



FIFA Quality Concept for Footballs



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FIFA SHOOTS FOR FOOTBALL CONSISTENCY

“As the game’s world-wide governing body, we have a responsibility to support any move to improve football equipment,” says Joseph S. Blatter, President of FIFA. “In raising the actual standard of footballs, the FIFA Quality Concept will also help improve the level of the game.”

As a result of FIFA’s initiative to ensure global consistency in top match footballs, FIFA Marketing & TV, the marketing and TV division of FIFA, has developed and implemented a quality certification programme.

Since January 1, 1996, only those outdoor footballs which have been tested and meet the demanding quality criteria and bearing either of the official markings are allowed to be used in FIFA competition matches and competition matches under the auspices of the six continental Confederations. As of January 1, 2000, the quality testing and certification has also become compulsory for Futsal balls (indoor footballs) being used in international matchplay under the auspices of FIFA or the Confederations.

As part of FIFA’s effort to promote and develop football in all its forms throughout the world, the first ever FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup took place in May 2005. As a consequence the FIFA Quality Concept of Footballs has also implemented a testing procedure for Beach Soccer balls which has been introduced in May 2006. Therefore the quality testing and certification is also compulsory for Beach soccer footballs being used in international match play under the auspices of FIFA or the Confederations.

The FIFA Quality Concept is a test programme for outdoor and indoor footballs. Manufacturers have the possibility to enter into a licence agreement for the use of the prestigious FIFA hallmarks on footballs which have passed the rigorous testing procedure. Licensees enjoy extensive trademark protection of the FIFA quality marks and benefit from comprehensive marketing services.

FIFA’s commitment to social responsibility is also evidenced in its Quality Concept. Licensees are requested by contract to ensure that no child labour is used in any stage of the manufacturing process, and that the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work is respected. Furthermore, they have to pledge their support of initiatives to end child labour in the football industry.

Footballs bearing the FIFA quality marks are helping children worldwide. The net royalties are made available through the FIFA Football for Hope Movement to football-for-development programmes worldwide. As part of this movement, which embraces all CSR activities of football’s world governing body, FIFA helps fight child labour in the football industry through the successful ILO-IPEC programme “Elimination of Child Labour in the Soccer Ball Industry” in Sialkot, Pakistan. This programme, which FIFA supports since 1997, is one of the many projects of the football family to tackle the most challenging social issues of our time.

This brochure outlines the key elements of the FIFA Quality Concept and the scope of the Licensing Programme.



FIFA Quality Concept for Futsal

Futsal fever is currently encapsulating most of the globe but it owes a great deal of its success and all of its appeal to the streets and playgrounds of South America, where the game was first conceived. The sport began to spread from the South American continent and with its growing popularity came the need for a governing body and a World Championship.

Keen to emphasise the South American roots of a sport that the likes of Pelé, Zico, Roberto Carlos, Ronaldo and Ronaldinho all grew up playing, Futsal was the name chosen by FIFA for the only version of 5-a-side football that it supports when it took over as the governing body of the sport in 1989. After the first FIFA Futsal World Cup that took place in the Netherlands in the same year, Futsal began to increase in stature as more and more associations began to adopt the sport, keen to take advantage of its benefits in developing players for the bigger game.

Individual close ball skills are developed through an increased number of touches during the game, whilst players are nearly always placed in reduced-space situations and are constantly forced to make decisions demanding speed of thought and quick reflexes.

The end-to-end, non-stop, goalmouth action has proven a hit with the fans as the number of professional leagues in the world grows every year. Russia, Portugal, Italy, Brazil and Argentina all have professional leagues along with Spain, the current world champions, whose league regularly attracts over thirty thousand spectators a week to its games.

Futsal is also set to explode onto the football scene in Asia with Iran already boasting a professional league and countries such as Japan, Malaysia and Thailand all keen to follow. Chinese Taipei hosted the fifth FIFA World Cup in December 2004, which saw almost 90 associations take part in the qualifying stages.

