



Concacaf

**STATUTES OF THE CONFEDERATION OF NORTH, CENTRAL AMERICA AND
CARIBBEAN ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL**

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Table of Contents

DEFINITIONS..... 4

Article 1. Name, legal form and headquarters..... 6

Article 2. Objectives..... 7

Article 3. Neutrality; non-discrimination; gender equality; human rights 8

Article 4. Promoting friendly relations 8

Article 5. Laws of the Game 8

Article 6. Conduct of bodies, Officials and others 9

Article 7. Official languages..... 9

Article 8. Admission, suspension and expulsion of Member Associations 9

Article 9. Membership and Unions..... 9

Article 10. Request and procedure for application for membership11

Article 11. Rights of Member Associations12

Article 12. Obligations of Member Associations.....13

Article 13. Suspension of a Member Association15

Article 14. Expulsion of a Member Association16

Article 15. Resignations of a Member Association16

Article 16. Independence of Member Associations and their bodies17

Article 17. Status of Clubs, Leagues and other groups..... 17

Article 18. Honorary membership18

Article 19. Bodies18

Article 20. Congress18

Article 21. Vote, delegates and other attendees and participants19

Article 22. Areas of authority of the Congress19

Article 23. Quorum of the Congress.....20

Article 24. Decisions of the Congress20

Article 25. Elections21

Article 26. Ordinary Congress21

Article 27. Ordinary Congress agenda22

Article 28. Extraordinary Congress23

Article 29. Adoption of and amendment to the Statutes 23

Article 30. Minutes24

Article 31. Effective dates of decisions24

Article 32. Concacaf Council24

Article 33. Powers and duties of the Concacaf Council.....27

Article 34. Concacaf Council meetings28

Article 35. Concacaf Council quorum and decisions.....29

Article 36. Suspension or dismissal of a person30

Article 37. The President30

Article 38. Representation and signature31

Article 39. Concacaf representatives on the FIFA Council31

Article 40. General Secretariat33

Article 41. General Secretary.....	33
Article 42. Standing committees	34
Article 43. Ad-hoc committees	36
Article 44. Judicial bodies	36
Article 45. Disciplinary Committee.....	36
Article 46. Ethics Committee	37
Article 47. Appeals Committee	37
Article 48. Disciplinary measures.....	37
Article 49. Recognition of the Concacaf Statutes	38
Article 50. Disputes	38
Article 51. Court of Arbitration for Sports.....	39
Article 52. Jurisdiction of CAS as an ordinary court of arbitration	39
Article 53. Jurisdiction of CAS as an appeals arbitration body	39
Article 54. Common provisions.....	40
Article 55. Finances.....	40
Article 56. External auditors	40
Article 57. Membership subscription.....	41
Article 58. Settlement.....	41
Article 59. Levies.....	41
Article 60. Competitions	41
Article 61. Club licensing	41
Article 62. Rights	42
Article 63. Authorization.....	42
Article 64. International matches and competitions	42
Article 65. Approval	42
Article 66. Matters not provided for	42
Article 67. Dissolution	42

DEFINITIONS

In interpreting these Statutes:

1. “Arbitration Tribunal” means a panel of arbitrators appointed to hear and decide a dispute according to the rules of arbitration.
2. “Associate Member” means a Member Association as described in Article 9 par. 4(b) of these Statutes.
3. “Association” means a Football Association recognized as such by and a member of Concacaf. Membership shall be Full or Associate, as set forth in Article 9 of these Statutes.
4. “Association Football” means the game controlled by FIFA and organized by FIFA, the confederations and/or Member Associations in accordance with the Laws of the Game.
5. “CAS” means the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne (Switzerland).
6. “CFU” means the Caribbean Football Union.
7. “Club” means a member of an association (that is a member of Concacaf) or a member of a league recognized by a Member Association that enters at least one team in a competition.
8. “Concacaf Council” or “Council” means the strategic and oversight body of Concacaf.
9. “Concacaf Regulations” or “Regulations” means the Regulations governing the application of the Statutes of Concacaf, Standing Orders of the Congress and any rules, regulations, codes and provisions as may be established and amended from time to time by the Concacaf Council.
10. “Code of Ethics” means the Concacaf Code of Ethics as established by and amended from time to time by the Concacaf Council.
11. “Confederation” or “Concacaf” means the Confederation of North, Central America and Caribbean Association Football.
12. “Congress” means the supreme and legislative body of Concacaf.
13. “Disciplinary Code” means the Concacaf Disciplinary Code as established and amended from time to time by the Concacaf Council.
14. “Female Member” means a member of the Concacaf Council as described in Article 32 par 9 of these Statutes.
15. “FIFA” means the Fédération Internationale de Football Association.
16. “Football” means, as the context requires, any or all types of football, including, without limitation, futsal and beach soccer.

17. “Full Member” means a Member Association as described in Article 9 par. 4(a) of these Statutes.
18. “General Secretariat” means the General Secretariat of Concacaf as described in Article 40 of these Statutes.
19. “The IFAB” means the International Football Association Board.
20. “Immediate family” or “immediate family member” means, with respect to any person, such person’s spouse or domestic partner, parents, grandparents, siblings, uncles, aunts, children (including any step-child or adopted child), grandchildren, son-, daughter-, brother-, sister-, father- or mother-in-law and the spouse of such persons, and including anyone else, whether by blood or otherwise, (A) with whom the individual has a relationship akin to a family relationship and (B) to whom such person provides financial support.
21. “Independent”: a person cannot be determined to be “Independent” if such person or a member of such person’s immediate family within the past two (2) years:
 - a) is or was a member of the executive or supervisory board of any Member Association (excluding FIFA appointed Normalization Committees);
 - b) has or had a material financial relationship; or
 - c) is a Paid Official or has been a Paid Official.
22. “Judicial Bodies” means the Ethics, Appeals and Disciplinary Committees, as described in Article 44.
23. “Laws of the Game” means the laws of association football issued by The IFAB in accordance with the provisions of the FIFA Statutes.
24. “League” means an organization that is subordinate to a Member Association.
25. “Majority” means more than fifty per cent.
26. “Material financial relationship” means, with respect to any person, (A) such person has, or (B) such person is a current director or executive officer or employee of or owns, directly or indirectly, 10% or more of the equity of any entity that has, made payments to or received payments from FIFA, Concacaf, any Member Association or any sponsor, auditor, outside counsel or other paid advisor or contractor of any of FIFA, Concacaf or Member Association for property or services in an amount which, in any single year, exceeds USD125,000; provided, that, any compensation or other amounts paid to any such person in their capacity as a member of the Concacaf Council or as a member of a standing committee or Judicial Body who otherwise meets the qualifications for independence set forth herein shall not constitute a material financial relationship.
27. “Member Association Member” means a member of the Concacaf Council as described in Article 32 par. 10 of these Statutes.
28. “NAFU” means the North American Football Union.

29. "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.
30. "Official" means any board member (including the members of the Concacaf Council), committee member, referee and assistant referee, coach, trainer and any other person responsible for technical, medical and administrative matters in Concacaf, a Member Association, Regional Association, a League or a Club as well as all other persons obliged to comply with the Concacaf Statutes (except players, football agents and match agents).
31. "Official Competition" shall mean a competition for representative teams organized by Concacaf and/or FIFA.
32. "Ordinary Court" means a state or governmental body that adjudicates disputes and administers justice according to law.
33. "Paid Official" means a salaried employee of Concacaf and, for the avoidance of doubt, excludes any member of the Concacaf Council (including the President) who is not an employee of Concacaf.
34. "Player" means any football player licensed by a Member Association.
35. "Regional Association" means an association that is subordinate to a Member Association.
36. "Statutes" means the Statutes of Concacaf as approved by the Congress from time to time.
37. "UNCAF" means the Central American Football Union.
38. "Unions" means the Unions recognized by Concacaf, specifically: CFU, UNCAF and NAFU.
39. "Region" shall mean any of the North American, Central American or Caribbean geographical regions; provided, that, for purposes of these Statutes and the matters contemplated herein, Bermuda, French Guiana, Guyana and Suriname shall be deemed to be included in the Caribbean region.

Note: Terms referring to natural persons are applicable to both genders. Any term in the singular applies to the plural and vice versa. Reference in these Statutes to days refers to calendar days.

Article 1. Name, legal form and headquarters

1. The organization shall be called "The Confederation of North, Central America and Caribbean Association Football" or "Concacaf" and shall be a membership organization. Its members shall comprise Member Associations in North America, Central America and the Caribbean or other Member Associations pursuant to these Statutes.
2. Concacaf is a Bahamian not-for-profit entity with its legal domicile in Nassau, Bahamas.

3. Concacaf is a confederation recognized by FIFA.
4. The headquarters and principal place of business of Concacaf shall be in Miami, Florida and may be transferred by a resolution of the Concacaf Council.
5. The Concacaf name is the exclusive property of Concacaf. Authorization for its use for any purpose other than the Confederation's regular business should be obtained from Concacaf.

