



REGULATIONS FOR THE CONCACAF FUTSAL CHAMPIONSHIP



PREAMBLE

- A. The CONCACAF Futsal Championship is an official CONCACAF event, which serves as a qualifying tournament for the FIFA Futsal World Cup.
- B. It is played as a Preliminary Phase and a Final Phase.
- C. Any rights not ceded by these regulations to a national association participating in the Preliminary or Final Phase shall belong to CONCACAF.

I. TITLE - CONCACAF FUTSAL CHAMPIONSHIP

- A. The CONCACAF Futsal Championship shall take place every four years. The national associations affiliated to CONCACAF are invited to participate with their national Futsal team.
- B. CONCACAF will present the winning team with a suitable trophy.
- C. CONCACAF will present all players in the Final Phase with a diploma of participation.

II. ENTRIES

- A. The national Futsal teams of CONCACAF members have the right to participate.
- B. The competition will serve to qualify members of CONCACAF for places in the FIFA Futsal World Cup and shall take place, except if circumstances do not permit, in the year preceding the year of the FIFA tournament.
- C. However, only those eligible to compete in the FIFA Futsal 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 Final Phase

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 Final Phase for members from each zone.

The Final Phase

1. The Final 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 Final Phase of the competition shall be played in a site or sites as determined by the Executive Committee and 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. If 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 entering the tournament but on or before the day of the draw for the first round of the tournament a fine of \$5,000 USD plus forfeiture of any entry fee;
2. After the draw but on or before the date of the first match of the tournament a fine of \$7,500 USD;
3. Any time during the Preliminary Phase of the tournament a fine of \$10,000 USA;

4. After the Preliminary Phase but before the start of the Final Phase of the tournament a fine of \$15,000 USD;
5. Any time during the Final Phase of the tournament a fine of \$20,000 USD;
6. Any time after the completion of the CONCACAF Qualifying but before the FIFA Finals a fine of \$100,000.
7. 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 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;
8. Penalties specified herein will not be applied in cases of *force majeure*, as verified by the Executive Committee of CONCACAF.
9. 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

The Organizing Committee for the CONCACAF Futsal Championship appointed by the CONCACAF Executive Committee is responsible for the organization of the competition.

The Organizing Committee shall, amongst other matters, be responsible for:

- A. Preliminary and Final Phase:
 1. Imposing fines specifically provided for by these regulations;
 2. Dealing with protests;
 3. Appointing match commissioners and/or security officers;
 4. Deciding which laboratories will carry out the doping analyses;
 5. Dealing with breaches of the doping regulations;
 6. Settling cases of force majeure.
- B. Preliminary Phase:
 1. Forming groups and/or sub-groups;
 2. Fixing the venues and dates of the matches whenever national associations fail to agree;
 3. Deciding which matches will be subject to doping tests.

- C. Final Phase
 - 1. Supervising general preparations, deciding on the match system, the draws and forming groups;
 - 2. After consultation with the Local Organizing Committee, fixing the dates, venues and arenas for the matches;
 - 3. Determining kick-off times;
 - 4. Choosing the official football and the stipulated technical material.
- D. The Organizing Committee's decisions shall be final.

VI. DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

- A. The CONCACAF Disciplinary Committee is empowered to:
 - 1. Admonish, sanction, fine, suspend or disqualify players, referees, Team officials or coaches.
 - 2. 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 Futsal Laws of the Game or the rules of Fair Play.
 - 3. Prohibit violators from participating in a specific number of CONCACAF organized tournaments in which they might otherwise have participated.
 - 4. Report serious matters for further consideration by the Executive Committee.
- B. The decisions of the Disciplinary Committee must be based on written reports from referees and the Match Commissioner of the disputed match. All National Associations must be informed of the sanctions imposed.
- C. 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.
- D. The decisions of the Disciplinary Committee shall not be subject to appeal.
- E. Any other offenses that may be committed during the course of the Futsal Championship by Team officers, technicians or other personnel shall be punished by the appropriate Association under the provisions of its own Regulations for Championships and Competitions. For this purpose, the Executive Committee shall refer to the Association the referee's report of the match in question. The Association will, in turn, report back to the Executive Committee on the resolution of the matter and any disciplinary action taken.

