

# **CONFEDERATION AFRICAINE DE FOOTBALL**

3 Abdel Khalek Tharwat Street, El Hay El Motamayez, P.O. Box 23

6th October City, Egypt.

Tel: +202 38247272 Fax: +202 38247274



## **CONFEDERATION OF AFRICAN FOOTBALL**

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### **CAF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE REGULATIONS**

**English version**

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## I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 1 The Confederation of African Football shall organise a yearly competition called «The CAF Champions League», open to champion clubs of the National League of Affiliated Associations. The winner of CAF Champions League must take part in the next edition.
- 2 The 12 countries obtaining the best results in the clubs competitions during the previous five years will be allowed to register a second team, namely the runner-up of the national league. According to the conditions defined in the present regulations.
- 3 The present regulations govern the rights, duties and responsibilities of all parties participating and involved in the preparation and organization of CAF Champions League.

## II. ORGANISING COMMITTEE FOR INTERCLUBS COMPETITIONS

1. In conformity with Article 5 of the Regulations implementing CAF Statutes, CAF Organising Committee for Interclubs Competitions includes:
  - (a) A chairman;
  - (b) A vice-president;
  - (c) Members of the Executive Committee deemed necessary;
  - (d) The President of the Referees Committee;
  - (e) The number of members deemed necessary by the Executive Committee;
2. The Committee is responsible for the organization and supervision of all the interclubs competitions, and in accordance with the regulations that govern them.
3. The inter-clubs Organising Committee has the following power at all the stages of the competition:
  - a) Fixing the dates of the matches of all the rounds of the competition.
  - b) Replacing, in conformity with the rules of the competition, the clubs declaring their withdrawal from the competition.
  - c) Taking decisions in cases of force majeure.
  - d) Ratifying the results of the matches. If there is no claim neither protest, the matches are automatically homologated seven days after the matches. All the homologation decisions are final and without appeal.
  - e) Designating the match commissioners.
  - f) Settling financial disputes between the associations.
  - g) Taking decisions on all complaints. The decision of the Committee shall be based on the written reports of the referee, the neutral assistant referees, and/or the official commissioner and any other official designated by CAF.
  - h) Applying all sanctions stipulated for in the present regulations, in CAF Statutes and CAF disciplinary code are applied.
4. The inter-clubs Organising Committee could hold one of its meetings in the country of the Association organising the second final match.

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5. In this case, CAF President, CAF Executive Committee members, the members of the inter-clubs, Referees, and disciplinary board, as well as the General Secretary and his Assistant must be invited by the host association according to the provisions of these Regulations.

6. The President of the Interclubs Committee may hold a Bureau meeting every year during the month of December to establish the calendar of the interclubs competitions of the next season.

7. Between two ordinary meetings of the Interclubs Committee, the General Secretariat is authorized to consult the members of the Interclubs Committee by correspondence (fax, email and / or mail) to take decisions of emergencies. The decisions are taken by simple majority of the votes expressed.

### III. FIXTURES AND FORMAT OF THE COMPETITION

1. All the matches of CAF Champions League must be played before November 25<sup>th</sup> of the year of the competition.

2. The fixtures shall include the following:

- The number of the match,
- The match: the names of the teams,
- The venue of the match,
- The name of the association called upon to delegate referees or the names of the referees,
- The name of the match commissioner,
- The dates fixed for each match.

3. The matches shall be played exclusively in the order established by the Organising Committee of CAF.

4. The dates fixed for the matches of the various rounds are final and cannot be changed except in case of force majeure recognized as such by CAF Organising Committee.

5. In case of a clash of dates between CAF matches and other matches organised on a regional, sub-regional basis or matches organised on special occasions, priority shall be given to the matches of C.A.F.

6. The postponement of CAF Champions League matches for the teams that qualified to take part in the FIFA World Cup competition is permitted, provided that the matches in question are scheduled to be played in less than thirty days from the opening date of the World Cup.

This postponement will read as follows:

The clubs matches in countries qualified to represent Africa in the FIFA World Cup may only be postponed in case the club which presents the demand includes more than two players in the national team of the country in question.

In this case, the matches of this club will be postponed- The dates of these matches shall be fixed by CAF Inter-Clubs Organising Committee; they shall be final and binding to all the concerned parties.

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7. The postponement of CAF Champions League matches for the teams that qualified to take part in the FIFA and CAF final tournaments for age category competitions is permitted by the Confederation if the said matches are scheduled during the age category competition, the week before or the week after and will be played in conformity with the following arrangements:

The clubs which present the request should include more than two players in the list of players registered for the final tournament of the age category competition.

- a. The postponed matches should be played at the dates fixed by the CAF Organising Committee prior to the next round of the competition.
- b. This request must reach CAF at least twenty days before the date of the inter-clubs matches.

8. The competition shall be played in two phases:

First Phase:

9. Up to the 1/8 final round, the fixtures will be established by the Interclubs Committee taking into account- as much as possible- the geographic, economic and sports conditions. As of the group matches, an integral drawing of lots will be done.

10. The matches of the Preliminary, the 1/16th, the 1/8th rounds shall be played in the same week-end (Friday, Saturday, Sunday) as the same round matches of the Confederation Cup.

11. The matches of the Preliminary, the 1/16th, the 1/8th shall be played according to the «knock-out» system in conformity with the provisions of the present regulations.

12. Each team shall play against its opponent one match home and one match away. The team which scores a higher aggregate number of goals in the two matches shall be qualified for the next round.

13. If after the end of the regular time of the second match, the two teams have scored the same number of goals during the two matches, the team which will have scored the greatest number of away goals shall qualify.

14. If the number of away goals is also the same or if the results of the two matches are nil, the winner shall be determined by penalty kicks in accordance to FIFA's laws of the game.

15. The eight teams eliminated from the 1/8<sup>th</sup> finals of the CAF Champions League will automatically qualify to play the additional 1/8<sup>th</sup> finals round of the Confederation Cup of the same season.

Second Phase:

16. The eight teams which will qualify for the group matches will be divided in two groups of four each.

17. The clubs that are head of series of each group and the other six teams will be divided in two groups after a draw depending on CAF's clubs ranking as determined by the Interclubs

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Committee based on the results of the teams participation in the five (5) previous editions of the CAF Interclubs Competitions.

18. The representatives of the participating teams shall be invited to the draw. Failure of such representation shall not debar the Committee from proceeding with the drawing of lots at the scheduled date.

19. The group matches shall be played in accordance with the fixtures established by the Organising Committee. For the matches of each group, the following points shall be granted:

3 points for a win

1 point for a draw

0 point for the loser

20. In case of equality of points between two teams at the end of the group matches, the teams will be using the following criteria as per the order listed below:

20.1 The greatest number of points obtained in the matches between the concerned teams concerned.

20.2. The best goal difference in the matches between the concerned teams.

20.3. The greatest number of scored goals in the away matches between the concerned teams.

20.4. The goal difference from all the matches played in the group.

20.5. The greatest number of goals scored in all group matches.

20.6. A draw will be conducted by the Interclubs Committee.

21. In case of a tie between more than two teams at the end of the group matches, the teams will be using the following criteria as per the order listed below :

21.1 The greatest number of points obtained in the matches between the concerned teams;

21.2 The best goal difference in the matches between the concerned teams.

21.3 The greatest number of goals scored in the matches between the concerned teams.

21.4 The greatest number of away goals scored in the matches between the concerned teams.

21.5 If, after applying criteria 21.1 to 21.4, both teams are still tied, the criteria from

21.2 to 21.4 are applied to games played between the two teams in question in order to determine the final ranking of the two teams. If this procedure does not determine the standing of the teams, the criteria 21.6 to 21.9 shall be applied in the listed order.

21.6 The greatest goal difference in all group matches.

21.7 The greatest number of goals scored in all group matches.

21.8 The greatest number of away goals scored in all group matches.

21.9 A draw will be conducted by the Interclubs Committee.

22. The two group winners and the two runners-up shall qualify for the semi-finals.

The winner of group A shall meet the runner-up of group B and the winner of group B shall meet the runner-up of group A.

23. The runners-up shall play the first leg match at home. The two semi-finals shall be played in accordance with the present regulations.

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24. The winner of the two semi-finals shall meet in the final in accordance with the present regulations.
25. The Final Round shall be played in two matches, home and away. The team which will have scored the highest aggregate number of goals in the two matches will be declared winner.
26. In case of equality in the number of goals scored during the two matches and only in this case, the team which will have scored the greatest number of away goals will be declared winner.
27. If the number of goals scored on the «away match» is also equal, the winner will be determined by penalty kicks in conformity to the laws of the game of the International Football Association Board. The team that succeeds to score the greatest number of penalties will be declared victorious
28. The matches shall be played in accordance with the laws decided by the International Football Association Board and promulgated by FIFA.