Article 2. Objectives

The objectives of Concacaf are:

- a) to improve the game of Football and promote, regulate and control it in the territories of North America, Central America and the Caribbean in the light of fair play and its unifying, educational, cultural and humanitarian values, particularly through youth and development programs;
- b) to foster friendly relationships between and amongst FIFA, confederations, Member Associations and other organizations;
- c) to oversee all types of Football within the North American, Central American and Caribbean regions, ensuring compliance with and preventing infringements of the Statutes, Regulations, and decisions of FIFA, Concacaf and the Laws of the Game;
- d) to resolve Football matters common to its Member Associations;
- e) to ensure that the bodies and Officials of Concacaf and its Member Associations observe the Statutes, Regulations, decisions, Disciplinary Code and Code of Ethics of each of FIFA and Concacaf;
- f) to organize and manage international Football competitions in the North American, Central American and Caribbean regions;
- g) to draw up Regulations and provisions governing the game of Football and related matters and to ensure their enforcement;
- h) to protect the interests of its Member Associations;
- i) to prevent the introduction of improper methods and practices which might jeopardize the integrity of matches or competitions, or give rise to the abuse of Football;
- j) to institute strong measures and campaigns against racism, discrimination, bribery, corruption and match-fixing in Football;
- k) to ensure that its representatives in FIFA actively represent the collective views of Concacaf and do so in the true spirit of North American, Central American and Caribbean solidarity;

- l) to disseminate information to Member Associations and the public on Concacaf activities;
- m) to raise funds, purchase or hold any asset for the benefit of, or reinvestment at, all levels and areas of Football in the North American, Central American and Caribbean regions;
- n) to promote the development of women's Football and the full participation of women at all levels of Football, including governance and in technical roles; and
- o) to use its efforts to ensure that the game of Football is available to and resourced for all who wish to participate, regardless of gender or age.

Article 3. Neutrality; non-discrimination; gender equality; human rights

1. Concacaf shall be neutral in matters of politics and religion.
2. Discrimination of any kind against a country, private person or group of people on account of race, skin color, ethnic, national or social origin, gender, disability, language, religion, political opinion or any other opinion, wealth, birth or any other status, sexual orientation or any other reason is strictly prohibited and punishable by suspension or expulsion.
3. Concacaf shall be committed to respecting all internationally recognized human rights and shall strive to promote the protection of these rights.

Article 4. Promoting friendly relations

1. Concacaf shall promote friendly relations in general and, in particular, between and among its Member Associations, Officials, Players and Clubs.
2. Concacaf shall provide the necessary institutional means to resolve disputes relating to Football that may arise between or among Member Associations, Officials, Players and Clubs.

Article 5. Laws of the Game

Concacaf and its Member Associations shall organize and/or play:

- a) Association Football in compliance with the Laws of the Game issued by The IFAB;
- b) Futsal in accordance with the Futsal Laws of the Game as issued by FIFA;
- c) Beach Soccer in accordance with the Beach Soccer Laws of the Game as issued by FIFA;
- d) Any other type of Football in accordance with the relevant Laws of the Game for that type of Football issued by FIFA.

Article 6. Conduct of bodies, Officials and others

Every person and organization involved in the game of Football in the North American, Central American and Caribbean regions are obliged to observe the Statutes, Regulations and the principles of fair play as well as the principles of loyalty towards Concacaf, integrity and sportsmanship.

Article 7. Official languages

1. English, Spanish, French and Dutch are the official languages of Concacaf.
2. The Statutes, Regulations, formal decisions and official correspondence of Concacaf are published in the four (4) official languages. Member Associations are responsible for translations into non-official languages.
3. In the event of any discrepancy or difference in interpretation between any texts (including these Statutes), the English version shall be authoritative.

Article 8. Admission, suspension and expulsion of Member Associations

1. The Congress shall decide whether to admit, suspend or expel a Member Association solely upon the recommendation of the Concacaf Council, except where the authority is expressly given to the Concacaf Council in accordance with these Statutes.
2. Admission as a Member Association may be granted if the applicant fulfils the requirements established by Concacaf as specified in these Statutes.
3. Membership of an Association shall be terminated by resignation or expulsion. Loss of membership does not relieve an Association from its past due financial and reporting obligations towards Concacaf or its own members but leads to the cancellation of all rights and privileges with respect to Concacaf.

Article 9. Membership and Unions

1. Membership shall be open to Member Associations in the North American, Central American and the Caribbean regions.
2. A Member Association that is outside of the Concacaf geographical region may be admitted to membership provided that it is not a member of any other confederation. However, such admission of membership to Concacaf must be in accordance with the FIFA statutes.
3. Only one Member Association shall be officially recognized by Concacaf in each country or territory.
4. Membership to Concacaf shall be Full or Associate:

- a) Full Membership: The Concacaf Council may request the Congress to grant Full Membership to a Member Association. The Concacaf Council shall determine whether an application for Full Membership shall be submitted to the Congress for consideration. Amongst others, the following factors must be taken into account by the Concacaf Council when deciding if an application for Full Membership shall be submitted to the Congress:
 - i. whether the applicant organizes and supervises Football in its country or territory (controlling body for Football within its country or territory);
 - ii. political, economic and social structures of the applicant's country or territory;
 - iii. administrative infrastructure and internal organization of the applicant;
 - iv. sporting infrastructure in the applicant's country or territory;
 - v. number of players and clubs in the applicant's country or territory.
 - b) Associate Membership: may be granted by the Concacaf Council to an Association which the Concacaf Council has determined in its discretion does not fulfill the criteria to be granted Full Membership. The granting of Associate Membership shall be submitted to the next Congress for ratification. Associate Membership may only be granted for a maximum period of two (2) years.
5. Associate Members shall be entitled to all the privileges of Full Members, except an Associate Member shall have no right to vote at any Congress and may not propose candidates to hold office on the Concacaf or FIFA Councils or serve as members on any standing committees. In addition, Associate Members may not take part in FIFA final competitions or vote on FIFA matters.
 6. Member Associations that are geographically situated in the same Region shall be allocated to Unions pursuant to this Article 9. The Congress shall approve the creation or termination of any Union. The Concacaf Council shall have the authority to issue Regulations which establish the rights and obligations of the Unions vis-à-vis each other and Concacaf. Member Associations comprising each Union shall meet as a Union at least once per year and shall submit the minutes from each such meeting to Concacaf.
 7. Full and Associate Members shall be allocated as follows to three (3) Unions hereby recognized by Concacaf: CFU, UNCAF and NAFU, as follows:

CFU	UNCAF	NAFU
<i>Anguilla</i> <i>Antigua and Barbuda</i> <i>Aruba</i> <i>Bahamas</i> <i>Barbados</i> <i>Bermuda</i> <i>Bonaire</i> <i>British Virgin Islands</i> <i>Cayman Islands</i> <i>Cuba</i> <i>Curaçao</i> <i>Dominica</i> <i>Dominican Republic</i> <i>French Guiana</i> <i>Grenada</i> <i>Guadeloupe</i> <i>Guyana</i> <i>Haiti</i> <i>Jamaica</i> <i>Martinique</i> <i>Montserrat</i> <i>Puerto Rico</i> <i>St. Kitts and Nevis</i> <i>St. Lucia</i> <i>St. Maarten</i> <i>St. Martin</i> <i>St. Vincent and the Grenadines</i> <i>Suriname</i> <i>Trinidad and Tobago</i> <i>Turks and Caicos Islands</i> <i>US Virgin Islands</i>	<i>Belize</i> <i>Costa Rica</i> <i>El Salvador</i> <i>Guatemala</i> <i>Honduras</i> <i>Nicaragua</i> <i>Panama</i>	<i>Canada</i> <i>Mexico</i> <i>United States</i>

8. The Congress may include or exclude a Member Association to and from a Union solely upon the recommendation of the Concacaf Council.
9. Except for par. 6, 7 and 8 above, this Article shall not affect the status of existing Member Associations.

Article 10. Request and procedure for application for membership

1. Subject to Articles 8 and 9 of these Statutes, the procedure for admission as a Member Association shall be established by the Concacaf Council.
2. Any Association wishing to become a Member Association shall apply in writing to the General Secretariat.
3. The application for membership shall be accompanied by the following mandatory items:

- a) a copy of the applicant's legally valid statutes and regulations;
 - b) a declaration that it will ratify statutes that are in accordance with the requirements of the FIFA statutes and these Statutes and that it will always comply with the Statutes, Regulations and decisions of FIFA and Concacaf as applicable to Member Associations and the principles of fair play and ensure that these are also respected by its own members, Regional Associations, Leagues, Clubs, Officials and Players;
 - c) a declaration that it will comply with the Laws of the Game;
 - d) a declaration that it recognizes CAS, as specified in these Statutes;
 - e) a declaration to the effect that the legal composition of the applicant guarantees that it can make decisions independently of any external entity;
 - f) a list of Officials, specifying those who are authorized signatories with the right to enter into legally binding agreements with third parties;
 - g) a declaration that it recognizes the right of Concacaf to organize and manage competitions and matches between Member Association teams and between Leagues and/or Clubs from different Member Associations within the Concacaf territory;
 - h) a copy of the minutes of its last ordinary congress and executive council (or such similar supervisory or executive body of such applicant) meeting whereby the application for membership to Concacaf was approved; and
 - i) a certification that the Association is a legal entity recognized by the laws of the jurisdiction of the Association.
4. The Concacaf Council shall make a recommendation to the Congress with respect to whether or not an applicant should be admitted as a Member Association. The applicant may be granted the opportunity to state the reasons for its application to the Congress.

Article 11. Rights of Member Associations

- 1. A new Member Association shall acquire membership rights and duties as soon as it has been admitted as a Member Association. Delegates representing Full Members are eligible to vote with immediate effect, provided that the procedure set out in Article 21 of these Statutes has been complied with.
- 2. A Member Association has the following rights:
 - a) to be provided with timely notice of each Congress, know its agenda in advance, take part in the Congress and exercise its voting rights;
 - b) to draw up proposals for inclusion in the agenda of the Congress;
 - c) to nominate candidates for all bodies of Concacaf that may be elected by the Congress;

- d) to be informed of the affairs of Concacaf through the official bodies of the Confederation, including, without limitation, through access to agendas of meetings of the Concacaf Council;
 - e) to take part in competitions, through their representative teams and Clubs, and/or other activities or programs organized by Concacaf; and
 - f) to benefit from the rights and privileges granted to them by these Statutes and applicable Regulations.
3. The exercise of the membership rights is subject to other provisions in these Statutes and applicable Regulations.

