Concacaf

CHAMPIONSHIP

2025/26 CONCACAF W QUALIFIERS - REGULATIONS

ORGANIZERS

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GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. 2025/2026 CONCACAF W QUALIFIERS

1.1. The 2025/2026 Concacaf W Qualifiers (hereinafter: "The Competition") is an official Concacaf National team's competition. The Competition shall be played in 2025/2026 and shall take place on the dates and venues Concacaf determines. All Concacaf Member Associations affiliated to FIFA are invited to participate.

1.2. The Member Associations are required to participate with their "A" National Team.

1.3. The Competition consists of one (1) stage:

1.3.1. Concacaf W Qualifiers Group Stage;

1.3.2. When referring to the one (1) stage – hereinafter: The Competition.

1.3.3. Concacaf shall be responsible for organizing, hosting, and staging The Competition.

2. THE HOST MEMBER ASSOCIATION

2.1. The Host Member Association (hereinafter: HMA) shall work with Concacaf to organize, promote, host, and stage the matches in The Competition as well as the security for the duration thereof.

2.2. The HMA shall be subject to the supervision and control of Concacaf, which has the final word on all matters relevant to The Competition. The decisions of Concacaf are final and binding and not subject to appeal.

2.3. Working relations between the HMA and Concacaf are regulated by the Team Participation Agreement (TPA) and the 2025/2026 Concacaf W Qualifiers Regulations ("The Regulations"). The Regulations and all directives, decisions, guidelines, and circulars issued by Concacaf shall be binding for all parties participating and

involved in the preparation, organization, and hosting of The Competition.

2.4. Any rights not ceded by these regulations to any Participating Member Association or any other party previously in writing or by circular shall exclusively belong to Concacaf.

2.5. The responsibilities of the HMA shall include but not be limited to:

2.5.1. Guaranteeing, planning, and implementing law and order as well as safety and security in the stadiums and other relevant locations in conjunction with the local authorities. The FIFA Safety and Security Regulations and/or Concacaf Safety and Security Guidelines shall apply as the minimum standards to be used during The Competition;

2.5.2. Ensuring the presence of a sufficient number of ground staff and security stewards to guarantee the safety of teams, Match Officials, and spectators;

2.5.3. Securing insurance policies in consultation with Concacaf to cover all risks relating to the organization of all home matches, particularly adequate and comprehensive liability insurance concerning the stadiums, members of the HMA, employees, volunteers, and any other persons involved in the organization of The Competition.

2.5.4. Securing liability insurance against possible spectator accidents or deaths.

2.6. The HMA shall discharge Concacaf from all responsibility and relinquish any claim against Concacaf and the members of its delegation for any damages resulting from any act or omission relating to the organization and course of The Competition.

2.7. Stadium and Training Facilities – Ensuring that the stadium and training fields align with the latest Concacaf Stadium Guidelines and the FIFA Natural Turf Guidelines. Also, they must be in conditions suitable for the Concacaf W Qualifiers, based on

discussions during the site inspection, including but not limited to all of the equipment for the field, i.e., nets, goals, and corner flags, covered benches (if required) for the teams and fourth official, which should be of a professional standard.

2.8. Media – Appoint an individual who shall be responsible for media relations and advise Concacaf's Communications Department thirty (30) days in advance of the event, the name of the person together with their contact numbers (phone/cellular, phone, e-mail address); before, during and after the event, the person appointed will:

2.8.1. Ensure that the media facilities are in the best possible condition;

2.8.2. Assist the media in their general inquiries;

2.8.3. Ensure that the team sheets with the correct player name/number/position, etc. are available to the media in a timely manner prior to kick-off;

2.8.4. Distribute to the media copies of the Media Guide or any other materials that Concacaf will supply;

2.8.5. Arrange for the installation of wireless internet for the host broadcaster and the designation of radio booths for each right holder;

2.8.6. Assure that the stadium has wireless internet for the media throughout the stadium;

2.8.7. Arrange and provide meals for the media and photographers as approved by Concacaf.

2.9. Visas for visiting teams – will request handling from the government agency responsible for visas to expedite requests for teams and delegates as much as possible.

2.10. During the Concacaf W Qualifiers Group Stage, the HMAs are responsible for the cost of accommodation, breakfast, and local

transportation for all appointed Concacaf officials. (Referees, Match Commissioner, Venue and Match Coordinator, Security Officer, Media, Broadcast Coordinator, or any other appointed official).

2.11. Providing a minimum of 23 training match balls to the visiting team upon arrival and 12 match balls on the match day to the Concacaf Venue Coordinator.

2.12. The HMA shall ensure that any decision taken by Concacaf or judicial bodies relating to its duties and responsibilities is enforced immediately.

3. CONCACAF

3.1. The responsibilities of Concacaf include but are not limited to:

3.1.1. Supervising general preparations and deciding on the structure and format of The Competition;

3.1.2. Setting the dates and approving the venues of the matches during the Group Stage. Concacaf retains the right to determine the dates and select the venues for the Finals.

3.1.3. Determining the match schedule and kick-off times for The Competition;

3.1.4. Approving the official football for The Competition.

3.1.4.1. Only footballs abiding by the FIFA Quality Mark standard (FIFA Quality PRO, FIFA Quality, International Match Standard) will be approved;

3.1.5. Approving the choice of the WADA-accredited laboratory that will carry out the doping analyses as proposed by the FIFA Anti-Doping Unit;

3.1.6. Deciding which matches will be subject to doping test;

3.1.7. Appointing Venue Coordinators, Match Coordinators, Competition Coordinators, Match Commissioners, Security Officers, Referee Assessors, VAR Officials (if applicable), Disciplinary Committee Members, and any other delegates (hereinafter: Match Officials) for The Competition;

3.1.8. Daily allowance and international travel expenses for the Concacaf Match Officials;

3.1.9. Travel allowance for the visiting PMAs;

3.1.10. Assessing protests and taking appropriate steps to verify their admissibility, with the exception of protests concerning the eligibility of players, which are dealt with by the Concacaf Disciplinary Committee (as such term is defined in the Concacaf Statutes, hereinafter: the "Disciplinary Committee");

3.1.11. Deciding cases of PMAs failing to adhere to the time and/or the formal requirements for submitting the necessary documents;

3.1.12. Collecting team information (i.e., team lists, rooming lists, menus, travel itineraries, visa information, uniform colors, etc.);

3.1.13. Dealing with cases of abandoned matches (as per the International Football Association Board (hereinafter: "IFAB") laws of the game (hereinafter: "Laws of the Game") in accordance with these Regulations;

3.1.14. Deciding on the rescheduling of matches due to extraordinary circumstances or force majeure;

3.1.15. Disciplinary measures and communication of relevant actions taken;

3.1.16. Officials' appointments for all matches;

3.1.17. Replacing Member Associations that have withdrawn from The Competition;

3.1.18. Settling cases of force majeure;

3.1.19. Dealing with any other aspect of The Competition that is not the responsibility of any other body under the terms of these Regulations.

3.2. The decisions taken by Concacaf are final and binding and not subject to appeal.

4. PARTICIPATING MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

4.1. Each Participating Member Association (hereinafter: PMA) shall be responsible throughout The Competition for:

4.1.1. The conduct of all players, coaches, managers, officials, media officers, representatives, and guests of its delegation (hereinafter: Team Delegation Members) and any person carrying out duties on its behalf throughout The Competition;

4.1.2. Ensuring the provision of adequate insurance to cover its Team Delegation Members and any other persons carrying out duties on its behalf against all risks, including but not limited to health, injury, accident, disease, and travel in consideration of the relevant rules or regulations;

4.1.3. Covering all travel-related expenses incurred by its Team Delegation Members to and from the host country, any cost in obtaining visas for their delegation, and all tips for services rendered as appropriate at the hotels, airports, taxis, etc.;

4.1.4. Cover all competition-related expenses incurred by its Team Delegation Members for Concacaf W Qualifiers Group Stage, home and away matches. Any cost in

obtaining visas for their delegation and all tips for services rendered as appropriate at the hotels, airports, taxis, etc.;

4.1.5. Applying in a timely manner for any required visas to the consulate or embassy of the Host Countries where their matches will be played and covering any costs associated with these visas; for this process, the assistance of the HMA is to be sought out as early as possible;