## IV. ENGAGEMENTS

- 1 In conformity with the provisions of the present regulations, the twelve countries obtaining the best results in the clubs competitions during the previous five years will be allowed to register in addition to the champion club, a second team, namely the runner-up of the national league.
- 2 If a federation is entitled to a club, the club champion of the national first division championship will be engaged to CAF Champions League. If this club champion of a federation cannot be engaged to CAF Champions League for various reasons, the Interclubs Committee reserves the right to accept the club vice-champion of the national first division championship by virtue of an application to be submitted in accordance with the regulations of the federation and /or the present regulations.
- 3 If a federation is entitled to two clubs, the club champion and vice-champion club of the national first division championship will be engaged in CAF Champions League. If the club or club champion runner-up of a federation can not engage to CAF Champions League for various reasons, the Interclubs Committee reserves the right to accept the club finishing third of the first division national championship by virtue of an application to be submitted in accordance with the regulations of the federation and /or the present regulations.
- 4 If the Champion club of a country is at the same time the holder of the Confederation Cup and wishes to defend its continental title, CAF may accept the engagement of the second of the national league upon application submitted by the concerned association. In this case, the federations having the right to enter two teams can enter the team classified third in the national league.
- 5 If the club holder of CAF Champions League CAF is also a champion of his own country for the current year, the national federation may replace him by the second team of the national championship when the said federation is entitled to only one club. In case the

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federations are entitled to two clubs, they may also engage the team ranked third in the first division of the national championship.

- 6 Applications not submitted in accordance with the foregoing stipulations will not be considered and the concerned Association forfeits the right to participate in the competition.
- 7 Any Association wishing to participate in the competition shall address to the General Secretary of the Confederation, an application accompanied by the admission fee of \$300 (Three Hundred US dollars) to be paid in favour of CAF.
- 8 The application must reach CAF by mail, fax or e-mail not later than the 30th of November of the year preceding the Competition.
- 9 The necessary original documents must reach the Secretariat on the 31st of December of the year preceding the competition, the postal mark of Cairo Post Office shall bear witness.
- 10 The application must include:
  - a) The name of the club.
  - b) The colours of the club and their order.
  - c) The official classification of the national competition which has led to the qualification of the club.
  - d) A list of the names of a maximum of 30 players and their local license numbers validated by the National Association, in conformity with the provisions of the present regulations.
  - e) A copy of the club license issued by the concerned federation, stating that the club meets the Club Licensing Criteria as enacted in CAF Regulations on the procedure for granting the licenses to the clubs. CAF reserves the right to request the required documents and to carry out inspections of clubs. An engaged club without license could be banned to participate in CAF Interclubs Competitions.
  - f) A statement confirming that the coach of the club possesses CAF coaching license. A coach who does not have CAF coaching license will not be allowed to sit on the bench during the matches of CAF Interclub Competitions.
- 11 The winner of CAF Champions League must take part in the next edition.
- 12 Refusal to participate shall entail the following sanctions:
  - Prohibition to participate in CAF Clubs Competitions for a period of two years.
  - A fine equivalent to 10% of the prize during the previous edition of CAF Champions League as per CAF scheme.

## V. REGISTRATION AND QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

### 1. Online system:

The federations will receive a link and a password communicated by CAF in order to fill on the internet the following information:



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- Number of the jersey of the player.
- Nationality of the player.
- The name of the player as it appears in his official national identity documents.
- The surname of the player as it appears in his official national identity documents.
- The complete date of birth of the player (day,month,year) as it appears in his official national identity documents.
- The home address of the player.
- Confirmation from a doctor that the player is medically fit to practice football.
- The name of the last club in which the player was registered.
- The country of the last club in which the player was registered.
- ITC (International Transfer Certificate) shall be uploaded in case the country of the last club is different than the actual one.
- The number and the date of registration of the player's license in his own Association
- The photograph of the player will be uploaded.

The said information should be filled in accordance to the present regulations. After the deadlines, the system will not accept any registration.

CAF will issue a high quality secured license that will contain the main information of the players filled by the national association.

## 2. Offline system:

The federations shall fill the following information on CAF Offline System:

- Number of the jersey of the player.
- Nationality of the player.
- The name of the player as it appears in his official national identity documents.
- The surname of the player as it appears in his official national identity documents.
- The complete date of birth of the player (day, month, and year) as it appears in his official national identity documents.
- The home address of the player.
- Confirmation from a doctor that the player is medically fit to practice football.
- The name of the last club in which the player was registered.
- The country of the last club in which the player was registered.
- The number and the date of registration of the player's license in his own Association.

Once all the above mentioned fields are filled, the federations shall print the information of each player on CAF secured sheets and stick the picture of the player.

CAF secured sheets should then be signed by the player and the general secretary. They should be stamped as well by the federation's stamp.

The sheets in question should be sent to CAF secretariat in Cairo, in accordance to of the present regulations. The concerned federations should indicate to CAF the AWB number or the express mail number.

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CAF will issue a high quality secured license, that will contain the main information of the players filled by the national association.

3. A player who is qualified to play in CAF Champions League must:

- a) Possess a license in his club issued by its national association and registered in his federation on 15th January of the year of the competition at the latest for the 1<sup>st</sup> period of registration and on 10<sup>th</sup> August of the year of the competition, at the latest, for the second period of registration.
- b) Possess a license issued by CAF.
- c) Be qualified regularly in the national championship of the country for the club engaged in CAF Champions League.
- d) Live in the country of the club for which he is playing.

4. A player is not qualified to play in CAF Champions League in case he was registered with a club and then loaned by this club to another one unless he was registered again in the second period of registration.

5. A player who has changed his National Association (international transfer), his transfer certificate must reach the Secretariat of CAF together with his license by the 15th of January of the year of the competition at the latest. The players who have been added to the list in conformity with the present regulations, their transfer certificate must reach the Secretariat of CAF by the 10th of August of the year of the competition, at the latest. Every player whose transfer certificate will arrive late (at the utmost after the 15th January or the 10th August for the complementary licenses) could be qualified on the condition that the date of the transfer certificate is anterior to 15<sup>th</sup> January of the year of the competition and 10<sup>th</sup> August for the complementary licenses.

6. A complete list of a maximum of 30 players, along with the number of their licenses, validated by their national associations, must be sent by registered on the online system or sent to CAF Secretariat in case of using the offline system.

7. This list must be registered or submitted to CAF Secretariat (in case of using the offline system) before the 31<sup>st</sup> of December of the year preceding the competition. It can be amended until the 15th January of the year of the competition, but after the 15th January the list becomes final and no new players can be added nor replaced up to the end of the competition, except in the case contemplated in para 8 below.

8. A National Association which has registered less than 30 players in January may after the 1/8 finals, between the first of July and the 5th of August of the year of the competition, complete its list up to a maximum of 30 players, provided that the additional list does not exceed seven new players.

The licenses of the newly added players (whose numbers will vary from 1 to 7), duly filled in accordance with the provisions of the present regulations, must be registered through the online system on 5<sup>th</sup> August at the latest and after that date the system will not accept any new license or to reach CAF Secretariat by the 10th of August at the latest in case of using the offline system. If these licenses registered by the offline system, reach the Secretariat after the 10th of August they shall not be validated and the Association concerned shall play the remaining

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rounds of the competition with the players whom it had registered in January.

9. CAF Secretariat shall send the list of the newly added players to all the concerned Associations, before the 15th of August.

10. The provisions of para 8 and para 9 of this Article shall be applicable exclusively to the clubs which qualified for the group matches.

11. During the same year a player is in principle only eligible to play for one and the same club in the CAF inter-club competitions. However a player even though registered on the list of a club who has not been fielded in any match of inter-clubs competitions will be authorised to play for another participating club in the inter-clubs competitions during the same year so long as all the regulations are complied with.

12. The licenses of the players should be registered on the online system or received at CAF secretariat, in case the federation is using the offline system, on 31<sup>st</sup> December at the latest of the year preceding the competition. The late registration or reception (in case of the offline system) of the licenses between 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> January of the year of the competition shall entail a fine of two hundred and fifty (250) US dollars per player. A team, who has not registered his licenses (or sent in case of offline system) by 15<sup>th</sup> January at the latest, shall not be allowed to play in the competition.