Article 12. Obligations of Member Associations

1. A Member Association has the following obligations:
- a) to comply fully with the Statutes, Regulations and decisions of FIFA and Concacaf as applicable to Member Associations at all times (including the FIFA code of ethics and the Code of Ethics) and to ensure that these are also respected by its own members, regional associations, Leagues, Clubs, Officials and Players as applicable to them;
 - b) to ratify statutes that are in accordance with the requirements of the FIFA statutes and these Statutes;
 - c) to convene its supreme and legislative body at regular intervals;
 - d) to ensure the election of its decision-making bodies in accordance with the provisions of Article 16 of these Statutes;
 - e) to take part in competitions and other activities or programs organized by Concacaf;
 - f) to pay its membership subscriptions and any other economic fees which it may be subject to;
 - g) to respect the Laws of the Game as laid down by The IFAB and the Beach Soccer and Futsal Laws of the Game as laid down by FIFA, and to ensure that these are also respected by its members through a statutory provision;
 - h) to adopt a statutory clause specifying that any dispute requiring arbitration involving itself or one of its members and relating to the Statutes, Regulations and decisions of FIFA and/or Concacaf shall come solely under the jurisdiction of the appropriate Arbitration Tribunal recognized by Concacaf and that any recourse to Ordinary Courts is prohibited;
 - i) to ensure that its judicial bodies are comprised of persons independent from other decision-making bodies of the Member Association;
 - j) to communicate to Concacaf any amendment of its statutes, rules and regulations as well as the list of its Officials, persons who are authorized signatories and/or persons who are otherwise authorized to enter into agreements with third parties

- that will bind the Member Association;
- k) not to maintain any relations of a sporting nature with entities that are not recognized by FIFA and Concacaf or with Member Associations that have been suspended or expelled, except in accordance with these Statutes;
 - l) to include in its statutes a requirement to observe the principles of loyalty towards Concacaf, integrity and good sporting behavior as an expression of fair play;
 - m) to include in its statutes the FIFA and Concacaf provisions regarding non-discrimination;
 - n) to observe Article 9 of these Statutes for the duration of its membership;
 - o) to maintain a list of Officials, authorized signatories and persons otherwise authorized to bind the Member Association, as well as a register of members which shall in each case be regularly updated;
 - p) to apply a club licensing system according to the minimum requirements set by Concacaf from time to time. Member Associations shall include such an obligation and define the licensing bodies in their statutes;
 - q) to recognize each of the other Member Associations as the sole controlling body of Football in their respective countries or territories;
 - r) not to form itself with other Member Associations into regional associations, federations or unions without the express written consent of Concacaf;
 - s) to regulate Leagues and Clubs that exist within its country or territory;
 - t) to be held responsible for the good conduct and all financial commitments of its Leagues and Clubs towards FIFA and Concacaf;
 - u) to notify Concacaf promptly of any change to its address and in the name of principal office bearers and Officials;
 - v) to manage its affairs independently and with no undue influence from third parties;
 - w) to ensure that Judicial Bodies are independent (separation of powers);
 - x) to refrain from maintaining Football relations with associations not affiliated with Concacaf or FIFA, unless Concacaf has provided prior written approval of such relations;
 - y) to avoid conflicts of interest in decision making;
 - z) to have legislative bodies that are constituted in accordance with the principles of representative democracy and taking into account the importance of gender equality in football;

- aa) to produce documentation, financial records and provide any additional information in response to inquiries from Concacaf, the Concacaf Council or any Judicial Body and/or in connection with proceedings pursuant to these Statutes, the Code of Ethics or any other Regulations;
 - bb) to produce and publish yearly independent audits of accounts;
 - cc) to take all necessary actions to enforce the obligations described in this Article 12 and related statutory provisions; and,
 - dd) to comply fully with all other duties arising from these Statutes and other Regulations (including the Code of Ethics).
2. Violation of the above-mentioned obligations by a Member Association may lead to sanctions provided for in these Statutes, the Code of Ethics or the Disciplinary Code (or, the FIFA disciplinary and ethics codes) being imposed by the Concacaf Council or a Judicial Body. The Concacaf Council shall have the authority to investigate or recommend to the Ethics Committee that it investigate and review any Member Association in connection with any alleged violation of the obligations of Member Associations set forth in these Statutes, the Code of Ethics or any other Regulation. Any sanction other than suspension may be appealed by any Member Association to the Appeals Committee.

Article 13. Suspension of a Member Association

1. The Congress is authorized to suspend any Member Association upon the recommendation of the Concacaf Council. The Concacaf Council may, however, in its absolute discretion, suspend with immediate effect a Member Association that the Concacaf Council has determined has or may have violated its obligations. Such suspension shall continue in effect until it is subject to a vote at the next Congress, unless such suspension has been lifted by the Concacaf Council prior to such Congress.
2. A Member Association may in particular be suspended if, for any reason (including without limitation, because of interference in its affairs by government authorities):
 - a) it may no longer be considered as fully responsible for the organization of Football-related matters in its country or territory;
 - b) it is no longer in a position to perform its statutory tasks in an appropriate manner;
 - c) the smooth running of a competition organized under its auspices is no longer guaranteed; or
 - d) the free and fair election of its executive or supervisory body is no longer ensured.
3. A suspension shall be confirmed at the next Congress by a three-quarter (3/4) majority of the Member Associations present and eligible to vote. If it is not so confirmed, the suspension shall be lifted automatically with immediate effect.
4. A suspended Member Association shall lose its membership rights and privileges for the duration of the suspension. However, such Member Association shall continue to comply with its obligations pursuant to Article 12 par. 1(f) of these Statutes for the duration of

the suspension. Other Member Associations may not entertain or otherwise have sporting contact with a suspended Member Association.

5. A Member Association that does not participate in at least two (2) of Concacaf's competitions over a period of four (4) consecutive years immediately prior to a Congress, shall not be eligible to vote at the Congress until it has fulfilled its obligations in this respect.

Article 14. Expulsion of a Member Association

1. The Congress may expel a Member Association upon the recommendation of the Concacaf Council if such Member Association has:
 - a) failed to fulfill its financial obligations towards Concacaf; or
 - b) seriously violated the Statutes, Regulations and decisions of FIFA and/or Concacaf;
or
 - c) ceased to have the status of controlling body for Football within its own country or territory.
2. The presence of a majority of the Member Associations eligible to vote at the Congress is necessary for an expulsion to be valid, and the motion for expulsion must be adopted by a three-quarter (3/4) majority of the Member Associations present and eligible to vote.
3. Before an expulsion is executed, the Concacaf Council will establish procedures to arrange for the protection of assets, files and records of a Member Association facing the loss of membership.

Article 15. Resignation of a Member Association

1. Subject to par. 2 below, a Member Association may resign from Concacaf with effect from the end of the calendar year in which the notice of resignation was made. Notice of resignation must be provided to the General Secretariat no later than six (6) months before the end of the relevant calendar year and be sent by registered letter to the General Secretariat.
2. The resignation is not valid until the Member Association wishing to resign has fulfilled its financial obligations towards Concacaf and its Member Associations.
3. A resigning Member Association shall be required to present:
 - a) the minutes from its executive or supervisory body and congress meetings approving the resignation;
 - b) its audited financial statements for the prior two (2) fiscal years;
 - c) a confirmation that all of its liabilities have been satisfied, assigned or extinguished;
and

- d) a confirmation that it is not a party to or threatened to be made a party to any threatened or pending action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative, arbitratve or investigative (including any appeals thereon).
4. Concacaf is entitled to request any files and records from a resigning Member Association and the Member Association shall provide copies of such files and records to Concacaf within a reasonable time of such request being made. Concacaf may also require indemnification from such Member Association prior to accepting such resignation.

Article 16. Independence of Member Associations and their bodies

1. Each Member Association shall manage its affairs independently and without undue influence from third parties.
2. A Member Association's bodies shall be either elected or appointed in that association. The statutes of a Member Association shall provide for an election or appointment procedure that guarantees the complete independence of the election or appointment process.
3. Concacaf may not recognize the executive or supervisory body of a Member Association, even on an interim basis, if it has not been elected or appointed in accordance with par. 2 above, except if such executive or supervisory body is established as a normalization committee by FIFA.
4. Concacaf will only recognize decisions made and resolutions passed by a Member Association's executive or supervisory bodies that have been constituted in accordance with par. 2 above.

Article 17. Status of Clubs, Leagues and other groups

1. Clubs, Leagues, Regional Associations or any other groups of stakeholders affiliated to a Member Association shall be subordinate to and recognized by that Member Association. The Member Association statutes shall define the scope of authority and the rights and duties of these Clubs and groups and their statutes and regulations must be approved by the Member Association.
2. Every Member Association shall ensure that its affiliated Clubs and groups can take all decisions on any matters regarding membership independently of any external body. This obligation applies regardless of an affiliated Club's and/or group's corporate structure. In any case, the Member Association shall ensure that neither a natural nor a legal person (including holding companies and subsidiaries) exercises control in any manner whatsoever (in particular through a majority shareholding, a majority of voting rights, a majority of seats on the board of directors or any other form of economic dependence or control, etc.) over more than one Club or group whenever the integrity of any match or competition could be jeopardized.
3. Concacaf, as the Football governing body in the North American, Central American and Caribbean regions, may recognize and involve in the consultation process in Concacaf Football matters, groups representing the interests of Clubs, Leagues, Regional Associations or any other groups of stakeholders affiliated to a Member Association.

