



# WOMEN'S U-17 CONCACAF CHAMPIONSHIP

## 2010 Regulations

The Women's U-17 CONCACAF Championship is the Qualifying Tournament for the FIFA Women's U-17 World Cup 2010.

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## **PREAMBLE**

- A. The Women's U-17 CONCACAF Championship is an official event of the Confederation of North, Central American and Caribbean Association Football (CONCACAF) that serves as a qualifying event for the FIFA Women's U-17 World Cup.
- B. It is played as a Preliminary Phase and a CONCACAF Championship Phase.
- C. Any rights that these regulations do not cede to a national association participating in the CONCACAF Championship Phase shall belong to CONCACAF.

## **I. TITLE - WOMEN'S U-17 CONCACAF CHAMPIONSHIP**

- A. The Women's U-17 CONCACAF Championship shall take place every two years. The national associations affiliated to CONCACAF are invited to participate with their national Women's U-17 team.
- B. CONCACAF will present the CONCACAF Champion with the Women's U-17 CONCACAF Championship Trophy.
- C. The CONCACAF Champions shall receive 40 gold medals, and the runner-up 40 silver medals.
- D. A Certificate of Participation will be provided to all players participating in the CONCACAF Championship Phase.

## **II. ENTRIES**

- A. The National Women's U-17 team of all CONCACAF members has the right to participate.
- B. The competition will serve to qualify the CONCACAF members for places in the FIFA Women's U-17 World Cup and shall start, except if circumstances do not permit, in the year proceeding the year of the FIFA tournament, and shall be completed in the year of the FIFA Tournament.
- C. However, only those CONCACAF Members eligible to compete in the FIFA tournament shall be permitted to advance from this competition.

### III. ORGANIZATION OF THE COMPETITION

- A. The competition shall be played in two phases:
  - 1. The Preliminary Phase
  - 2. The CONCACAF Championship Phase
- B. The Preliminary Phase
  - 1. The Preliminary Phase of the competition shall be played among the qualifiers of each zone of the Confederation or combination thereof, thus providing proper representation in the CONCACAF Championship Phase for members from each zone.
- C. The CONCACAF Championship Phase
  - 1. The CONCACAF Championship Phase of the competition shall be played among no more than eight (8) teams, each zone of CONCACAF being represented as determined by the Executive Committee.
  - 2. The matches of the CONCACAF Championship Phase of the competition shall be played in a site or sites as determined by the Executive Committee.
  - 3. The CONCACAF Championship Phase shall be governed by these Regulations.

### IV. WITHDRAWALS

- A. Teams having entered the competition are obligated to play all their matches until they are eliminated. After entering the tournament, a Team that fails to participate, shall be penalized as follows, except in unforeseen circumstances and cases of force majeure as determined by the Executive Committee.
- B. If a withdrawal takes place:
  - 1. After the Preliminary Phase but before the start of the CONCACAF Championship Phase of the Tournament a fine of \$15,000 USD.
  - 2. Anytime during the CONCACAF Championship Phase of the Tournament a fine of \$20,000 USD.

3. Anytime after the competition of the CONCACAF Qualifying, but before the FIFA Final a fine of \$100,000 USD.
4. Depending on circumstances and the decision of the CONCACAF Executive Committee, a team which withdraws at any stage of the competition may be ordered to reimburse the particular Local Organizing Committee, the opposing team and CONCACAF for any expenses they have already incurred as a result of its proposed involvement or non-involvement in the competition and also pay compensation for any damages or losses arising from its withdrawal.
5. Penalties specified herein will not be applied in cases of force majeure, as verified by the Executive Committee of CONCACAF.
6. The National Association of any penalized team shall be responsible for ensuring that specified sanctions are carried out and complied with.