To date, the FIFA Futsal World Cup has been held five times, making two stops in Europe (Netherlands 1989 & Spain 1996), two in Asia (Hong Kong 1992 & Chinese Taipei 2004) and one in Central America (Guatemala 2000).

While under FIFA's control, new rules have been introduced, aimed at improving the technical aspects of the game for players and spectators alike. As part of FIFA's efforts to promote and develop football and its equipment throughout the world, Futsal balls were integrated into the FIFA Quality Concept in 2001 in order to ensure highest quality and consistency worldwide. Only balls that pass the Futsal specific and stringent laboratory tests qualify for the FIFA INSPECTED or the higher FIFA APPROVED quality mark. Players, coaches and tournament organisers alike can be assured of having a top-quality football by looking for the FIFA marks.



FIFA Quality Concept for Beach Soccer

Over the past decade, beach soccer has journeyed from the beaches of Brazil to the hearts of millions of fans all over the globe. The participation of internationally renowned players such as flamboyant Frenchman Eric Cantona, legendary Spanish strikers Michel and Julio Salinas and Brazilian samba stars such as Romario, Junior and Zico has helped to take television coverage to large audiences in over 170 countries worldwide, making beach soccer one of the fastest growing professional sports in the world and converting it into a major showcase for international commercial opportunity.

Today, beach soccer is part of the FIFA family. In May, 2005 the first FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup took place on Copacabana Beach in Rio de Janeiro. In an exceptional atmosphere created by 8,000 fans stirred to fever pitch by every move, the first FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup offered a magnificent spectacle and a fantastic opportunity for fans to watch the best teams and top stars of the sport.

“Beach soccer is an immensely attractive and exciting variation of association football. Since being introduced just over a decade ago, the sport has grown steadily in terms of popularity and sophistication,” remarked FIFA President Joseph S. Blatter. “It is therefore absolutely logical for FIFA, the governing body of football, to extend its reach into beach soccer and we look forward to bringing all of the knowledge and expertise that FIFA has to improving beach soccer, whilst being careful to preserve the sense of spontaneity and fun that are essential to the sport.”

The FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup will be held annually and developed on a worldwide level.

FIFA will ensure that the sport is pushed to the next level in terms of quality, recognition and prominence.

As part of its efforts to promote and develop football and its equipment throughout the world, FIFA introduced the FIFA Quality Concept for Beach Soccer balls in May 2006. In order to ensure that footballs for beach soccer are of consistent and highest quality throughout the world, only balls that pass stringent laboratory tests qualify for the FIFA INSPECTED or the higher FIFA APPROVED quality mark. Given the specific characteristics of the game of beach soccer, the quality criteria have been adapted accordingly.

FIFA is convinced that beach soccer is and will increasingly become an important and attractive part of the sport of football. With the extension of the FIFA Quality Concept, FIFA is responding to the growing demand for beach soccer and everyone can be assured of having a top-quality football by looking for the FIFA marks.



Global Concept

1. The Licensing Programme

The programme is based upon the classification of Outdoor, Futsal and Beach Soccer footballs into two categories:



FIFA APPROVED

top quality footballs meeting
FIFA's highest demands



FIFA INSPECTED

footballs for matches/ trainings
at all competitive levels

2. Law II - Decision 1 ("Laws of the Game")

FIFA APPROVED and FIFA INSPECTED test criteria match or exceed the international matchball standards as outlined in the Laws of the Game and indicate that such footballs are of the required quality for match play, balls to be used in FIFA competition matches* and competition matches* under the auspices of the Confederations. Member association competitions may require the use of balls bearing any one of the official designations.

In all other matches, the ball used must satisfy the requirements of Law II.