4.1.6. Attending media conferences and other official media activities organized by Concacaf and/or by the HMA in accordance with the applicable regulations;

4.1.7. Ensuring that every member of its delegation complies with all applicable regulations (including The Regulations), directives, guidelines and circulars, decisions made by Concacaf and its Council (as such term is defined in the Concacaf Statutes, hereinafter: the "Council"), Concacaf Referees Committee (as such term is defined in the Concacaf Statutes, hereinafter: the "Referees Committee"), Disciplinary Committee, Concacaf Ethics Committee (as such term is defined in the Concacaf Statutes, hereinafter: the "Ethics Committee") and Concacaf Appeal Committee (as such term is defined in the Concacaf Statutes, hereinafter: the "Appeals Committee");

4.1.8. Providing Concacaf with all the requested information and/or documentation within the stipulated deadlines. PMAs that fail to provide Concacaf with all requested information and/or documentation within the stipulated deadlines shall be imposed a two thousand dollars (USD 2,000) fine as 1st offense, except in unforeseen circumstances and cases of force majeure as determined by the Concacaf General Secretariat. The fine shall increase to three thousand dollars (USD 3,000) for 2nd offense ad five thousand dollars (USD 5,000) for 3rd offense. Member Associations shall be imposed a fine of ten thousand dollars (USD 10,000) for late submission of rosters.

4.1.9. Allowing Concacaf to use its Association Marks to promote The Competition as stipulated in the Commercial Regulations governing each phase of The Competition for the sole purpose of promoting The Competition.

4.2. PMAs and their players and officials participating in The Competition shall agree to fully respect and comply with:

4.2.1. The Laws of the Game and the principles of Fair Play;

4.2.2. The Concacaf Statutes and all Concacaf regulations, rules, codes, protocols, circulars, directives, guidelines, and decisions (including The Regulations);

4.2.3. All decisions and directives of the Concacaf Council; All decisions and directives of the Disciplinary Committee and Appeals Committee as well as Council;

4.2.4. The Concacaf Disciplinary Code (as such term is defined in the Concacaf Statutes, hereinafter: "the Disciplinary Code");

4.2.5. The FIFA Code of Ethics and the Concacaf Code of Conduct;

4.2.6. The FIFA Doping Control Regulations;

4.2.7. All Concacaf protocols during matches and fully cooperate in their enforcement (e.g., Concacaf protocol for discriminatory incidents during matches);

4.2.8. All Concacaf anti-match manipulation, anti-discrimination protocols, and anti-racism stipulations;

4.2.9. All Concacaf commercial and media requirements, as stipulated in the Commercial and Media Regulations, including but not limited to the Team Media Day, in which individual and group photos and video will be taken of each PMA upon their arrival at the venue of their first match.

4.2.10. FIFA Regulations in relation to the eligibility of players.

4.3. PMAs shall take all necessary actions for their players and officials to be bound by and comply with all the aforementioned statutes, regulations, rules, codes, protocols, circulars, directives, decisions, stipulations, and requirements.

4.3.1. All PMAs shall indemnify, defend and hold Concacaf, the HMA, and all of their officers, directors, employees, representatives, agents, and all other auxiliary persons free and harmless against any liabilities, obligations, losses, damages, penalties, claims, actions, fines and expenses (including reasonable legal fees) of whatsoever kind or nature resulting from, arising out of, or attributable to, any non-compliance with these Regulations by the PMAs, their Team Delegation Members, their affiliates and any third parties contracted to the PMA.

4.4. All PMAs must refrain from publicly referring to its final roster and/or team as inferior (or B team). This includes and is not limited to public comments by Team Delegation Members and publications on official PMA online platforms. Non-compliance with this requirement will result in a fine of ten thousand U.S. dollars (USD 10,000).

5. ENTRIES FOR THE COMPETITION

5.1. The Women's Senior National Team of all FIFA Member Associations affiliated with Concacaf has the right to participate.

5.2. The 2025/2026 Concacaf W Qualifiers will serve as the qualifying tournament for Concacaf affiliated Member Associations to the 2026 Concacaf W Championship.

5.3. Notwithstanding the aforementioned, participating in this competition is an honor and a responsibility. Therefore, Concacaf Member Associations have an obligation to participate in the Competition once qualified or shall be automatically suspended

from Concacaf. Upon suspension, a fine of at least ten thousand dollars (USD 10,000) shall be paid to obtain readmission unless the Concacaf Council accepts that failure to enter was due to force majeure.

5.4. Each PMA must have the following roles in their Official Delegation: Head Coach, Team Manager/Delegate, Team Doctor, Equipment Manager, and Team Media Officer, and Team Safeguarding/Welfare Officer. All five (5) of them are mandatory. Furthermore, it is mandatory that the specified roles of: Team Doctor, Physio and Safeguarding / Welfare Officer respectively within the official delegation must be performed by females.

5.5. Team Safeguarding/Welfare Officer: Each Participating Member Association shall appoint a designated Team Safeguarding/Welfare Officer (female) to act as a focal point for all matters related to the safeguarding and well-being of the players and team delegation. This role does not have to be exclusive and can be assigned to the medical doctor or other trained member of the team delegation. It is a mandatory requirement that the designated Team Safeguarding/Welfare Officer complete the FIFA Guardians Safeguarding Essentials online course (https://safeguardinginsport.fifa.com/). The role of the Team Safeguarding/ Welfare Officer is to:

5.5.1. Act as the first point of contact and lead for all safeguarding matters within the team delegation during the Competition;

5.5.2. Take all reasonable steps to ensure that the players' mental and physical well-being is prioritized;

5.5.3. Liaise with the Concacaf designated official in venue should a concern or an allegation of harassment or abuse (be it psychological, physical, or sexual, or neglect) arise.

5.5.4. Know the specific safeguarding measures for the Competition and the avenues available for reporting concerns.

5.6. On entering The Competition, the PMA and their Team Delegation Members automatically undertake to:

5.6.1. Participate and refer to their team as the best available team in all matches of The Competition in which their team is scheduled to take part;

5.6.2. Accept Concacaf's right to use and/or Concacaf's right to sub-license the right to use on a non-exclusive basis, in perpetuity and free of any charge, any of their records, names, photographs, and images (including any still and moving representation thereof), which may appear or be generated in connection with the participation of the Team Delegation Members of all PMAs in The Competition in accordance with the relevant terms of the Concacaf Media and Commercial Regulations for The Competition (as applicable). To the extent that Concacaf's right to use and/or Concacaf's right to sub-license the right to use any of the records, names, photographs, and images may fall in the ownership and/or control of a third party, the PMAs, and their Team Delegation Members shall ensure that such third party waives, pledges and unconditionally assigns and/or transfers to Concacaf's with immediate effect, with full title guarantee in perpetuity and without any restriction, any such rights to ensure Concacaf's unfettered use as set out above;

5.6.3. Respect the principles of fair play. Subject to any other decision by the Concacaf Council, the Member Associations shall complete and send the official Team Participation Agreement to the Concacaf General Secretariat in accordance with the deadline stipulated in the relevant Concacaf circular. Only the Team Participating Agreements sent to the Concacaf General Secretariat by the deadline set shall be valid and considered unless approved in writing by Concacaf.

6. LAWS OF THE GAME

6.1. All matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game in force at the time of The Competition and as laid down by the International Football Association Board (IFAB). If there is any discrepancy in the interpretation of the Laws of the Game, the English version shall be authoritative.

6.2. Each match shall last ninety (90) minutes, comprising two (2) periods of forty-five (45) minutes, with a half-time interval of fifteen (15) minutes.

6.3. If, in accordance with the provisions of these Regulations, extra time is to be played as the result of a draw at the end of normal playing time, it shall always consist of two (2) periods of fifteen (15) minutes each, with an interval of five (5) minutes at the end of normal playing time, but with no interval between the two (2) periods of extra time.

6.4. If the score is still level after extra time, penalty kicks shall be taken to determine the winner in accordance with the procedure described in the IFAB Laws of the Game published by FIFA.

6.5. Each team will be permitted to use a maximum of five (5) substitutes. To reduce disruption to the match, each team will have a maximum of three (3) opportunities to make substitutions during the game; substitutions may also be made at half-time. If both teams make a substitution at the same time, this will count as one (1) of the three (3) opportunities for each team. Unused substitutions and opportunities are carried forward into extra time. In the knockout stage, if the match goes to extra time, teams will each have one (1) additional substitution opportunity; substitutions may also be made before the start of extra time and at half-time in extra time. Substitutions made during half-time, before the start of the extra time, and at half-time of the extra time will not reduce the substitution opportunities available.