#### **V. CONCACAF ORGANIZING COMMITTEE**

- A. The Organizing Committee for the Women's U-17 CONCACAF Championship, appointed by the CONCACAF Executive Committee, is responsible for the organization of the competition.
- B. The Organizing Committee shall, amongst other matters, be responsible for:
  1. Supervising general preparations, deciding on the match system, the draws and forming the groups.
  2. Fixing dates, venues, stadia for the matches
  3. Determining kick-off times
  4. Appointing match commissioners, technical study group, security officers
  5. Deciding which laboratories will carry out the doping analyses
  6. Dealing with breaches of the doping regulations
  7. Deciding which matches will be subject to doping tests
  8. Choosing the official football and the stipulated technical material
- C. The Organizing Committee's decisions shall be final.

## VI. DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

- A. In cases of infringement of these Regulations or unsporting behavior on the part of the participating Teams, their players, officers and directors, or in any kind of incident, the CONCACAF's Disciplinary Committee shall be empowered to:
1. Admonish, sanction, fine, suspend or disqualify players, referees, teams, team officials or coaches.
  2. Take action in accordance with FIFA's Disciplinary Code against any person or National Association(s) which may violate the Competition Regulations, the Laws of the Game or the rules of Fair Play.
  3. Prohibit violators from participating in a specific number of the CONCACAF-organized tournaments in which they might otherwise have participated.
- B. Breach of regulations or unsporting behavior on the part of participating Associations or their officials, shall be reported by the Disciplinary Committee to the Executive Committee for application of such sanctions as it may deem appropriate.
- C. When taking a decision, the Disciplinary Committee shall refer to the reports made by the referee, assistant referees and fourth official, match commissioner, referee inspector, general coordinator, technical delegate, security officer and other CONCACAF officials present. It may also refer to television and video recordings. They may be used as evidence but only as far as the disciplinary aspects of the case being dealt with are concerned and shall not affect a referee's decision regarding facts connected with play.
- D. The Disciplinary Committee may convene a personal hearing and will decide the procedure to be followed. Decisions resulting from such hearing shall be invalid if less than three members are present.
- E. The following decisions of the Disciplinary Committee shall not be subject to appeal:

1. Cautions and censures imposed on players, referees, assistant referees, fourth officials, delegation officials, other persons or national associations.
  2. Suspensions from up to two matches or of up to two months imposed on players, referees, assistant referees, fourth officials, delegation officials or other persons.
  3. Fines imposed on players, delegations, referees, assistant referees, fourth officials, delegation officials or other persons (not exceeding \$3,500) or on national associations (not exceeding \$10,000).
  4. Appeals against any other decisions taken by the Disciplinary Committee may be lodged with the Appeal Committee.
- F. The appropriate Association under the provisions of its own Regulations shall punish any other offenses that may be committed during the course of the Women's U-17 CONCACAF Championship by team officers, technicians or other personnel for Championships and Competitions. For this purpose, the Disciplinary Committee shall refer the referee's report of the match in question to the appropriate Association. The Association will, in turn, report back to the Disciplinary Committee on the resolution of the matter and any disciplinary action taken.
- If a team does not report for a match, except in cases of force majeure recognized by the Organizing Committee, or if it refuses to continue to play or leaves the stadium before the end of the match, the team shall be considered to have lost. The match and three points shall be awarded to its opponent with a score of 3-0 or more, if in the case of an abandoned match, the winning team had already reached a higher score at the time the guilty team left the field.
- G. If a game is suspended due to withdrawal, the team(s) refusing to complete the match shall be ineligible to participate in the next two Women's U-17 CONCACAF Championships.
- H. Any other infringement of these Regulations, whether by players, referees, officials, coaches or officers that are punishable by economic sanctions shall be reported to the General Secretariat for consideration by the Executive Committee.

- I. All economic sanctions assessed must be paid by the appropriate Association no later than sixty (60) days after notification. Unless otherwise specified, the total amount of all fines will accrue to CONCACAF.

## VII. APPEAL COMMITTEE

- A. The Appeal Committee shall hear appeals lodged against decisions passed by the Disciplinary Committee.
- B. The procedure to be applied by the Appeal Committee is defined in the FIFA Disciplinary Code.
- C. The Appeal Committee shall reach its decisions on the basis of the documents and other means of evidence contained in the Disciplinary Committee's file. However, the Appeal Committee may, if necessary, resort to further evidence (including television and video recordings, etc.) which it considers relevant.
- D. Decisions pronounced by the Appeal Committee are final.