* see pages 20-21 for definition and listing of FIFA Matches and Confederation Matches



Global Concept

3. The Testing

To obtain a FIFA Quality Concept license, the balls are to be tested according to specific criteria per category, as set forth by FIFA

OUTDOOR FOOTBALLS / BEACH SOCCER BALLS

FIFA APPROVED

- weight
- circumference
- sphericity
- loss of pressure
- water absorption
- rebound
- shape and size retention

FIFA INSPECTED

- weight
- circumference
- sphericity
- loss of pressure
- water absorption
- rebound

FUTSAL BALLS

FIFA APPROVED

- weight
- circumference
- sphericity
- loss of pressure
- water absorption
- rebound
- shape and size retention

FIFA INSPECTED

- weight
- circumference
- sphericity
- loss of pressure
- water absorption
- balance

A comprehensive information document outlining the test methods and equipment used for testing of the specific criteria can be provided to licensees upon request.



Global Concept

4. Worldwide Protection

The logos used for the FIFA Quality Concept are protected through extensive trademark and copyright registrations worldwide.

5. Licensing Rights

The Licence Agreement between the manufacturer and FIFA includes the following features, among others, four years validity as well as the right to use the FIFA Quality Marks on and in relation to licensed products. Furthermore Licensees are given access to a full marketing service package (see #6 below). In compensation for the licensing rights granted by FIFA a royalty fee per licensed ball sold is required.

6. Marketing Services

The FIFA Quality Concept licensing agreement is enhanced by a comprehensive and targeted marketing service provided free of cost by FIFA including:

- well focused advertising and PR campaigns on behalf of FIFA, aimed at trade, consumers and media as well as the football world in general to inform about the unique licensing programme, to promote and consolidate the FIFA Quality Marks and to prevent infringements of the FIFA Marks
- a framed FIFA certificate for each of the tested categories
- a refund of the testing costs by FIFA of all successful tested products
- access to the FIFA Digital Archive in order to download the Graphic Guidelines as well as various artmarks for use on footballs and for use on print material
- a designated authorization number to identify the official licence and safeguard it from infringement
- legal advice and supervision by FIFA's international network to enforce and protect the licensee's rights and to prevent infringements
- random testing of sample products on the market to maintain quality and image, and to eliminate inferior products



Global Concept

7. Test Fee and Procedures

Outdoor and indoor footballs applying for a FIFA licence have to go through a series of rigorous testing in order to qualify for the FIFA INSPECTED category or the higher grade FIFA APPROVED level. These tests are exclusively performed at EMPA, the selected test institute for the FIFA licensing programme.

For each outdoor or indoor ball model to be tested manufacturer must submit to FIFA Marketing & TV 7 samples for category FIFA INSPECTED and 10 samples for category FIFA APPROVED. A special Test Form was created to facilitate the testing administration (see page 15 in this document). The full amount of the testing and handling fees must be paid prior to testing.

The test and handling fees per ball model and per category are:

Test Fees

FIFA APPROVED category	CHF 4,400
FIFA INSPECTED category	CHF 3,300

For football models which have been successfully tested and are licensed under a licence agreement, the standard test fee respective to the licensed category is credited against royalty payments. For the avoidance of doubt, any test fees paid for footballs which have failed to meet the relevant test criteria are not credited against royalties payable or are otherwise refundable.

8. Royalty Fee Structure

Licensees are required to submit royalty statements on a quarterly basis with subsequent payment of the royalties due. The royalty fee per category and per licensed ball sold is:

Royalty Fees

FIFA APPROVED category	CHF 1.50
FIFA INSPECTED category	CHF 0.75



Global Concept

9. Minimum Guarantee

Due to the fact that all licensees are benefiting from comprehensive marketing services regardless of the sales of licensed products and to cover for the basic administration costs, a standard minimum guarantee of Swiss Francs 5,000 for the four years contract period has to be paid upon signature of a licensing agreement.

The minimum guarantee will be set off against future royalty payments and/or test fee credit resulting from the successful testing of licensed products prior to the execution of the licence agreement.