6.6. Video Assistant Referee (VAR) may be used for reviewing match-changing decisions/incidents as per the protocol established by The IFAB.

COMPETITION

COMPETITION

7. WITHDRAWAL, UNPLAYED MATCHES, AND ABANDONED MATCHES

7.1. After the TPA is signed, all PMAs have an obligation to play all of their matches until eliminated from The Competition.

7.2. Any PMA that withdraws up to thirty (30) days prior to the start of the Concacaf W Qualifiers Group Stage is liable to a fine of at least thirty thousand dollars (USD 30,000). Any PMA that withdraws within thirty (30) days before the start of the Concacaf W Qualifiers Group Stage or during the Concacaf W Qualifiers itself shall be fined at least sixty thousand dollars (USD 60,000).

7.3. Depending on the withdrawal circumstances, the Concacaf Disciplinary Committee may impose sanctions in addition to those provided in par. 7.2, including the expulsion of the Member Association concerned from subsequent Concacaf competitions.

7.4. Any match that is not played, or which is abandoned – except in cases of force majeure recognized by Concacaf – may lead to the imposition of sanctions against the relevant Member Associations by the Disciplinary Committee in accordance with the Disciplinary Code. In such cases, the Disciplinary Committee may also order that the match be replayed.

7.5. Any PMA that withdraws or whose behavior is liable for a match not being played or abandoned may be ordered to reimburse Concacaf, the opposing team, or any other PMA involved in any expenses incurred as a result of its behavior. In such cases, the Member Association concerned may also be ordered by Concacaf to pay compensation for any damage incurred by Concacaf or any other Member Association. The applicable PMA in question will also forfeit any claim to financial remuneration from Concacaf.

7.6. If a PMA withdraws or a match cannot be played or is abandoned as a result of force majeure, Concacaf shall decide on the matter

at its sole discretion and take whatever action is deemed necessary. If a match is not played or is abandoned as a result of force majeure, Concacaf may, in particular, order a replay. If the withdrawal circumstances are sufficiently severe, the Disciplinary Committee may also take additional actions if necessary.

7.7. If a team does not report for a match, except in cases of force majeure, or refuses to continue to play, or leaves the pitch before the end of the match, the mentioned team shall be considered to have lost the match 3-0 and three (3) points shall be awarded to its opponent. If, in the case of an abandoned match, the winning team had already reached a higher score at the time the team in question left the field, then the higher score shall remain. The Disciplinary Committee will decide if a team that has withdrawn will be excluded from further participation in The Competition, and the results of those matches shall be considered to have lost them by a result of 3-0, and three (3) points shall be awarded to those opponents. The results of any matches played before by the team in question will remain as the final result of the match.

7.8. In addition to the above, the team in question shall pay compensation for any damage or losses suffered by Concacaf, the HMA, and/or the other PMAs, and shall forfeit any claim to financial remuneration from Concacaf.

7.9. The decisions by Concacaf in section 7 are final and binding, and not subject to appeal.

7.10. Further to section 7.6 above, in the case of a match being abandoned as a result of force majeure after it has already kicked off, the following principles will apply:

7.10.1. The match shall be recommenced at the minute at which play was interrupted rather than being replayed in full and with the same scoreline;

7.10.2. The match shall restart with the same players on the pitch and substitutes available as when the match was abandoned;

7.10.3. No additional substitutes may be added to the list of players on the team sheet;

7.10.4. The teams can make only the number of substitutions to which they were still entitled when the match was abandoned;

7.10.5. Players sent off during the abandoned match cannot be replaced;

7.10.6. Any sanctions imposed before the match was abandoned remain valid for the remainder of the match;

7.10.7. The match shall restart at the place where play was stopped when the match was abandoned (i.e., with a free kick, throw-in, goal kick, corner kick, penalty kick, etc.). If the match was abandoned while the ball was still in play, it must restart with a dropped ball from the position of the ball when play was stopped.

7.10.8. The kick-off time, date (which shall be scheduled for the following day or otherwise as soon as possible), and location shall be decided by Concacaf.

7.10.9. Concacaf shall handle any matters requiring a further decision.

8. REPLACEMENTS

8.1. If any PMA withdraws or is excluded from The Competition, Concacaf shall decide whether to replace such PMA with another Member Association.

9. ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

9.1. Each PMA must ensure the following when selecting its representative team for The Competition:

9.1.1. All players shall hold the nationality of such PMA and be subject to its jurisdiction;

9.1.2. All players shall be eligible for selection in accordance with the FIFA Statutes, the Regulations Governing the Application of the FIFA Statutes, and other relevant FIFA rules and regulations.

9.2. Any issues regarding the eligibility of players shall be decided by the Concacaf Disciplinary Committee in accordance with the FIFA Disciplinary Code and upon its entry into force, the Concacaf Disciplinary Code.

9.3. The PMAs shall be responsible for fielding only eligible players. Failure to do so shall lead to the consequences stipulated in the Disciplinary Code.

9.4. If Concacaf believes a player's eligibility is in question, Concacaf reserves the right to consider the player ineligible to participate in any stage of The Competition until Concacaf confirms the player's eligibility status in accordance with the applicable regulations.

10. PLAYERS' LIST

10.1. Each PMA must select its national representative teams from the best players who are nationals of its country and under its jurisdiction and are eligible for selection in accordance with the provisions of the applicable FIFA Regulations.

10.2. Each PMA in the Concacaf W Qualifiers Group Stage must provide Concacaf with a provisional list of up to forty (40) players (4 must be goalkeepers) no later than 18:00 ET, two (2) days prior to each match. The provisional list becomes binding after the stipulated deadline, and players may not be added after the specified deadline. This list shall reflect each player's last name, first name, club, date of birth, and passport number as noted explicitly in their international passport. This information must be submitted through the Comet platform, which will be time-

stamped.

10.3. Each PMA in the Concacaf W Qualifiers Group Stage, must provide Concacaf with a final list of a minimum of eighteen (18) players and up to twenty-three (23) players (3 must be goalkeepers and at least 2 of them must travel to the match), no later than 90 minutes before the match. The players in the final list must be chosen from the provisional list. This information must be submitted through the Comet platform, which will be time-stamped.

10.4. The only document considered valid proof of a player's identity and nationality shall be a valid passport that explicitly states the player's day, month, and birth year. Identity cards, passport books, or other supporting official documents shall not be accepted as valid means of identification. The PMAs shall present each player's valid national passport for the country of the PMA to the Venue Coordinator at the Team Arrival Meeting. A player without a valid passport shall not be entitled to play.

10.4.1. Concacaf reserves the right to request additional information from the player to confirm eligibility, such as a birth certificate from the player, their parents, or their grandparents.

11. START LIST AND SUBSTITUTES ON THE BENCH

11.1. Up to twenty-three (23) players may be entered on the start list (11 starters and 12 substitutes). Up to a maximum of five (5) substitutes may replace the selected players at any time during the match. The head coach shall sign the start list upon arrival at the stadium on matchday.

11.2. The numbers and names on the players' shirts must correspond with the numbers and names indicated on the start list (numbers 1-23 only). All goalkeepers and the captain must be identified; the number one (1) shirt must be reserved for one (1) of the goalkeepers.

11.3. Teams must arrive at the stadium at least ninety (90) minutes before kick-off and return their start list to the Venue Coordinator at the latest ninety (90) minutes before kick-off. Teams will receive a copy of the start list seventy-five (75) minutes before kick-off.

11.4. After the start lists have been completed, signed by the head coach, and returned to the Venue Coordinator, and if the match has not yet kicked off, the following instructions apply:

11.4.1. If any of the starting eleven (11) players listed on the start list cannot start the match for any reason, they may be replaced by any of the twelve (12) substitutes. The replaced player(s) may no longer participate in the match, and the quota of substitute players shall be reduced accordingly. During the match, five (5) players may still be substituted.

11.4.2. If any of the substitutes listed on the start list are not able to be fielded for any reason, the player(s) concerned may not be replaced on the bench by an additional player, which means that the quota of substitutes shall be reduced accordingly. During the match, five (5) players may still be substituted.