Nevertheless the individual complementary registration of the licenses can be registered between the 16 and 31 January only if they are accompanied with a fine of five hundred (500) for each added player. The players whose licenses were received in CAF between 16 and 31 January shall be qualified to play only the matches of the 1/8 Finals and onwards in condition that the player is registered in his federation by 15<sup>th</sup> January of the year of the competition at the latest.

After the 31<sup>st</sup> of January, no licenses shall be accepted no matters what the reasons can be, except for the licenses submitted and received in CAF in accordance with the provisions of para 8.

13. The players' licenses duly validated by CAF in conformity with the provisions of the present regulations must be presented by the officials of the two teams to the referee before the match for verification. Each team may check the licenses of the opposing team.

14. The referee must give back to the captains of the two teams all the players' licenses with the exception of the ones belonging to players whose qualification has been regularly contested by the opposing team.

15. All contestation concerning the regularity of the licenses may be subject to protest lodged in conformity with the present regulations and submitted to CAF Organising Committee for decision. The copy of the licenses of the contested players must be sent by the commissioner of the match to the Secretariat of CAF along with his official report.

16. If following a case of force majeure, a team whose licenses were received at CAF within the stipulated deadline, if this team because of force majeure cannot present the licenses of one or more players, the referee can allow them to take part in the match provided that they take photographs of the players with the referee and commissioner. The match referee must send

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these photographs to CAF Secretariat together with his report so that in case of a confirmed protest lodged by the opponents the photographs will be compared with the photographs of the licenses deposited at the Secretariat, as per the provisions of the present regulations.

17. If the non presentation of one or many licenses is due to negligence from the team, the latter will have to pay a fine of one hundred US Dollars (\$100) for every missing license card.

18. Substitutes up to a maximum of three per team are permitted at any time during the match.

19. A substituted player can no more take part in the match. Before the start of the game, the names of seven players three of whom may be called upon to play as substitutes must be registered on the match form.

20. Every club may, at its own discretion, modify the formation of its team, between one match and another, even in case of matches to be replayed, provided that only the players appearing on the list submitted in accordance with the stipulations of the present regulations are used.

## VI. PLAYERS JERSEYS

1. Each team must wear the colours registered by its club. The colours and their arrangement must be shown on the standard entry form for admission to the CAF Champions League and must be communicated by CAF Secretariat to all the participating associations before the start of the competition.

2. When, in the opinion of the referee, the official and duly registered colours of the two opposing teams might lead to confusion, the visiting team must change its jerseys.

3. If the match is played in a neutral country, a draw shall be made to determine the team having to change its jerseys.

4. Every team must have a spare outfit available, other than their originally registered colours.

5. The jerseys of the players must be numbered from 1 to 30. The jerseys' numbers must be identical to the numbers indicated on the players' licenses and this for the whole duration of the competition.

6. Before the group matches, the publicity on the players' kits is permitted, provided that such publicity is allowed by the country in which the match is being played.

7. The visiting team must always travel with two kinds of kits one having publicity on it and one totally free from publicity.

8. Unless l exceptional authorization from the Interclubs Committee, starting from the group matches, the teams involved shall not be authorized to wear publicity on jerseys for the matches taking place on their own field, as well as, the matches taking place on the field of their opponent.

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## VII. DISCIPLINARY MEASURES

1. A player who receives two cautions shall be automatically suspended from playing the subsequent match in CAF inter-clubs competitions. This automatic suspension shall be communicated by the Secretariat to the concerned associations.
2. If the same player accumulates, later on in the same competition, two more cautions in two different matches until the end of the group matches, then the second sanction will be double and the player will be suspended for two subsequent matches.
3. At the end of the group matches, the cautions that do not lead to a suspension are cancelled.
4. A player sent off the field by the referee is to be automatically suspended from playing the subsequent match of the clubs competitions without prejudice to other sanctions, which the Organising Committee might impose on him subsequently.
5. Between two sessions of the Organising Committee, the General Secretary, in consultation with the President of the Disciplinary Board, is empowered to apply disciplinary measures on all incidents registered on the official match reports, before, during or after the match, and this in conformity with the regulations of the competitions and CAF Disciplinary Code.
6. A player sent off the field by the referee in three matches of the same competition is automatically suspended from all the matches his team is due to play up to the end of the competition, without prejudice to other sanctions the Organising Committee might impose upon him subsequently.
7. In case of serious violations, the guilty player may be suspended not only from the CAF Champions League, but also from all the competitions organised by CAF.
8. Before every match, the Secretariat of CAF shall communicate to the match commissioners and referees the name(s) of the suspended player(s). In this case, the suspended player(s) shall be prohibited from taking part in the match. This prohibition shall be declared by the commissioner and/or the referees designated by CAF. Defaulting commissioner and/or the referees shall be sanctioned by CAF.
9. However, the tallying of these sanctions remains the responsibility of the national association and they will assume all responsibilities.
10. A team which will have committed a fraud on the identity of a player or which will have allowed a suspended or non-qualified player to take part in a match shall lose the match and shall be completely eliminated from the competition as soon as the incriminating facts are clearly established by CAF Organising Committee.

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## VIII. MATCH OFFICIALS

### 1. The match officials are:

- a. The Referees and the Assistant Referees,
- b. The Commissioner,
- c. The Referees' Inspector,
- d. The General Coordinator,
- e. The Security Officer,
- f. Any other official designated by the Committee or the Secretary General.

### 2. Referees and assistant referees:

2.1 The Referees and assistant referees designated for CAF Champions League must be on the most recent list of International Referees and Assistant referees established by FIFA.

2.2 The Referees Committee designates by name one referee, two assistant referees and one reserve referee (all neutral) to officiate the CAF Champions League matches.

2.3 The reserve referee shall be a neutral referee figuring on the International referees list of FIFA. If needed, the reserve referee may be an international neutral assistant referee or an international assistant referee from the host country but designated by the Referees Committee.

2.4 If the designated referee is absent or becomes unfit before or during a match, he shall be replaced by the neutral reserve referee or the neutral reserve assistant referee.

2.5 If the reserve referee is from the host country, the referee shall be replaced by the first neutral assistant referee and the 2nd assistant referee will become the 1st assistant referee and the reserve referee from the host country will become 2nd assistant referee. In this particular case, an assistant referee from the host association figuring on its list of International referees will be designated as a reserve referee for the match.

2.6 The National Association which organises a match shall inform the appointed match referee and assistant referees of the venue, date and kick-off time of the match, within the delays stipulated for in the regulations. It will organise the trip of the appointed match referee and assistant referees, as well as their stay in the country. It shall also put at their disposal a car for their local transportation. The host association must provide this car to the match officials from the day of their arrival until the day of their departure.

2.7 It will make sure that the PTAs are sent to the match officials. The PTAs must be endorsable and must reach the officials of the match 14 days at least before the match. Nevertheless, the match referees and assistant referees are obliged to use the PTAs which the organising association has sent to them. The match referees and assistant referees are in no case allowed to purchase their own air-plane tickets and ask the organising association for a refund on the spot.

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2.8 If, the PTAs are sent on time by the host association and the designated referees fail to travel, a fine will be imposed upon the national association to which the designated referees belong.

2.9 Any Federation which sends PTAs must inform the Association to which the referees belong of the dispatch of the PTAs.

2.10 In the absence of the designated referees, the visiting team must remain in the venue of the match up to 72 hours as from the hour scheduled for the kick off. In such a case the host association has to provide from a neighbouring neutral association, the early arrival, within these 72 hours, of referees, to allow the match to take place.

2.11 If within this prolongation, both the referees initially designated and those of the neighbouring association fail to arrive at the venue of the match and if the visiting team is accompanied by an international referee, the latter shall officiate with the assistance of two assistant referees registered on the FIFA list of International assistant referees belonging to the host association which will also designate a reserve assistant referee from the list of International assistant referees.

2.12 If the visiting team consents, the match can be played at the hour initially scheduled or before the end of the 72 hours with local international referee and international assistant referees designated by the host association.

2.13 The new expenses incurred in cases of extension of stay of the visiting team at the venue of the match following the absence or late arrival of the referees, shall be borne by the host association.

2.14 The referee tosses a coin to determine the choice between the side and the kick-off, in any case the latter must start on time.

2.15 If it is established that the absence of the designated referees was the fault of the host association, the host team shall be declared loser by 2 to zero and shall be eliminated from the competition, regardless of the result obtained on the field.

2.16 A national association which substitutes the referees or assistant referees designated by CAF, except for the cases mentioned in the present article, shall be considered loser.

