



Concacaf

**Concacaf Regulations Governing
International Matches**

Effective January 1, 2026

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Definitions and Interpretation

In interpreting these Regulations:

1. "Association" means a Football Association recognized as such by and a member of Concacaf.
2. "Club Team" means a team representing a club that is affiliated directly or indirectly to an Association or a Member.
3. "Confederation" means a group of associations recognized by FIFA that belong to the same continent or assimilable geographic region.
4. "Domestic Team" means a team containing players registered with different Club Teams affiliated to the same Association or Member Association (e.g. representing a Member's league or regional association).
5. "FIFA" means Fédération Internationale de Football Association.
6. "International Match" means a match between two teams belonging to different Associations or Members or a match involving a Scratch Team. For the purpose of authorization, any match or competition played between two teams belonging to the same Member but in a Third Country shall be recognized as an International Match or Competition.
7. "International "A" Match" means a match for which both Associations field their first Representative Team ("A" Representative Team).
8. "League" means an organization that is subordinate to an Association.
9. "Member" or "Member Association" means the controlling body for Football within a country or territory of Concacaf that has been admitted into Concacaf membership by the Congress.
10. "Non-Concacaf Member Association" means a Football Association that has been admitted into membership of FIFA and/or a Confederation which is not Concacaf.
11. "Representative Team" means a team representing a Member.
12. "Scratch Team" means a team brought together on a one-off basis, containing active players registered with clubs playing in the highest division of a Member that are not affiliated to the same Member.
13. "Third Country" means the territory of an Association on which a match or competition is to be played and to which none of the teams participating in the match or competition is affiliated.

Unless the context otherwise requires, references to natural persons include both genders and the singular case applies to the plural and vice-versa.

Based on articles 2 and 33 of the Concacaf Statutes and the FIFA Regulations Governing International Matches (hereinafter: the FIFA Regulations), the Concacaf Council has issued the following regulations.

Article 1. Objectives

1. The objectives of these Regulations are:
 - a) to govern the process for the authorization, notification and other requirements for any International Matches and Competitions involving Member Associations or one (1) or more teams affiliated to a Member Association, and any International Matches played on the territory of Concacaf; and
 - b) to ensure that Concacaf has a complete overview of all International Matches and Competitions involving Member Associations, Non-Concacaf Member Associations, Club Teams, Domestic Teams, and Scratch Teams that occur within the territory of Concacaf.

Article 2. Scope of Regulations

1. These regulations apply to all International Matches and Competitions except those centralized competitions organized by FIFA.
2. Unless stipulated otherwise in these Regulations, these Regulations apply equally to association football, futsal and beach soccer.
3. Subject to Article 7 below, International Matches or competitions authorized by FIFA or Concacaf on an exceptional basis shall not be subject to these Regulations. Such International Matches or competitions authorized by Concacaf shall be subject to the terms of the specific authorization granted therefor.

Article 3. Purpose

1. The purpose of these Regulations is to ensure the standardization and formalization of the administrative process (including authorization, required reporting and, if applicable, levies) for International Matches and Competitions to take place on the territory of Concacaf and to protect the integrity of the game, by creating a framework that allows Concacaf to oversee all International Matches and Competitions in Concacaf territory. This oversight shall allow Concacaf to create a uniform administrative framework and to promote integrity, ethics, and fair play with a view to preventing all methods or practices which might jeopardize the integrity of matches, competitions, players, officials, and Members, or give rise to the abuse of the game.