11.5. Although no longer eligible to play as a substitute, the injured or ill player removed from the start list may be seated on the substitutes' bench. If so, it would also be eligible for doping control selection.

11.6. No more than twenty-three (23) people (11 officials and 12 substitutes) shall be allowed to sit on the substitutes' bench. The names of these officials must be indicated in the "Officials on the Substitutes' Bench" section in COMET. A suspended player or official will not be allowed in The Competitions area (i.e., locker room and/or tunnel), the field of play, or sit on the substitutes' bench.

11.7. Team Officials and substitutes shall remain within the technical area during the match except in exceptional circumstances, e.g.,

a physiotherapist/doctor entering the field of play, with the referee's permission, to assess an injured player. Team officials and substitutes who fail to abide by the aforementioned provision can be sanctioned and reported to the Disciplinary Committee.

11.8. The Host Member Association (HMA) shall issue each of the official Team Delegation Members with an accreditation during The Competition.

11.9. Injured players who are replaced up until twenty-four (24) hours before the kick-off of their team's first Concacaf W Qualifiers Group Stage, match must return their accreditation to Concacaf. Accordingly, players who have returned their accreditation shall no longer be considered members of the Official Team Delegation list.

11.10. The PMAs shall ensure that all accreditation data required by Concacaf is submitted by the deadline stipulated by Concacaf. Further details, including accreditations and other particular items will be outlined in the relevant Concacaf circular letter.

FORMAT

FORMAT

12. FORMAT AND STRUCTURE OF THE COMPETITION

Concacaf retains the right to determine the structure, format of play, and match calendar for The Competition.

12.1. The Concacaf W Qualifiers Group Stage will be played in a format which features six (6) groups among no more than five (5) teams. The winner of each group will advance to the Concacaf W Championship. The top two (2) teams in the current ranking before the group stage of the Concacaf W Qualifiers, will be prequalified for the 2026 Concacaf W Championship. The PMAs that participate in the Concacaf W Championship will include all eligible Concacaf MAs. The decisions of the Concacaf are final and not subject to appeal.

Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D	Group E	Group F
A1	B1	C1	D1	E1	F1
A2	B2	C2	D2	E2	F2
A3	B3	C3	D3	E3	F3
A4	B4	C4	D4	E4	F4
A5	B5	C5	D5	E5	F5

12.2. The matches in the groups shall be played in a format with two (2) home and two (2) away matches, each team playing one match against each of the other teams in the same group, with three (3) points for a win, one (1) point for a draw, and zero points for a defeat.

12.3. After each group in the Concacaf W Qualifiers Group Stage, PMAs shall be ranked according to the following criteria:

12.3.1. Greatest number of points obtained in all matches;

12.3.2. Goal difference in all group matches;

12.3.3. Greatest number of goals scored in all group matches.

If two (2) or more teams are equal based on the above criteria, their rankings shall be determined as follows:

12.3.4. Greater number of points scored in matches between the tied teams;

12.3.5. Greater goal difference in matches between the tied teams (if more than two (2) teams finish equal on points);

12.3.6. Greater number of goals scored in matches among the tied teams (if more than two (2) teams finish equal on points);

12.3.7. Greatest number of goals scored away from home between the teams concerned (if the tie is only between two teams)

12.3.8. The lowest number of points based on the number of yellow and red cards in all group matches is considered according to the following additions:

- first yellow card: plus 1 point
- second yellow card/indirect red card: plus 3 points
- direct red card: plus 4 points
- yellow card and direct red card: plus 5 points;

12.3.9. Drawing of lots by Concacaf

12.4. The six (6) group winners from groups A, B, C, D, E, and F will advance to the Concacaf W Championship.

12.5. Concacaf shall fix the dates of the matches.

12.6. The decisions of Concacaf on the structure and format of The Competition are final. Concacaf may change the structure and format in the event of any withdrawals.

COMPETITION PREPARATION

COMPETITION PREPARATION

13. VENUES, KICK-OFF TIMES, AND TRAINING SESSIONS

13.1. The venues of the matches shall be submitted to Concacaf by the Host Member Association concerned, and the matches may only be played in stadiums inspected and approved by Concacaf. Concacaf will send a circular indicating deadlines for the submission of these venues.

13.2. All venues shall comply with the Concacaf W Qualifiers Technical Guide for Stadiums and Training Sites.

13.3. The host association shall notify Concacaf of the venue at least sixty (60) days before the match in question is due to be played. In principle, the venue is to be located at a maximum of 150km, which shall be at most a two-hour drive from the nearest operational international airport (airport with sufficient international flights from different locations per week) unless an exemption is specified by Concacaf. The airport should offer landing possibilities for charter flights if the visiting association opts to charter its delegation's flight directly to this airport. If a Member Association cannot agree on the venues for the matches, Concacaf shall make the final decision.

13.4. Concacaf shall inform all the interested parties of the proposed kick-off times at least thirty (30) days before the match in question is due to be played. If the host associations request a change, written approval from Concacaf must be obtained at least twenty (20) days before the match with well-founded and documented reasons.

13.5. The venue of the match shall have sufficient high-standard hotels to accommodate all PMAs and Concacaf Delegation.

13.6. On the day before the match and weather permitting, both teams are entitled to have one (1) training session of sixty (60) minutes on a natural grass pitch or 90 minutes if an artificial pitch is where the match is due to take place. In the event of severe

adverse weather conditions, the Concacaf Venue and Match Coordinator may cancel the training session. The HMA must provide an alternative location for the visiting team to conduct the MD-1 training session. In this case, the teams shall be allowed to inspect the stadium pitch wearing training shoes. Should both teams wish to train at the same time, the visiting team shall be given priority.

13.7. Seven (7) days before the arrival of the visiting team, the exact time and duration of the training session shall be mutually agreed upon and confirmed to Concacaf.

13.8. Drones may only be used during practice for technical purposes. Concacaf reserves the right to approve or disapprove of denying the use of drones such devices. The use of drones and/or recording devices to scout and/or observe other teams' training sessions may lead to disciplinary sanctions.

13.8.1. It is the sole responsibility of each PMA to request and obtain all necessary government authorizations and permits for the operation of drones during the Competition. Failure to secure such authorization will not exempt the PMA from liability for any unauthorized drone use or related infractions under these Regulations.

13.8.2. The unauthorized use of drones during the competition may result in a fine of fifteen thousand U.S. dollars (USD 15,000) per occurrence. Additionally, the Disciplinary Committee may apply FIFA code of ethics. Depending on the severity of the violation, the Disciplinary Committee may impose further sanctions, including but not limited to the deduction of points from the offending party.

13.9. If there is any doubt regarding the condition of the pitch, once the teams have already left to play the match, the referee shall decide whether the pitch is playable or not. If the referee declares the pitch unplayable, The Laws of the Game describes the procedure to be followed.

13.10. The matches may be played in daylight or under floodlight.

Matches played at night may be played only at venues where the floodlighting installations meet the minimum lighting requirements laid down by Concacaf W Qualifiers Technical Guide for Stadiums and Training Sites, i.e., that the whole pitch shall be evenly lit, with a minimum requirement lighting level of at least one thousand (1,000) vertical EV lux. Additionally, the uniformity gradient of light on the field of play should be 1.4:1. An emergency power generator must also be available, which in the event of a power failure, guarantees at least two-thirds of the aforementioned intensity of light for the whole pitch. Concacaf is entitled to grant exceptions.

13.11. On matchdays, the teams must be entitled to warm up on the pitch before the match, weather and pitch conditions permitting. In principle, each team is entitled to warm up on the field of play for thirty (30) minutes before the match. If the pitch is not in good condition or the warm-up would negatively affect the state of the pitch for the match, Concacaf may limit the area on the field of play for the warm-up or shorten or cancel the warm-up session.

14. DATES, ARRIVALS AT THE VENUES AND OFFICIAL TEAM HOTELS

14.1. Concacaf retains the right to set the match dates and confirm the venues of all matches in The Competition.

14.2. The PMA shall arrange for their representative teams to arrive at the venue no later than twenty-four (24) hours before the match is scheduled to be played in the Concacaf W Qualifiers Group Stage. Concacaf and the Host Member Association shall be informed of the travel itinerary of the PMAs no later than ten (10) days before the start of the competition.