2.17 After the end of the match, the referees must send to CAF Secretariat within 48 hours following the match by express mail or by using the software of the competition management system (CMS) the detailed report on the specific form provided by CAF.

2.18 The referees must mention the protests, if any. The protests lodged in conformity with the present regulations must be brought to the knowledge of CAF by fax or e-mail immediately after the match comes to an end.

2.19 The match referee must send to CAF, by the most expeditious means, all incidents that occurred during the match, as well as, the names of the players who were cautioned or

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expelled.

### 3. Match Commissioner:

3.1 A commissioner designated by the Organising Committee must be present to supervise each match.

3.2 The commissioner is the official representative of CAF to supervise the match. In this capacity, he is entitled to a place in the first row of the main tribune.

3.3 If a presentation of the teams to the authorities is approved by CAF, CAF commissioner must accompany the Guest of Honour. He shall present the referees and the captains of the two teams to the Guest of Honour.

3.4 On the eve of the match or in the morning of the day of the match, the commissioner must convene a consultative meeting (technical meeting) of the officials of both teams who must include at least one representative from each national association to whom the two teams belong, with the referees designated for the match. This will be a consultative meeting aimed at underlining and clarifying the main points of the rules governing the competition and ensuring the fulfilment of all the conditions necessary for the regularity of the match (control service, stay of the referees and the visiting team, proper qualification of the referees on the FIFA list, licenses of the players). In the absence of the regular referees designated by CAF, the commissioner will see to it that the stipulations of the present regulations are observed and will have the match played in conformity with the provisions of the rules. No minutes will be taken of this consultative meeting. Any protest will be noted by the commissioner in his report.

3.5 However, a protest presented by a team not accompanied by a representative of the national federation to whom the team in question belongs, will not be taken into consideration by the match commissioner. The commissioner must require during this pre-match meeting, the presence in the stadium of a representative of each Federation to which the opposing teams belong.

3.6 In the absence of the match commissioner, the referee designated to officiate the match will preside over the meeting stipulated for in para 3.5 of this article.

3.7 In the case of the absence of the General Coordinator, the match commissioner will attend the pre-match formalities in the dressing rooms. He may, if he deems it necessary, go back to the dressing rooms during the half-time recess or after the match.

3.8 The responsibility of ascertaining the regularity of the field's dimensions and practicability, of ascertaining the regular strength of the electric lights for nocturnal matches and of verifying the players' licenses is exclusively that of the referee. The referee and his assistants are the only persons to control all procedures concerning the substitution of players during the match.

3.9 The match commissioner may, if he deems it necessary for the security of the referees or the visiting team, decide not to have the match played until his conditions and instructions are carried out. But once the match has started, it is exclusively the



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prerogative of the referee to suspend or end the match for any of the reasons stipulated in Law 5 of the Laws of the Game.

3.10 If any protest concerning one of the Articles of the Rules is submitted by one of the two teams to the commissioner before the start of the match, he must try to reconcile conflicting points of view within the framework of the Rules of the Competition. If, however, he does not succeed, he will register the protest on the appropriate forms and will make sure that the match is played in accordance with the provisions of the Rules, in conformity with the interpretation given by the match commissioner.

3.11 The commissioner will observe the match in all its aspects: performance of the referees, the fair play assessment, behaviour of the public, eventual incidents. However, evaluating the performance of the referees is the responsibility of the Referees' Inspector when the latter is designated by CAF.

3.12 After the end of the match, the commissioner must send to CAF Secretariat within 48 hours following the match by express mail or by using the software of the competition management system (CMS) the detailed report on the specific form provided by CAF. In case the match commissioner is absent, this duty shall be incumbent upon the referee.

3.13 The commissioners who are designated must, as soon as they receive the notification of their designation, confirm to CAF their acceptance to carry out their assignment.

3.14 If later on, the commissioners are prevented for one reason or another, from attending the match, they must inform CAF by fax or e-mail within a reasonable time for the Secretariat to provide a replacement. In case of force majeure at the very last minute, the commissioner must send by fax or e-mail his apologies both to the Secretariat and the host country.

3.15 The absence of the commissioner cannot constitute an obstacle to the playing of the matches at the scheduled date and time. The commissioner cannot be replaced except by decision of CAF and in such circumstances the Organising Committee's decisions shall be based on the referee's match report.

3.16 The host association must inform the designated commissioner of the date, venue of the match and kick off time on the same time when the host informs CAF in conformity with the regulatory delays. It shall organise his trip, his stay and transport facilities until his departure. It shall ensure that an endorsable air-plane ticket reaches him at least 14 days before the match.

If in this delay, the commissioner does not receive the air-plane ticket, he will be authorized to purchase his air-plane ticket and to travel to the venue of the match. In this case, the host association must pay to CAF a fine of three thousand US Dollars (3000\$) as well as the refund to the commissioner the cost of the ticket as well as , his sojourn expenses and a daily indemnity at the rate fixed by CAF scheme.

3.17 If the absence of the match commissioner is due to a failure from the host association to observe the regulations:

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- a) No contestation raised by the Host Association shall be taken into consideration.
- b) The Host Association shall pay a fine of five thousand US Dollars (5000\$) without prejudice to subsequent sanctions which can be imposed upon it by CAF Organising Committee.

3.18 The match Commissioners and are requested not to make any declarations to the press on the match.

## 4. The Referees' Inspector:

4.1 CAF may appoint Referees' Inspectors to evaluate the performance of the referees in the matches of CAF Interclubs Competitions.

4.2 After the end of the match, the referee inspector must send to CAF Secretariat within 48 hours following the match by express mail or by using the software of the competition management system (CMS) the detailed report on the specific form provided by CAF.

## 5. The General Coordinator:

5.1 The Organising Committee reserves the right to designate, starting from the group matches, general coordinators. These general coordinators will be responsible of all the aspects linked to the security of the match when CAF does not designate a Security Officer and to the application of the publicity and television contracts signed by CAF

5.2 The Coordinator designated by CAF, assists the match commissioner for the good organization and the proper progress of the match.

5.3 He is primarily responsible for: ensuring the compliance with the rules of the reception and the residence of the teams and the officials, ensure the respect of CAF matters in marketing, advertising and audio-visual broadcasts and to ensure that the fixed timings and protocol of the match are respected.

5.4 After the end of the match, the General Coordinator must send to CAF Secretariat within 48 hours following the match by express mail or by using the software of the competition management system (CMS) the detailed report on the specific form provided by CAF.

## 6. The Security Officer:

6.1 The security officer is designated by CAF to oversee the security in the stadium under the authority of the match commissioner. National associations should assist him and invite the persons in charge of the stadiums and security to work with him.

6.2 After the end of the match, the security officer must send to CAF Secretariat within 48 hours following the match by express mail or by using the software of the competition management system (CMS) the detailed report on the specific form provided by CAF.

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## IX. REQUIREMENTS AND ORGANIZATIONAL ASPECTS

1. A national association having engaged a club in this competition takes the engagement to:
  - 1.1 Ensure that all the members of CAF and the members of National Associations shall obtain entry visas and certificates of registration necessary for their stay.
  - 1.2 Ensure that the Statutes, Rules and Disciplinary Code of CAF as well as CAF Regulations on the Club Licensing system procedure are observed.
  - 1.3 Ensure that the engagements formally taken by the national association are considered as accepted by its Government.
2. The Host Association is entitled to play its home match in the capital of the country or in any other city. In this case, the transport of the visiting team from the capital to the city designated for the playing of the match and back shall be borne by the host association.
3. If the distance between the capital city and the venue of the match is superior to 200 kms, the host association shall provide the visitors with an airplane transport to the venue of the match and back. If this is not possible, the match shall be played in the capital city except by agreement between the two teams.
4. By agreement between the two concerned associations, the two matches can be played in the same country.
5. If there is an international airport in the city or nearby where the game is being played (at less than 200km distance); and if the visiting team would land directly at the airport; the host association must facilitate her entry formalities.
6. The matches shall be played at daylight or under floodlight.
7. The matches cannot start before 14 hours and not after 22 hours unless by exceptional authorization of the Interclubs Committee,
8. The matches shall be played in accordance with the laws decided by the International Football Association Board and promulgated by FIFA.
9. Venue, Day and Kick-off:
  - 9.1 The place, date (Friday, Saturday or Sunday) and the kick-off time of the preliminary round matches are set by the host federation who shall inform the General Secretariat of CAF, the opposing team, the referees and the Commissioner at least twenty (20) days before the match. After this notification, neither the kick-off time neither the day of the match nor the match venue can be changed except if there is an agreement communicated to CAF between the two teams.

