



REGULATIONS FOR THE CONCACAF WOMEN'S GOLD CUP

PREAMBLE

1. The following are the regulations of the Confederation of North, Central American and Caribbean Association Football, hereinafter referred to as CONCACAF.
2. The CONCACAF Women's Gold Cup is an official competition of the Confederation of North, Central American and Caribbean Association Football.
3. All rights shall belong to CONCACAF.

I. TITLE - THE CONCACAF WOMEN'S GOLD CUP

1. The CONCACAF Women's Gold Cup shall take place where and when the Executive Committee determines. The National Associations affiliated to CONCACAF are invited to participate with their national "A" team.
2. CONCACAF will present the winning national team with the CONCACAF Women's Gold Cup trophy.
3. A Certificate of Participation will be provided to all players participating in the Final Phase. The champion shall receive 25 gold medals and the runner up 25 silver medals.
4. The Fair Play trophy shall be awarded to the team, which has shown the best sporting spirit and fair play during the tournament.
5. The players and teams of Member Associations who take part in CONCACAF's Competitions cannot under any circumstances receive prizes and/or awards without the authorization of CONCACAF, except those originating from their Associations.

II. ENTRIES

1. National "A" teams of CONCACAF Members have the right to participate in the Women's Gold Cup.
2. The two finalist teams in the 2006 tournament will qualify to represent CONCACAF in the 2007 FIFA Women's World Cup in China.

III. ORGANIZATION OF THE COMPETITION

1. The competition shall be played in two phases:
 - a. The Preliminary Phase
 - b. The Final Phase

The Preliminary Phase

1. The Preliminary Phase of the competition shall be played among the qualified countries of each zone of the Confederation.
2. The matches in the Preliminary Phase shall be organized by the Regional Unions of CONCACAF, with regulations submitted to CONCACAF two months before the start of the preliminary competition and subject to approval by the Executive Committee.

The Final Phase

1. CONCACAF shall be responsible for organizing, hosting and staging the final competition of the Women's Gold Cup.
2. The Final Phase of the competition shall be played among six (6) teams, the USA and Canada, which shall receive a bye to the Final Phase, two teams from the CFU and two teams from the UNCAF Zone, which will also include Mexico.
3. The matches of the final competition shall be played in a site or sites and on such dates and terms as determined by the Executive Committee.
4. The Executive Committee shall form groups for the final competition taking sports, geographic and economic factors into consideration.

5. Each team taking part in the final competition must arrive in the team hotel reserved for it at least 2 (two) days before its first match. Only official team hotels shall be used for accommodation and only official training sites may be used for training.
6. Depending on the weather, the teams will be entitled to a training session of up to sixty (60) minutes at the ground where they are due to play on the day before their match. If the field is not in good condition, CONCACAF may direct the teams only to inspect the field using training shoes.
7. The teams will be entitled to warm up on the field before the match, weather permitting, except when they are playing in the second game of a double header, in which case they may not be permitted to warm up on the field.

IV. WITHDRAWALS

1. A National Association that withdraws from the Final Phase can be replaced by another national association. The Executive Committee shall make the relevant decision.
2. Such withdrawal will be subject to the following punishment and sanctions as determined by the Executive Committee after consideration of the relevant facts, including force majeure, if the withdrawal takes place:
 - a. After the Preliminary Phase but before the start of the Final Phase of the Tournament a fine of \$7,500 USD;
 - b. Anytime during the Final Phase of the Tournament a fine of \$10,000 USD.
 - c. Depending on circumstances and the decision of CONCACAF Organizing Committee Group, 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 any expenses they have already incurred for its team 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.
3. Penalties specified in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this section will not be applied in cases of force majeure, as verified by the Executive Committee of CONCACAF.

4. The National Association of any penalized team shall be responsible for ensuring that specified sanctions are carried out and complied with.
5. If a team does not report for a match, except in cases of force majeure, or if it refuses to continue to play or leaves the ground before the end of a match, the team shall be considered as having lost. The match and three points shall be awarded to their opponents with a score of 3-0 or more if, in the case of an abandoned match, the winning team has already reached a higher score at the time the guilty team leaves the field.
6. The guilty team shall, as a general rule, be excluded from further participation in the competition so that none of its matches will be deemed valid.
7. Furthermore, the guilty National Association may be disqualified from taking part in the next two Women's Gold Cups. Further measures may be taken by CONCACAF after deliberation by the Executive Committee. In addition, the National Association shall forfeit any claim to financial remuneration from CONCACAF.

