

**FIFA®**

# **REGULATIONS FIFA CLUB WORLD CUP UAE 2021™**

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FIFA CLUB WORLD CUP  
UAE 2021™**

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# GENERAL PROVISIONS



## Article 1: FIFA Club World Cup™

- 1.1 The FIFA Club World Cup™ (“World Cup”) is a FIFA competition embodied in the FIFA regulations.
- 1.2 The World Cup takes place every year.
- 1.3 Participation in the World Cup is free of charge.
- 1.4 Any rights that are not ceded by the Regulations for the FIFA Club World Cup UAE 2021™ (“Regulations”) to the Organising Association/Local Organising Committee or any participating club or any member association or to a confederation shall remain with FIFA.
- 1.5 These Regulations regulate the rights, duties and responsibilities of all clubs taking part in the FIFA Club World Cup UAE 2021™ (“World Cup 2021”) and of the Organising Association/Local Organising Committee. The Regulations and all guidelines and circulars issued by FIFA are binding for all parties participating and involved in the preparation, organisation and hosting of the World Cup 2021.
- 1.6 The FIFA Statutes and all FIFA regulations in force shall apply. Any reference in these Regulations to the FIFA Statutes and regulations refers to the Statutes and regulations valid at the time of application.
- 1.7 Other rules and/or decisions that are binding on FIFA (e.g. due to FIFA being a signatory to the World Anti-Doping Code) may apply to the subject matter of these Regulations. Any such rules and/or decisions implemented by FIFA shall take precedence over these Regulations in the event of any conflict and must be complied with by each participating club.

## Article 2: Organising Committee for FIFA Competitions

- 2.1 The Organising Committee for FIFA Competitions (the “FIFA Organising Committee”), appointed by the FIFA Council, is responsible for organising the World Cup 2021 in accordance with the FIFA Statutes and the FIFA Governance Regulations.
- 2.2 The FIFA Organising Committee may, if necessary, appoint a bureau and/or a sub-committee to deal with emergencies. Any decision taken by the bureau or sub-committee shall come into effect immediately but shall be subject to confirmation by the plenary committee at its next meeting.
- 2.3 The FIFA Organising Committee shall deal with any aspect of the World Cup 2021 that is not the responsibility of any other body under the terms of these Regulations, the FIFA Statutes or the FIFA Governance Regulations.
- 2.4 The decisions taken by the FIFA Organising Committee and/or its bureau/sub-committee are final and binding and not subject to appeal.

### **Article 3: Organising Association/Local Organising Committee – responsibilities**

- 3.1** The FIFA Council has appointed the U/E Football Association (“Organising Association”) as the host of the World Cup 2021.
- 3.2** The Organising Association is responsible for organising, hosting and staging the World Cup 2021, in accordance with FIFA’s instructions and requirements.
- 3.3** The Organising Association shall discharge FIFA from all responsibility and relinquish any claim against FIFA and the members of its delegation for any damages resulting from any act or omission relating to the organisation and course of the World Cup.
- 3.4** The Organising Association shall ensure that any decision taken by FIFA relating to its duties and responsibilities is enforced immediately.

### **Article 4: Participating clubs**

- 4.1** A total of seven clubs shall participate in the World Cup 2021 (each a “participating club”). The participating clubs shall be the winners of the following competitions:
- (a) AFC                      Champions League 2021
  - (b) CAF                      Champions League 2020-2021
  - (c) Concacaf              Champions League 2021
  - (d) CONMEBOL          CONMEBOL Libertadores 2021
  - (e) OFC                      Champions League 2021
  - (f) UEFA                    Champions League 2020-2021
  - (g) Host                    Latest season of the Organising Association’s top league
- 4.2** In the event that any of the competitions listed above are not held or completed in a manner that determines a winning club (due to cancellation, postponement, abandonment or otherwise), the applicable confederation shall propose to FIFA, for FIFA’s prior written approval, a club located on its territory as its participating club. The confederation shall base its proposal strictly on the sporting merits of the club and shall provide a written report to FIFA explaining the reasons for proposing the club when seeking FIFA’s approval. In the event that FIFA does not approve the confederation’s proposed club, the confederation shall propose an alternative club for FIFA’s approval. There shall not be two participating clubs from the same member association in the World Cup 2021. If the winner of the host confederation’s competition is a club affiliated to the Organising Association, the winner of the latest season of the Organising Association’s top league will be replaced by the next best club in the host confederation’s competition that is not affiliated to the Organising Association and shall be appointed by the host confederation.