Article 18. Honorary Membership

1. Upon the nomination of the Concacaf Council, the Congress may confer the title of Honorary Member to any persons for meritorious services rendered to Football.
2. Honorary Members do not have any of the rights or obligations of Member Associations set forth in these Statutes except that they may attend and participate in Congress without the right to vote. Honorary Members may be suspended and/or expelled at any time by the Congress and may resign.

Article 19. Bodies

1. The Congress is the supreme and legislative body of Concacaf.
2. The Concacaf Council is the strategic and oversight body of Concacaf.
3. The General Secretariat is the executive, operational and administrative body of Concacaf.
4. The Judicial Bodies of Concacaf are the Disciplinary Committee, Appeals Committee and Ethics Committee.
5. The standing and ad-hoc committees shall assist the Concacaf Council in the performance of its duties in accordance with the provisions of these Statutes and applicable Regulations. Their duties, composition and function are defined in these Statutes, the applicable Regulations and any applicable charter or terms of reference.
6. The Concacaf Council or the Congress may from time to time establish ad-hoc committees as it deems necessary.
7. The bodies of Concacaf shall be either elected or appointed without any external influence and in accordance with the procedures described in these Statutes.

Article 20. Congress

1. The Congress is the meeting at which Member Associations convene. It represents the supreme and legislative authority of Concacaf. Only a Congress that is duly convened has the authority to make decisions.
2. A Congress may be an Ordinary or an Extraordinary Congress.
3. The Concacaf Council shall fix the place, date, and time of Ordinary and Extraordinary Congresses, except in the case described in Article 28 par. 2 of these Statutes.
4. The President (or, where the office of the President is vacant, a member of the Concacaf Council as designated by the Concacaf Council in accordance with Article 32 par. 12 of these Statutes), shall conduct the business of the Congress in compliance with these Statutes and the Regulations.

Article 21. Vote, delegates and other attendees and participants

1. Each Member Association shall have one (1) vote and is entitled to be represented by a maximum of three (3) delegates in the Congress. One of the three delegates shall exercise the right to vote on behalf of the Member Association.
2. The names of the three (3) delegates must be provided to the General Secretariat at least twenty-one (21) days before the date of the Congress and should indicate the delegate authorized to vote. In case the delegate authorized to vote is unable to attend the Congress, the Member Association should notify the General Secretariat of the name of a replacement at least three (3) days before the date of such Congress. In case either or both of the non-voting delegates are unable to attend the Congress, the Member Association should notify the General Secretariat of the names of any replacements by no later than the day immediately prior to the date of such Congress.
3. No delegate shall be allowed to represent more than one (1) Member Association. Only the authorized delegates who are present are entitled to vote. Voting by proxy or by letter is not permitted.
4. Delegates must belong to the Member Association that they represent and be appointed or elected by the appropriate body of that Member Association. They must also be able to produce evidence of this upon request of the General Secretariat. During their term of office, members of the Concacaf Council may not be appointed as delegates for their respective Member Association, if any.
5. The Concacaf Council may in its sole discretion invite any person or persons to the Congress who may attend and participate in the Congress as an observer without the right to vote.
6. Members of the Concacaf Council and the General Secretary shall attend and participate in the Congress without voting rights.

Article 22. Areas of authority of the Congress

The Congress has the following authority:

- a) adopt or amend the Statutes (which must also be submitted to FIFA for approval pursuant to the FIFA statutes);
- b) approve the official minutes of Congresses;
- c) elect the members of the Concacaf Council;
- d) elect the persons who, in accordance with the provisions of the FIFA and these Statutes, are to hold the positions of members of the FIFA Council;
- e) appoint scrutineers;
- f) grant Full Membership or ratify the granting of Associate Membership to an Association;

- g) suspend and expel a Member Association upon the recommendation of the Concacaf Council;
- h) approve the report of the Concacaf Council;
- i) approve the audited financial statements of Concacaf and the report of the auditors annually;
- j) approve the auditors;
- k) approve the budget presented by the General Secretariat annually;
- l) fix the membership subscriptions;
- m) decide, upon the nomination of the Concacaf Council, whether to confer the titles of Honorary Member;
- n) ratify the appointment or dismissal made by the Concacaf Council of the chairpersons, deputy chairpersons and members of the Judicial Bodies and of the Audit and Compliance Committee and of the “Independent” persons of the standing committees;
- o) consider and act upon proposals duly submitted by Member Associations or the Concacaf Council in accordance with these Statutes; and
- p) dissolve Concacaf.

Article 23. Quorum of the Congress

1. Decisions passed by the Congress shall only be valid if a majority of the Member Associations eligible to vote are present, unless otherwise stipulated in these Statutes.
2. If a quorum is not achieved, a second Congress shall take place within twenty-four (24) hours after the first, with the same agenda.
3. A quorum is not required for the second meeting of the Congress unless any item on the agenda proposes the amendment to the Statutes, the election of a member of the Concacaf Council or the FIFA Council, the expulsion of a Member Association or the dissolution of Concacaf, each of which requires a quorum pursuant to par. 1 of this Article 23.

Article 24. Decisions of the Congress

1. Unless otherwise stipulated in these Statutes, a proposal or motion shall be passed if supported by a majority of the Member Associations present and eligible to vote.
2. Abstentions shall be disregarded in calculating the majority.
3. A decision that requires a vote shall be reached by a show of hands (other than elections) or by means of an electronic count. Upon a motion supported by three-quarters (3/4) of the Member Associations, the vote (other than for elections) shall be taken by calling the

roll, Member Associations being called in English alphabetical order from A to Z.

Article 25. Elections

1. The election of office-bearers at the Congress shall be by position and by secret ballot (which may be made by means of an electronic count), except where a candidate has no opponent for the seat he or she may be elected by acclamation. No voting by letter or proxy is permitted. The Concacaf Council shall issue specific electoral regulations/guidelines.
2. The election of the President, Vice-presidents, Member Association Members and Female Member of the Concacaf Council shall be decided in a first ballot by a majority. If, in the first ballot, no candidate obtains the majority of the votes cast, a second ballot takes place after the elimination of the candidate who has obtained the least number of votes in the first ballot; and this procedure shall continue until the required numbers of candidates have been elected. In case of a tied vote, a new vote shall be conducted with the respective candidates until the position is filled in accordance with the procedure set forth in these Statutes.
3. The aforementioned rules also apply to the election of the Concacaf representatives on the FIFA Council, subject to the FIFA statutes.

Article 26. Ordinary Congress

1. The Ordinary Congress shall be held every year.
2. The Member Associations shall be notified in writing at least ninety (90) days before the date of the Congress of the place, date and time of such Congress.
3. The formal convocation shall be provided by the General Secretariat to each Member Association in writing at least thirty (30) days before the date of the Congress. This convocation shall contain:
 - a) the agenda of the Congress;
 - b) the report of the Concacaf Council;
 - c) the audited financial statements of Concacaf and the report of the auditors;
 - d) the budget recommended by the General Secretariat;
 - e) the names of the candidates for election (if applicable);
 - f) proposals for amendments and/or alterations to the Statutes, if any;
 - g) the proposal for approval of the auditors; and
 - h) any other proposal duly submitted by Member Associations or the Concacaf Council.

Article 27. Ordinary Congress agenda

1. The agenda of the Ordinary Congress shall comprise the following items:
 - a) a declaration that the Congress has been convened and composed in compliance with the Statutes;
 - b) the approval of the agenda;
 - c) an address by the President;
 - d) the appointment of three (3) Member Associations to check the official minutes;
 - e) the appointment of three (3) scrutineers to check the voting (if applicable);
 - f) suspension or expulsion of a Member Association (if applicable);
 - g) the approval of the minutes of the preceding Congress;
 - h) granting of Full Membership or Honorary Membership, or ratification of granting of Associate Membership (if applicable);
 - i) the report of the Concacaf Council;
 - j) the reports of the standing committees and bodies, and ad hoc committees (if any);
 - k) the approval of the audited financial statements of Concacaf and the report of the auditors;
 - l) the approval of the budget (if applicable) recommended by the General Secretariat;
 - m) the approval of the auditors;
 - n) the approval of proposals for adopting and amending the Statutes (if applicable);
 - o) consideration of proposals submitted by Member Associations or the Concacaf Council in accordance with these Statutes (if applicable);
 - p) the election of the members of the Concacaf Council and the Concacaf representatives on the FIFA Council (if applicable); and
 - q) the ratification of any appointment or dismissal made by the Concacaf Council of the chairpersons, deputy chairpersons and members of the Judicial Bodies and of the Audit and Compliance Committee and of the “Independent” persons of the standing committees (if applicable).
2. A Congress shall not take a decision on any item not included in the agenda. The agenda of an Ordinary Congress may be amended if three-quarters (3/4) of the Member Associations present at the Ordinary Congress and eligible to vote agree to such amendment.

Article 28. Extraordinary Congress

1. The Concacaf Council may convene an Extraordinary Congress whenever deemed necessary, in observance of the deadlines stipulated in these Statutes.
2. The Concacaf Council shall convene an Extraordinary Congress if not less than three quarters (3/4) of the Member Associations make such a request in writing to the General Secretariat. The request shall specify the items for the agenda and include any supporting documentation to be considered by the membership. In this case, the Extraordinary Congress shall be held within ninety (90) days of receipt of any such request. If an Extraordinary Congress is not held by the indicated deadline, the Member Associations who requested it may convene the Extraordinary Congress themselves setting the place, date, time and agenda for such Congress.
3. The Member Associations shall be notified in writing at least thirty (30) days before the date of the Extraordinary Congress of the place, date, time and agenda of such Congress.
4. When an Extraordinary Congress is convened on the initiative of the Concacaf Council, the Concacaf Council shall propose the agenda. When an Extraordinary Congress is convened upon the request of the Member Associations, the agenda shall contain the points raised by such requesting Member Associations as well as any items included on the agenda by the Concacaf Council.
5. The agenda of an Extraordinary Congress may not be altered. The Extraordinary Congress shall discuss only the items for which it has been convened.
6. An Extraordinary Congress will be subject to the same requirements with respect to quorum and voting that apply to an Ordinary Congress, except as otherwise required by these Statutes.
7. The Extraordinary Congress shall be conducted in the same manner as the Ordinary Congress.