If this provision is not respected, the Committee will impose the day and kick-off time of the concerned match. Failure to comply with this measure will result in a fine of two thousand (2000) U.S. dollars.
  - 9.2 The place, date (Friday, Saturday or Sunday) and the time of kick-off time of the 1/16th, 1/8th, semifinals and finals are set by the host federation who shall inform the General Secretariat of CAF, the opposing team, the referees and the Commissioner at least ten

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(10) days before the match. After this notification, neither the kick-off time, neither the day of the match nor the match venue can be changed except if there is an agreement communicated to CAF between the two teams.

If this provision is not respected, the Committee will impose the day and the kick-off time of the concerned match. Failure to comply with this measure will result in a fine of four thousand (4000) U.S. dollars.

9.3 The place, date (Friday, Saturday or Sunday) and the kick-off time of the group matches are fixed by CAF Interclubs Committee, after consulting the host federations..

## 10 Notifications of the dates of arrival of the teams:

10.1 During the preliminary round, the federation of the visiting team is required to notify the organizing federation and CAF with the arrival time of his team in the capital of the host country at the latest two weeks before the date set for the match. Otherwise, a fine of one thousand (1000) U.S. dollars will be imposed upon the federation of the visiting team.

10.2 During the matches of 1/16th final and the 1/8th final, the federation of the visiting team is required to notify the organizing federation and CAF with the arrival time of its team in the capital of the host country one week before the date set for the match. Otherwise, a fine of two thousand (2000) U.S. dollars will be imposed upon the federation of the visiting team.

10.3 During the group matches, the federation of the visiting team is required to notify the organizing federation and CAF with the arrival time of its team in the capital of the host country two weeks before the date set for the match. Otherwise, a fine of three thousand (3000) U.S. dollars will be imposed upon the federation of the visiting team.

10.4 During the matches of the semifinals and finals, the federation of the visiting team is required to notify the organizing federation and CAF with the arrival time of his team in the capital of the host country within ten (10) days before the date set for the match. Otherwise, a fine of four thousand (4000) U.S. dollars will be imposed upon the federation of the visiting team.

11 Except by special authorization from CAF Interclubs Committee, the two matches of the final round of the competition must be played in the biggest stadium of the capital cities of the concerned countries.

12 .Except by special authorization from Interclubs Committee,, the group matches and the ½ finals round must be played in the biggest stadium of the capital or of the city to which belong the clubs.

13 When a field in the capital city is suspended and a National Association is therefore obliged to organise a match in another city, the following conditions must be met:

13.1 Satisfactory means of transportation for the visiting team, and CAF officials either by air or by road, must be ensured according to the regulations. The transportation fees shall be borne by the host association.

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13.2 Travel must be made at least one day before the day of the match and at a reasonable hour of the day, unless if the visiting team arrives late.

13.3 The match commissioners must ensure the implementation of the above provisions by the host association.

14 Except in case of agreement between the two associations, the delegations shall not exceed 25 persons, including eighteen (18) players and seven (7) officials. Only seven (7) substitutes and seven (7) officials per team are allowed to sit on the bench during the match.

15 The following organizational minimum conditions must be respected:

15.1 Reception at the Airport: A committee of officials of the host association must receive the visiting delegation at the airport and must provide all possible facilities concerning formalities. The visiting delegation must respect the International Laws concerning entry visas and health certificates. One official of the host association who preferably speaks the language of the visiting delegation will be at the disposal of the visiting delegation and will act as a liaison officer between the visitors and the host association. The security forces of the host country must guarantee the security of the visiting team until its departure.

15.2 Assisting the visiting team on its departure: the Officials of the host association should escort the visiting team to the airport and should facilitate for them all formalities regarding their departure.

15.3 Transport facilities: One bus for the players and one car for the officials will be put at the disposal of the visiting delegation from the time of their arrival to that of their departure. Any additional vehicles are subject to an early agreement between the two associations.

15.4 Accommodation: The visiting association is responsible for organizing the accommodation of its team.  
The host federation is obliged to assist the visiting team for the reservation of the rooms.

15.5 Training facilities: A playing ground will be provided for the training of the visiting team and will be put at their disposal for all their stay and at all times. The field on which the match itself will be played must be put at the disposal of the visiting team for at least one training session on the eve of the game at the time fixed for kick-off.

15.6 In case of using artificial turf, the visiting team shall have the right to two training sessions on the playing ground, one at the kick-off time.  
The commissioner will ensure that this clause is respected.

15.7 The matches must be played on natural turf or on artificial turf. When artificial pitches are used in the Interclubs matches the pitches must correspond to the Concept of quality requirements of FIFA for the artificial turf or the International Artificial Turf Standard except in case of a special exception granted by FIFA.

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- 15.8 Security Measures: The police service of the Host Association must ensure the security of all members of the participating teams as well as all the officials designated by CAF. It is the responsibility of the police service to prohibit any invasion of the field, any attack against the players and/or officials in and outside the stadium.
- 15.9 Accommodation of the match officials: they must be accommodated in a high standard hotel other than the one reserved for the two competing teams, this hotel must be homologated by CAF.
- 15.10 Any host association which does not provide the visiting team, and the officials designated by CAF with the facilities named herein, such association will refund the expenses incurred by the visiting team, and the officials designated by CAF and the Organising Committee will penalize such association in any manner it deems appropriate.
- 15.11 The retraction of these facilities from the officials before their return to their respective countries constitutes a breach to the regulations and will be liable to a fine of 5000 US\$.

In case of repetition, the faulty national association could be excluded from the competitions organised by CAF.

- 15.12 All the matches played in the framework of CAF Champions League are organised by the host country, for CAF and on behalf of CAF. Consequently, the established procedure organised on the occasion of every match must be submitted to the instructions hereunder:
  - 15.12.1 The two teams, the Referees and the Commissioner must be present in the dressing room 90 minutes at least before kick-off time.
  - 15.12.2 The verification of the licenses is carried out inside the dressing rooms.
  - 15.12.3 An official photographer must be available to take photographs of the players in case of contestation on their identity.
  - 15.12.4 The keys of the dressing rooms shall be given to the officials of each team. The teams must enter into the dressing rooms during the half-time recess. The players are not allowed to remain on the ground or around it during the half-time break except the players present on the pitch for warm-up.
  - 15.12.5 The players, accompanied by seven officials whose names are registered on the match sheet, shall come out of the dressing rooms preceded by the Commissioner (in the absence of the General Coordinator) and the Referees. Upon invitation from the Referee of the match, the main and the substitute players as well as their coach and an official must stand in line in front of the Tribune of Honour, 15 minutes before kick-off.

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- 15.12.6 The players and their officials must keep their places until the end of the usual ceremonies. No other person is allowed to accompany the teams at their exit from the dressing rooms.  
The flag-bearers and the fans are not allowed to penetrate in the area around the field of play.
- 15.12.7 The Commissioner of CAF welcomes the Guest of Honour and those who accompany him from the Host National Association. The Commissioner shall introduce the Guest of Honour: first to the Referees, then to the visiting team and finally to the host team.
- 15.12.8 It is prohibited to play the national anthem during CAF Inter-Clubs matches. A fine of 10000 US Dollars will be imposed upon each team that will have the national anthem played during an Inter-Clubs match of CAF.
- 15.12.9 CAF recommends that the following flags be raised during the matches it organises:
- 1) The flag of FIFA.
  - 2) The flag of CAF.
  - 3) The flags of the two competing teams' countries.
- 15.12.10 If the Guest of Honour was delayed, the players will be presented to the CAF match commissioner and the match must start on time.  
The attention of the Guest of Honour shall be kindly drawn to these instructions.
- 15.12.11 The retrogressive, irrational practices and all other ritual ceremonies are strictly prohibited.
- 15.12.12 For any CAF Interclubs matches, the Organising National Association shall make sure that:
- a. The President, Vice-President and Honorary Presidents of CAF are seated in the Official Tribune on the right-hand side of the Guest of Honour, in the order of precedence in CAF.
  - b. The Members of the Executive Committee of CAF and/or the General Secretary of CAF who may be present at the event on an official or private capacity shall be seated in the Official Tribune.
- 15.12.13 The order of precedence in CAF has been established as follows per CAF Protocol Guidelines:
- 15.12.14 Teams engaged in CAF competitions have the obligation to show up for the ceremonial protocols. In case of disregard of this disposition, the team at fault will be fined ten thousand US Dollars (10 000 US\$).
- 15.12.15 When a national mourning is declared in a country, the matches organised in the framework of CAF Competitions may be postponed for a maximum of one week, upon the request of the Organising Country based on a decision by the Interclubs Committee in conformity with the established fixtures.