## VIII. PROTESTS

- A. Protests subject to the following provisions are objections of any kind connected with matches organized in the CONCACAF Championship Phase of the Men's U-17 CONCACAF Championship.
- B. Protests shall be submitted, except if the following provisions stipulate a different procedure, in writing to the Match Commissioner or CONCACAF representative at the match not later than two hours after the game and followed up immediately with a written report, including the original protest, to be sent to CONCACAF General Secretariat by fax within 24 hours of the match in question.
- C. Protests for reasons outlined in paragraphs D, E, and F, must be accompanied by a fee of \$200.00 USD, payable to CONCACAF.
- D. Protests against the eligibility of players taking part in any matches in the CONCACAF Championship Phase shall be submitted in writing to the referee or the Match Commissioner not later than two hours after the match in question and confirmed by fax or registered letter to be sent to CONCACAF General Secretariat within 24 hours of the match in question.

- E. Protests against any incidents that occur during a match shall be directed to the referee by the team captain immediately after the disputed incident and before play has been resumed. The protest shall be confirmed in writing to the Match Commissioner or CONCACAF representative at the match by the head of the team delegation not later than two hours after the match in question.
- F. Protests as to the state of the pitch, markings, the accessory equipment (goals, etc.) or the ball, will be made to the referee before the start of the match. If the turf becomes unplayable during the match, the Captain of the team concerned shall immediately inform the Referee in the presence of the Captain of the opposing team.
- G. No protests may be made against the referee's decisions on points of fact connected with play, such decisions being final.
- H. National Associations may not bring disputes with CONCACAF before a Court of Justice and they shall undertake to submit any such disputes without reservation to the jurisdiction of the competent authority of CONCACAF and FIFA.
- I. The expenses, which arise from a protest, shall be charged by CONCACAF, either wholly or in part, to the losing party.
- J. If a frivolous or irresponsible protest is lodged, the Organizing Committee responsible may impose a fine.
- K. Once the winning teams of the Women's U-17 CONCACAF Championship have been proclaimed, any protest or complaint about the sports procedure followed during the competition shall be disregarded.

**IX. MATCHES PLAYED ACCORDING TO THE LAWS OF THE GAME**

- A. All matches will be played under the Laws of the Game as approved by the International Football Association Board and published by FIFA.
- B. In the case of any discrepancy in the interpretation of the Laws of the Game, the English text shall be authoritative.

- C. A maximum of fourteen (14) persons shall be allowed on the team bench, five (5) team officials and nine (9) substitutes. The names of these persons and their functions must be indicated on the form provided by the "Fourth Official" prior to the match.

**X. DURATION, EXTRA TIME, PENALTY KICKS**

- A. Each match shall last 90 minutes, comprising two periods of 45 minutes with an interval of 15 minutes in between.
- B. If during the CONCACAF Championship Phase extra time must be played as the result of a draw at the end of normal playing time, it shall always consist of two periods of 15 minutes each, with an interval of five minutes at the end of normal playing time, but not between the two periods of extra time.
- C. Should one of the teams score more goals in the extra time than the other, the team scoring the most goals will be declared the winner.
- D. If at the end of the thirty (30) minutes of extra time, the teams are still tied, kicks from the penalty mark shall be taken to determine the winner, in accordance with the procedure laid down by the International Football Association Board and published by FIFA.
- E. Clocks in the stadium showing the amount of time played may run during the match, provided that they are stopped at the end of normal playing time in each half, i.e., after 45 (forty-five) and 90 (ninety) minutes respectively. This stipulation shall also apply in the event of extra time being played (i.e., 15 (fifteen) minutes of each half).
- F. At the end of the two periods of normal playing time (45 and 90 minutes), the referee shall indicate to the fourth official, orally or by gesturing with his/her hands, the number of minutes that he has decided to allow for time lost. This applies also to the two periods of 15 minutes of extra time. Each allowance shall be announced to the public by the fourth official using the substitution cards or electronic display boards and by the public address announcer.