**4.3** If a winner of any of the above confederation competitions is not from a member association of the respective confederation, it will be replaced by the next best club affiliated to a member association of the relevant confederation.

**4.4** To ensure the integrity of the World Cup 2021, no participating club, individual or legal entity may, either directly or indirectly, have control or influence over another participating club or clubs. If two or more participating clubs fail to meet the above criterion aimed at ensuring the integrity of the World Cup 2021, FIFA shall decide on the matter at its sole discretion and take whatever action is deemed necessary.

**4.5** Clubs that are not admitted shall be replaced in accordance with art. 6.

## **Article 5: Responsibilities of participating clubs**

**5.1** On entering the World Cup 2021, the participating clubs automatically undertake to comply with and ensure that every Delegation Member (players, coaches, managers, officials, media officers, representatives, guests and any other person carrying out duties throughout the competition, and for the entire duration of their stay in the host country, on behalf of a participating club) complies with these Regulations, the Laws of the Game, the FIFA Statutes and FIFA's regulations, in particular the FIFA Media and Marketing Regulations for the FIFA Club World Cup, the FIFA Disciplinary Code, the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations, the FIFA Code of Ethics and the FIFA Equipment Regulations, as well as with any other FIFA circular letters, regulations, guidelines, directives and/or decisions.

In addition, the players and team officials notably agree to:

- (a) respect the spirit of fair play and non-violence;
- (b) behave accordingly;
- (c) refrain from doping as defined by the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations.

**5.2** On entering the World Cup 2021, the participating clubs automatically undertake to:

- (a) observe these Regulations and ensure that their Delegation Members, in particular but not only their players, also observe these Regulations and the principles of fair play;
- (b) accept and obey all instructions and decisions taken by the bodies and officials of FIFA under the terms of these Regulations;
- (c) participate in all matches of the World Cup 2021 in which their team is scheduled to take part;
- (d) accept all of the arrangements relating to the World Cup 2021 made by the Organising Association in agreement with FIFA;
- (e) accept the use by FIFA and/or the issue of a sub-licence by FIFA to third parties, as well as the recording and broadcast of the images, names and records of all Delegation Members that may appear in connection with the World Cup 2021;

- (f) ensure the provision of adequate insurance to cover their Delegation Members and any other persons carrying out duties on their behalf against all risks, including but not limited to injury, accident, disease and travel in consideration of the relevant FIFA rules or regulations.

### 5.3

In addition, each participating club shall be responsible for:

- (a) the conduct of its Delegation Members;
- (b) paying for incidental costs and expenses incurred by its Delegation Members and any other persons carrying out duties on its behalf during the course of their stay in the host country;
- (c) paying for any costs of extending the stay of any Delegation Member or any other persons carrying out duties on its behalf;
- (d) applying for visas in good time from the nearest consulate or embassy of the host country, if necessary;
- (e) attending all media conferences and other media activities organised by FIFA in accordance with the FIFA Media and Marketing Regulations;
- (f) refraining from organising a match with another participating club during a period commencing three months prior to the World Cup 2021 and ending six months after the World Cup 2021 (unless a participating club is officially invited by another confederation to participate in one of the club competitions as listed in art. 4 par. 1 above);
- (g) ensuring that neither it, nor any of its Delegation Members, plays or otherwise participates in any game other than a World Cup 2021 match during its stay in the host country;
- (h) ensuring that while in the host country, neither it nor its Delegation Members engage in any activity or event other than those conducted, organised or held by FIFA;
- (i) providing FIFA with the non-exclusive, royalty-free right to use the following for the promotion of the World Cup 2021:
  - i) the club name, emblem and mascot;
  - ii) details of the club's history;
  - iii) names and likenesses of the club's players and/or officials;
  - iv) information about the club's players (such as the players' statistics – height, weight, age);
  - v) excerpts or clips from footage of the matches of the relevant competition described in art. 4 par. 1 in which the club took part, of a maximum duration of three minutes per match.

