



# CONCACAF U-15 CHAMPIONSHIP

# 2013

The CONCACAF U-15 Championship is a Development Tournament within the Confederation.

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## **PREAMBLE**

- A. The CONCACAF U-15 Championship is an official event of the Confederation of North, Central American and Caribbean Association Football, hereinafter referred to as CONCACAF, and is a development tournament for the Confederation.
  
- B. Any rights that these regulations do not cede to a national association participating in the CONCACAF U-15 Championship shall belong to CONCACAF.

### **I. TITLE - CONCACAF U-15 CHAMPIONSHIP**

1. The CONCACAF U-15 Championship shall take place every two years. The national associations affiliated with CONCACAF are invited to participate with their National U-15 team.
2. CONCACAF will present the CONCACAF Champion with the U-15 CONCACAF Championship Trophy.
3. The CONCACAF Champions shall receive 30 gold medals, and the runner-up 30 silver medals, and the third place team 30 bronze medals.
4. A Certificate of Participation will be provided to all players participating in the CONCACAF Championship.

### **II. ENTRIES**

1. The National U-15 teams of all CONCACAF members have the right to participate.

### **III. WITHDRAWALS**

1. All participating member associations having entered the tournament are obligated to play all their matches until they are eliminated from the Championship. 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.

2. If a withdrawal takes place:
  - a. Before the start of the Tournament a fine of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000 USD);
  - b. Anytime during the Final Phase of the Tournament a fine of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000 USD).
  - c. 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 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.
3. Penalties specified herein will not be applied in cases of force majeure, as verified by the relevant CONCACAF Committee.
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 its 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 or refuses to continue to play;
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, unless the incident mentioned in par. 6 occurred in its last match. In addition, the guilty association shall pay compensation for any damages or losses suffered by the other association(s) and by CONCACAF. Furthermore, the guilty National Association will forfeit any claim to financial remuneration from CONCACAF. Further measures may be taken by the CONCACAF Organizing Committee;
7. If the circumstances of withdrawal are sufficiently serious, the Disciplinary Committee may also take whatever additional action is appropriate under the terms of the FIFA Disciplinary Code;
8. The relevant CONCACAF committee shall determine the amount of damages for financial loss upon receipt of a substantiated and documented request from the Organizing Committee;
9. Furthermore, the guilty national association may be disqualified from taking

part in the next two U-15 Championships. Further measures may be taken by CONCACAF after deliberation by the Executive Committee including the suspension of the association concerned from subsequent CONCACAF competitions.

10. No appeals can be lodged against these decisions.

#### **IV. CONCACAF ORGANIZING COMMITTEE**

1. The Organizing Committee for the U-15 Championship, appointed by the CONCACAF Executive Committee is responsible for the organization of the competition.
2. The Organizing Committee shall, amongst other matters, be responsible for:
  - a. Supervising the general preparations, determining the competition system, as well as forming the competition groups for the Tournament.
  - b. Fixing the dates, venues, stadia for training sessions, and Tournament matches.
  - c. Determining the schedule for the tournament.
  - d. Designation of referees and officials for all matches in the Tournament.
  - e. Choosing the official ball of the Tournament, and any other technical material required during the Tournament.
3. Functioning as a decision making body in the event of challenges or complaints, and issuing the applicable rulings thereto.
4. Executing and coordinating the operation and logistics of the Tournament.
5. Deciding the applicable solutions in case of force majeure.

#### **V. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE HOST ASSOCIATION**

1. The Host Association shall be responsible for:
  - a. Provide accommodations and meals for twenty-three (23) persons (18 players and 5 team officials) per team, beginning two (2) days prior to

commencement of the Championship and through the day after each team finalizes its respective participation in the Championship, except as otherwise provided by the Organizing Committee. The Host Association shall inform the participating Associations of the applicable hotel rates for any additional members accompanying their delegations, in the understanding that the Organizing Committee shall make the necessary arrangements for the respective hotel to extend a preferred rate for their services.

- b. Provide local ground transportation for each participating 23 persons and luggage service to and from the airport, training sites, and match venues exclusively.
- c. Provide water and re-hydrating beverages for all training sessions and Tournament matches.
- d. Have training sites in good and adequate conditions available for all associations.
- e. Provide adequate security for all participants, national association officials, and match officials from arrival to departure.
- f. Provide medical and emergency services at Tournament matches.
- g. Provide all members of each Association with the required accreditations.
- h. Recommend laundry facilities at reasonable rates and close to the respective hotel of stay.
- i. Expenses not considered in this Section shall be deemed extras, and shall be at the sole cost of and born solely by the Association incurring such extra expense.