**XI. FIELD OF PLAY, STADIA, BALLS**

- A. The Organizing Committee shall guarantee that the fields of play chosen for the CONCACAF Championship Phase comply with the Laws of the Game. They shall be subject to the approval of the Organizing Committee.
- B. The footballs for the CONCACAF Championship Phase shall be selected and supplied by CONCACAF.

**XII. RESPONSIBILITIES OF EACH ENTITY INVOLVED**

- A. Final Phase
  - 1. Each participating Association shall be responsible for:
    - a. Behavior of the members of its delegation (officials and players);
    - b. Health, accident and travel insurance cover for its full delegation;
    - c. Paying for their own air travel to and from the host country, any costs in obtaining visas for their delegation, and all tips for services rendered as appropriate at the hotels, airports, taxis, etc.
    - d. Bringing sufficient cash or credit cards to pay for incidental expenses incurred by delegation members during the course of their stay in the host countries, including laundering of team uniforms, and for any costs incurred by additional members of the delegation in excess of the 25 persons allotted for;
    - e. Paying for any costs of extending their stay.
    - f. Returning the information requested by CONCACAF by the dates specified.
    - g. Applying for visas in good time from the diplomatic mission of the organizing countries, if necessary.
    - h. Attending press conferences and other official media activities organized by CONCACAF in a timely manner.
    - i. Travelling with a minimum of two sets of alternative uniforms, including goalkeeper outfits to the tournament.
    - j. Coming prepared for the climate and weather conditions in the venue.

2. Commercial Reference to Event and Advertising Provisions

- a. Participating Teams shall agree, as a condition of their participation, that the terms “CONCACAF”, “The Confederation of North, Central American and Caribbean Association Football”, “Confederación Norte, Centroamericana y del Caribe Asociación de Fútbol”, “the Women’s U-17 CONCACAF Championship”, “Women’s U-17 Football Tournament”, or “Campeonato Sub-17 Femenino” commonly used to identify the Women’s U-17 CONCACAF Championship, and their equivalent, abbreviated or as translated into other languages, may only be used by such Teams in a sporting context with no commercial implications. CONCACAF owns the copyright for all these terms.
- b. They shall also agree to abide by any advertising provisions issued by CONCACAF.

3. Participants’ Entry Forms

- a. A Team participating in the CONCACAF Championship Phase shall ensure, as a condition of its participation in the Women’s U-17 CONCACAF Championship, that every member of its delegation (officials and players) complete an entry form to be specified by CONCACAF.

B. Responsibilities of the Host Association - CONCACAF Championship Phase - Event Organization & Promotion

1. The Local Organizing Committee responsibilities are governed by the Host Agreement between CONCACAF and the Host National Association or Organization.

C. CONCACAF

The Secretariat will be responsible for:

1. Overall supervision of the Event.
2. Providing the Host Country with \$300,000 to cover tournament expenses.
3. Assisting LOC with the daily operations of the tournament.
4. Arranging for and payment of the air transportation and airport departure taxes of tournament officials.
5. Providing the daily per-diems for the tournament officials.

6. Collecting of team information (i.e. Team lists, rooming lists, menus, visa information and uniform color chart).
7. Handling all disciplinary measures and communication of actions taken.
8. Making the Daily assignments of officials for matches.
9. Delivery of the game balls to the venue for each match.
10. Providing practice balls to the teams upon arrival.
11. Providing the event bibs for teams, media and medical personnel.
12. Providing event polos and/or T-shirts for the staff of the event. Number to be determined.
13. Providing signage for in stadium use; i.e. benches, locker rooms, accreditation, media, etc.
14. Providing signage for the flash zone and press conference areas.
15. Providing artwork for the center field board.
16. Providing Certificates of Participation for the competing teams
17. Directing the Media functions during the Tournament and provide the media guide.