15. STADIUM INFRASTRUCTURE AND EQUIPMENT

15.1. Concacaf and each Member Association organizing matches in the Competition must ensure that the stadiums and facilities in which the matches take place to fulfill the requirements described in the Concacaf W Qualifiers Technical Guide for

Stadiums and Training Sites and comply with the safety and security standards and other Concacaf and FIFA regulations, guidelines and instructions for international matches. The fields of play, accessory equipment, and facilities must be in optimum condition and comply with the Laws of the Game and all other relevant regulations (including the international dimensions of the field per the Laws of the Game). Each stadium must be equipped with a minimum of two (2) white goal posts and white goal nets with dark-colored support posts and a minimum of two (2) spare goals, two (2) spare nets, and four (4) spare corner flags located in close proximity to the field of play for contingency purposes.

15.2. The pitch shall have the international dimensions approved in the Laws of the Game. In addition, the total surface area shall have sufficient space to ensure safety for sufficient warm-up space and pitch-side photographer positions.

15.3. Periodic safety checks for the benefit of spectators, players, and officials must be carried out on the stadiums selected for matches in The Competition by the authorities responsible. If requested, the associations shall provide Concacaf with a copy of the relevant safety certificate, which shall be at most one (1) year old.

15.4. Only stadiums that have been inspected and approved by Concacaf may be selected for The Competition. Should a stadium no longer comply with the Concacaf Stadium Guidelines, or the FIFA Natural Turf Guidelines, Concacaf may reject the selection of the stadium concerned. Brand-new stadiums are to be inspected before use; the application for the final inspection and subsequent use of the facilities must be filed with the Confederation at least three (3) months before the match concerned. Refurbished or renovated stadiums are to be inspected before use; the application for the final inspection and the subsequent use of the facilities shall be filed with Concacaf at least two (2) months before the match concerned.

15.5. As a general rule, matches may only be played in all-seater stadiums. The standing space shall remain vacant if only stadiums with seating and standing areas are available.

Regarding the spectator areas, the FIFA Stadium Safety and Security Regulations apply.

15.6. The field of play, accessory equipment, and all facilities for each match of The Competition shall be in optimum condition and comply with the Laws of the Game and all other relevant regulations.

15.7. If a stadium has a retractable roof, in consultation with the Venue Coordinator, must decide before the match whether the roof must be open or closed during the match. This decision must be announced at the Match Coordination Meeting, although it may subsequently be modified before kick-off in the event of sudden and significant weather conditions changes. If the match starts with the roof closed, it must remain closed for the entire match. Suppose the match starts with the roof open, and the weather conditions are severely deteriorating. In that case, the Venue Coordinator has the authority to order its closure during the match, provided that the host association fully guarantees the safety and security of all spectators, players, and other stakeholders. In such an event, the roof shall remain closed until the end of the match.

15.8. Matches may be played on natural or artificial surfaces. Where artificial surfaces are used, the surface must meet the requirements of the FIFA Quality Program for Football Turf or the International Artificial Turf Standard unless Concacaf gives special dispensation.

15.9. Each stadium shall have enough space for warm-up during the match, ideally behind the goals. A maximum of six (6) players shall warm up at the same time (with a maximum of one (1) official without any balls). If insufficient space is behind the goals, each team shall warm up in the designated area beside their substitute bench. In this case, the Venue Coordinator and the Referees will determine the maximum number of players and communicate in the Match Coordination Meeting.

15.10. Clocks in the stadium showing the length of time played may run during the match, provided that they are stopped at the end

of regular playing time in each half, i.e., after forty-five (45) and ninety (90) minutes, respectively. This stipulation shall also apply if extra time is played (i.e., after 15 minutes of each half). The half-time interval shall be fifteen (15) minutes.

15.11. At the end of the two (2) periods of regular playing time (45 and 90 minutes), the referee must indicate to the fourth official, either orally or by gesturing with his hands, the number of minutes he has decided to allow for time lost. This also applies to the two (2) periods of fifteen (15) minutes of extra time.

15.12. Panels or electronic display boards, numbered on both sides for clarity, must be used to indicate the substitution of players and the number of minutes allowed for time lost.

15.13. The use of giant screens must be in compliance with the relevant Concacaf instructions.

15.14. Smoking is not permitted in the technical area, in the vicinity of the field of play, or within competition areas such as the dressing rooms.

15.15. The stadiums must be made available to Concacaf for its exclusive use. They must be free of any and all commercial activities and identifications not previously approved by Concacaf, e.g., boards and signage other than those of Concacaf's Commercial Affiliates, from at least five (5) days before the match and up to two (2) days after the match.

16. TEAM EQUIPMENT

16.1. The Participating Member Associations shall comply with the FIFA Equipment Regulations in force. The display of political, religious, or personal messages or slogans in any language or form by players and officials on their playing or team kits, equipment (including kit bags, beverage containers, medical bags, captain armbands, etc.), or body is prohibited. Disciplinary actions could be taken, including but not limited to match suspensions and/or fines, based on the severity of the incident.

The similar display of commercial messages and slogans in any language or form by players and officials is not allowed for the duration of their time at any official activity organized by Concacaf (including in the stadiums for official matches and official training sessions, as well as during official press conferences and mixed-zone activities).

16.2. Each team shall provide Concacaf and have available for the matches a minimum of two (2) different and contrasting colors (one predominately dark and one predominately light kit) for its official and reserve team kit (shirt, shorts, socks, all three (3) goalkeeper's kits, gloves, caps, wristbands, and headbands, etc.). In addition, each team must have three (3) contrasting colors for the goalkeepers. These three (3) goalkeepers kits must be distinctly different and contrasting from each other and different from the official and reserve team kits. The physical kits must be sent to Concacaf sixty (60) days before their first match of The Competition for Concacaf approval. Only these colors may be worn at the matches. Any requests to change these kits must be submitted to Concacaf for approval ten (10) days before the match in question. Teams are required to travel with all kits for their away games,

16.3. Each team shall supply a set of goalkeeper shirts without names or numbers. These shirts will only be used in those exceptional circumstances where an outfield player must take the goalkeeper position during a match. This extra set of goalkeeper shirts must be provided in the same three (3) colors as the regular goalkeeper shirts.

16.4. Concacaf strives to assign each PMA their complete official or reserve kits. However, in some cases, this may not be possible. In these situations, one (1) team will be assigned a predominantly dark kit, and the other team will be assigned a predominantly light kit. Only uniforms approved and designated by Concacaf may be used for all matches. Concacaf reserves the right to make changes to these designations based on the contrast of the uniforms; Concacaf will notify any changes.

16.5. Each player shall wear a number between one (1) and twenty-

three (23) (number 1 being reserved exclusively for one (1) of the goalkeepers) in the front and back of his team shirt and on his playing shorts. The color of the numbers must contrast clearly with the main color of the shirts and shorts (light on dark or vice versa) and be legible from a distance for spectators in the stadium and television viewers in accordance with the FIFA equipment regulations.

16.6. For the Concacaf W Qualifiers, the player's last name or common name (or abbreviation) may be affixed above the number on the back of the shirt and shall be clearly legible in accordance with the FIFA Equipment Regulations. If the common name is used, such a name is to be approved by Concacaf.

16.7. Concacaf may supply each team with fifty (50) sleeve patches (tournament patches) per game in the Competition with the official competition logo, which shall be affixed on the right-hand sleeve of each shirt as stipulated by Concacaf before The Competition. Concacaf shall also issue the PMAs with guidelines for using official terminology and graphics, which also contain instructions for using the players' sleeve badges per the Commercial Regulations.

16.8. Each player shall wear the number allotted to them on the final list in accordance with the Equipment Regulations.

16.9. The official and reserve team kits and all goalkeeper kits (including the goalkeeper shirts without names and numbers) shall be taken to every match.

16.10. Only warm-up bibs provided by Concacaf may be used during official training sessions held at the stadium/venue and for the pre-match warm-up and the warm-up of substitute players during the match.

17. FOOTBALLS

17.1. The HMA must supply the footballs to be used in all matches during the Concacaf W Qualifiers Group Stage. Moreover, upon

arrival at the venue, the HMA must provide the visiting team with at least twenty-three (23) match balls that will only be used for training. The visiting team must return the practice balls before departing the venue.