### 5.4

All participating clubs shall confirm their participation in the World Cup 2021 by submitting the entry form and any other required documentation as communicated by FIFA via the corresponding circular(s), duly signed by the deadline(s) set by FIFA. The timely submission to FIFA of any such documents is of the essence. If a participating club fails to adhere to the time limits and/or fails to meet the formal requirements for submitting the necessary documents, the FIFA Organising Committee shall pass a decision.

- 5.5** All participating clubs shall indemnify, defend and hold FIFA, the Organising Association, the LOC, and all of their officers, directors, employees, representatives, agents, and all other auxiliary persons free and harmless against any and all liabilities, obligations, losses, damages, penalties, claims, actions, fines and expenses (including reasonable legal expenses) of whatsoever kind or nature resulting from, arising out of, or attributable to, participation in the World Cup 2021 and/or any non-compliance with these Regulations by the participating clubs, their Delegation Members, their affiliates and any third parties contracted to the participating clubs.

## **Article 6: Withdrawal, unplayed matches, abandoned matches and replacement**

- 6.1** All participating clubs undertake to play all of their matches until eliminated from the World Cup 2021.
- 6.2** Any club that withdraws from the World Cup 2021 no later than 30 days before the first match of the competition shall be fined at least CHF 15,000 by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee. Any participating club that withdraws from the World Cup fewer than 30 days before the first match of the World Cup 2021 shall be fined at least CHF 20,000 by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee.
- 6.3** Depending on the circumstances of the withdrawal, the FIFA Disciplinary Committee may impose additional disciplinary measures, including the expulsion of the participating club concerned from subsequent FIFA competitions.
- 6.4** Any match which is not played or which is abandoned – except in cases of force majeure recognised by FIFA – may lead to the imposition of disciplinary measures against the relevant participating clubs by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee in accordance with the FIFA Disciplinary Code.
- 6.5** Any participating club that withdraws or whose behaviour is liable for a match not being played or being abandoned may be ordered by the FIFA Organising Committee to reimburse FIFA, the Organising Association or any other participating club for any expenses incurred as a result of its behaviour. In such cases, the club concerned may also be ordered by FIFA to pay compensation for any damages incurred by FIFA, the Organising Association or any other participating club. The club in question will also forfeit any claim to financial remuneration from FIFA.
- 6.6** If a participating club withdraws or a match cannot be played or is abandoned as a result of force majeure, FIFA shall decide on the matter at its sole discretion and take whatever action is deemed necessary.

### 6.7

Further to the above provision, in the case of a match being abandoned as a result of force majeure after it has already kicked off, the following principles shall apply:

- (a) The match shall recommence at the minute at which play was interrupted rather than being replayed in full, and with the same scoreline. The match shall recommence where play was stopped when the match was interrupted (e.g. with a free kick, throw-in, goal kick, corner kick, kick from the penalty mark, etc.). If the match was abandoned while the ball was still in play, it shall restart with a dropped ball from the position of the ball when play was stopped.
- (b) The match shall recommence with the same players on the pitch and substitutes available as when the match was abandoned;
- (c) No additional substitutes may be added to the list of players on the start list;
- (d) The teams can make only the number of substitutions to which they were still entitled when the match was abandoned;
- (e) Players sent off during the abandoned match cannot be replaced;
- (f) Any disciplinary measures imposed before the match was abandoned will be dealt with in accordance with the FIFA Disciplinary Code;
- (g) The kick-off time, date and location shall be decided by FIFA.