### **XIII. ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS**

- A. Each participating Association shall select its National Representative team from players who are subjects of its country and under its jurisdiction and who satisfy the age requirement of the relevant FIFA Women's U-17 World Cup and Article 15 of the Regulations governing the Application of the FIFA Statutes.
- B. Each player must be in possession of a legal individual passport containing an up to date photograph and giving full particulars on the date of birth (day, month, year) of the player. If the player is not in possession of a legal individual passport, he shall not be allowed to participate in the tournament.
- C. Rosters for the CONCACAF Championship Phase
  1. Provisional List of Players  
Participating National Associations must provide their "List of Players", on the official form, to the office of the CONCACAF General Secretariat, at least thirty (30) days before their first match. The list is not binding and must contain the names of at least 20 players not more than a maximum of 30 players. The list will be used for event promotion and data management.
  2. Final Roster

Participating National Associations must provide their Final Roster of 20 players, on the official form, to the General Coordinator upon arrival in the venue.

- D. Confirmation of Eligibility
  - 1. Inspection Meeting - The General Coordinator or his/her designee will check the passport details with each player no later than the day before their opening match.
  - 2. Uniform Numbers - The required numbers on the front and back of the shirts and on the pants of the uniforms shall correspond to the numbers indicated on the Final Roster.
  
- E. Replacement of Injured or Ill Players before start of Tournament
  - 1. Players included on the Final Roster who suffer serious injuries or become ill so that they cannot play, as certified by the team's Head of Delegation, may be replaced up to 24 hours prior to the team's first match. In those cases, the National Association concerned will be authorized to add players not already included on the Final Roster and will immediately inform the General Coordinator in writing. The General Coordinator must be provided with all required information (if not previously provided) and passports upon the players' arrivals.
  - 2. No changes will be permitted within 24 hours of opening matches or thereafter.
  
- F. Any team found guilty of fielding an ineligible player shall forfeit the match. Victory and the resultant three points will be awarded to the opposing team as well as the score of 3-0, or more if the opposing team has already achieved a margin of difference in excess of 3-0.

#### **XIV. DOPING CONTROL**

- A. Doping is the use of certain substances or methods capable of artificially enhancing the physical and/or mental condition of a player, with a view to improving his athletic and mental performance. It is prohibited.
  
- B. Only the Organizing Committee is empowered to arrange doping tests and to decide at which laboratories and who shall carry out the analyses. Every player in a team, including substitute players, will be liable to undergo doping tests.

- C. The Organizing Committee reserves the right:
  - 1. To arrange random doping tests during the Preliminary Phase;
  - 2. To arrange doping tests at all the matches in the CONCACAF Championship Phase.
- D. Any player or team that refuses to take a doping test or falsifies the result of a test or attempts to do so or is found guilty of having taken prohibited substances whether intentionally or not, will; be referred to the Organizing Committee.
- E. Any official who encourages or incites a player, either intentionally or through negligence, to commit such an infringement as stated in paragraph D above, will be referred to the Organizing Committee.
- F. Furthermore, reference is made to the FIFA Doping Control Regulations, which contain the list of prohibited substances and methods.

## **XV. REGULATIONS GOVERNING SPORTS EQUIPMENT**

The participating national associations shall comply with the current FIFA Equipment Regulations with the exception of the provisions regarding Player Names as outlined below. Players and officials are not allowed to visibly display political, religious, commercial or personal messages in any language or form on their playing kit, equipment or body.

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

## **XVI. REFEREES, ASSISTANT REFEREES AND FOURTH OFFICIALS**

- A. The referees and assistant referees chosen for the matches in the CONCACAF Championship Phase shall be from a country whose team is not included in the same group as the match in question. They shall be selected from the current FIFA International Lists.
- B. CONCACAF's Referees Committee shall appoint the referees and assistant referees for the matches in the CONCACAF Championship Phase. Two referees and two assistant referees shall be appointed for each match.
- C. The Referees Committee decisions shall be final and not subject to appeal.
- D. After each match the referee shall complete the official CONCACAF report forms. In the CONCACAF Championship Phase, he shall hand it over immediately after the match to the Match Commissioner or the CONCACAF General Coordinator at the venue.