10. Child Labour

FIFA has taken a firm position that it will not accept any child labour at any stage of the manufacturing process of footballs. Therefore, it is a contractual requirement that all licensees under the FIFA Quality Concept as well as their supplier(s) must comply with the highest standards of business ethics prevailing in the industry. Furthermore, it is required that licensees as well as their supplier(s) join special projects which aim to end child labour and which provide special protection and schooling programmes. Such projects already exist in Pakistan and India. A special procedure has been defined for manufacturing countries where no such projects exist.

11. Product Liability Insurance

In order to conclude a Licence Agreement it is mandatory for future Licensees to conclude a product liability insurance vis-à-vis the Licensed Products. This Insurance policy must cover the amount of CHF 3'000'000.00, including worldwide territory and shall ensure that FIFA is nominated as additional insurant. Such insurance will cover, among other things, the use of, and alleged defects in, the Licensed Products.



Test Criteria – Outdoor Footballs

Property	Ball Size 5		Ball Size 4	Specifications
	Approved	Inspected	Inspected	
Weight	420 - 445 grams	410 - 450 grams	350 - 390 grams	ball pressure : 0.8 bar
Circumference	68.5 - 69.5 cm	68.0 - 70.0 cm	63.5 - 66.0 cm	ball pressure : 0.8 bar
Sphericity	Max. 1.5 %	max. 2 %	max. 2 %	ball pressure: 0.8 bar (deviation of the measured mean value)
Loss of Pressure	20 %	25 %	25 %	ball pressure: 1.0 bar at the start of the test max. loss of air after 3 days (72h)
Water Absorption	Average water uptake of the initial weight of the tested balls: 10% max. water uptake per ball not to exceed 15%	average water uptake of the initial weight of the tested balls: 15% max. water uptake per ball not to exceed 20%	average water uptake of the initial weight of the tested balls: 15% max. water uptake per ball not to exceed 20%	ball pressure: 0.8 bar tank filled with water 2 cm height 250 compressing downs with constant ball rotation, ball deformation max. 25%
Rebound at 20°C at 5°C	135 - 155 cm min. 125 cm max. difference between lowest and highest rebound per ball tested: 10cm	125 - 155 cm min. 115 cm max. difference between lowest and highest rebound per ball tested: 10cm	115 - 155 cm min. 115 cm max. difference between lowest and highest rebound per ball tested: 10cm	ball pressure: 0.8 bar each ball being dropped 10 times (on to different panels) from a height of 2 meters onto a steel plate
Shape and Size Retention Test including change of pressure • increase in circumference • deviation on sphericity: • change of pressure:	Measured after 2000 kicks seams and air-valve undamaged max. 1.5 cm max. 1.5% max. 0.1 bar			ball pressure: 0.8 bar shooting onto a steel panel with approx. 50 km/h shooting length: 2.50 m

Tests will be conducted at room temperature (approx. 20°C) and 65% humidity.
Exception: Rebound measured at 20°C and at 5°C.



Test Criteria – Futsal balls

No Feltballs are being permitted for international matches

Property	Approved	Inspected	Specifications
Weight	410 - 430 grams	400 - 440 grams	ball pressure: 0.6 bar
Circumference	62.5 - 63.5 cm	62.0 - 64.0 cm	ball pressure: 0.6 bar
Sphericity	max. 1.5 %	max. 2 %	ball pressure: 0.6 bar
Loss of Pressure	max. 20 %	max. 25 %	ball pressure: 0.6 bar at the start of the test max. loss of air after 3 days (72h)
Rebound	55 - 65 cm	50 - 65 cm	ball pressure: 0.6 bar each ball being dropped from a height of 2 meters onto a wooden floor
Balance	max. 5°	max. 7.5°	ball pressure: 0.6 bar ball being rolled down an inclined slope onto a table with predetermined rolling direction / angle deviation of rolling direction is measured.
Shape and Size Retention Test including change of pressure • increase in circumference • deviation on sphericity: • change of pressure:	Measured after 2000 kicks seams and air-valve undamaged max. 1.0 cm max. 1.5% max. 0.1 bar		ball pressure: 0.6 bar shooting onto a steel panel at approx. 50 km/h shooting length: 2.50 m

Tests will be conducted at room temperature (approx. 20°C) and 65% humidity.