### 6.8

If any participating club withdraws or is excluded from the competition, FIFA shall decide on the matter at its sole discretion and take whatever action is deemed necessary. The FIFA Organising Committee may in particular decide to replace the club in question with another club.

### 6.9

FIFA has the right to cancel, reschedule or relocate one or more matches (or the entire World Cup 2021) for any reason at its sole discretion, including as a result of force majeure or due to health, safety or security concerns.

# DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES



## Article 7: Disciplinary matters

- 7.1 Disciplinary infringements are dealt with in compliance with the FIFA Disciplinary Code in force as well as with all relevant circulars and directives, with which the participating clubs and Delegation Members undertake to comply.
- 7.2 FIFA may introduce new disciplinary rules and measures for the duration of the World Cup 2021. Such rules shall be communicated to the participating clubs before the first match of the World Cup 2021 at the latest.

## Article 8: Disputes

- 8.1 All disputes in connection with the World Cup 2021 shall be promptly settled by mediation (with the exception of those falling under art. 7 above).
- 8.2 In compliance with the FIFA Statutes, participating clubs may not take disputes to an ordinary court of law but to the exclusive jurisdiction of FIFA.
- 8.3 The participating clubs acknowledge and accept that, once all stages of appeal have been exhausted at FIFA, their sole recourse shall be to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne, Switzerland, unless excluded or for final and binding decisions. Any such arbitration proceedings shall be governed by the CAS Code of Sports-related Arbitration.

## Article 9: Protests

- 9.1 For the purpose of these Regulations, protests are objections of any kind related to events or matters that have a direct effect on matches, including but not limited to the state of and markings on the pitch, accessory match equipment, eligibility of players, stadium installations and footballs.
- 9.2 Unless otherwise stipulated in this article, protests shall be submitted in writing to the FIFA Match Director within two hours of the match in question and followed up immediately with a full written report, including a copy of the original protest, to be sent in writing and by registered letter to the FIFA headquarters in the host country within 24 hours of the end of the match, otherwise they will be disregarded.
- 9.3 Protests regarding the eligibility of players nominated for matches shall be submitted in writing to the FIFA headquarters in the host country no later than five days before the opening match of the World Cup 2021 and shall be dealt with by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee.

- 9.4** Protests regarding the state of the pitch, its surroundings, markings or accessory items (e.g. goals, flag posts or footballs) shall be made in writing to the referee before the start of the match by the head of delegation of the team lodging the protest. If the pitch's playing surface becomes unplayable during a match, the captain of the protesting team shall immediately lodge a protest with the referee in the presence of the captain of the opposing team. The protests shall be confirmed in writing to the FIFA Match Director by the head of the team delegation no later than two hours after the match.
- 9.5** Protests against any incidents that occur during the course of a match shall be made to the referee by the team captain immediately after the disputed incident and before play has resumed, in the presence of the captain of the opposing team. The protest shall be confirmed in writing to the FIFA Match Director by the head of the team delegation no later than two hours after the match.
- 9.6** No protests may be made about the referee's decisions regarding facts connected with play. Such decisions are final and not subject to appeal, unless otherwise stipulated in the FIFA Disciplinary Code.
- 9.7** If an unfounded or irresponsible protest is lodged, the FIFA Disciplinary Committee may impose disciplinary measures.
- 9.8** If any of the formal conditions of a protest as set out in these Regulations are not met, such protest shall be disregarded by the competent body. Once the final match of the World Cup 2021 has ended, any protests described in this article shall be disregarded. Notwithstanding the above, the FIFA Disciplinary Committee remains competent to prosecute any disciplinary infringement ex officio as established in the FIFA Disciplinary Code.
- 9.9** The FIFA Organising Committee shall pass decisions on any protests lodged, subject to the exceptions stipulated in these Regulations, the FIFA Statutes or any other FIFA regulations.