Article 29. Adoption of and amendment to the Statutes

1. The Congress shall be responsible for adopting and amending the Statutes, which must also be submitted to FIFA for approval pursuant to the FIFA statutes.
2. Any proposals for an amendment to the Statutes must be submitted in writing with a brief explanation to the General Secretariat by either a Member Association or by the Concacaf Council. A proposal submitted by a Member Association is valid, provided it has been supported in writing by at least three (3) other Member Associations.
3. For a vote on the adoption of or amendment to the Statutes to be valid, three-quarters (3/4) of the Member Associations eligible to vote must be present.
4. A proposal to adopt or amend the Statutes shall be adopted if approved by three-quarters (3/4) of the Member Associations present and eligible to vote.

Article 30. Minutes

The General Secretary, or the person designated by him, shall be responsible for recording the minutes at the Congress. The draft of the minutes shall be sent to the Member Associations within ninety (90) days of the conclusion of the Congress.

Article 31. Effective dates of decisions

Decisions passed by the Congress shall come into effect thirty (30) days after the close of the Congress, unless the Congress fixes another date for a decision to take effect or unless an earlier or later date is otherwise provided for in these Statutes.

Article 32. Concacaf Council

1. The Concacaf Council shall consist of up to twelve (12) members, as follows:
 - a) President;
 - b) three (3) Vice-presidents;
 - c) three (3) Member Association Members;
 - d) four (4) Concacaf representatives to the FIFA Council (including the Female Member to the FIFA Council); and
 - e) one (1) Female Member who is elected pursuant to par. 9 below. For the avoidance of doubt, the Concacaf Council may comprise more than one (1) member who is female.
2. None of the Concacaf representatives to the FIFA Council (including the Female Member to the FIFA Council), shall be a voting member of the Concacaf Council, but shall have the status as an observer with all rights of information and attendance for all Concacaf Council meetings. For the avoidance of doubt, a person may hold office as a voting member and a non-voting member of the Concacaf Council for which he or she qualifies simultaneously, but no person may hold more than one office as a voting member of the Concacaf Council simultaneously.
3. The members of the Concacaf Council shall be elected by the Congress for a term of four (4) years and may be re-elected. Such members may not serve on the Concacaf Council for more than three (3) terms of office (whether consecutive or not). Previous terms served as Vice-president or as member of the Council shall not be considered in determining the terms limits of the President. Incomplete or partial terms shall not be considered in determining the term limits. The mandate of each member of the Concacaf Council shall begin after the end of the Congress which elected them. However, if at the end of such period the Congress cannot meet due to unforeseen circumstances or force majeure, the members of the Concacaf Council shall continue in office until an Ordinary Congress is held. The election of two (2) or more members belonging to the same Member Association is not permitted, unless the number of countries in such Union requires an exception. Candidates for all positions on the Concacaf Council (including the President and the Female Member) must be nationals and permanent residents of one (1) of the countries (Member Associations) that make up the Concacaf membership. Candidates for the Concacaf Council and each standing committee and

Judicial Body must pass an eligibility check carried out by the Ethics Committee in order to be placed on the ballot for election. Once elected, a member must pass a new eligibility check once every four (4) years before being eligible to be re-elected.

4. Each Concacaf Council member shall receive remuneration as determined by the Compensation Committee. However, no member of the Concacaf Council shall be considered to be a Paid Official by reason of any remuneration received in his/her capacity as a member of the Concacaf Council. A member of the Concacaf Council may not at the same time be a member of any of the Judicial Bodies.
5. Each Union recognized by Concacaf (i.e. CFU, UNCAF and NAFU), shall be represented by one Vice-president and one Member Association Member each.
6. The President and Female Member shall be elected from any Union without affecting the quota of the Union from which they originate. The President may not act as president, member of the executive or supervisory board (unless such President is serving on such board as a past President of such Member Association), or a Paid Official or employee of any Member Association while serving as President.
7. Any Member Association may only propose one (1) candidature for each position on the Concacaf Council. If any Member Association presents proposals for more than one (1) candidature for the same position, all of its presented proposals shall be deemed invalid. All presented proposals shall be deemed final.
8. Only Member Associations may propose candidatures for the office of the President. A candidature for the office of the President shall only be valid if supported by at least five (5) Member Associations. Member Associations must notify the General Secretariat, in writing, of a candidature for the office of the Presidency at least sixty (60) days before the start of the Congress, together with the declarations of support of at least four (4) other Member Associations. The General Secretariat shall inform all Member Associations of the names of the candidates running for office at least thirty (30) days before the date of the Congress. If only one candidature is proposed, such candidate will automatically occupy the position. If more than one candidature is proposed, the Congress shall elect the President from among the candidates.
9. Only Member Associations may propose candidatures for the position of Female Member. A candidature for the position of Female Member shall only be valid if supported by at least three (3) Member Associations. Member Associations must notify the General Secretariat, in writing, of a candidature for the position of Female Member at least sixty (60) days before the start of the Congress, together with the declaration of support of at least two (2) other Member Associations. The General Secretariat shall inform all Member Associations of the names of the candidates running for office at least thirty (30) days before the date of the Congress. If no candidatures are presented within the stated period, then proposals may be taken from the floor on the day of the Congress. If only one candidature is proposed, such candidate will automatically occupy the position. If more than one candidature is proposed, the Congress shall elect the Female Member from among the candidates.
10. Only Member Associations may propose candidatures for the positions of Vice-president and Member Association Member (excluding Female Member), to be elected as

representatives of each of the Unions. Candidates must be nationals of one (1) of the countries within the particular Union they will represent. A candidature for the position of Vice-president and Member Association Member shall only be valid if supported by at least three (3) Member Associations, which must include the support of a Member Association belonging to the Union the candidate will represent and of any other two (2) Member Associations. Member Associations must notify the General Secretariat, in writing, of a candidature at least sixty (60) days before the date of the Congress, together with the declarations of support of at least two (2) other Member Associations. The General Secretariat shall inform all Member Associations of the names of the candidates running for office at least thirty (30) days before the date of the Congress. If no candidatures are presented within the stated period, then proposals may be taken from the floor on the day of the Congress. If only one candidature is proposed in any of the Unions, such candidate will automatically occupy the position to which he or she was proposed. If more than one candidature is proposed, the Congress shall elect each representative from among the candidates from each respective Union.

11. Elections for the Concacaf Council members shall be staggered and held every two (2) years as follows:
 - a) Election of the President, the Vice-president for North America, the Vice-president for the Caribbean and the Member Association Member for Central America;
 - b) Election of the Vice-president for Central America, the Member Association Member for the Caribbean, the Member Association Member for North America, and the Female Member.
12. If the position of President should become vacant, the most senior Vice-president (with seniority determined by reference to the length of such person's service on the Concacaf Council) shall fill the position until the next Ordinary Congress. In the event that such senior Vice-president does not accept the position, the next most senior Vice-president (with seniority determined by reference to the length of such person's service on the Concacaf Council) shall fill the position. In the event that such senior Vice-president's position is vacant or such person does not accept the position, the next most senior Vice-president shall fill the position of President. Assuming there are no other Vice-presidents to fill the position or all such Vice-presidents do not accept the position, the Concacaf Council shall appoint a member of the Concacaf Council to fill the position of President from the membership of the Concacaf Council. In such a case, the Congress shall elect the new President to complete the remaining term of mandate of the former President.
13. If a position of Vice-president, Member Association Member, or Female Member should become vacant, the Concacaf Council shall fill that position until the next Ordinary Congress, when such Congress shall elect a replacement to complete the remaining term of such person's mandate. The person selected by the Concacaf Council to fill a vacant position of a Vice-president, Member Association Member or Female Member should be a national of any of the countries of the same Union as the person who is being replaced; however, this requirement as to nationality shall not apply to the person who is filling a position of Vice-president where that position has become vacant by reason of the most senior Vice-president filling the position of President upon a vacancy in that position. Only a female can replace a departing Female Member.

14. Upon being elected to office, every member of the Concacaf Council undertakes, and accepts responsibility, to faithfully, loyally and independently act in the best interests of Concacaf and the promotion and development of Football in the North American, Central American and Caribbean regions.