V. THE CONCACAF ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

The Organizing Committee for the CONCACAF Women's Gold Cup appointed by CONCACAF Executive Committee is responsible for the organization of the competition.

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.

The Organizing Committee's decisions shall be final.

VI. DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

1. The CONCACAF Disciplinary Committee is empowered to:
 - a. Admonish, sanction, fine, suspend or disqualify players, referees, team officials or coaches.
 - b. Take any disciplinary measure in accordance with the FIFA 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.
 - c. Prohibit violators from participating in a specific number of CONCACAF organized tournaments in which they might otherwise have participated.
2. Report serious matters for further consideration by the Executive Committee.
3. The decisions of the Disciplinary Committee will be based on written reports from referees, assistant referees and/or the Match Commissioner and video footage available from the disputed match. All participating National Associations will be informed of the sanctions imposed.
4. 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.
5. All economic penalties assessed must be paid by the appropriate Association no later than sixty (60) days after notification thereof.

VII. APPEALS COMMITTEE

1. The Appeals Committee shall hear appeals lodged against decisions passed by the Disciplinary Committee.
2. The procedure to be applied by the Appeals Committee is defined in the FIFA Disciplinary Code.

VIII. PROTESTS

1. Protests subject to the following provisions, are objections of any kind connected with matches of the final competition.
2. Protests shall be submitted 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.
3. Protests for reasons outlined in paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 below must be accompanied by a check in the amount of \$500 USD payable to CONCACAF.
4. Protests against the eligibility of players chosen to take part in the Final Phase shall be submitted in writing to the Match Commissioner or General Coordinator not later than two hours after the match in question.
5. Protests against any incidents that occur during a match shall be directed to the referee by the team captain immediately after the disputed incident and before play has been resumed. The protest shall be confirmed in writing to the Match Commissioner or the CONCACAF representative at the match not later than two hours after the match in question.
6. Protest against the state of the pitch, the markings, the accessory equipment (goals, etc.) or the football shall be made in writing to the referee before the start of the match by the official responsible for the team lodging the protest. If the turf becomes unplayable during the match, the captain of the team concerned shall immediately inform the referee in the presence of the opposing team's captain.
7. No protests may be made against the referee's decisions on points of fact connected with play, such decisions being final.
8. 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.
9. If an unfounded or irresponsible protest is lodged, a fine may be imposed.

10. The expenses, which arise from a protest, shall be charged by CONCACAF, either wholly or in part, to the losing party.
11. Once the winning team of the CONCACAF Women's Gold Cup has 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

1. All matches will be played under the Laws of the Game as approved by the International Football Association Board and published by FIFA.
2. In the case of any discrepancy in the interpretation of the Laws of the Game, the English text shall be authoritative.
3. Only seven (7) appropriately credentialed team officials, and up to seven (7) players (substitutes), unless additional space is available on the bench, shall be allowed to sit on the bench at the touchline, a maximum of fourteen (14) persons. The names of all these persons and their functions shall be indicated on the referee's report form.

X. DURATION, EXTRA TIME, PENALTY KICKS

1. Each match shall last 90 minutes, comprising two periods of 45 minutes with an interval of 15 minutes in between.
2. If, in accordance with the provisions of these Regulations, 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.
3. Should one team score more goals than the other in the extra time, it shall be declared the winner.
4. If the teams are still tied at the end of extra time, 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.

5. 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).
6. 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 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 for lost time shall be shown on the panels or electronic display boards of the fourth official and announced by the public address announcer to those in attendance.

XI. FIELD OF PLAY, STADIA, BALLS

1. The Organizing Committee shall guarantee that the fields of play chosen for the Final Phase fulfill FIFA requirements and comply with standards of safety required for international matches.
2. The footballs for the Final Phase shall be selected and supplied by CONCACAF.

XII. RESPONSIBILITIES OF EACH ENTITY INVOLVED

A. National Associations

Each participating National Association shall be held responsible for:

1. The behavior of the members of its delegation (officials and players);
2. Health, travel and accident insurance cover for all the members of its delegation;
3. Incidental expenses incurred by delegation members during the course of their stay in the host countries and for any costs incurred by additional members of the delegation;
4. Any costs of extending their stay;
5. Returning the information requested by CONCACAF by the dates specified;

6. Applying for visas in good time from the diplomatic mission of the host country or countries, as necessary.
7. Attending press conferences and other official media activities organized by CONCACAF.