Test Criteria – Beach Soccer balls

(Ball pressure : mean value of indicated pressure range between 0.375 – 0.8 bar)

Property	Approved	Inspected	Specifications
Weight	400 - 440 grams	400 - 440 grams	ball pressure: mean value
Circumference	68 - 70 cm	68 - 70 cm	ball pressure: mean value
Sphericity	max. 2 %	max. 2 %	ball pressure: mean value (deviation of the measured mean value)
Loss of Pressure	max. 25 %	max. 25 %	ball pressure: mean value at the start of the test max. loss of air after 3 days (72h)
Rebound	100 - 150 cm	100 - 150 cm	ball pressure: mean value each ball being dropped 10 times from a height of 2 meters onto a steel plate
Water Absorption	max. 15 %	max. 15 %	ball pressure: mean value 2cm water depth, 250 compressions with constant ball rotation, ball deformation maximum 10%
Shape and Size Retention Test including change of pressure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increase in circumference • deviation on sphericity: • change of pressure: 	Measured after 1000 kicks seams and air-valve undamaged max. 1.5 cm max. 2 % max. 0.1 bar		ball pressure: mean value shooting onto a steel panel at approx. 50 km/h shooting length: 2.50 m

Tests will be conducted at room temperature (approx. 20°C) and 65% humidity.



Test Form

TEST FORM FOR FOOTBALLS



Please complete the information below, sign and enclose original copy with all footballs submitted for testing – one form per ball model.

Company: _____
Contact Name: _____ **Date submitted:** _____
Address: _____
Tel: _____ **Fax:** _____
Signature: _____
Manufacturer of the ball: _____

Category specification(s) for which footballs are to be tested:

OUTDOOR

FIFA Approved Ball Model: _____ Brand Name: _____
 FIFA Inspected Ball Model: _____ Brand Name: _____

BEACH SOCCER

FIFA Approved Ball Model: _____ Brand Name: _____
 FIFA Inspected Ball Model: _____ Brand Name: _____

FUTSAL

FIFA Approved Ball Model: _____ Brand Name: _____
 FIFA Inspected Ball Model: _____ Brand Name: _____

(The part below will be filled in by FIFA Marketing & TV after the testing)

Test Results: Positive Negative

Criteria failed (if any):

Weight Circumference Sphericity Loss of Pressure
 Water Absorption Rebound Balance
 Shape and Size Retention Test:
 Increase in Circumference Change in Pressure
 Deviation in Sphericity Stitch and Valve

Please send this form to the following address, together with the requisite number of footballs (10 balls for the FIFA Approved category – 7 balls for the FIFA Inspected category):

Fédération Internationale de Football Association
FIFA Quality Concept
FIFA-Strasse 20 P.O.Box 8044 Zurich Switzerland
Tel: +41-(0)43-222 7777 Fax: +41-(0)43-222 7878
E-mail: fifa_quality_football@fifa.org www.FIFA.com



Certificate – FIFA APPROVED


SPECIMEN

LICENSING CERTIFICATE

FIFA is pleased to confirm herewith that the football

Brand	Model	Authorisation No.	Expiration Date
XYZ	XYZ	000.ABC	31 March 2010

of the company **XYZ Ltd.** has successfully passed the tests and qualified for the category **"APPROVED"** and corresponds to the technical requirements to be eligible for use in FIFA Matches and Confederation Matches.

Licence No. 000

Contract period: 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2010


Mr. Joseph S. Blatter
President Fédération Internationale de Football Association

Zurich, 1 April 2007

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Tested by EMPA (Swiss Federal Laboratories for Material Testing and Research)





Certificate - FIFA INSPECTED



SPECIMEN

LICENSING CERTIFICATE

FIFA is pleased to confirm herewith that the football

Brand	Model	Authorisation No.	Expiration Date
XYZ	XYZ	000.ABC	31 March 2010

of the company **XYZ Ltd.** has successfully passed the tests and qualified for the category **"INSPECTED"** and corresponds to the technical requirements to be eligible for use in FIFA Matches and Confederation Matches.