Article 33. Powers and duties of the Concacaf Council

1. The Concacaf Council shall be empowered to take decisions on all matters that do not come within the sphere of responsibility of the Congress or are not reserved for other bodies by law or under the FIFA statutes or these Statutes. In fulfilling their responsibilities, the members of the Concacaf Council shall act honestly and in good faith with a view to the best interests of Concacaf, and exercise the care, diligence and skill that a reasonably prudent person would exercise in comparable circumstances.
2. The powers and duties of the Concacaf Council are, among others:
 - a) to carry out the objectives of Concacaf;
 - b) to prepare and convene the Ordinary and Extraordinary Congresses;
 - c) to ensure that the Statutes are applied, and take all necessary actions required for their application;
 - d) to approve Regulations and policies stipulating how Concacaf shall be organized internally;
 - e) to formulate and approve the Regulations of Concacaf;
 - f) to recommend members of standing and independent committees and judicial bodies of FIFA;
 - g) to appoint or dismiss the chairperson, deputy chairperson and members of the standing committees other than the Audit and Compliance Committee and the “Independent” persons of the standing committees;
 - h) to appoint or dismiss the chairperson, deputy chairperson and members of the Judicial Bodies and the Audit and Compliance Committee and of the “Independent” persons of the standing committees and submit such appointment or dismissal to the Congress for ratification;
 - i) to recommend to the Congress the appointment of auditors based on the recommendations of the Audit and Compliance Committee;
 - j) to establish ad-hoc committees at any time, if necessary;
 - k) to approve and submit to the Congress the following:
 - i. the reports of the Concacaf Council and the various standing committees and ad hoc committees (if any);

- ii. the audited financial statements of Concacaf and the report of the auditors;
 - iii. the budget proposed by the General Secretariat and the Finance Committee;
 - iv. all proposals for amendments to the Statutes;
 - v. other proposals submitted by the Concacaf Council members or Member Associations in accordance with these Statutes.
- l) Subject to Articles 13 and 36 of these Statutes, to suspend a Member Association or a person provisionally until the next Congress;
 - m) to issue Regulations governing the conditions of participation in and the staging of competitions organized by Concacaf;
 - n) to review and approve the remuneration and other compensation of members of the standing committees, which may take any form as described in Article 33 par. 2(p) of these Statutes;
 - o) to approve any loan, material contract or real estate transaction, subject to Article 35 of these Statutes; and
 - p) to delegate authority to other bodies of Concacaf or third parties where appropriate, and provide oversight of actions taken pursuant to such delegations.

Article 34. Concacaf Council meetings

1. The Concacaf Council shall meet at least four (4) times a year. At the discretion of the President, such meetings may take place in person or by teleconference, video conference or any other similar method in which members of the Concacaf Council are able to hear and be heard at the meeting without delay. Members that attend a meeting via any of the aforementioned methods shall be considered as present. Notice of such meetings shall be given at least ten (10) days before the meeting unless such notice is waived by a majority of the members of the Concacaf Council. The Concacaf Council may issue specific Regulations/guidelines on how Council meetings are organized and conducted.
2. The President shall convene the Concacaf Council meetings. If at least fifty percent (50%) of the members of the Concacaf Council request a meeting in writing, a meeting shall be convened within thirty (30) days.
3. The General Secretariat shall compile the agenda for each Concacaf Council meeting. Each member of the Concacaf Council is entitled to propose items for inclusion on the agenda. The members of the Concacaf Council must submit items they wish to be included on the agenda for the meeting to the General Secretariat at least seven (7) days before the meeting unless such requirement is waived by a majority of the members of the Concacaf Council. The agenda must be sent out to the members of the Concacaf Council at least five (5) days before the meeting unless this requirement is waived by a majority of the members of the Concacaf Council. Agendas of Concacaf Council meetings (other than those regarding any executive sessions held without the presence of Concacaf staff) can be made publicly available to all members prior to such meetings.

4. The General Secretary shall take part in the meetings of the Concacaf Council without the right to vote.
5. The meetings of the Concacaf Council shall be held in private. The Concacaf Council may, however, invite third parties to attend. Those third parties shall not have voting rights, and may only express an opinion with the permission of the Concacaf Council.
6. Any member of the Concacaf Council who is absent without a properly accepted excuse for four (4) consecutive meetings shall be provisionally suspended from the Concacaf Council. A decision regarding the matter shall then be taken by the next Congress, which shall be final.

Article 35. Concacaf Council quorum and decisions

1. Decisions passed by the Concacaf Council shall only be valid if a majority of its members are present and eligible to vote.
2. The Concacaf Council shall reach its decisions by a majority of the votes cast except as otherwise stipulated in these Statutes. In the event of a tied vote with respect to a matter to be determined by a majority vote, the President shall have the casting vote. Voting by proxy or letter is not permitted.
3. A three-quarter (3/4) majority of the votes present and eligible to vote is required for the adoption of a decision relating to the following matters:
 - a) the modification of Concacaf Regulations;
 - b) the incurrence by Concacaf of indebtedness for borrowed money, whether in a single or multiple related transactions, in excess of six hundred thousand dollars (USD 600,000);
 - c) the approval of the acquisition or lease of any asset (whether real or personal property), whether solely by Concacaf or jointly with another party, having a fair market value or contract price at the time of acquisition in excess of six hundred thousand dollars (USD 600,000);
 - d) the incurrence of guarantees by Concacaf of any obligation, whether in a single or multiple related transactions, in excess of six hundred thousand dollars (USD 600,000); or
 - e) the approval of any litigation or arbitration settlement in excess of six hundred thousand dollars (USD 600,000).
4. Any member of the Concacaf Council must withdraw from the debate and from participating in a decision if there is any risk or possibility of a conflict of interest or the appearance of a conflict of interest, although such person may be required to provide information to the Concacaf Council and answer questions with respect to such matter. Such determination shall be made by the disinterested members of the Concacaf Council.

5. The decisions taken by the Concacaf Council shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.
6. The decisions taken by the Concacaf Council shall come into effect immediately, unless the Concacaf Council decides otherwise.

Article 36. Suspension or dismissal of a person

1. The Congress may dismiss any person, including without limitation, any person serving as a member of the Concacaf Council, any Concacaf representative before FIFA, the President, the General Secretary or the chairpersons, deputy chairpersons or members of the standing committees and judicial committees. Subject to par. 2, the Concacaf Council may also suspend a person provisionally until the next Congress. Any Concacaf Council member may submit a proposal to place such a motion for suspension on the agenda of the Concacaf Council.
2. The motion for dismissal must be justified. If submitted to the Congress, the motion for dismissal shall be sent to the members of the Concacaf Council and/or to the Member Associations along with the agenda.
3. Except as provided in par. 2, the person in question has the right to speak in his own defense, although the Congress or the Concacaf Council may act before providing such opportunity, if the person in question is unable to appear within two (2) weeks of notice or in any emergency at the discretion of the Concacaf Council.
4. If the motion for dismissal is submitted to the Congress, the Congress shall reach a decision by means of show of hands. For the motion to be passed, a majority of two-thirds (2/3) of the Member Associations present and eligible to vote is required.
5. The person dismissed (even if provisionally) must be relieved of his or her functions with immediate effect.

Article 37. The President

1. The President, along with the General Secretary, shall represent Concacaf generally.
2. The President shall be responsible for, among others:
 - a) representing Concacaf at public functions, including competitions, and serving *ex-officio* as a FIFA Vice president on the FIFA Council;
 - b) relations between Concacaf and its Member Associations, FIFA, political bodies, other confederations and other organizations; and
 - c) presiding at the Ordinary Congress, the Extraordinary Congress, the Concacaf Council and other standing committee meetings of which he or she is the chairperson.
3. The President shall be an *ex-officio* member of all standing committees other than the Audit and Compliance Committee and Compensation Committee, in each case without the right to vote.

4. The President shall have an ordinary vote on the Concacaf Council and, whenever votes are equal with respect to matters to be determined by a majority vote, shall have a casting vote.

Article 38. Representation and signature

The President and the General Secretary shall be entitled to sign for and otherwise bind Concacaf in accordance with the Statutes and applicable Regulations. The Concacaf Council may establish internal organizational Regulations regarding the signature of Officers, in particular, in case of the President's and General Secretary's absence and all important business of Concacaf.

Article 39. Concacaf representatives on the FIFA Council

1. Pursuant to the FIFA statutes, Concacaf is entitled to have five (5) representatives on the FIFA Council: one (1) Vice-president and four (4) members. Concacaf shall equally allocate three (3) of the positions amongst its Unions (i.e. CFU, UNCAF and NAFU) and one (1) position shall be reserved for a Female Member. Consequently, each one of the Unions is entitled to have at least one (1) representative on the FIFA Council, except as provided in par. 10 of this Article below. The Concacaf representatives on the FIFA Council shall be elected by the Congress in accordance with these Statutes and the FIFA statutes. Candidates for all positions on the FIFA Council must be nationals and permanent residents of one of the countries (Member Associations) that make up the Concacaf membership.
2. The Concacaf representatives on the FIFA Council shall be elected by the Congress for a term of four (4) years and may be re-elected. Such representatives may not serve on the FIFA Council for more than three (3) terms of office (whether consecutive or not). Incomplete or partial terms shall not be considered in determining the term limits. Their mandate shall begin upon their installation by the FIFA Congress. The election of two (2) or more representatives belonging to the same Member Association is not permitted, unless the number of countries in such Union requires an exception.
3. The Concacaf President shall *ex-officio* occupy the position of FIFA Vice-president, subject to the FIFA statutes. In this case, the automatic seat of the Concacaf President does not affect the quota of the Union from which he or she originates. The FIFA Female Member shall be elected from any Union without affecting the quota of the Union from which she originates.
4. Only Member Associations may propose candidatures for the position of Female Member on the FIFA Council. Candidates shall have played an active role in Association Football (e.g. as a Player or an Official within FIFA, a confederation or a Member Association, etc.) for two (2) of the last five (5) years before being proposed as candidates. A candidature for the position of FIFA Female Member shall only be valid if supported by at least three (3) Member Associations.
5. Only Member Associations may propose candidatures for the positions of member on the FIFA Council (excluding the FIFA Female Member), to be elected as representatives of each of the Unions. Candidates must be nationals of one of the countries within the particular Union they will represent and shall have played an active role in Association

Football (e.g. as a Player or an Official within FIFA, a confederation or a Member Association, etc.) for two (2) of the last five (5) years before being proposed as candidates. A candidature for the position of member on the FIFA Council shall only be valid if supported by at least three (3) Member Associations, which must include the support of a Member Association belonging to the Union the candidate will represent and of any other two (2) Member Associations.