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In such a case, the Organising Country must use the most expeditious means to inform CAF, the opposing team, the commissioner and the referees.

In case the national mourning is declared during the presence of the opposing team on the spot, the match may be postponed for a maximum of 72 hours, upon the request of the Organising Country.

The players may wear a black armband as a sign of mourning. A one minute silence shall be observed in memory of the deceased. The referee is responsible for this ceremony.

The additional expenses of accommodation, food and daily indemnities for the match commissioner and referees incurred because of the postponement of the match shall be covered by the Organising Country.

## X. TROPHY AND MEDALS

1. The Trophy, presented by CAF, shall remain the property of the Confederation and shall be held by the club winning the competition. It shall be returned to the Confederation one month before the date of the Final Match.

The winner of each edition will receive a replica with the same dimensions of the original trophy

2. The team who wins the competition will receive the original copy of the trophy.
3. If for any reason, the competition should cease to be held, the Trophy must be returned to CAF.
4. Each player of the two finalist teams of the competition, up to 30 players per team, shall receive:

Winners	:	Gold Medals
Runners up	:	Silver Medals

The medals shall be supplied by CAF.

5. Any person, physical or moral, who wishes to present a prize or an award to players or teams on the occasion of CAF competitions, must formulate a request to CAF at least thirty (30) days before the date of the competition. The agreement of CAF in this respect is a prerequisite to any prize presentation.

The players and teams of Member Associations taking part in CAF competitions cannot, under any circumstances, receive prizes or awards without the authorization of CAF, except those presented by their clubs or associations.

6. In principle it is the President of CAF or his representative who gives the trophy and the medals to the winners.



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7. In the presence of the Head of State or his representative, the President of CAF shall invite him to give on behalf of CAF- the trophy and the Medals to the winners.
8. The President of CAF gives the medals one by one to the Guest of Honour for presentation to each player.
9. When the players appear in front of the Guest of Honour, the President of CAF gives the Cup to the Guest of Honour who will present it to the captain of the winning team.

## XI. WITHDRAWAL AND RENUNCIATION FROM PLAYING

1. A national association who registered one or more teams should confirm their engagements to play all the matches of the competition until their elimination.
2. In case of withdrawal of a team, its federation shall be responsible for the financial and other consequences to be determined by the Organising and Disciplinary Committee of CAF.
3. Any team that withdraws or declines to play the second leg after playing the first leg on its own ground must refund the federation of the visiting team a sum of fifteen thousand (15000) for repair the injury suffered by the host club.
4. A withdrawal reported after the engagement and before the establishment of the fixtures leads to the loss of the engaged club with an imposed fine of three thousand (3,000) US dollars.
5. A withdrawal reported during the preliminary round is sanctioned with a loss of the entry right as well as a fine of five thousand (5000) U.S. dollars.
6. A withdrawal reported during the 1/16th and the 1/8th of final is sanctioned with a loss of the entry right, as well as, a fine of ten thousand (10 000) U.S. dollars.
7. A withdrawal declared by a team after qualifying for the group stage is sanctioned with a loss of the entry right, as well as, a fine of twenty-five miles (25 000) U.S. dollars.
8. A withdrawal reported by a team after qualifying to the semi-final matches is sanctioned with a loss of the entry right, as well as, a fine of fifty thousand (50 000) U.S. dollars.
9. A withdrawal reported by a team after qualifying to the final matches is sanctioned with a loss of the entry right, as well as, a fine of one hundred thousand (100,000) U.S. dollars.
10. Apart from the financial sanctions mentioned in paras 4 to 9 here above, every club withdrawing from the competition after the establishment of the fixtures will be forbidden from participating in all CAF inter-clubs competitions for the next two editions following its withdrawal.
11. In case of withdrawal of a team from any round, until the group matches, the opponent which it was scheduled to meet will qualify for the next round.
12. If a team withdraws after having been qualified for the group matches it shall be replaced by the last team it has eliminated. In default, the group to which belongs the forfeiting team

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shall be composed of three teams.

13. If a team withdraws after the start of the group matches without having played half of the group matches, the overall results of the matches in which this team participated is canceled.
14. If a team withdraws after participating in all the matches in the first half of the group matches, the remaining matches to be played in the said group are lost by penalty three goals to nil.
15. A finalist team declaring its withdrawal before the two matches of the final round shall be replaced by the team which it eliminated in the semi-final.
16. If one of the two finalist teams withdraws from the second match of the final round, the other team shall be declared winner and shall be awarded the Cup.
17. If for any reason whatsoever, a team withdraws from the competition or does not report for a match-except in case of force majeure accepted by the Organising Committee or if it refuses to play or leaves the ground before the regular end of the match without the permission of the referee, it shall be considered loser and shall be eliminated from the competition.

The same shall apply to the teams which were disqualified by decision of CAF.

## XII. INTERRUPTED MATCHES

1. If the referee is obliged to stop the match because of darkness before the end of its regular time, and if a delay in the scheduled kick-off time is the cause for it, the team of the host association will be considered loser and will be eliminated from the competition.
2. If the match is stopped before the end of the regular time because of poor visibility following the late arrival of the visiting team, except in case of force majeure to be decided by the Organising Committee, the latter shall be considered loser and shall be eliminated from the competition.
3. If the referee is forced to stop the match before the end of the regular time because of invasion of the field or aggression against the visiting team, the host team shall be considered loser and shall be eliminated from the competition, without prejudice to the sanctions existing in the regulations.
4. If a match is abandoned after kick-off for reasons of force majeure, and in particular for poor pitch conditions and/ or bad weather conditions deemed by the referee, the following principles apply:
  - 4.1 The match will resume at the minute where it was interrupted (instead of being replayed in its entirety), and with the same score;
  - 4.2 The match resumes with the same players on the field and the same available substitutes when the game was interrupted;
  - 4.3 No further substitutions will be added to the summoned list of players;
  - 4.4 The teams are only allowed to the number of substitutions remaining when the game was interrupted;
  - 4.5 Expelled players during the interrupted match cannot be replaced;

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4.6 Any sanctions imposed before the match was interrupted remains in force for the rest of the game;

4.7 The kick-off time, date and location will be decided by the Organizing Committee.

5. If a team refuses to take part in the rescheduled game, it will be sanctioned in conformity to the rules of the competition.
6. The additional expenses of the visiting team and the match officials, related to the accommodation in the host country as well as internal transportation, are born by the host association. The additional expenses of the visiting team related to the international flight tickets and transit fees are born by the visiting team.
7. For the matches played under floodlight, if the match is interrupted because of poor visibility following a failure of electricity, the referee will observe a delay of 45 minutes and then signal the end of the game.

The failure of electricity cannot be considered as a case of force majeure unless the score (taking the two legs into consideration if it is a second leg) is not in favour of the visiting team. In this case, the match is to be resumed 24 hours later, in conformity with the measures indicated in the present regulations. If the score (taking the two legs into consideration if it is a second leg) is in favour of the visiting team, the host team will be declared loser.

## XIII. COUNTRY AT WAR / SITUATION AFFECTING THE SAFETY OF A COUNTRY

1. In case of troubles, wars, forces majeure or internal situations in a country that may affect the security conditions during planning of a match, the Organizing Committee may take the following measures:
  2. In two leg matches (home and away):
    - 2.1 If the case concerns only one country, the federation will play its home match on a ground in another country or a single game will be played on the opponent's ground. Where appropriate, the Organizing Committee will determine the match venue.
    - 2.2 If this case involves two countries, the match will be played on neutral ground
3. In the group matches:
  - 3.1 If the case concerns only one country, the federation will play its home match in another country. Where appropriate, the Organizing Committee will determine the match venue.
  - 3.2 If this case involves two countries, the match will be played on neutral ground.

## XIV. MATCHES ON NEUTRAL GROUND

1. The matches of the Champions League can be played on neutral grounds, upon agreement by the two associations concerned or by decision of CAF Organising Committee.

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2. Excluding the group matches, and in case of agreement or decision under these circumstances, only one match shall be played on a neutral ground with eventual extra-time and-if necessary-penalty kicks.