B. Commercial Reference to Event and Advertising Provisions

1. The participating Teams shall agree, as a condition of their participation, that the terms the "CONCACAF Women's Gold Cup", "Women's Gold Cup", or "Copa Oro Femenil" commonly used to identify the Women's Gold Cup of CONCACAF, 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.
2. They shall also agree to abide by any advertising provisions issued by CONCACAF.

C. Participants' Entry Forms

1. A National Association participating in the Final Phase shall ensure, as a condition of its participation in the Women's Gold Cup, that every member of its delegation (officials and players) complete an entry form to be specified by CONCACAF or be included in the team's Official Delegation List.
2. The opportunity to participate in a CONCACAF event is a privilege. As consideration for the opportunity to participate in the CONCACAF Women's Gold Cup (the "Event"), each participant, including players, coaches, team officials, and referees, agree to be filmed, televised, photographed, identified and otherwise recorded during the Event under conditions and for the purposes now or hereinafter authorized by CONCACAF in relation to the promotion of the Event, CONCACAF and the sport of soccer. Each participant further agrees to comply with and be bound by the CONCACAF Statutes, Rules, and Regulations.

XIII. ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

1. Each participating Association shall select its national representative team from the best players who are subjects of its country and under its jurisdiction and are eligible for selection in accordance with the provisions of Article 15 of the Regulations governing the Application of FIFA Statutes.

2. 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 a player is not in possession of a legal individual passport, he shall not be allowed to participate in the tournament.
3. A member Association which has entered the competition shall not refer to its selection as an inferior selection publicly or in the print and/or electronic media.
4. **Provisional List of Players**
Participating National Associations must provide their "List of Players" on the official form provided, to the office of the CONCACAF General Secretariat, at least 45 days prior to the first match. This list is not binding and must contain the names of at least 25 players. The list will be used for event promotion and data management.
5. **Team Delegations and Final Roster**
Each participating Association shall submit to the CONCACAF General Secretariat its Final Delegation list of up to 27 persons, which may include up to 20 players, not later than 15 days prior to the first match of the Final Phase. Only these 20 players will (except in the case of force majeure recognized by the organizing committee for the CONCACAF Women's Gold Cup) be permitted to compete in the Final Phase.
6. A listed player may only be substituted in the event of serious injury up until 24 hours before his team's first match, after CONCACAF has received a detailed medical assessment in English and only after acceptance by the CONCACAF Sports Medical Committee that the injury is sufficiently serious to prevent the player from taking part in the Competition. The National Association shall then immediately nominate the substitute and inform CONCACAF accordingly.
7. Upon arrival at the venue of the Tournament each National Association's head of delegation shall immediately submit the individual passports of its players for verification to the designated representative of CONCACAF.

XIV. DOPING CONTROL

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.

1. Only the Organizing Committee is empowered to arrange doping tests and to decide at which laboratories and by whom the analyses shall be carried out.
2. Every player in a team, including substitute players, will be liable to undergo doping tests.
3. The Organizing Committee reserves the right to arrange doping tests at any or all the matches in the Final Phase.
4. 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.
5. Any official who encourages or incites a player, either intentionally or through negligence, to commit such an infringement as stated in par. 3 above, will be referred to the Organizing Committee.
6. Furthermore, reference is made to the FIFA Doping Control Regulations, which contain the list of prohibited substances and methods.
7. If, in accordance with the FIFA Doping Guidelines, a player is tested positive for using banned substances, he shall be immediately declared ineligible from further participation in the competition and shall be subject to further sanctions from CONCACAF's Executive Committee.

XV. REGULATIONS GOVERNING SPORTS EQUIPMENT

1. The participating National Associations shall comply with the current FIFA Equipment Regulations including the requirement to have players' names on the back of their jersey. 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.

2. On a date and a place to be determined by CONCACAF Organizing Committee, the finalist teams shall present the Organizing Committee with a sample of the official and reserve outfits (shirt, shorts, socks, goalkeeper's kit, etc.) for approval as well as the goalkeeper's gloves and cap that they intend to use during the final competition.