6. Member Associations must notify the General Secretariat, in writing, of a candidature at least sixty (60) days before the date of the Congress, together with the declarations of support of at least two (2) other Member Associations. The General Secretariat shall inform all Member Associations of the names of the candidates running for Concacaf representative on the FIFA Council at least thirty (30) days before the date of the Congress. If no candidatures are presented within the stated period, then proposals may be taken from the floor on the day of the Congress. If only one candidature is proposed, such candidate will automatically occupy the position. If more than one candidature is proposed, the Congress shall elect each representative from among the candidates.
7. Only Member Associations that are affiliated to FIFA may nominate candidatures for the positions of Concacaf representative on the FIFA Council and participate in the election of such representatives. A Member Association may only propose one (1) candidature for each position on the FIFA Council. If any Member Association presents proposals for more than one candidature for the same position, all of its presented proposals shall be deemed invalid. All presented proposals shall be deemed final.
8. Elections for the Concacaf representatives on the FIFA Council shall be staggered as established in the FIFA Statutes. Elections for at least one (1) of the representatives shall be held every two (2) years.
9. In case any of the Concacaf representatives on the FIFA Council would, for any reason whatsoever, cease to hold his position, the Concacaf Council shall fill the position until the next Ordinary Congress, where such Congress shall elect a replacement to complete the remaining term of such representative's mandate. The person selected by the Concacaf Council to fill the vacant position should be a national of any of the countries of the same Union as the representative who is being replaced.
10. If the position of President should become vacant, the most senior Concacaf Vice-president (with seniority determined by reference to the length of such person's service on the Concacaf Council and irrespective of the nationality of such person) shall immediately undertake the position of FIFA Vice-president until the next Ordinary Congress. In the event that such senior Vice-president does not accept the position, the next most senior Vice-president (with seniority determined by reference to the length of such person's service on the Concacaf Council) shall fill the position. In the event that such senior Vice-president's position is vacant or such person does not accept the position, the next most senior Vice-president shall fill the position of President. Assuming there are no other Vice-presidents to fill the position or all such Vice-presidents do not accept the position, the Concacaf Council shall appoint a member of the Concacaf Council to fill such position from the membership of the Concacaf Council. In such a case and in accordance with par. 3 above, the person elected by the Congress to complete the remaining term of mandate of the former President, will occupy the position of FIFA Vice-president. In this case, during such remaining term only, the automatic seat of the Concacaf President does *not* affect the quota of the

Union from which he or she originates.

11. The Concacaf representatives on the FIFA Council shall have voice but no voting rights at a Congress.
12. The Concacaf representatives on the FIFA Council shall submit to the Congress an annual report detailing all activities carried out in office. Also, such representatives shall submit to the Concacaf Council a written report on the outcome of all attended FIFA Council meetings if requested by the Concacaf Council or the President.

Article 40. General Secretariat

The General Secretariat shall carry out all the administrative work of Concacaf under the direction of the General Secretary. In particular, it shall be responsible for:

1. The organization of competitions and all related matters, in accordance with the decisions and directions of the Concacaf Council;
2. Negotiation and execution of all commercial contracts, in accordance with the standards, policies and procedures established by the Concacaf Council;
3. Administrative support to the standing committees;
4. Management of the operations and day-to-day business of Concacaf, in accordance with the parameters established by the Concacaf Council and within the budget approved by the Finance Committee and by the Concacaf Congress; and
5. All other administrative matters necessary for the efficient operation and organization of Concacaf, as required and authorized by the Concacaf Council.

Article 41. General Secretary

1. The General Secretary is the Chief Executive Officer of Concacaf.
2. He or she shall be appointed by the Concacaf Council. The terms of his or her employment shall be set forth in an agreement governed by private law.
3. He or she shall be responsible for:
 - a) implementing decisions passed by the Congress and the Concacaf Council;
 - b) properly managing and keeping the accounts of Concacaf, preparing the budget and preparing the annual consolidated financial statements of Concacaf and its subsidiaries;
 - c) administrating and organizing the General Secretariat;
 - d) hiring and dismissing non-managerial Concacaf staff;
 - e) assisting and participating in the Congress, Concacaf Council and standing

- and ad-hoc committee meetings;
 - f) compiling the minutes for the meetings of the Congress, Concacaf Council and standing and ad-hoc committees;
 - g) all correspondence of Concacaf;
 - h) informing the Concacaf Council of the commercialization of any media or other intellectual property rights owned or licensed by Concacaf or relating to any competitions of Concacaf;
 - i) relations with FIFA, confederations, Member Associations and any other organizations in the promotion of the objectives of Concacaf;
 - j) proposing managerial staff appointments to the Concacaf Council; and
 - k) signing decisions on behalf of any Concacaf Committee, provided that no other provision exists in the respective Regulations.
4. The General Secretary shall not be a Congress delegate or a member of any body of Concacaf.
 5. The General Secretary may be dismissed by the Concacaf Council or by the Congress upon the recommendation of the Concacaf Council.

Article 42. Standing committees

1. The standing committees of Concacaf are:
 - a) Associations Committee;
 - b) Audit and Compliance Committee;
 - c) Compensation Committee;
 - d) Finance Committee;
 - e) Football Development Committee;
 - f) Governance Committee;
 - g) Medical Committee;
 - h) Competitions Committee; and
 - i) Referees Committee.
2. The standing committees shall report to the Concacaf Council. If requested, they shall advise and assist the Concacaf Council in their respective fields of function.
3. Members of the standing committees may be members of the Concacaf Council, with the exception of the Audit and Compliance Committee which shall be comprised in their

entirety by persons who meet the definition of “Independent”. Appointments of persons who meet the definition of “Independent” of the Audit and Compliance Committee, the Compensation Committee and the Governance Committee shall be ratified by the Congress.

4. Based on the proposals made by the President and/or the General Secretary, the Concacaf Council shall appoint the chairperson, deputy chairperson and members of each standing committee. The standing committees shall comprise a chairperson, a deputy chairperson and the number of members deemed necessary by the Concacaf Council. The chairpersons, deputy chairpersons and the members of the standing committees shall be appointed for a term of office of four (4) years. Members may be re-appointed and may also be removed from a committee at any time.
5. Each chairperson shall conduct business in compliance with these Statutes and applicable Regulations and any applicable committee charter or terms of reference. The dates and the agenda of meetings of each standing committee shall be fixed by the General Secretariat in consultation with the relevant chairperson. The meetings of the standing committees shall be held in private. The President and/or General Secretary, in consultation with the relevant chairperson, may, however, invite third parties to attend and participate.
6. Meetings of the standing committees shall only take place if at least half (1/2) of the total members of each respective committee are present. In case of absence of the chairperson, the deputy chairperson shall chair the meetings.
7. Any member of a standing committee who is absent for three (3) consecutive meetings or any five (5) meetings during their term without a valid excuse, is automatically suspended from such committee. A decision shall then be made by the Concacaf Council whether or not to dismiss the member from the committee. Such decision shall be final except that dismissals from the Audit and Compliance Committee and of persons who meet the definition of “Independent” of the standing committees shall be ratified by the Congress. Any member of a standing committee may, subject to the agreement of the respective chairperson of a committee and the General Secretary, attend a meeting by telephone conference, video conference or any other similar method whereby all members can hear and speak with each other without delay.
8. Candidates for each standing committee must pass an eligibility check carried out by the Ethics Committee.
9. The composition and structure, including qualification and number of members fulfilling independence criteria’ as well as specific duties and powers of the individual committees shall be stipulated in these Statutes and other Concacaf Regulations. The Concacaf Council shall endeavor to ensure that the membership of each standing committee reflects a reasonable balance among the three (3) Unions.
10. Each standing committee may, if necessary, establish a sub-committee, task force and/or working group from among its members to take action with respect to urgent or specialized matters.

Article 43. Ad-hoc committees

The Concacaf Council may create ad-hoc committees with specified duties and a limited period of time. The Concacaf Council shall decide on the composition, duties and functions of such Committees. An ad-hoc committee shall report directly to the Concacaf Council.

Article 44. Judicial bodies

1. The Judicial Bodies of Concacaf are:
 - a) the Disciplinary Committee;
 - b) the Ethics Committee;
 - c) the Appeals Committee.
2. The Judicial Bodies are to be composed in such a way that the members, together, have the knowledge, abilities and specialist experience that are necessary for the due completion of their tasks. The chairpersons and deputy chairpersons of the Judicial Bodies shall be qualified to practice law. The term of office of the chairpersons, deputy chairpersons and the members of the Judicial Bodies shall be four (4) years, may be re-appointed and may serve a maximum of three (3) terms, whether consecutive or not. The members may be relieved of their duties at any time by action of the Concacaf Council and ratified by Congress.
3. The members of the Judicial Bodies may not belong to any other body or committee of Concacaf at the same time.
4. The responsibilities and function of the Judicial Bodies shall be stipulated in the Disciplinary Code and the Code of Ethics.

Article 45. Disciplinary Committee

1. The responsibilities and functions of the Disciplinary Committee shall be governed by the Disciplinary Code.
2. The Disciplinary Committee shall consist of a chairperson, a deputy chairperson and the number of members deemed necessary by the Concacaf Council for the Disciplinary Committee to function properly.
3. The Disciplinary Committee may pronounce the sanctions described in these Statutes, the Disciplinary Code and all other Regulations, as well as the FIFA Disciplinary Code. The Disciplinary Committee may subsidiarily apply the FIFA Disciplinary Code.
4. These provisions are subject to the disciplinary powers of the Congress and the Concacaf Council with regard to suspensions, expulsions and dismissal.
5. The Concacaf Council shall issue the Disciplinary Code.

Article 46. Ethics Committee

1. The responsibilities and functions of the Ethics Committee shall be governed by the Code of Ethics.
2. The Ethics Committee may pronounce the sanctions described in these Statutes, the Code of Ethics, the Disciplinary Code and all other Regulations, as well as the FIFA Disciplinary and Ethics Code.
3. The Concacaf Council shall issue the Code of Ethics.