## **Article 10: Yellow and red cards**

- 10.1** The referee has the authority to take disciplinary action from entering the field of play for the pre-match inspection until leaving the field of play after the match ends (including kicks from the penalty mark). If, before entering the field of play at the start of the match, a player or team official commits a sending-off offence, the referee has the authority to prevent the player or team official taking part in the match (see Laws of the Game, Law 12.3); the referee will report any other misconduct.
- 10.2** Single yellow cards and pending suspensions that could not be served during the confederation's competition are not carried over to the World Cup 2021. If a player or official receives two cautions during two different matches, he will automatically be suspended from his team's subsequent match.

10.3 If a player or official is sent off as a result of a direct or indirect red card, he will automatically be suspended from his team's subsequent match. In addition, further sanctions may be imposed in the case of a direct red card.

10.4 Any match suspension (as a result of a direct or indirect red card) that cannot be served during this competition will be carried over to the next official club match or matches of the player or official concerned.



# COMPETITION FORMAT



## Article 11: Number of teams

The number of teams taking part in the World Cup 2021 has been fixed at seven. Eight matches will be played according to the pairings below.

## Article 12: Match pairings

**12.1** The World Cup 2021 will be played in a knockout format consisting of a first round, a second round, a play-off for fifth place, two semi-finals, the play-off for third place and the final.

**12.2** The first round match will be played between the representative club of the Organising Association ("Host"), and the OFC representative, subject to the provisions of art. 4 par. 2.

**M1: Host v. OFC representative**

**12.3** The second round pairings will be determined by means of the draw (cf. art. 14). The representatives of the AFC, CAF and Concacaf, which will be drawn in no particular order as Teams A, B and C, will contest the second round together with the winner of M1 as follows:

**M2: Team A v. Team B**

**M3: Team C v. Winner of M1**

In order to guarantee sufficient rest time for the winner of Match 1 between the first and second rounds, the winner of Match 1 will be preassigned to Match 3 as Team D.

**12.4** The losing clubs from the second round will contest the play-off for fifth place as follows:

**M5: Runner-up M2 v. Runner-up M3**

**12.5** The two winners of the second round and the representatives of CONMEBOL and UEFA will contest the semi-finals. The opponents of the CONMEBOL and UEFA representatives will be preassigned to the matches as follows:

**M4: CONMEBOL representative v. Winner M2**

**M6: Winner M3 v. UEFA representative**

**12.6** The two winners of the semi-finals will contest the final. The losing clubs from the semi-finals will contest the play-off for third place as follows:

**M7: Runner-up M6 v. Runner-up M4**

**M8: Winner M6 v. Winner M4**

Note: the above configuration does not necessarily represent the chronological order in which the matches will be played.

### **Article 13: Extra time and kicks from the penalty mark**

- 13.1** If a match is level at the end of normal playing time, extra time shall be played. Extra time shall consist of two 15-minute periods, with an interval of five minutes at the end of normal playing time, but not between the two periods of extra time. The players shall remain on the pitch during both of these intervals.
- 13.2** If the score is still level at the end of extra time, kicks from the penalty mark shall be taken to determine the winner, in accordance with the procedure specified in the Laws of the Game.
- 13.3** Irrespective of stadium allocation, if M5 or M7 are played directly before the semi-finals and final respectively and are level at the end of normal playing time, no extra time shall be played and the winner shall be determined by kicks from the penalty mark.

# COMPETITION PREPARATION

# IV.

## Article 14: Draw and Team Workshop

- 14.1** The date of the draw for the World Cup 2021 will be communicated by circular letter.
- 14.2** The draw will be organised by FIFA and the Organising Association and may be combined with a Team Workshop, team venue inspection visits and other related activities. If the draw takes place in Zurich, the venue and details of the Team Workshop and team venue inspection visits will be communicated to the participating teams by circular letter and/or other form of official correspondence.
- 14.3** FIFA and/or the Organising Association shall cover the costs of the accommodation and domestic transportation in the host country for two (2) participants per club for a maximum of three (3) nights for the Team Workshop. All other costs, including international flights, shall be borne by the respective clubs.