## VI. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTICIPATING ASSOCIATIONS

1. Each participating National Association shall be responsible for:
  - a. All transportation expenses incurred within their home country.
  - b. To pay for any local airport taxes or any other tax levied to enter or exit the host country as necessary.
  - c. The conduct of the members of its delegation (officials and players), and of any person carrying out duties on its behalf throughout the competition, from their arrival into the host country until their departure;
  - d. Health, travel and accident insurance coverage for all the members of its delegation;
  - e. Incidental expenses, including laundry, incurred by its delegation members during the course of their stay in the host country and for any costs incurred by additional members of the delegation;
  - f. Any expenses of extending the stay of any member of its delegation, unless otherwise approved by CONCACAF;
  - g. Returning the information requested by CONCACAF by the dates specified;
  - h. Applying for visas in good time from the diplomatic mission of the host country or countries, as necessary.
  - i. Attending press conferences and other official media activities organized by CONCACAF in accordance with the instructions issued by CONCACAF.
  - j. Allow CONCACAF to use its Federation Marks for the promotion of the tournament, and allow the event sponsors to use the marks in a collective form only, for the sole purpose of promoting the tournament. CONCACAF may issue separate guidelines that covers the commercial usage of player images.
2. The participating member associations and their players and officials agree to comply with the Laws of the Game and the CONCACAF Statutes and Regulations.
3. The participating member associations and their players and officials agree to comply with the FIFA Disciplinary Code, the FIFA Code of Ethics as well as

decision and directives of CONCACAF bodies, unless these Regulations stipulates otherwise.

## **VII. ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE FROM THE HOST COUNTRY**

1. All delegations shall arrive at least 2 (two) days prior to the commencement of the Tournament, and they shall leave one day after having finished their participation in the Tournament, either by reason of elimination, or by reason of the Tournament having been concluded.

## **VIII. 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 CONCACAF 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 (3) members are present.
5. All economic penalties assessed must be paid by the appropriate Association no later than sixty (60) days after notification thereof.



#### Cautions and Suspensions:

- a. Cautions received during one competition are not carried over to another competition.
- b. A single caution received in the Group Stage of the competition shall not be carried over to the Knock Out Phase of the competition.
- c. Two (2) cautions received in different games in the Group Phase or two (2) cautions in different games in the Knock Out Phase of the Final Competition shall result in automatic suspension from the next game in the competition.
- d. Red card suspensions shall be served regardless of the stage of the competition.

#### **IX. 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.

#### **X. PROTESTS**

1. Protests, subject to the following provisions, are objections of any kind connected with matches organized in the CONCACAF U-15 Championship.
2. Protests shall be submitted in writing to the Match Commissioner or CONCACAF representative at the match not later than two (2) hours after conclusion of the match and followed up immediately with a written report, including the original protest, to be sent to CONCACAF General Secretariat by fax or scan and e-mail.
3. Protests for reasons outlined in paragraph 4 below must be accompanied by a check in the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500 USD) payable to CONCACAF.
4. Protests against eligibility of players chosen to take part in a game and deemed to have been suspended shall be submitted in writing to the Match Commissioner not later than two (2) hours following the conclusion of the match.

5. Protests against any incidents that occur during a match shall be confirmed in writing to the Match Commissioner or the CONCACAF representative at the match not later than two (2) hours following the conclusion of the match in question.
6. No protests may be made against the referee's decisions on points of fact connected with play, such decisions being final.
7. 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.
8. If an unfounded or irresponsible protest is lodged, a fine may be imposed.
9. The expenses, which arise from a protest, shall be charged by CONCACAF, either wholly or in part, to the losing party.
10. Once the winning teams of the CONCACAF U-15 Championship have been proclaimed, any protest or complaint about the sports procedure followed during the competition shall be disregarded.

#### **XI. 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 five (5) appropriately credentialed team officials, and up to seven (7) players [substitutes], shall be allowed to sit on the bench at the touch line, a maximum of twelve (12) persons. The names of all these persons and their functions shall be indicated on the form provided by the referee's.

#### **XII. DURATION, EXTRA TIME, PENALTY KICKS**

1. Each match shall last 70 minutes, comprising two periods of 35 minutes with an interval of 10 minutes in between.
2. At the knock out phase of the tournament, if the teams are still tied at the end of normal time, kicks from the penalty mark shall be taken to determine the winner.