XVI. REFEREES, ASSISTANT REFEREES AND FOURTH OFFICIALS

1. A referee, two assistant referees and a fourth official shall be appointed for each match by the Referees' Committee.
2. The referees and assistant referees chosen 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.
3. After each match the referee shall fill out the official CONCACAF report forms and he shall hand it over immediately after the match to the Match Commissioner or the CONCACAF General Coordinator at the venue as directed.
4. On the report form, the referee shall note all occurrences before, during, and after the match in as much detail as possible, such as:
 - a. Misconduct of players, leading to caution or expulsion;
 - b. Unsporting behavior of officials, supporters and any person acting on behalf of a national association at a match;
 - c. Any other incidents.

XVII. TECHNICAL RULES

A. Final Phase

1. In the Quarter-Finals, the two CFU and two UNCAF Qualifiers will be paired against one another. A drawing of lots will determine the schedule of matches. The two losing Quarter-Finalist Teams shall play each other for the fifth and sixth place.
2. In the Semi-Finals, the Quarter-Final winners will play against Canada or the United States. A drawing of lots will determine the schedule of matches.

3. In the 3rd Place game, the Semi-Final losers will play each other. The winner will playoff with the third place team from Asia for a place in the 2007 FIFA Women's World Cup.
4. In the Final, the two winning Semi-Finalists will play each other to determine the CONCACAF Women's Gold Cup Champion. Both Finalist teams will qualify for the 2007 FIFA Women's World Cup.

XVIII. MEDIA, ADVERTISING AND MERCHANDISING

1. Marketing, Radio, Television. Promotion and advertising rights for the Final Phase are fully vested with CONCACAF.
1. Concessions for souvenir sales, official programs and others of a similar nature, are fully vested with CONCACAF.
2. Rights for the merchandising of the event, both on and off site, are exclusively CONCACAF's.
3. Permission to make technical films/tapes, exclusively reserved for the use of a participating Member Association concerned, must be obtained from CONCACAF General Secretariat.

XIX. FINANCIAL REGULATIONS AND TICKETING

1. All receipts are collected on behalf of CONCACAF.
2. The following number of tickets shall automatically be reserved for each delegation:
 - a. For the matches played by the participating teams, 5 tickets of the highest category and 20 reserved seats as well as at least 50 purchasable tickets of the highest category.
 - b. The purchasable tickets must be collected and paid for at least ten days prior to the date of the first match of the Competition.
 - c. For the participants in Semi Finals and the Final Tie, the number of purchasable tickets to be reserved shall be fixed by the Executive Committee. They must be collected and paid for the day following the one when the team concerned is qualified for one of these matches.

- d. The National Associations may return a maximum of 10% of the tickets originally requested. However, the returned tickets must be in the hands of the organizer fourteen days before the match concerned at the latest. Otherwise they will be considered sold.
 - e. The number of tickets for the participating countries in Semi Finals and the Final Match shall in each case be fixed by the Executive Committee.
3. CONCACAF will provide:
- a. Economy airfare, first class hotel and board expenses for twenty-five (25) persons per National Association taking part, for the period of two days before the first match and one night after their last match.
 - b. Economy air travel, first class hotel and board and approved per diem of the referees and assistant referees.
 - c. Approved traveling and daily expenses of the Executive Committee and designated members of other committees and technical or other staff as determined by the General Secretariat.

XX. SPECIAL AWARDS AND PROTOCOL

A. Special Awards

1. Special awards will be presented to:
 - a. The Most Valuable Player;
 - b. The top scorer;
 - c. The best goalkeeper;
 - d. The team with the best fair play performance (Fair Play Award).
2. CONCACAF will issue separate regulations for these awards.
3. There will be no official awards other than those listed above, unless otherwise decided by the Organizing Committee.

B. Protocol

The FIFA flag, the CONCACAF flag, the flags of the host country and both competing National Associations or any other flag at CONCACAF's discretion shall be flown at every match inside the stadium, providing sufficient flag poles are available. Otherwise the national association flags will be presented with the teams as they enter the field. The

FIFA anthem shall be played while the teams are entering the field, followed by the national anthems of the two contestants.

XXI. COPYRIGHT

The copyright of the fixture list as well as the matches fixed by the Executive Committee drawn up in accordance with the provisions of these regulations is the property of CONCACAF.

XXII. MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR

Matters not provided for in these Regulations will be resolved by CONCACAF's Executive Committee, whose decisions shall be final.

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.

For the Executive Committee of CONCACAF:

The President

The General Secretary