17.2. The HMA must supply for each match a minimum of twelve (12) match balls (additional to the 23 visiting team training match balls) in good condition that meets FIFA Quality Mark standards (FIFA Quality PRO, FIFA Quality, International Match Standard).

18. FLAGS AND ANTHEMS

18.1. During The Competition, the Concacaf flag and the national flags of both PMAs shall be displayed inside the stadium at every match. In addition, a ceremonial procession of flags onto the pitch will take place, followed by the entry of the teams as the Concacaf anthem is being played, according to Concacaf's pre-match protocol. The national anthems of the two (2) PMAs (maximum 90 seconds each, no lyrics permitted) shall be played after the teams have lined up.

19. TICKETING

19.1. The HMA is responsible for all the match ticketing during the Concacaf W Qualifiers Group Stage and shall manage the ticketing operations to meet all applicable security and safety standards. It shall set aside a minimum of fifty (50) Category A complimentary tickets – any additional tickets to be fixed by mutual agreement and in writing – or complementary and purchasable tickets for the visiting associations. At least five (5) representatives from the visiting Member Association shall be seated in the VIP tribune. The visiting Member Associations shall inform Concacaf and the HMA in writing no later than fifteen (15) days before the match of the total number of tickets requested for the match. If there is a failure to submit the request before the deadline, the HMA will not be held responsible for granting additional requests.

19.2. Category A tickets shall be defined as tickets within the lower bowl of the venue, and Concacaf will make this ask a minimum of thirty (30) days before the match day. For the avoidance of doubt, these are separate from the tickets set aside for the Visiting Association.

19.3. All ticket designs must be pre-approved by Concacaf. The Host Venue must work with Concacaf to ensure their ticketing systems comply with this requirement and inform Concacaf if there are any potential issues as soon as they are identified.

19.4. Concacaf reserves the right to require terms and conditions to be included in the match tickets in addition to the terms and conditions by the Host Venue during The Competition.

20. REFEREEING

20.1. The referees, assistant referees, fourth officials, and video match officials (hereinafter referred to collectively as Match Officials) for The Competition must be appointed for each match by the Concacaf Referee Committee and shall be neutral. The decisions of the Concacaf Referee Committee are final and not subject to appeal.

20.2. The Match Officials shall receive their official refereeing kit and equipment from Concacaf. They shall wear and use only this kit and equipment on match days.

20.3. Match Officials shall be allowed to use training facilities.

20.4. If the referee is prevented from carrying out their duties, such referee shall be replaced by the fourth official. Suppose one (1) of the assistant referees is prevented from carrying out their duties. In that case, such assistant referee shall be replaced by the fourth official or the reserve assistant referee (when appointed).

20.4.1. A referee with the same nationality as one of the PMAs can be appointed in case of force majeure.

20.5. The referee shall complete and sign the official match report form after each match. They shall do it through Comet immediately after the match at the stadium. On the report form, the referee shall note all occurrences, such as misconduct of players leading to caution or expulsion, unsporting behavior by supporters and/or by officials or any other person acting on behalf of an Association at the match, and any other incident happening before, during and after the match in as much detail as possible.

DISCIPLINARY MATTERS

DISCIPLINARY MATTERS

21. DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

21.1. The Disciplinary Committee will apply the Competition Regulations and the Disciplinary Code. In addition, it may apply the Concacaf Statutes as appropriate.

21.2. The players agree in particular to:

21.2.1. Respect the spirit of fair play, non-violence, and the authority of the Match Officials;

21.2.2. Behave accordingly;

21.2.3. Refrain from doping as defined by the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations and accept all other relevant FIFA regulations, circulars, and directives.

21.3. The PMA and their Team Delegation Members shall comply with the Concacaf and FIFA Statutes, the Disciplinary Code, and the FIFA Code of Ethics, in particular in matters regarding the fight against discrimination, racism, and match-fixing activities.

21.4. In cases of infringement of these and all applicable regulations or unsporting behavior on the part of the PMA, their players, and/or officials, or in any incident, the Disciplinary Committee shall be empowered to:

21.4.1. Warn, caution, admonish, sanction, fine, deduct points, suspend, and/or disqualify the PMA, their players, and/or officials.

21.4.2. Take action against any person(s) or PMAs who may violate applicable Regulations, Circulars, the Laws of the Game, and / or the rules of Fair Play.

21.4.3. Prohibit violators from participating in a specific number of the Concacaf-organized tournaments in which they

might otherwise have participated.

21.5. The Disciplinary Committee may refer to the Council any matter relating to an infringement of these Regulations as it sees fit, whether for further sanction or any other reason.

21.6. The Disciplinary Committee decisions may be based upon written records or videos. Additionally, hearings may be held to investigate a case.

21.7. When deciding, the Disciplinary Committee may refer to the reports made by the Match Delegates, Officials, or any other Concacaf Official or staff present. Reference may also be made to additional reports, including declarations from the parties and witnesses, material evidence, expert opinions, and audio and/or video recordings. Such reports may be used as evidence but only in so far as the disciplinary aspects of the case being dealt with are concerned and will not affect a referee's decision regarding facts connected with play.

21.8. The Disciplinary Committee may convene a personal hearing and will decide any procedures to be followed in such hearing.

21.9. Sessions may be held with a single member. Decisions will be made by the sole judge, or they will be adopted by a simple majority of the members present. In the event of a tie, the president will have the casting vote.

21.10. The following decisions of the Disciplinary Committee shall not be subject to appeal:

21.10.1. Cautions, warnings, and censures imposed on PMAs, players, officials, and other persons.

21.10.2. Suspensions of up to two matches or of up to two months, imposed on PMAs, players, officials, or any other persons.

21.10.3. Fines imposed on Member Associations not exceeding thirty thousand dollars (USD 30,000) or on players, officials,

or any other persons not exceeding ten thousand dollars (USD 10,000).

21.10.4. Decisions made in compliance with Article 36 of the Disciplinary Code.

21.11. All imposed economic penalties must be paid by the appropriate Member Association no later than sixty (60) days after notification thereof.

21.12. Cautions and suspensions:

21.12.1. Cautions received during any other competition are not carried over to The Competition.

21.12.2. Pending match suspensions (in relation to the direct or indirect red card) will be carried over to The Competition.

21.12.3. Single yellow cards will get eliminated at the end of the Concacaf W Qualifiers Group Stage and shall not be carried over to the Concacaf W Championship.

21.12.4. Two (2) cautions received in different games during The Competition shall result in an automatic suspension for the next game in The Competition.

21.12.5. Red card (direct or indirect) suspensions shall be served regardless of the stage of The Competition.

21.12.6. Unserved suspensions outstanding at the end of a PMA's participation in The Competition will be carried over to the next official match of the player's National Team per the Disciplinary Code.

21.13. If a game is suspended due to withdrawal, the PMA(s) refusing to complete the match shall be ineligible to participate in the next two editions of The Competition.

21.14. Any other infringement of these Regulations, whether by players, referees, officials, coaches, or officers, that is punishable

by economic sanctions shall be reported to the Concacaf General Secretariat for consideration by the Concacaf Council.

22. CONCACAF APPEALS COMMITTEE

22.1. The Appeals Committee will hear appeals that meet the requirements that will be said against the decisions made by the Disciplinary Committee.

22.2. The Appeals Committee will apply these Regulations, and the Disciplinary Code is entered into force.

22.3. The Concacaf Appeals Committee shall reach its decisions based on the documents and other means of evidence contained in the Disciplinary Committee's file. The Appeals Committee may additionally, at its sole discretion, also consider additional evidence, including television and video recordings, which it considers relevant.

22.4. The parties must notify the Appeals Committee of their intention to appeal the decision by writing sent within three days, counting from the notification of the grounds for the decision. Said notification must be made via email to the Concacaf General Secretariat, to general.secretariat@concacaf.org, with a copy to disciplinary@concacaf.org.

22.5. Once the period for communicating the intention to appeal has elapsed, the appellant will have five days to present the formal appeal letter. It should contain the appellant's requests, a statement of the facts, evidence, a list of the proposed witnesses (with a brief summary of the foreseeable testimony), and the appellant's conclusions. The latter will not be authorized to present further documentation or evidence once the deadline for submitting the appeal letter has expired.