Article 47. Appeals Committee

1. The responsibilities and functions of the Appeals Committee shall be governed by the Disciplinary Code.
2. The Appeals Committee shall consist of a chairperson, a deputy chairperson and the number of members deemed necessary by the Concacaf Council for the Appeals Committee to function properly.
3. The Appeals Committee is responsible for hearing appeals against decisions from the Disciplinary Committee and the Ethics Committee that are not declared final by the relevant Regulations.
4. The Appeals Committee may subsidiarily apply the FIFA Disciplinary Code.

Article 48. Disciplinary measures

The disciplinary measures are primarily:

1. For natural and legal persons:
 - a) a warning;
 - b) a reprimand;
 - c) a fine;
 - d) the return of awards.
2. For natural persons:
 - a) a caution;
 - b) an expulsion;
 - c) a match suspension;
 - d) a ban from the dressing rooms and/or the substitutes' bench;
 - e) a ban from entering a stadium;

- f) a ban on taking part in any Football-related activity;
 - g) social work;
 - h) Compliance training
3. For legal persons:
- a) a transfer ban;
 - b) playing a match without spectators;
 - c) playing a match on neutral territory;
 - d) a ban on playing a match in a particular stadium;
 - e) annulment of the result of a match;
 - f) expulsion;
 - g) a forfeit;
 - h) deduction of points;
 - i) relegation to a lower division;
 - j) replaying a match.

Article 49. Recognition of the Concacaf Statutes

1. Each Member Association shall include in its statutes a provision whereby it, its Leagues, Regional Associations, Clubs, Players and Officials agree to respect at all times these Statutes, Regulations and decisions of Concacaf (including the Code of Ethics), and to recognize the jurisdiction of CAS, as provided in these Statutes.
2. Each Member Association shall ensure that its Leagues, Regional Associations, Clubs, Players and Officials acknowledge and accept these obligations.
3. Each participant in a Concacaf competition shall, when registering its entry, confirm to Concacaf in writing that it, its Players and Officials have acknowledged and accepted these obligations.

Article 50. Disputes

1. Member Associations shall insert a clause in their statutes or regulations, stipulating that it is prohibited to take disputes in the Association or disputes affecting Leagues, Regional Associations, Clubs, Players and Officials to Ordinary Courts of law, unless the FIFA Regulations or binding legal provisions specifically provide for or stipulate recourse to Ordinary Courts of law. Instead of recourse to ordinary courts of law, provision shall be made for arbitration. Such disputes shall be taken to an independent and duly constituted Arbitration Tribunal recognized under the rules of the Member

Association or by Concacaf or to CAS.

2. The Associations shall ensure that this stipulation is implemented in the Association, if necessary by imposing a binding obligation on its members. The Association shall impose sanctions on any party that fails to respect this obligation and ensure that any appeal against such sanctions shall likewise be strictly submitted to arbitration, and not to ordinary courts of law.

Article 51. Court of Arbitration for Sports

1. Concacaf recognizes the jurisdiction of CAS.
2. Disputes may only be brought before CAS after all other internal procedures and remedies have been exhausted.
3. All decisions taken by CAS shall be deemed to be final and binding upon all parties.
4. Proceedings before CAS shall take place in accordance with the CAS Code of Sports-related Arbitration.

Article 52. Jurisdiction of CAS as an Ordinary Court of Arbitration

1. CAS shall have jurisdiction, to the exclusion of any Ordinary Court or any other Court of Arbitration, to deal with the following disputes in its capacity as an ordinary court of arbitration:
 - a) disputes between Concacaf and Member Associations, Leagues, Clubs, Players and Officials;
 - b) disputes between Member Associations, Leagues, Clubs, Players and Officials.
2. CAS shall only intervene in its capacity as an Ordinary Court of arbitration if the dispute does not fall within the competence of a Concacaf or FIFA body.

Article 53. Jurisdiction of CAS as an Appeals Arbitration Body

1. As an appeals arbitration body, CAS shall be entitled to hear appeals against final decisions passed by Concacaf.
2. Only parties directly affected by a decision may appeal to CAS. However, where doping-related decisions are concerned, the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) may appeal to CAS.
3. The time limit for appeal to CAS shall be twenty-one (21) days from the receipt of the decision in question.
4. An appeal before CAS may only be brought after Concacaf's or FIFA's internal procedures and remedies have been fully exhausted.
5. An appeal shall not have any suspensory effect as a stay of execution of a disciplinary sanction, subject to the power of CAS to order that any disciplinary sanction be stayed

pending the arbitration.

6. CAS shall not take into account facts or evidence which the appellant could have submitted to an internal Concacaf body by acting with the diligence required under the circumstances, but failed or chose not to do so.

Article 54. Common provisions

CAS is not competent to deal with:

- a) matters related to the application of a purely sporting rule, such as the Laws of the Game or the technical modalities of a competition;
- b) decisions through which a natural person is suspended for a period of up to four (4) matches or up to three (3) months;
- c) decisions through which a fine of less than USD 200,000 is imposed;
- d) awards issued by an independent and impartial court of arbitration in a dispute of national dimension arising from the application of the statutes or regulations of a Member Association.

Article 55. Finances

1. The financial period of Concacaf shall be one (1) year and shall commence on 1 January of every year.
2. The revenue, expenditure and financial position of Concacaf shall be responsibly managed, including where appropriate the creation of reserves.
3. The General Secretary is responsible for preparing the annual consolidated financial statements of Concacaf and its subsidiaries as of 31 December of every year.
4. Concacaf shall have the right to audit any Member Association or Union receiving Concacaf funds for a specific intended purpose to ensure such funds were used or allocated for such purpose.

Article 56. External auditors

1. The Audit and Compliance Committee shall recommend a firm of independent external auditors that is internationally recognized as experts in auditing who meet high standards of integrity for the approval of the Concacaf Council and the Congress. The external auditors shall be appointed for a term of one (1) year. This mandate may be renewed. The lead audit partner of such auditors shall rotate on a periodic basis of not less frequently than five (5) years.
2. The external auditors shall examine and certify the financial statements before they are presented to the Audit and Compliance Committee.
3. The report of the external auditors shall be submitted to the Concacaf Council, the Congress and the Audit and Compliance Committee.

Article 57. Membership subscription

1. Each Member Association shall pay a standard annual subscription within thirty (30) days after being billed by Concacaf.
2. The Congress shall fix the amount of annual subscription every two (2) years on the recommendation of the Concacaf Council. It shall be the same for every Member Association and amount to no more than one thousand dollars (USD 1,000).

Article 58. Settlement

Concacaf may debit any accounts of Member Associations to settle amounts due to the Confederation and will provide prompt notice of such action to the affected Member Association.

Article 59. Levies

The Concacaf Council may establish levies on international matches and competitions.

Article 60. Competitions

1. Concacaf shall have the sole jurisdiction to organize and sanction international competitions in North America, Central America and the Caribbean in which Member Associations and/or their Clubs participate. FIFA competitions shall not be affected by this Article.
2. The Concacaf Council may delegate to any Member Association the authority to organize competitions.
3. The Concacaf Council shall approve Regulations governing the conditions of participation in and the staging of Concacaf competitions.
4. By the act of entering a team in a competition organized by Concacaf, each Member Association and/or Club affiliated with a Member Association agrees to fully comply with the Statutes, Regulations and decisions of Concacaf and FIFA, and their bodies.
5. The admission to a Concacaf competition of a Member Association or Club directly or indirectly involved in any activity aimed at arranging or influencing the outcome of a match at national or international level can be refused with immediate effect, without prejudice to any possible disciplinary measures.

Article 61. Club Licensing

The Concacaf Council shall define a Club licensing system governing:

- a) The minimum criteria to be fulfilled by Clubs in order to be admitted to Concacaf Club competitions;
- b) The licensing process (including the minimum requirements for the licensing bodies);
and

- c) The minimum requirements to be observed by the licensors.

Article 62. Rights

1. Concacaf and its Member Associations are respectively the original owners of all of the rights emanating from competitions and other events coming under their respective jurisdiction, without any restrictions as to content, time, place and law. These rights include, among others, every kind of financial rights, audiovisual and radio recording, reproduction and broadcasting rights, multimedia rights, marketing and promotional rights and incorporeal rights such as emblems and rights arising under copyright law.
2. The Concacaf Council shall decide how and to what extent the Concacaf rights are utilized. The Concacaf Council shall alone decide whether Concacaf rights shall be utilized exclusively, or jointly with a third party or entirely through a third party.

Article 63. Authorization

Concacaf and its Member Associations are exclusively responsible for authorizing the distribution of image and sound and other data carriers of Football matches and events coming under their respective jurisdiction, without any restrictions as to content, time, place and technical and legal aspects.

Article 64. International matches and competitions

1. The authorization and organization of international matches and competitions between Member Association teams and between Leagues and/or Club teams in North America, Central America and the Caribbean shall be in accordance with the FIFA and Concacaf Statutes and Regulations.
2. The Concacaf Council shall compile a Concacaf competitions calendar that shall be binding upon Member Associations, Leagues and Clubs.
3. Concacaf and each Member Association shall recognize and comply with the International match calendar compiled by FIFA.

Article 65. Approval

Member Associations cannot belong to another confederation or participate in competitions on the territory of another confederation without the authorization of Concacaf, the other confederation and FIFA.

Article 66. Matters not provided for

The Concacaf Council shall have the final decision on any matter not provided for in these Statutes or Regulations or in cases of force majeure or in the event of ambiguity or conflict between Articles.

Article 67. Dissolution

Concacaf may be dissolved by a resolution to that effect passed by three-fourths (3/4) of the Member Associations eligible to vote.