## XV. COMPLAINTS / PROTESTS

1. Any Protest concerning the qualification of players must take the following course:
  - 1.1 It must be preceded by a nominal and motivated protest formulated on the referee's report, before the match, by the captain of the protesting team and communicated to the captain of the opposing team who will countersign it.
  - 1.2 It must be confirmed by a registered letter, by a fax message or by an e-mail sent to CAF Secretariat at most 48 hours after the match.
  - 1.3 It must be accompanied by a fee of two thousand US Dollars (\$2000) If the protest is sustained, the fee shall be refunded to the protesting association.
  - 1.4 If a national association requests that for players whose qualification is contested to be confronted, this association will have to bear the whole expenses incurred for the transport, the sojourn of the players and the officials accompanying them unless its claim is accepted and in this case the expenses will be borne by the association guilty of fraud.
2. All other protests are to be communicated to the General Secretariat of the Confederation within the 48 hours which follow the match by email or fax. A detailed confirmation by registered letter or fax message must reach CAF Secretariat five clear days at most after the end of the match, the postal stamp of Cairo post office will bear witness.
3. The protest fee is fixed at two thousand US Dollars (\$2000) which must be paid by the protesting association before the protest is considered. If the protest is sustained, the fee shall be refunded to the protesting association.
4. Any complaint deemed unjustified by the Interclubs Committee exposes its author to a fine of ten thousand US Dollars (\$10 000)
5. The decisions taken by the referee on the ground during the match on matters of fact shall not be subject to protests.

## XVI. FRAUD -ADMINISTRATIVE ERROR - MATCH FIXING

1. If CAF is informed, no matter what the source may be, that a fraud infringing the sporting morality was committed by one of the teams; an enquiry shall be conducted immediately. In case the assertion is proved, the following measures shall be taken:
2. If the fraud has been committed in the preliminary round of the competition and if it is discovered before the start of the following round, the last team which has been eliminated by the guilty team shall be called upon to take part in this round of the competition. The guilty team shall be suspended from all CAF competitions for three years.
3. If the fraud is discovered after the start of the following round of the competition, the guilty team shall be eliminated from the competition in favour of its last opponent and will be suspended from all CAF competitions for a period of three years.

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4. If the fraud has been committed during the final match by the club which has been awarded the trophy, the club shall be asked to return the trophy which will be awarded to the runner-up. The guilty team shall be suspended for 3 years from all CAF competitions.
5. If it is established that the National Association to which the team in question belongs has participated in the fraud by helping the guilty club, this Association and all the clubs under its jurisdiction shall be suspended from CAF Inter-Clubs competitions for a period of three years.
6. For any administrative error in the registration of players, the concerned clubs will be suspended for a period of one year of the interclubs competitions organized by CAF.
7. It is prohibited to the persons to whom these regulations applies to participate, directly or indirectly - or to be associated in any way whatsoever - to bet, gambling, lotteries, and any other activities or transactions similar in connection with football matches. It is also forbidden to play an active or passive role in societies, businesses and organizations that encourage, communicate, organize or manage such activities and / or transactions.
8. The cases not mentioned in this article shall be decided upon by the Organising Committee.

## XVII. APPEALS

1. An appeal may be lodged to the Appeal committee against the decision of the Organising and the Disciplinary board but not against those stipulated as final.
2. The rights of the appeal are fixed at 3,000\$ (Three Thousand US Dollars). If the appeal is sustained, the fee shall be refunded to the Association making the appeal.
3. The appeal must reach the Secretariat of CAF by email or fax within three days following the despatch, by email or fax of the decision of the organising committee.
4. The appeal shall have no delaying effect except in financial matters and fines.

## XVIII. FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

1. The financial conditions of the matches for the allocation of fees and gate receipts shall be determined by agreement between the two concerned Associations and they shall inform the Secretariat of CAF accordingly. In case of disagreement, the two associations must observe the following financial conditions:
  - 1.1 The visiting association shall cover the travel expenses of all its delegation.
  - 1.2 The visiting association shall cover the expenses of accommodation and food of its delegation and the host association assumes the local transportation of the visiting team in conformity with the provisions of the present regulations, three days before the match and two days after the match.
  - 1.3 The host association shall keep the gate receipts of the match.
2. In case of disagreement or dispute between two federations on the financial conditions of the match, the Organising Committee shall take the necessary decisions which shall be final and

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binding.

3. The financial elements regarding the match officials include the following categories:
  - 3.1 The fees of the international travel
  - 3.2 Full board accommodation
  - 3.3 Local transportation
  - 3.4 Allowances established as per CAF scheme
4. The host association shall bear the costs of travel in economy class fees, full board accommodation, local transportation as well as the allowances of the Referees, Assistant Referees and the Commissioner as per CAF scheme.
5. The host federation will also take in charge the local transport for all other official designated by CAF.
6. With the except of the Referees, Assistant Referees and the Commissioner, CAF will bear the costs of economy class travel, accommodation in full board and the allowances of the officials appointed by CAF, as per CAF scheme.
7. The host federation will ensure that each official designated by CAF a room in the same hotel, the latter being approved by CAF and/ or the Match Commissioner.
8. If the match officials (commissioner and/or referees and/or assistant referees) go back home after the match without being paid the total amounts of their dues as per CAF regulations, a fine of five thousand US Dollars (\$5000) shall be imposed upon the Association at fault.
9. If one or many match officials (commissioner, referee or assistant referee) live in cities other than the capital cities of their own countries, the Association Organising the match shall pay their travel expenses by plane (if the distance is more than two hundred kms) or by car; from their home city to the capital city and back.
10. The match officials must provide all the supporting documents to the host association in order to get reimbursed, including in particular a letter from their federation attesting that the expenses of the travel incurred are correct.
11. The payment specified in these regulations must be settled at the official rates of change, in interchangeable currency on the day in which they are made without restrictions or special taxes.
12. Endorsable air passage tickets for officials designated to attend the match must be issued by the organising association and must be sent to the officials concerned along with the invitation giving them the date and the venue of the match.
13. The organising association must see to it that the air-plane tickets reach the concerned officials at least 14 days before the match.
14. For the second leg of the final match of the Champions League, in addition to the expenses mentioned in the present regulations, the host Association shall pay the expenses of travel first class and the stay expenses of CAF President as well as a daily indemnity at the rate fixed by CAF. The host association shall also pay the accommodation and local transportation

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expenses of the members of the inter-clubs Organising Committee, the Referees Committee, as well as the General Secretary and his Assistant who will be invited to attend the second leg of the final match.

15. The indemnity shall be paid to those concerned in accordance with the prevailing dispositions, is due on the very day of the match. This indemnity shall cover the general expenses (visa, food, taxi, etc...) incurred in transit. This indemnity must be paid in convertible currency.

16. The Host Country should also provide the following expenses:

16.1 Suitable meeting rooms equipped with simultaneous translation in the three official languages of CAF.

16.2 Interpreters for the three languages.

16.3 Badges for the participants: (CAF Members and Secretariat, Delegates, Organisers, Media and others.

16.4 A suitable working room for CAF Secretariat equipped with computers, printers, copier, fax, mobile phones and all the necessary secretarial equipment.

17. CAF shall pay the following expenses:

17.1 The international transport of the members of the the inter-clubs Organising Committee, the Referees Committee, as well as the General Secretary and his Assistant.

17.2 The daily allowances for the members of the inter-clubs Organising Committee, the Referees Committee, the General Secretary and his Assistant, at the rate fixed by CAF.

## XIX. TICKETING

1. The Gross receipt of the matches shall be generated by the sale of entry tickets.

2. The host association shall pay to CAF the following charges:

2.1 An inclusive fee of six hundred (600) U.S. dollars in preliminary.

2.2 A inclusive fee of one thousand (1000) U.S. dollars at 1/16th and 1/8th final.

2.3 A inclusive fee of two thousand (2000) U.S. dollars in the group matches.

2.4 An inclusive fee of four thousand (4000) U.S. dollars in the semifinals.

2.5 An inclusive fee of five thousand (5000) U.S. dollars during the first leg final.

2.6 An inclusive fee of ten thousand (10,000) U.S. dollars in the second leg final.

3. For any match starting from the group matches, besides the places reserved for the delegation of CAF in the honorary tribune, the host Federation will put at the disposal of CAF the following number of tickets:

- 25 tickets in the honorary tribune.

- 50 tickets in the adjacent tribunes.

4. The host association will also put at the disposal of the visiting team, the following number of tickets:

- 10 tickets in the honorary tribune.

- 20 tickets in the adjacent tribunes.