22.6. Appeals are subject to the payment of a fee of USD 1,000, which must be paid, at the latest, at the time the document is delivered. The appellant must email confirmation of said transfer to the Concacaf General Secretariat, to

general.secretariat@concacaf.org, with a copy to disciplinary@concacaf.org.

22.7. Failure to comply with any of the aforementioned requirements will result in the appeal not being admitted.

22.8. Sessions may be held with a single member. Decisions will be made by the sole judge, or they will be adopted by a simple majority of the members present. In the event of a tie, the president will have the casting vote.

23. PROTESTS

23.1. For the purpose of these Regulations, protests are objections of any kind related to events or matters that have a direct effect on matches organized in The Competition, including but not limited to the state of and markings on the pitch, accessory match equipment, eligibility of players, stadium installations and footballs.

23.2. Unless otherwise stipulated in this article, protests shall be submitted in writing to the Venue Coordinator or Concacaf representative in the venue no later than two (2) hours after the end of the match in question and followed up within the next twenty-four (24) hours with a full written report, including a copy of the original protest, to be sent by e-mail to the Concacaf General Secretariat at general.secretariat@concacaf.org with a copy to disciplinary@concacaf.org. Otherwise, they shall be disregarded. Such protests must be accompanied by a wire transfer confirmation in the amount of USD 500, payable to Concacaf.

23.3. Protests regarding the eligibility of players nominated for matches in The Competition shall be submitted in writing to the Concacaf General Secretariat by e-mail no later than two (2) hours after the match in question at general.secretariat@concacaf.org with a copy to disciplinary@concacaf.org. Such protests must be accompanied by a wire transfer confirmation in the amount of USD 500, payable

to Concacaf.

23.4. Protests regarding the state of the pitch, its surroundings, markings, or accessory items (e.g., goals, flag posts, or footballs) shall be made in writing to the referee before the start of the match by the head of the delegation of the team lodging the protest. Suppose the pitch's playing surface becomes unplayable during a match. In that case, the captain of the protesting team shall immediately lodge a protest with the referee in the presence of the opposing team's captain. The protests shall be confirmed in writing to the Venue Coordinator or Concacaf representative in the venue by the head of the team delegation no later than two (2) hours after the match in question. Such protest must be accompanied by a wire transfer confirmation in the amount of USD 500 payable to Concacaf.

23.5. Protests against any incidents that occur during the course of a match shall be made to the referee by the team captain immediately after the disputed incident and before play has resumed in the presence of the captain of the opposing team. The protest shall be confirmed in writing to the Venue Coordinator or Concacaf representative in the venue by the head of the team delegation no later than two (2) hours after the match in question. Such protests must be accompanied by a wire transfer confirmation in the amount of USD 500, payable to Concacaf.

23.6. Only protests regarding requests to review and rectify a clear and obvious case of error related to a disciplinary decision on the field of play by match officials for a direct red card shall be submitted in writing to the Match Commissioner or the Concacaf representative at headquarters no later than two (2) hours after the end of the match in question. The protest must be followed up within the next 48 hours with a full written report, including a copy of the original protest and any and all evidence (e.g., video, photography, written statements, others) supporting the protest, which must be sent in writing and by email to the Concacaf General Secretariat, to general.secretariat@concacaf.org with a copy to disciplinary@concacaf.org. Otherwise, they will be discarded. Such protests must be accompanied by proof of

electronic transfer in the amount of USD 10,000, payable to Concacaf. This amount will be refunded if the protest is accepted in its entirety.

23.7. Member Associations may not bring disputes with Concacaf before a Court of Justice. They shall undertake to submit any disputes without reservation to the jurisdiction of the competent authority of Concacaf and FIFA.

23.8. If an unfounded or irresponsible protest is lodged, Concacaf may impose a fine.

23.9. The expenses, which arise from a protest, shall be charged by Concacaf, either wholly or in part, to the losing party.

23.10. If any of the formal conditions of a protest as set out in these Regulations are not met, such protest shall be disregarded by the competent body. Once the final match of The Competition has ended and/or once the winning team of the Competition has been proclaimed, any protests described in this article or complaints about the sports procedure followed during The Competition shall be disregarded.

FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

24. FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

24.1. For the matches in the Concacaf W Qualifiers Group Stage, the HMA is responsible for the operation and cost of:

24.1.1. Accommodation, breakfast, and local transportation for:

- Referees
- Referee Assessors
- Match Commissioner
- Venue Coordinator (when applicable)
- Match Coordinator (when applicable)
- Competitions Coordinator (when applicable)
- Security Officer (when applicable)
- Media Official (when applicable)
- Broadcast Official (when applicable)
- Any other official appointed by Concacaf

24.1.2. Operational cost of the Stadium for the matches and official use during Concacaf W Qualifiers Group Stage;

24.1.3. Board and lodging in a high-standard hotel and domestic transportation in the host country for the Match Officials.

24.1.4. Training facilities approved by Concacaf for the PMAs to use during Concacaf W Qualifiers Group Stage;

24.1.5. Volunteers and staff to assist with the operations of The Competition.

24.2. The following expenditures may be deducted from the gross receipts:

24.2.1. The levy due to Confederations in accordance with the Confederations statutes and regulations after deduction of the taxes mentioned under 27.2.2. The levies due to the Confederation shall be paid within sixty (60) days of the match at the official rate of exchange on the day the

payment is due.

24.2.2. State, provincial, and municipal taxes, as well as the hire of the grounds, not exceeding 30% (cf. Regulations Governing the Application of the FIFA Statutes).

24.3. Concacaf shall bear the costs of:

24.3.1. International travel and the daily allowances for the respective Concacaf delegation members, as fixed by Concacaf;

24.3.2. Participation allowance for the PMA, the amount of which shall be determined by Concacaf (if applicable).

24.3.3. Doping expenses;

24.3.4. The costs of insurance taken out by Concacaf to cover its own risks.

24.4. The PMAs shall be responsible for and bear the costs of the following:

24.4.1. International travel costs, ground transportation, lodging, and meals for the official delegation during the Concacaf W Qualifiers Group Stage.

24.4.2. Adequate insurance to cover their Team Delegation Members and any other persons carrying out duties on their behalf against all risks, including but not limited to injury, accident, disease, and travel, in consideration of the applicable FIFA and Concacaf rules or regulations.

24.4.3. International travel, visas and the daily allowances for the respective delegation members;

24.4.4. During the Concacaf W Qualifiers Group Stage, League A Quarterfinals and Concacaf W Qualifiers Play-In, the PMAs must cover all international travel costs for the entire delegation.

24.5. Any disputes arising from financial provisions shall be resolved amongst the Associations concerned but may be submitted to Concacaf for a final decision to be taken.

24.6. Any expenses and costs incurred by a PMA other than those mentioned in these Regulations shall be borne by the PMA concerned.

MEDICAL / DOPING

MEDICAL / DOPING

25. MEDICAL/DOPING

25.1. To protect players' health and prevent them from experiencing sudden cardiac death during matches at The Competition, each PMA shall ensure and confirm to Concacaf that its players and officials undergo a pre-competition medical assessment (PCMA) prior to the start of The Competition. The PCMA will include a full medical assessment as well as an EKG to identify any cardiac abnormality. If the EKG is abnormal, and echocardiogram must be obtained and be normal before a player can be released to play. The medical assessment must be carried out between 270 days and 10 days before the start of each match during The Competition. Concacaf will provide a PCMA form to all PMAs.

25.2. The duly licensed medical representative of each PMA (i.e., national team doctor) will be required to sign the PCMA declaration form certifying the accuracy of the results and confirming that the players and officials have passed the pre-competition medical assessment. The medical assessment form shall also include the signatures of the President and General Secretary of the PMA. The Concacaf General Secretariat shall receive it at the latest ten (10) days before the start of The Competition.

25.3. Further to the above, each PMA is required to have a duly licensed medical professional (i.e., a doctor) as part of their official delegation. Such doctor must be fully integrated and familiar with all medical aspects of the delegation and must remain with the delegation throughout the entire official period of The Competition. The Match Officials (the Referees) will refer to such team doctor in all cases as required and necessary.

25.4. Concacaf shall not be held liable for any injury any participating player or official sustained. Equally, Concacaf shall not be held liable for any incident (including death) linked to any injury or health problem(s) of any participating player or official.