- F. If the referee must suspend a match due to intervention from spectators, sporting authorities or local police, or due to aggression against any game official or member of the visiting team, if found to be responsible by the Disciplinary Committee, the guilty team shall forfeit the match with a score of 5 goals to 0 or the score prevailing when the match is suspended, whichever provides the greater margin of victory for the visiting side. In addition, all sanctions specified by FIFA regulations shall be applied.
- G. Furthermore, if found to be responsible by the Disciplinary Committee, the arena in which the interrupted match is held shall be suspended for the remaining games of the Futsal Championship and for all matches of the next Futsal Championship in which a local team participates.
- H. If a game is suspended due to withdrawal, the team(s) refusing to complete the match shall be ineligible to participate in the next two Futsal Championship tournaments.
- I. Any other infringement of these Regulations, by players, referees, officials, coaches or officers, subject to economic sanctions, shall be reported to the General Secretariat for consideration by the Executive Committee.
- J. All economic penalties assessed must be paid no later than sixty (60) days after notification thereof by the corresponding Association. 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, which are not final according to these regulations.
- B. The procedure to be applied by the Appeal Committee is defined in the Regulations governing the CONCACAF Appeal Committee's function.
- 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, also resort to any further evidence (including television and video recordings, etc.), which 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 Preliminary and Final Phases of the Futsal Championship.
- B. Protests shall be submitted, except if the following provisions stipulate a different procedure, in writing to the Match Commissioner or the 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 the CONCACAF General Secretariat by fax. In the Preliminary Phase, the plaintiff Team will confirm the protest by registered letter to be sent to the CONCACAF General Secretariat not later than two days after the match in question.
- C. Protests against the eligibility of players taking part in any matches in the Preliminary Phase shall be submitted in writing to the Match Commissioner not later than two hours after the match in question and confirmed by registered letter to be sent to the CONCACAF General Secretariat at least five days before the first match in the Final Phase.
- D. Protests against the eligibility of players chosen to take part in the Final Phase shall be submitted in writing to the CONCACAF General Secretariat or the CONCACAF representative at the match no later than two hours after the game, and followed-up immediately with a written report, including the original protest to be sent tot CONCACAF General Secretariat by fax.
- E. Protests against any incidents that occur during a match shall be directed to the referee by the team captain immediately after the disputed incident and before play has been resumed. The protest shall be confirmed in writing to the Match Commissioner or the CONCACAF representative at the match by the head of the team delegation not later than two hours after the match in question.
- F. Protest against the state of the pitch, the markings, the accessory equipment (goals, etc.) or the football shall be made to the referee before the start of the match.
- G. No protests may be made against the referee's decisions on points of fact connected with play, such decisions being final.
- H. Once the winning teams of the CONCACAF Futsal 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 FUTSAL LAWS OF THE GAME

- A. All matches will be played under the Futsal Laws of the Game as approved and published by FIFA.
- D. In the case of any discrepancy in the interpretation of the Futsal Laws of the Game, the English text shall be authoritative.
- E. Only six (6) appropriately credentialed team officials, and up to seven (7) players (substitutes) shall be allowed to sit on the team bench, a maximum of thirteen (13) persons. The names of all team officials persons and their functions shall be indicated on the Officials on Substitution Bench form.

X. DURATION, EXTRA TIME, PENALTY KICKS

- A. Each match shall last 40 minutes, comprising two periods of 20 minutes with an interval of 15 minutes in between.
- B. 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 5 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 extra time than the other, the team scoring the most goals will be declared the winner.
- D. If at the end of the ten (10) minutes of extra time, the teams are tied, penalty kicks shall be taken to determine the winner, in accordance with the “kicks from the penalty spot” procedure specified in the Futsal Laws of the Game by the International Football Association Board and published by FIFA.

XI. FIELD OF PLAY, ARENAS, BALLS

- A. Each national association organizing matches in the Preliminary Phase shall ensure that the arena which the matches are to take place fulfill the FIFA requirements and that the fields of play conform with the provisions stipulated in the Futsal Laws of the Game. The same applied to the accessory equipment.
- B. As a general rule, the Preliminary and Final Phase matches may only be played in all-seated arenas. If only arenas with both seating and standing areas are available, the standing space shall remain vacant.

- C. As a general rule, all the matches of the CONCACAF Futsal Championship may only be played on a surface that is smooth, flat and non-abrasive. The use of wood or artificial material is recommended.
- D. The Organizing Committee shall guarantee that the fields of play chosen for the Final Phase comply with the Futsal Laws of the Game. They shall be subject to the approval of the Organizing Committee.
- E. The footballs for the Preliminary Phase shall be supplied by the host national association and shall also bear the designation "FIFA Approved".
- F. The footballs for the Final Phase shall be selected and supplied by CONCACAF.

XII. RESPONSIBILITIES OF EACH ENTITY INVOLVED

A. Preliminary Phase

- 1. Each team that arranges a match shall be responsible for
 - A. Guaranteeing law and order as well as safety in the stadia, if necessary in collaboration with the relevant authorities.
 - B. Undertaking to arrange adequate liability insurance cover in respect of the stadium in which the match is due to be held.
 - C. Complying with the guidelines and instructions issued by CONCACAF and the Regional Union.

B. Preliminary and Final Phases

- 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 and any costs in obtaining visas for their delegation.
 - d. Paying for incidental expenses incurred by their 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 18 persons allotted for.
 - e. Paying for all costs for days before or after the tournament which are in excess of the days set by CONCACAF for the tournament.
 - 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.