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## XX. OPERATION OF COMMERCIAL RIGHTS

1. The television rights belong to CAF. For every live transmission of a match, the host association shall pay to CAF, the following charges:
  - 1.1 Preliminary matches and 1/16<sup>th</sup> final matches (one thousand US Dollars) \$ 1000
  - 1.2 1/8<sup>th</sup> final matches (one thousand five hundred US Dollars) \$1500
2. For the delayed transmission of the matches on television, and if the match is displayed on the day of the match, the obligations imposed above will be applied.
3. If the television rights are fixed in a contract concluded between the National association and another organisation, CAF may demand that instead of the above-mentioned amounts, a reasonable percentage be transferred in favour of CAF.
4. The rights of the group matches, the ½ finals, the final matches will be managed directly by CAF or by the holder of the rights.
5. Failure to abide by these regulations shall be considered as a violation of the financial provisions and shall be punished. After a delay of ninety (90) days following the date of the match, the concerned federation shall be sanctioned by a fine of ten thousand (10,000) dollars U.S.
6. Starting from the group matches, the publicity, television and broadcasting rights exclusively belong to CAF. They will be subject to separate agreements and free negotiations between CAF and specialized agencies of its choice.
7. The National Associations engaged in the Champions League shall put in writing that they will take the engagement of putting at the disposal of the specialized agencies all the necessary installations, the international signal (uplink) and sound to the satellite, as well as, the technical staff necessary to ensure the direct and regular transmission of the matches, in conformity with the terms of reference established by CAF, as well as, having the stadiums free from any publicity.
8. At the end of the 1/8<sup>th</sup> final qualifying to the group matches, any team who did not transmit the above mentioned engagement, will be automatically disqualified from the competition and replaced by the team it has eliminated in the 1/8<sup>th</sup> final (on condition that this eliminated team had filled the above mentioned engagement).
9. In return, the association fulfilling the above mentioned engagement shall be allowed to transmit live and free of charge the matches played on its territory starting from the group matches. Any National association which can not or does not give the necessary signals towards the satellite will be sanctioned by CAF who reserves the right to exclude the club from the competition. CAF also reserves the right to exclude the club from the sharing of the receipts of the Champions League.
10. The National Associations are required to ensure the compliance with CAF contractual obligations on TV and marketing rights. In case of non-compliance of CAF obligations by the National Association or in case of fraudulent of the TV signal, the team shall be excluded



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from the competition and will be suspended for the next edition, in addition to any other sanction that may be imposed upon the federation of the concerned team.

11. CAF also reserves the right to exclude the club from the sharing of the receipts of the Champions League.
12. The revenues from advertising and television rights, as well as, the broadcasting will be distributed among the eight clubs qualified in the group matches, taking into account their ranking, as well as, the national federations to whom belong these eight clubs, as per CAF scheme.
13. Any conflict relating to the liquidation of accounts shall be finally decided by the inter-clubs Organising Committee of CAF.

## XXI. MARKETING AND MEDIA PROVISIONS

1. The Fixtures of this Competition, as well as, all the matches organised by CAF and all data related to them are subject to a copyright reserved to CAF.
2. Publicity for tobacco and alcohol is permitted on the occasion of all the matches organised by CAF within the framework of all its competitions, preliminaries and finals, provided that such publicity is allowed by the laws of the country in which the match is being played.
3. Any team engaged in CAF Champions League has the obligation to respect CAF Equipment Regulations.
4. Any team engaged in CAF Champions League has the obligation to respect CAF Media Regulations.

## XXII. INTER-CONTINENTAL MATCHES

1. The winner of the Champions League shall play against the winner of the Champion Clubs of other continents on the basis of an agreement concluded by CAF. The match can be played on a home and away basis or in one match on a neutral ground. The dates, venue and conditions shall be fixed by CAF.
2. In the drawing of the program, CAF shall make sure that the national and international calendars of the concerned teams are not affected.
3. In case CAF has signed a contract for publicity and television rights, the travel expenses of the African Champion Club to and from the other continents shall be paid by CAF.
4. After deduction of the organisational expenses, the benefits resulting from the selling of the television and publicity rights of the match played in Africa will be distributed as follows:
  - 4.1 75% to the club
  - 4.2 20% to CAF
  - 4.3 5% to the National Association of the club.

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5. If CAF signed no such contracts, the concerned National Association shall pay the travel expenses of its delegation to and from the other continents and will keep the totality of the gate receipts of the match (tickets, publicity and television rights).
6. The Club Team which is Champion of Africa shall pay for the visiting team's accommodation, food and local transport.
7. The Host Association shall keep the gate receipts after the deduction of the percentages due to FIFA and CAF.
8. A team which does not observe the above-mentioned provisions shall be held responsible for the financial and moral prejudices which could result of its abstention.

## XXIV. CAF SUPERCUP

1. A team which wins the African Champions League takes the engagement of playing the Super Cup of Africa against the Winner of the Confederation Cup. They will play one match, in conformity with the specific rules governing the Super-Cup in conformity to chapter XXVII of the present regulations.
2. A team winning the CAF Champions League and refusing to play the Super-Cup, shall not be allowed to defend its continental title and shall not be allowed to play in any of CAF clubs Competitions for three editions when the club is qualified to take part. In addition, this team will have to pay to CAF the maximum fine imposed.

## XXIII. FIFA CLUB WORLD CUP

1. The winner of the CAF Champions League takes the engagement to represent CAF in the World Clubs Championship organised by FIFA during the same year.

## XXV. UNFORSEEN

1. Cases unforeseen in these Regulations are to be decided by CAF Organising Committee for Inter-Clubs Competitions.

## XXVI. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REGULATIONS

1. The present Rules come into effect from the 2015 Interclubs season.

## XXVII. CAF SUPER CUP REGULATIONS

1. The African Football Confederation shall organise every year a competition called "The African Clubs Super-Cup" which will oppose the winner of the CAF Champion League to the winner of the Confederation Cup.
2. The trophy will be offered by CAF and shall remain the property of the Confederation. It will be handed over to the club winning the competition. It must be returned to CAF one month before the next edition of the competition. The Cup will become the property of the club which will have won it three times.
3. If for any reason the competition does not take place, the trophy must be returned to CAF.

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4. CAF will offer medals for the two teams, the winner team shall receive 18 gold medals for the players and 7 silver medals for the officials and the runner-up shall receive 18 silver medals for the players and 7 silver medals for the officials.
5. This competition shall be played in a one leg match in the capital city of the holder of the CAF Champion League, except authorization from the Inter-Clubs Organising Committee.
6. If the conditions do not allow playing the match in the capital of the club winner of CAF Champions League, CAF Interclubs Committee reserves the right to change the venue of the competition and decide to play the match in the capital of the club winner of CAF Confederation Cup.
7. The host Association shall put at the disposal of CAF, free of charge:
  - 7.1 The stadium where the matches shall be played, empty of publicity, three days before the match and up to the day following the match.
  - 7.2 All the necessary installations, the international signal and sound towards the satellite, as well as the technical personnel capable of transmitting the matches live and regularly. In return, the Organising country shall be allowed to transmit live all the matches inside its territory, free of charge.
8. The match will be played in 2 x 45 minutes. If by the end of the regular time the two teams are at a draw, the winner shall be determined by penalty kicks which shall be taken in accordance to FIFA's laws of the games.
9. The Super Cup shall be played during January and February of the year following the year in which the two teams have won their continental title taking into consideration CAF competitions schedule.
10. Only the players who are qualified in the participating club at the moment of the match and whose names appear on the list of the club for the new competition which will be played in the year of the Super-Cup are eligible to play in this competition.
11. Each team must communicate its list of 18 players to CAF Secretariat 15 days at least before the date fixed for the match in order to allow the organisers to print the program of the event.
12. CAF, together with the sponsor, shall cover the travel and accommodation expenses of the following persons:
  - 12.1- The President and Members of CAF Executive Committee.
  - 12.2- The Honorary Presidents and/or the Honorary vice-presidents of CAF.
  - 12.3- The General Secretary and his Deputy.
  - 12.4- The referees appointed for the match.
  - 12.5 - 25 persons per delegation (18 persons and 7 officials).
13. The daily allowance of CAF members and match officials shall be paid by CAF on the basis of the realised benefits.

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14. The revenues coming from the sale of the match tickets shall be retained by the host federation.
15. The revenues coming from the publicity and television rights shall be divided as per CAF scheme.
16. A team which qualifies to play the Super-Cup but refuses to take part in it shall not be allowed to defend its continental title and shall not be allowed to play in any of CAF Clubs competitions for three editions when the club is qualified to take part. In addition, the maximum fine which CAF can impose on a national association shall be imposed upon the defaulting association.
17. The teams playing the Super Cup are not allowed to wear publicity on their Jerseys.
18. Matters not provided for under the present regulations shall be decided by the Organising Committee for CAF inter-clubs competitions.

Issa Hayatou  
President

Hicham El Amrani  
Secretary General

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Cairo, September 2014