25.5. As stated in these Regulations, each PMA shall be responsible throughout The Competition for providing health, travel, and accident insurance coverage for all the members of its delegation throughout The Competition. In addition, and in accordance with the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players, the PMA with which any participating player is registered shall be responsible for the player's insurance coverage against illness and accident during the entire period of the player's release.

25.6. Failure to comply with the aforementioned provision shall be sanctioned by the Concacaf Disciplinary Committee.

25.7. Regarding non-traumatic loss of consciousness during a game, the referee will assume sudden cardiac arrest until proven otherwise. The hand signal is the right-hand fist against the chest. Such signal will indicate to the team doctor and the medical emergency team (stretcher team) to immediately institute comprehensive resuscitation that includes the use of a defibrillator (AED) and CPR. It is the responsibility of the HMA to ensure that there is a properly functioning AED immediately at hand and that there is an ambulance with an access and egress plan. Additionally, the HMA should ensure an emergency action plan is in place and communicate with each team's medical staff before each match.

25.8. During the match, if a traumatic head injury leads to a player's concussion, and the player remains on the field of play, the referee shall stop play for as much as three minutes as injury time. The hand signal is the right fist on the top of the head. Such signal will indicate to the team doctor to enter the field to assess and manage the player. A Sideline Concussion Assessment Test (SCAT) will be administered at this time. At the end of the three minutes, at the discretion of the team doctor, the player may be ready to return to play or immobilized appropriately and transported off the field using the standard protocol.

25.9. Further to the above, regarding traumatic head injury and concussion, full return to play after a previous concussion must

include no signs or symptoms of the previous head injury as well as an acceptable Sideline Concussion Assessment Test (SCAT) assessment, as well as a progressive/staged return to play protocol and return to baseline neuropsychological testing.

25.10. Doping is the use of certain substances or methods capable of artificially enhancing a player's physical and/or mental performance to improve athletic and/or mental performance. Suppose there is a medical need as defined by the player's doctor. In that case, a Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) application must be filed at least 30 days before competition for chronic conditions and as soon as possible for acute situations. The TUE approval system includes a designated administrative and functional committee that will review applications and certify the exemption as the committee defines.

25.11. Doping is strictly prohibited. The FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations, the FIFA Disciplinary Code, and all other relevant FIFA, as well as Concacaf Regulations, circulars, and directives, shall apply to all Concacaf competitions.

25.12. Every player may be subject to in-competition testing at the matches in which the player competes and to out-of-competition testing at any time and place. Furthermore, reference is made to the FIFA Anti-Doping Control Regulations and the list of prohibited substances and methods per the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).

25.13. If, in accordance with the FIFA Anti-Doping Control Regulations, a player tests positive for the use of banned substances, the player shall be immediately declared ineligible for further participation in The Competition and shall be subject to further sanctions from the Concacaf Disciplinary Committee.

COMMERCIAL RIGHTS

COMMERCIAL RIGHTS

26. COMMERCIAL RIGHTS

26.1. Concacaf is the original and sole owner of all the rights emanating from The Competition as a collective whole and any other related events coming under its jurisdiction, without any restrictions on content, time, place, and law. These rights include, among others, all kinds of financial rights, audiovisual and radio recording, reproduction and broadcasting rights, multimedia rights, marketing, and promotional rights, and incorporeal rights (such as those pertaining to emblems) as well as rights arising under copyright law whether currently existing or created in the future subject to any provision as outlined in specific regulations.

26.2. For the Concacaf W Qualifiers Group Stage, League A Quarterfinals and Concacaf W Qualifiers Play-In, Concacaf grants to the Participating Member Associations seventy-five percent (75%) of the on-field sponsorship inventory. For the avoidance of doubt, the above grant does not include twenty-five percent (25%) of on-field sponsorship inventory, which is reserved by Concacaf and includes but is not limited to the team and fourth official bench branding, substitution board branding, field boards, and referee escorts.

26.3. PMAs may only use the Competition Marks and the Composite Logo for the purpose of referring descriptively to their participation in the Competition. All commercial or promotional use of the Competition Marks and the Composite Logo by Participating Member Associations and/or their PMA Affiliates and/or any third party contracted to the Participating Member Associations is strictly prohibited.

26.4. For the Concacaf W Qualifiers Finals and to assist with the implementation of these Commercial Regulations, each PMA (i) must ensure that all Team Delegation Members participate in a Competition photo and video shoot (all such photographs and images to be used and/or sub-licensed by the Confederation in accordance with the remainder of this paragraph), and (ii) shall

secure written confirmation from each Team Delegation Member of the Confederation's right to use and/or the Confederation's right to sub-license the right to use, in perpetuity and free of any charge, any of their records, names, photographs, and images (including any still and moving representation thereof), which may appear or be generated in connection with the participation of the Team Delegation Members in both stages of the Competition (including, but not limited to photographs of Team Delegation Members taken for accreditation purposes).

26.5. For the Concacaf W Qualifiers Finals, Participating Member Associations are expressly prohibited from bringing beverage products or containers that compete with the Commercial Affiliate, as confirmed by Concacaf, into the Controlled Areas. Concacaf will have the ability to provide the winning Participating Team products from Commercial Affiliate for the post-match locker room celebration. The winning Participating Team is expressly prohibited from bringing non-commercial affiliate products and/or branded items (i.e., different from Commercial Affiliate) during the competition period in controlled areas as referenced herein.

26.6. At all times, Concacaf reserves all its rights to exploit, sell, create, license, sublicense, and dispose of merchandising rights for the Competition and to authorize and license others to do so. PMA are not authorized to create or sell their own co-branded merchandise without the prior written approval of Concacaf; Concacaf, however, may appoint a third-party licensee to work directly with each participating Team and local licensees, if any, to establish any product offering and associated royalties from local merchandising of co-branded products, when previously authorized and confirmed in writing by Concacaf.

26.7. Concacaf will issue separate Commercial Regulations for Competitions specifying these commercial and intellectual property rights. All Concacaf members must comply with the Commercial Regulations for The Competition and must ensure that their members, officials, players, delegates, and other affiliates also comply with these regulations.

27. MEDIA

27.1. Concacaf will issue separate Media Regulations for The Competition specifying each PMA's mandatory promotional and media activities that will take place prior to and during The Competition. These will include, among others, interview requests, pre- and post-match press conferences, and open training sessions.

27.2. Each PMA must comply with The Competition Media Regulations and must ensure that their members, officials, players, delegates, and other affiliates also comply with these regulations.

27.3. For more details, please refer to the Media Regulations.

FINAL PROVISIONS

FINAL PROVISIONS

28. LIABILITY

28.1. The HMA of The Competition shall be exclusively responsible for the organization of the matches and shall discharge and release Concacaf from all responsibility and liabilities and shall relinquish any claim against Concacaf, its employees, directors, officers, and the members of its delegation for any damages resulting from any claims relating to such matches.

29. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

29.1. Concacaf shall issue any instructions necessitated by exceptional circumstances that may arise related to The Competition. These provisions and/or instructions shall form an integral part of these Regulations.

30. MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR AND FORCE MAJEURE

30.1. Matters not provided for in these Regulations, and any cases of force majeure shall be decided by Concacaf's sole reasonable discretion. All decisions shall be final and binding and not subject to appeal.

31. LANGUAGES

31.1. In the case of any discrepancy in the interpretation of the English, Spanish, French, or Dutch texts of these Regulations, the English text shall be authoritative.

32. COPYRIGHT

32.1. The copyright of the match schedule drawn up in accordance with the provisions of these Regulations shall be the property of Concacaf.

33. NO WAIVER

33.1. Any waiver by Concacaf of any breach of these Regulations (including of any document referred to in these Regulations) shall not operate as, or be construed to be, a waiver of any other breach of such provision or any breach of any other provision or a waiver of any right arising out of these Regulations or any other document. Any such waiver shall only be valid if given in writing. Failure by Concacaf to insist upon strict adherence to any provision of these Regulations, or any document referred to in these Regulations, on one (1) or more occasions shall not be considered to be a waiver of or deprive Concacaf of the right to subsequently insist upon strict adherence to, that provision or any other provision of these Regulations, or any document referred to in these Regulations.

34. ENFORCEMENT

34.1. These regulations were approved by the Concacaf Council on September 7, 2024, and came into force immediately thereafter.

Concacaf

CHAMPIONSHIP