## Article 15: Venues, dates and kick-off times

- 15.1** The venues, dates and kick-off times of the matches shall be proposed by the Organising Association, subject to approval by FIFA.
- 15.2** The dates and venues of the matches shall be set so as to allow each team a minimum rest period of 48 hours between matches.
- 15.3** If necessary, FIFA may decide to change kick off-times after the draw.

## Article 16: Team arrivals

- 16.1** Each team participating in the World Cup 2021 shall arrive at the venue of its first match at least three days before the match.
- 16.2** In principle, only official team hotels under contract with either FIFA or the Organising Association/LOC shall be used for the teams' accommodation.

# STADIUMS AND TRAINING SITES

**V.**

## Article 17: Stadiums

- 17.1** FIFA carries out stadium inspections before the World Cup to check whether the required structural criteria outlined by FIFA are met by the stadiums hosting the competition. The FIFA administration accepts or rejects each stadium on the basis of several structural and safety criteria observed during the inspection visits and any other information gathered by FIFA. Such decisions are final.
- 17.2** The Organising Association shall provide FIFA with all documents confirming that the stadiums have been thoroughly inspected by the relevant public authorities and meet all the safety requirements laid down by the applicable national law and the FIFA Stadium Safety and Security Regulations.
- 17.3** The FIFA Event Policy on Tobacco shall be complied with at the World Cup 2021 stadiums. If smoking areas are allowed by local legislation, FIFA reserves the right to determine if they shall be established.

## Article 18: Pitches

- 18.1** Matches may be played on natural or artificial surfaces, subject to the approval of the FIFA Organising Committee. Where artificial surfaces are used, the surface must meet the requirements of the FIFA Quality Programme for Football Turf or the International Artificial Turf Standard.
- 18.2** Unless otherwise approved by FIFA, the pitch shall have the following dimensions: length 105m, width 68m.
- 18.3** The pitch watering schedule and the height of the grass will be communicated by the FIFA Match Director at the Match Coordination Meeting. The FIFA Match Director, in consultation with the local pitch expert, shall define the grass height and watering schedule.

## Article 19: Stadium roof

- 19.1** If a stadium has a retractable roof, the FIFA Match Director shall decide before the match whether the roof shall be open or closed during the match. This decision must be announced at the Match Coordination Meeting on the day before the match, although it may subsequently be modified prior to kick-off in the event of sudden and significant weather condition changes.
- 19.2** If the match starts with the roof closed, it shall remain closed for the entire match. If the match starts with the roof open and there is a serious deterioration in the weather conditions, the referee, in consultation with the FIFA Match Director, has the authority to order its closure during the match. In such an event, the roof is to remain closed until the end of the match.

## **Article 20: Stadium clocks and giant screen**

- 20.1** Clocks in the stadium showing the length of time played may run during the match, provided that they are stopped at the end of normal playing time in each half, i.e. after 45 and 90 minutes respectively. This stipulation shall also apply if extra time is played (i.e. after 15 minutes of each half).
- 20.2** Panels or electronic display boards, numbered on both sides for clarity, shall be used by the fourth official to indicate the substitution of players and the number of minutes to be allowed for time lost.
- 20.3** FIFA shall determine the conditions governing all scoreboard and giant screen transmissions.

## **Article 21: Training sites**

- 21.1** In principle, the Organising Association shall provide training sites for the teams for their exclusive use. The training sites shall be approved by FIFA. Full details about the allocation of training sites shall be communicated at the Team Workshop.
- 21.2** The training sites shall be made available for the exclusive use of the participating clubs at least five days before the team's first match until one day after the team's last match.
- 21.3** Unless otherwise approved by FIFA, all training site pitches shall be at least the minimum international standard of 100m x 64m in size.
- 21.4** The training sites shall be situated within a reasonable driving distance by team bus from the team hotel, ideally within 20 minutes' drive.
- 21.5** The training sites shall have the same surface as the match pitches and be in perfect condition, freshly mowed and fully marked in accordance with the Laws of the Game.
- 21.6** The Organising Association shall provide support personnel and suitable training site equipment at all official training sites, including but not limited to cones and movable goals. Each training site shall be equipped with at least one dressing room with lockers, showers and toilets.
- 21.7** As from five days prior to the opening match of the World Cup 2021 and up to their elimination, the participating clubs shall use only those training sites which have been officially designated for training by FIFA.
- 21.8** The FIFA Event Policy on Tobacco shall be complied with at the World Cup 2021 training sites. If smoking areas are allowed by local legislation, FIFA reserves the right to determine if they shall be established.



