



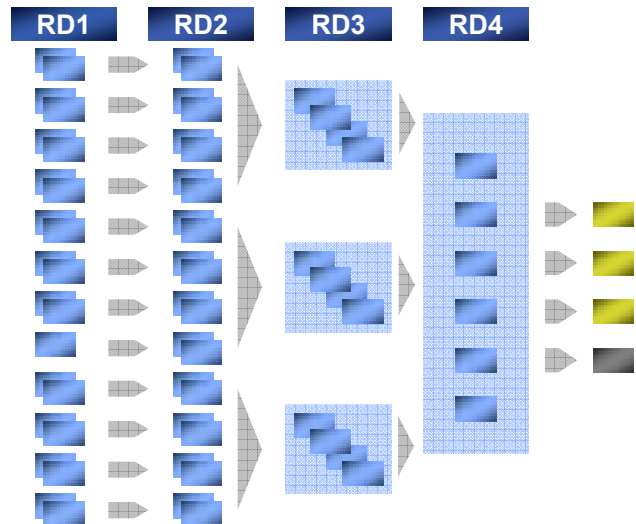
# PRELIMINARY COMPETITION NORTH, CENTRAL AMERICA & CARIBBEAN



## BASIC CONDITIONS

<b>Member Associations (MAs):</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Participating Member Associations (PMAs):</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Qualification Slots:</b>	<b>3.5*</b>

\*Playoff with South America



## PARTICIPATING MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

The 35 Participating Member Associations are seeded based on the FIFA ranking of May 2007. The seeding is as follows:

- |                        |                              |                              |
|------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Mexico              | 13. St. Vincent / Grenadines | 25. Turks and Caicos Islands |
| 2. USA                 | 14. Barbados                 | 26. Netherlands Antilles     |
| 3. Costa Rica          | 15. Suriname                 | 27. British Virgin Islands   |
| 4. Honduras            | 16. Bermuda                  | 28. Dominica                 |
| 5. Panama              | 17. Antigua and Barbuda      | 29. Cayman Islands           |
| 6. Trinidad and Tobago | 18. St. Kitts and Nevis      | 30. Puerto Rico              |
| 7. Jamaica             | 19. Dominican Republic       | 31. Anguilla                 |
| 8. Cuba                | 20. El Salvador              | 32. Belize                   |
| 9. Haiti               | 21. Bahamas                  | 33. US Virgin Islands        |
| 10. Guatemala          | 22. Nicaragua                | 34. Montserrat               |
| 11. Canada             | 23. Grenada                  | 35. Aruba                    |
| 12. Guyana             | 24. St. Lucia                |                              |

## PRELIMINARY COMPETITION

### ROUND ONE

- The 23 PMAs ranked 13 to 35 (FIFA ranking as of May 2007) constitute the 23 Round One teams.
- The round consists of 11 home-and-away series and one bye, St. Vincent / Grenadines.
- The winners and St. Vincent / Grenadines advance to Round Two.

### ROUND TWO

- The 11 Round One series winners and St. Vincent / Grenadines will then join the 12 remaining PMAs in Round Two.
- The 24 teams will be paired into 12 home-and-away series.
- The winners advance to Round Three.



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## **ROUND THREE**

- The 12 Round Two series winners will then contest Round Three.
- Teams will be grouped into 3 round-robin, home-and-away groups of 4 teams.
- The group winners and runners-up advance to Round Four.

## **ROUND FOUR**

- The three Round Three group winners and 3 Round Three group runners-up will contest Round Four.
- The six teams will form 1 round-robin, home-and-away group.

- ③ **The top 3 teams qualify for the FIFA World Cup™.**
- ③ **The 4<sup>th</sup> placed team enters a home-and-away playoff with the 5<sup>th</sup> placed South American team.**