Licence No. 000

Contract period: 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2010


Mr. Joseph S. Blatter
President Fédération Internationale de Football Association

Zurich, 1 April 2007

© 1994 FIFA
Tested by EMPA (Swiss Federal Laboratories for Material Testing and Research)



FIFA Matches

FIFA competition matches are defined as all qualification and final round matches of the

FIFA World Cup™

FIFA Confederations Cup

FIFA Women's World Cup

FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup

FIFA Futsal World Cup

FIFA Club World Cup

FIFA U-20 World Cup

FIFA U-17 World Cup

FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup

FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup

Blue Stars / FIFA Youth Cup

Final round matches of the Olympic Football Tournament



Confederation Matches

Competition matches under the auspices of the confederations are defined as all matches played in the context of continental competitions.

AFC (Asian Football Confederation)

- AFC Cup
- AFC Women's Championship
- AFC Youth Championship
- AFC U-17 Championship
- AFC U-17 Women's Championship
- AFC Champions League
- AFC President's Cup
- AFC Futsal Championship
- Asian Cup Winners Cup
- Asian Super Cup
- AFRO – Asian Club Championship



CAF (Confédération Africaine de Football)

- African Cup of Nations
- CAF Confederations Cup
- African Women's Championship
- African Youth Championship
- African U-17 Championship
- African U-19 Women's Championship
- African Super Cup
- Meridian Cup
- African Cup of Champion Clubs*
- African Winners' Cup*
- Final Tournament of the All Africa Games*



Confederation Matches

CONCACAF (Confederación Norte-/Centroamericana y del Caribe de Fútbol)

CONCACAF Gold Cup
CONCACAF Women's Gold Cup
CONCACAF Under-20
CONCACAF Women's Under-20
CONCACAF Under-17
CONCACAF Futsal
CONCACAF Beach Soccer



CONMEBOL (Confederación Sudamericana de Fútbol)

Copa América
Copa Sudamericano Femenino
Copa América / Sudamericano de Futsal
Copa Sudamericano Femenino de Futsal
Copa Sudamericano Sub-20 / Sub-17 / Sub-15
Copa Sudamericano Femenino Sub-20
Copa Sudamericano de Futsal Sub-20
Copa Europea / Sudamericana
Recopa Sudamericana
Copa Interamericana
Copa CONMEBOL
Sudamericano de Clubes de Futsal
Copa Granadores de Copa
Supercopa de Campeones Intercontinentales
Supercopa 'João Havelange'



Confederation Matches

UEFA (Union of European Football Association)

UEFA European Football Championship (EURO)
UEFA Champions League
UEFA European Women's Cup
UEFA Cup
UEFA Super Cup
UEFA Women's EURO
UEFA Futsal EURO
UEFA European Under-21 Championship
UEFA European Under-19 Championship
UEFA European Under-17 Championship
UEFA European Women's Under-19 Championship
UEFA Intertoto Cup
UEFA Region's Cup
UEFA Futsal Cup
UEFA/CAF Meridian Cup



OFC (Oceania Football Confederation)

OFC Nations Cup
OFC Club Championship
AFC/OFC Challenge Cup
OFC Women's Tournament
OFC Youth Tournament
Oceania Under-16 Tournament
Oceania Futsal (Indoor Football) Tournament
Polynesian Cup
Melanesian Cup
South Pacific games



FIFA Law II – The Ball (summary)

FIFA QUALITY CONCEPT FOR FOOTBALLS - OVERVIEW			
International Matchplay & Top Competitions			FIFA and Confederations
National Trainings & Matchplay, Municipality		IMS INTERNATIONAL MATCHBALL STANDARD™	
Minimum Requirements	Laws of the Game: Law II - The ball		
National Federations			

For more information related to the FIFA Quality Concept for Footballs please do not hesitate to contact:

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