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

1. Eligible players to participate in the tournament shall be born on January 1, 1998 and thereafter.
2. Each participating Association shall select its national representative team from the best players who are nationals of its country and under its jurisdiction and are eligible for selection in accordance with the provisions of the FIFA Regulations governing the Application of FIFA Statutes, Articles 5 through 8 (pages 64 & 65).
3. 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.
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 forty-five (45) days prior to the kick-off of the opening match. This list is binding and shall contain the names of at least twenty-five (25) players. The release list shall at a minimum contain the full last name(s), all first names, popular name, place and date of birth, and passport number.
5. **Team Delegations and Final Roster:**  
Each participating Association shall submit to the CONCACAF General Secretariat its Final Delegation list of up to twenty-three (23) persons, which must include up to eighteen (18) players not later than fifteen (15) days prior to the first match of the Tournament.
6. A listed player may only be substituted in the event of serious injury up until twenty-four (24) hours before his team’s first match. The substitute shall be selected from the provisional list of twenty-five (25) players. Any additional cost associated with approved player replacement will be at the expense of the team.
7. Upon arrival at the first venue of the competition each National Association’s head of delegation or team administrator shall immediately submit the individual passports of its players for verification to the designated representative of CONCACAF.

8. All eighteen players shall be named on each match sheet (11 selected players and 7 substitutes). Up to five (5) of the substitutes may take the place of the selected players during the match.
9. The Associations shall be responsible for fielding only eligible players. Failure to do so shall lead to the consequences stipulated in the FIFA Disciplinary Code.

#### **XIV. REGULATIONS GOVERNING SPORTS EQUIPMENT**

1. Players and officials are not allowed to visibly display political, religious, commercial or personal messages in any language or form on their playing or team kit, equipment (including kit bags, beverage containers, medical bags, etc.) or body. The similar display of commercial messages and slogans in any language or form by players and officials is not allowed for the duration of their time at any official activity organized by CONCACAF (including in the stadium for official matches and mixed zone activities).
2. Each team shall have an official and reserve team kit, which shall be declared on the team color form. The colors of the reserve team kit (shirt, shorts, and socks) shall be noticeably different from and contrast with the colors of the official team kit (shirt, shorts, and socks). The reserve team kit (including the goalkeeper's) must also be taken to every match. Only these colors may be worn at matches.
3. Each player shall wear a number between 1 and 25 on the front and back of his team shirt and on his playing shorts. The colors of the numbers must contrast clearly with the main color of the shirts and shorts (light or dark or vice versa) and be legible from a distance for spectators in the stadium and television viewers in accordance with the FIFA Equipment Regulations.

#### **XV. FLAGS AND ANTHEMS**

1. During the tournament, the CONCACAF flag, the flag of the host country, and the flags of the competing countries shall be flown inside the stadium at every match providing sufficient flag poles are available. The FIFA Fair Play flag shall also be hoisted or draped in the stadium, clearly visible from the VIP box.
2. The CONCACAF Anthem shall be played while the teams are entering the field, followed by the national anthem of the two teams while the teams are lined up before the tribune.

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

1. The referees, assistant referees and fourth officials (hereinafter referred to collectively as match officials) for the preliminary and final competitions shall be appointed for each match by the CONCACAF Referees Committee. The decisions of the CONCACAF Referees Committee are final and not subject to appeal.
2. The match officials shall receive the official refereeing kit and equipment from CONCACAF. They shall wear and use only this kit on match days.
3. The match officials shall be given the opportunity to use training facilities.
4. 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.
5. 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**

1. The Organizing Committee may organize an official draw of the teams in the Tournament and shall decide on the structure and format of the competition.
2. The matches in the groups shall be played according to the league system, each country meeting all the other countries in its group once with the following awards: three points for a win, one point for a draw, and none for a defeat.
3. The twenty four teams shall be divided into four groups of six teams.
4. The winner of each group shall qualify for the Semifinals. The Semifinal pairings shall be:

Group A winner v Group B winner  
Group C winner v Group D winner

5. The winners of the Semifinals shall compete for the CONCACAF U-15 Championship Trophy.
6. The losers of the Semifinals shall compete for 3rd place.
7. The ranking of each team in each group will be determined as follows:
  - a. Greatest number of points obtained in group matches
  - b. Goal difference in all group matches
  - c. Greatest number of goals scored in all group matches
  - d. Greatest number of points obtained in group matches between the teams concerned;
  - e. Drawing of lots by the Gold Cup Organizing Committee.
8. If a semi-final or the final match is tied at the end of the regulation seventy minutes; the procedure to determine the winner outlined in Article XII shall be used to determine a winner.

#### **XVIII. FINANCIAL REGULATIONS**

1. CONCACAF shall bear the following:
  - a. Economy air travel, first class hotel and board, and approved per diem for the referees and assistant referees and local transportation to and from the airport, training sessions, team practices and matches;
  - b. 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).
  - c. A grant to the host association towards the tournament budget including the expenses for accommodation, meals and ground transportation.

#### **XIX. MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR**

CONCACAF's Executive Committee, whose decisions shall be final, will resolve matters not provided for in these Regulations.

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:

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The President

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The General Secretary