Article 4. Duties of Members

1. Members shall take such action, whether by enacting their own regulations or otherwise, to ensure the procedures for the authorization, notification and reporting of International Matches as set forth in these Regulations is complied with in its territory and/or by affiliated teams, clubs and leagues.
2. Members must ensure that their own members respect these Regulations, the FIFA Regulations as well as their own regulations.
3. Members to which a Representative Team, Club Team or Domestic Team participating in an International Match or Competition are affiliated, shall be responsible for obtaining authorization from Concacaf by following the processes set forth in these Regulations and/or the FIFA Regulations.
4. The Member on whose territory an International Match or Competition will be played shall be responsible for ensuring compliance with all applicable regulations. It shall be responsible for obtaining authorization from FIFA, Concacaf, the other Confederations, Members, and Non-Concacaf Member Associations where required by these Regulations and/or the FIFA Regulations.
5. Members shall inform, where relevant, other Members, Non-Concacaf Member Associations, Concacaf, other Confederations, and/or FIFA about any International Match or Competition that was arranged and played on its territory and for which authorization was either not sought or not given.
6. Members must reply to any written request in relation to an authorization request from another Member, Non-Concacaf Member Association, Concacaf, other Confederations, or FIFA, within seven (7) days of its receipt.
7. Subject at all times to Section 9.2 or 10.4 (as applicable), the Member on whose territory a Tier 1 or Tier 2 International Match or Competition will be played shall seek approval and/or request recommendations for referees from Concacaf prior to finalizing the appointments and no later than 14 days prior to the match or first match, in case of international competitions.
8. If for any reason the referees appointed for an International Match are changed, the participating teams must be informed, and the reasons shall be documented accordingly in a report signed by an authorized official of the host Member and sent to the relevant Members and/or Non-Concacaf Member Associations, Concacaf, other Confederations and/or FIFA.
9. Anyone submitting applications for authorization and subsequent documents must ensure and confirm the accuracy and authenticity of the information contained therein.
10. The Member on whose territory an International Match or Competition will be played shall ensure that a minimum of four (4) official passes (including parking passes) shall be issued to Concacaf when requested at least one (1) day in advance of such match.

Article 5. Name of International Matches or Competitions

1. The name used for International Matches or Competitions may not refer to the existing official names of any competitions of FIFA, Concacaf, other Confederations, Members or Non-Concacaf Member Associations.
2. Concacaf reserves the right to approve all competition names.

Article 6. Authorization: Principle

1. International Matches may only be authorized in accordance with these Regulations and the FIFA Regulations.
2. All International Matches must be authorized by the Member or Non-Concacaf Member Association to which the participating teams are affiliated and by the Member or Non-Concacaf Member Association on whose territory the match is to be played. International Matches involving a Scratch Team must be authorized by the Member or Non-Concacaf Member Association to which each individual player is registered.
3. Every team participating in an International Match shall be responsible for requesting the authorization of the Member or Non-Concacaf Member Association to which they belong. The Member or Non-Concacaf Member Association shall in turn be responsible for requesting the authorization from Concacaf or the applicable Confederation.
4. The Member or Non-Concacaf Member Association to which the participating teams are affiliated shall provide these authorizations to the host Member so that the final request for authorization can be completed in accordance with the time frame stipulated in these Regulations.
5. Each team participating in an International Match shall verify before the match is played that the required authorizations have been issued by the relevant bodies in accordance with these Regulations and the FIFA Regulations.
6. Concacaf may reject applications not complying with the FIFA Regulations or these Regulations.
7. Concacaf's authorization or refusal of authorization is given by the Concacaf General Secretariat, whose decision shall be final and binding.
8. An authorization or refusal of authorization does not entail any liability on the part of Concacaf in the event that any legal claim subsequently arises.

Article 7. Authorization for Official Matches or Competitions (special cases)

- i. *Official match or competition of any Confederation, Member, or Non-Concacaf Member Association or any League of a Member or Non-Concacaf Member Association is played on the territory of a third Member on the territory of Concacaf*

1. The authorization procedures set forth in these Regulations do not apply to such official matches or competitions.
2. Such participation requires a specific authorization by the Concacaf Council as of the entry into force of these Regulations.
3. The host Member shall submit a final authorization request containing authorizations of all relevant Member Associations and non-host Confederations to Concacaf no later than September 1st of the prior calendar year before the earliest of the proposed dates of such match.
4. Concacaf's General Secretariat shall publish by Circular Letter and/or Concacaf's official website the relevant proceedings for requesting such approval, including but not limited to:
 - a. The rationale for the request (i.e., the special circumstance);
 - b. Letters of support from key stakeholders (e.g., applicable leagues, players, coaches, referees, fans, etc.);
 - c. Analysis of the contribution to the development of football within the host territory and host Confederation; and
 - d. Any plans for reinvestment to benefit the development of football within the host territory.
5. In the event the Concacaf Council authorizes the playing of the requested match or competition, it shall also determine and communicate any levies (including without limitation calculation, deadline for collection etc.) applicable to such match(es) or competition(s).
6. Once authorization has been granted, Concacaf shall notify the host Member and FIFA.
 - ii. *Participation by a Club Team in a League affiliated with another Member (cross-border matches)*
7. The authorization procedures set forth in these Regulations do not apply to the participation by a Club Team in a League affiliated with another Member.
8. Such participation requires a specific authorization by the Concacaf Council on an annual basis, unless otherwise approved by the Concacaf Council.
9. Concacaf's General Secretariat shall publish by Circular Letter and/or Concacaf's official website the relevant proceedings for requesting such approval.
10. In the event the Concacaf Council authorizes the playing of the requested match or competition, it shall also determine and communicate any levies (including without limitation calculation, deadline for collection etc.) applicable to such match(es) or competition(s).

