all members of its delegation.

27.6 Regarding non-traumatic loss of consciousness or collapse 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 organizing 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. Additionally, the Host Club should ensure an emergency action plan is in place and communicated with each Club's medical staff in advance of each match.

- 27.7 During the match if there is a traumatic head injury leading to a concussion to a player, and the player remains on the field of play, the Referee will 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.
- 27.8 Further to the above, regarding traumatic head injury and concussion, full return to play after a previous concussion must include no signs or symptoms of the previous head injury as well as an acceptable Sideline Concussion Assessment Test (SCAT) assessment as well as a progressive/staged return to play protocol and return to baseline neuropsychological testing.
- 27.9 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.
- 27.10 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 will apply to all Concacaf competitions.
- 27.11 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.
- 27.12 If, in accordance with the FIFA Doping Control Regulations, a player tests positive for the use of banned substances, he will be immediately declared ineligible from further participation in The Competition and will be subject to further sanctions from the Disciplinary Committee.

28. **MARKETING AND MEDIA RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS**

Upon entering The Competition, clubs agree to the following relating to sponsorship and marketing.

28.1 Participating clubs agree to develop and submit to Concacaf a detailed marketing, communications, and advertising plan two months prior to their participation in The Competition.

28.2 Plan should include specific ways in which the club plans to promote its participation in The Competition using:

28.2.1 Club webpage (should at a minimum include The Competition logo and the link to Concacaf's Official Competition webpage) from the date of the official draw until the end of the club's participation in The Competition.

28.2.2 Social media (existing platforms and club strategy).

28.2.3 Marketing.

28.2.4 Advertising.

28.2.5 Ticket promotion.

28.2.6 Public relations.

28.2.7 And any other relevant market insights.

28.3 Participating clubs agree to submit to Concacaf for pre-approval, the pricing plan for match tickets within ten business days of the announcement of the schedule in addition to at least 15 business days prior to any upcoming match that is not already covered by the initial pricing plan.

28.4 All intellectual property and commercial rights (including television, radio, internet, and merchandise) associated with The Competition and its name and marks are the sole and exclusive property of Concacaf. Further detail included in the Commercial Regulations.

28.5 Clubs may not license any media rights for The Competition, including television, radio, and internet. Further detail included in the Commercial Regulations.

28.6 Participating clubs may use the names and marks of the Concacaf Caribbean Cup only for the purpose of promoting their home and away matches and without any commercial branding other than The Competition partner brands. All materials must be preapproved by Concacaf in writing.

- 28.7 Under no circumstances whatsoever, may clubs utilize The Competition names and marks in conjunction with any corporate sponsor, except for The Competition corporate sponsorship bar that will be provided to all clubs, and which must be included in all Competition specific game promotion.
- 28.8 All ticket designs must be pre-approved by Concacaf and may bear no corporate or partner marks other than those of official Competition sponsors as designated by Concacaf. The clubs 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.
- 28.9 Clubs may not produce or distribute any merchandise bearing The Competition logo inside or out of its stadium without the written permission from Concacaf.
- 28.10 Concacaf reserves the right to control all Concacaf Caribbean Cup specific merchandise sales at each Competition home game. The club (or its designated licensee) will have the sole right to sell event related merchandise and the right to receive 20% of merchandise revenue. Merchandise revenue refers to the gross revenue derived from the sale of programs, novelties and souvenirs relating to the event or the personalities appearing therein sold at stadium facilities during the event, less only:
- 28.10.1 Applicable sales and other taxes.
- 28.10.2 Duly documented credit card fees.
- 28.10.3 If requested by licensee, costs of bootleg security; provided however, that bootleg security will be at a mutually agreed upon rate.
- 28.11 Concacaf, as the licensor, will have the right to receive 80% of the event specific Merchandise Revenue.
- 28.12 Concacaf has the right to produce and distribute programs for each game in The Competition, however clubs may produce and distribute programs or other informational or printed promotional materials to fans as long as these have been approved in writing by Concacaf and bearing that they don't include any commercial branding other than the brands from The Competition's Commercial partners.
- 28.13 Participating clubs agree to provide to Concacaf the right to use the official club marks on a royalty free basis and without restriction as described in the Commercial Regulations.

28.14 Participating clubs agree to provide to Concacaf the right to use collective and individual player images as follows:

28.14.1 Collective player images (within the scope of an action shot and with a minimum of six players of the same club in the same photo) to promote The Competition by Concacaf and/or any of The Competition's official sponsors.

28.14.2 Individual player images for promotion of matches exclusively by Concacaf and the participating clubs. Such promotional materials, aimed at ticket sales and tune-ins, bearing that they do not include any commercial branding other than the brands from The Competition's Commercial partners in a collective sponsor brick format.

28.15 Participating clubs will provide to Concacaf, without unreasonable delay, a high-resolution electronic version of the club logo in such format as is requested by Concacaf.

28.16 Participating clubs agree to incorporate the Sponsor Logo Bar on all print game promotional advertising and in any TV broadcast game promotional spots specifically related to The Competition.

28.17 Participating clubs agree to provide to Concacaf, free of charge, the ticket and suite allotment described in detail in the Commercial Regulations.

28.18 Clubs will provide to Concacaf an allocation of space for The Competition's Commercial partner's activations as described in detail in the Commercial Regulations.

28.19 Clubs must inform Concacaf of any changes/updates to their official logo and submit an updated version in the required format, no later than 30 days before the start of the tournament.

28.20 Participating clubs will collaborate and support Concacaf with the promotions and activations of the tournament sponsors as per the Commercial Regulations.

28.21 Failure to comply with the Commercial guidelines and regulations will compromise the commercial viability of The Competition. Therefore, any failure to comply will result in stiff penalties for any guilty party in accordance with these Regulations.

28.22 Media rights and obligations:

28.22.1 Concacaf will issue separate Media Regulations for The Competition specifying mandatory promotional and media activities that will take place prior and

during The Competition. These will include, among others, interview requests, pre- and post-match press conferences and open training sessions.

28.22.2 Each club must comply with The Competition Media Regulations and must ensure that their members, officials, players, delegates and other affiliates also comply with these regulations.

28.22.3 For more details, please refer to the Media Regulations.

29. **INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS**

29.1 Concacaf is the exclusive owner of all intellectual property rights of The Competition, including any current or future rights of Concacaf's names, logos, brands, music, medals and trophies. Any use of the aforementioned rights requires the prior written approval of Concacaf and must comply with any conditions imposed by the Commercial Regulations.

29.2 All rights to the fixture list, as well as the matches in The Competition, are the sole and exclusive property of Concacaf unless expressly granted to another party pursuant to these Regulations. Concacaf will have the right to exploit the intellectual property rights as it deems appropriate in its sole discretion, and which shall survive the duration of The Competition.

FINAL PROVISIONS

30. **LIABILITY**

The Participating Clubs of The Competition shall be exclusively responsible for the organization of their 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 matches.

31. **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.

32. **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.

33. **LANGUAGES**

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.

34. **COPYRIGHT**

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

35. **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.

36. **ENFORCEMENT**

These Regulations were approved by the Concacaf Council on February 24th, 2023, and came into force immediately thereafter.



Concacaf

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