## **XVII. TECHNICAL RULES**

### The CONCACAF Championship

- A. CONCACAF Championship Phase
  - 1. The CONCACAF Championship Phase shall consist of no more than eight (8) teams. Each Zone of CONCACAF shall be represented in the CONCACAF Championship as determined by the Executive Committee of CONCACAF.
  - 2. The teams participating in the CONCACAF Championship Phase shall be given notice, at least fifteen (15) days in advance of the draw in order for them to be present, if they so wish, at their own expense. In any event, the General Secretariat of CONCACAF will notify the teams of the results of the draw by telefax immediately.
  - 3. The CONCACAF Championship shall be played in a single venue. The eight (8) teams shall be divided into a Group Stage consisting of two groups of four teams followed by Semi-Finals and Finals.
  - 4. The top two teams from each Group shall advance to the Semi-Finals with the top team from each Group playing the second place team from the other Group.

5. At the end of group play, if two or more teams are equal on points (including ties among third place teams), the manner in which teams will advance to the next round will be resolved as follows and in the order indicated:
  - a. Greater number of Points in matches between the tied teams.
  - b. Greater Goal Difference in matches between the tied teams (if more than two teams finish equal on points).
  - c. Greater number of goals scored in matches among the tied teams (if more than two teams finish equal on points).
  - d. Greater Goal difference in all group matches.
  - e. Greater number of goals scored in all group matches.
  - f. Drawing of lots.
6. The two Semi-Final winners shall advance to the Final to determine the CONCACAF Champion.
7. The CONCACAF Champion and Runner-up teams will qualify for the FIFA U-17 World Cup in addition to Trinidad & Tobago, the host of the FIFA U-17 World Cup.

#### **XVIII. MEDIA, ADVERTISING AND MERCHANDISING**

- A. Marketing, Radio, Television, Promotion and Advertising rights for the CONCACAF Championship Phase are fully vested with CONCACAF.
- B. Concessions for souvenir sales, official programs and others of a similar nature are fully vested with CONCACAF.
- C. Rights for the merchandising of the event, both on and off site, are exclusively CONCACAF's.
- D. Technical Films / Tapes - Permission to make technical films/tapes, exclusively reserved for the use of a participating Member Association concerned, must be obtained from the General Secretariat of CONCACAF.

## XIX. FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

### A. CONCACAF Championship Phase

1. The financial terms of the CONCACAF Championship Phase as organized by CONCACAF will be the following:
  - a. The Association acting as the host venue shall retain the total gate receipts, and all benefits from the matches, and shall pay all expenses incurred in the organization of the match or tournament, including but not limited to:
    - i. Airport taxes (if applicable) for up to twenty-five (25) persons per each participating Association.
    - ii. Hotel accommodation, meals and local transportation for up to twenty-five (25) persons per each participating Association, unless otherwise agreed by the parties, the game officials and match commissioner for the two-day period before the match and the day following the match, or, in the case of a tournament, two days before the first match and one day after the last match in which the team and other mentioned individuals are required to participate.
2. The Host National Association shall retain all revenue from:
  - a. Admission tickets sales.
  - a. Concessions granted by the Organizing Committee for the sale of food and beverages.
  - b. Other rights specifically granted by CONCACAF.
  - c. From the Gross Receipts from Admission Ticket Sales, the LOC shall deduct 5% (minimum US\$300) in favor of CONCACAF and 2½% (minimum US\$150) in favor of the Regional Union in which the finals are played. These percentages shall be paid within a thirty (30) day period after each match of the Preliminary Phase has ended or after the Final Phase has concluded. In the event there is not an established Regional Union, CONCACAF shall receive 7½% of the gross receipts (minimum US\$450.00).

**XX. PROTOCOL**

- A. During the CONCACAF Championship, the FIFA fair play flag, the CONCACAF flag and the flags of the host country and both competing national associations shall be flown at every match inside the ground. The FIFA anthem shall be played while the teams are entering the field, followed by the national anthems of the two contestants during the line-up.

**XXI. COPYRIGHT**

- A. Copyright of the fixtures and matches adopted by the Executive Committee and drawn up in accordance with the provisions of these regulations are the property of CONCACAF.

**XXII. MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR**

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

These regulations were adopted by the Executive Committee at its meeting and entered into force immediately.

For the Executive Committee of CONCACAF:

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The President

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The General Secretary