Article 8. International Matches: Definitions

1. For the purposes of these Regulations:

- a) A tier 1 International Match shall mean any International Match in which both of the teams participating are the "A" Representative Teams of the Members and/or Non-Concacaf Member Associations, or an International Match involving a Scratch Team. A Competition that contains at least one tier 1 International Match shall be classified as a tier 1 Competition.
- b) A tier 2 International Match shall mean any International Match Involving one "A" Representative Team, any other Representative Team, a Domestic Team or the first team of a Club Team that participates in the highest division of a Member or Non-Concacaf Member Association. A Competition that does not involve any tier 1 International Matches and involves at least one tier 2 International Match shall be classified as tier 2 Competition.
- c) A tier 3 International Match shall mean all International Matches that are not tier 1 or tier 2 International Matches.

Article 9. Authorization Procedure for Tier 1 International Matches and Competitions authorized by FIFA

1. All Tier 1 International Matches must be authorized as required in the FIFA Regulations.
2. For all International Matches and Competitions authorized pursuant to this Article, Concacaf may replace the proposed appointed referees at its sole discretion.

Article 10. Authorization Procedure for Tier 2 International Matches and Competitions

1. All Tier 2 International Matches and Competitions involving teams from more than (1) Confederation or teams from one (1) Confederation playing on the territory of a different Confederation must be authorized as required by the FIFA Regulations.
2. Pursuant to the FIFA Regulations, Concacaf has discretion to authorize tier 2 International Matches and Competitions involving teams from Concacaf and International Matches and Competitions played on the territory of Concacaf.
3. Once authorization has been granted, Concacaf shall notify the host Member and FIFA.
4. For all International Matches and Competitions authorized pursuant to this Article, Concacaf may replace the proposed appointed referees at its sole discretion.

i. Matches

5. The administrative process for authorization shall comply with all the following steps:
 - a) Each participating team shall request the authorization of its Member Association and, if applicable, non-host Confederation;
 - b) Once received, each participating team or their Member Associations shall pass the authorizations to the host Member Association;

- c) The host Member Association shall submit a final authorization request containing the authorizations of all relevant Member Associations and non-host Confederations to Concacaf at least fourteen (14) days before the earliest of the proposed dates of such match.
- 6. The requests for authorization for participating in and/or hosting a Tier 2 International Match shall be made on the official FIFA forms as set forth in Appendix A of the FIFA Regulations.

ii. Competitions

- 7. The administrative process for authorization shall comply with all the following steps:
 - a) Each participating team shall request the authorization of its Member Association and, if applicable, non-host Confederation;
 - b) Once received, the participating teams or their Member Associations shall pass the authorizations to the host Member Association;
 - c) The host Member Association shall submit a final authorization request containing the authorizations of all relevant Member Associations and non-host Confederations to Concacaf, the list of participating teams and the Competition regulations at least thirty (30) days before the earliest of the proposed dates for the first match.
- 8. The request for authorization for participating in and/or hosting a Tier 2 Competition shall be on the official FIFA forms as set forth in Appendix C to the FIFA Regulations.

Article 11. Authorization Procedure for Tier 3 International Matches and Competitions

- 1. Pursuant to the FIFA Regulations, all Tier 3 International Matches played on the territory of Concacaf must be authorized by Concacaf.
- 2. The participation of teams affiliated to Concacaf in Tier 3 International Matches played outside of the territory of Concacaf must be authorized by Concacaf.
- 3. For all International Matches and Competitions authorized pursuant to this Article, Concacaf may replace the proposed appointed referees at its sole discretion.
- 4. The administrative process for authorization shall comply with all the following steps:
 - a) Each participating team shall request the authorization of its Member Association;
 - b) Once received, the participating teams or their Members shall pass the authorizations to the host Member Association;

- c) The host Member Association shall pass such authorizations and its own written authorization to Concacaf no later than thirty (30) days prior to the proposed match date (or first proposed match date of a Competition); and
- d) For purposes of these Regulations, and solely with respect to Tier 3 International Matches and Competitions, Concacaf's approval shall be deemed to have been granted upon receipt of such written communication.

Article 12. **Additional Conditions**

- 1. The Member Association on whose territory any International Match or Competition (regardless of Tier) is played shall comply with the following:
 - a) Provide in the request for authorization made to Concacaf the name of any FIFA Match Agent or Promoter associated with said match. For purposes of these Regulations, (a) "FIFA Match Agent" shall mean a person, who is licensed by FIFA as a "Match Agent" and who, with the Promoter, is responsible for all obligations, financial and otherwise, in connection with the International Match and (b) "Promoter" shall mean any entity or individual hosting an International Match who is responsible, along with the FIFA Match Agent, for all obligations, financial and otherwise, in connection with the International Match.
 - b) Implement for each International Match or Competition a pre-match anti-discrimination campaign as well as proactive stadium announcements and videos set forth in Concacaf's anti-discrimination protocol.
 - c) In case of discriminatory incidents, implement reactive stadium announcements, and in case of serious discriminatory incidents, implement the three-step procedure set forth in Concacaf's anti-discrimination protocol.
- 2. For all Competitions (regardless of Tier), applications for all International Matches comprising such Competition shall only be considered in unison. Concacaf shall use the date of the initial International Match of any Competition as the applicable date for authorization requests for all International Matches comprising such Competition.

Article 13. **Reporting**

- i. Tier 1
- 1. The Member on whose territory a match is played shall, within forty-eight (48) hours of each International Match, submit a Report Form, List of Players and Referee's Report to the Concacaf General Secretariat, using the official form set out in Appendix D of the FIFA International Match Regulations.

- ii. Tier 2
 - 2. The Member on whose territory a tier 2 International Match is played shall within forty- eight (48) hours of each match, submit a Report Form together with the List of Players and Referee's Report duly signed by the relevant parties to Concacaf General Secretariat, using the official Concacaf forms set out in Annex A of these Regulations.
- iii. Tier 3
 - 3. The Member on whose territory a Tier 3 International Match is played shall maintain records of the Report Form, List of Player and the Referee's Report as set out in Annex A of these Regulations.
 - 4. Concacaf may request a Member on whose territory a Tier 3 International Match is played to submit a Report Form together with the List of Players and the Referee's Report to Concacaf General Secretariat, using the official Concacaf forms set out in Appendix A of these Regulations. Such documents shall be submitted by a deadline set by Concacaf.

Article 14. Levies and Declaration Form

- 1. Concacaf may establish and collect levies on International Matches and Competitions in accordance with the Concacaf Statutes.
- 2. Concacaf shall notify via circular letter the schedule of levies applicable to International Matches and Competitions and the procedures and time periods for paying those levies.
- 3. The Member on whose territory an International Match and/or Competition is played shall be responsible for paying or collecting levies (if applicable), preparing and submitting the required declaration form per International Match, as well as processing payment for the appropriate amounts to Concacaf. Concacaf reserves the right to audit the information submitted in such declaration form, as well as to request additional information when deemed necessary at Concacaf's sole discretion.

Article 15. Sanctions

- 1. Any violations of these Regulations shall be sanctioned in accordance with the applicable Disciplinary Codes of Concacaf and/or FIFA and/or Concacaf Statutes.
- 2. In particular, but without limitation, the following cases will be considered as aggravating circumstances: cases where other violations of these Regulations or any other Concacaf regulations have occurred, cases of repeated infringement, or cases where the Concacaf Disciplinary Committee determines non-compliance was voluntary, negligent or malicious.
- 3. The Concacaf Disciplinary Committee has jurisdiction and competence over all matters relating to violation of these Regulations, including without limitation to issue sanctions. Until the Concacaf Disciplinary Code enters into force, the Concacaf Disciplinary Committee may apply the FIFA Disciplinary code and any other relevant FIFA disciplinary provisions.

Article 16. Miscellaneous

1. The Concacaf General Secretariat is authorized to update or modify the forms referenced herein, and otherwise to take such action as reasonably necessary, to administer these Regulations. Communications via Circular Letter will occur each time such update or modification occurs.
2. These Regulations shall be issued in the official languages of Concacaf. In the event of any discrepancy between any texts, the English version shall be authoritative.
3. The Concacaf Council shall have the final decision on any matter not provided for in these Regulations or in the event of ambiguity or conflict between Articles.

Article 17. Adoption and Enforcement

1. These Regulations were adopted by the Concacaf Council on December 4, 2025, and come into effect on January 1st, 2026.