# PLAYERS' AND OFFICIALS' LISTS

# VI.

## Article 22: Eligibility

**22.1** A player is eligible to play in the World Cup 2021 provided he is duly registered for his club in accordance with the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players as well as with the regulations of the participating club's member association. Therefore, the requirements that must be met for a player to be eligible to participate in the World Cup 2021 include, but are not limited to:

- (a) registration as an amateur or professional with the participating club's member association for the relevant participating club during a registration period fixed by the relevant association or outside the registration period, if the exception listed in the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players applies;
- (b) adherence to the limitation on registrations with different clubs and participation in official matches with different clubs during one season as established by the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players;
- (c) if the player is registered for his club as a professional, existence of a written employment contract binding the professional player to his club and meeting the requirements concerning minimum and maximum length.

**22.2** Infractions concerning the eligibility of players shall be decided by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee in accordance with the FIFA Disciplinary Code.

**22.3** The participating clubs are responsible for fielding only eligible players. Failure to do so will lead to the disciplinary measures stipulated in the FIFA Disciplinary Code.

## Article 23: Provisional list

**23.1** Each participating club shall submit a provisional list online of a minimum of 24 players and a maximum of 35 players (a minimum of four of whom shall be goalkeepers) to FIFA, accompanied by a copy of the passport of each player appearing on the list. The provisional list shall be submitted to FIFA by the deadline stipulated in the relevant circular letter.

**23.2** The provisional list shall contain information such as the player's full last name(s), all first names, popular name, name on the shirt, place and date of birth, passport number and expiry date, name and country of the club, height, weight, number of club appearances and number of goals scored, and it shall be sent to FIFA. Further details of the provisional list, and the deadline by which the list shall be submitted to FIFA, will be stipulated in the relevant circular letter.

**23.3** Each participating club shall include up to 75 team officials on the provisional list so that the relevant authorities can proceed with the background checks for visa and accreditation purposes. Each participating club shall adhere to the visa requirements and process.

**23.4** The provisional list will only be used for internal purposes and not released to the public.

**23.5** Any change requests to the provisional list for exceptional cases must be submitted in writing before the final list deadline and are subject to FIFA's approval.

## **Article 24: Final list**

**24.1** The final list of the 23 players (three of whom shall be goalkeepers) selected to participate in the World Cup 2021 shall be submitted online by the stipulated deadline. A signed copy of this list must also be sent to FIFA by the same deadline. All information requested online about the players should be duly completed.

**24.2** The players on the final list must be chosen from the players on the provisional list. Only the 23 players on the final list will be permitted to take part in the World Cup 2021. The final list shall contain the players' shirt names and numbers in accordance with article 28 paragraphs 1 and 2.

**24.3** A player listed on the final list may be replaced by a player from the provisional list only in the event of serious injury or illness up until 24 hours before the kick-off of his team's first match. The replacement shall be nominated by the participating club, who shall inform FIFA accordingly. Upon receipt and acceptance of a written detailed medical assessment in one of the four official languages of FIFA, the FIFA Medical Committee, represented by the FIFA General Medical Officer, will issue a certificate stating that the injury or illness is sufficiently serious to prevent the player from taking part in the World Cup 2021. Injured players who are replaced must return their accreditation to FIFA. Accordingly, players who have returned their accreditation shall no longer be considered members of the participating club's final list.

**24.4** The final list of 23 players will be published by FIFA after the submission deadline.

**24.5** Along with the above final list of players, a final list of up to 32 officials shall be submitted online by the stipulated deadline. Only the 32 officials confirmed on the final list will be eligible to sit on the team bench during matches (cf. article 31).

## **Article 25: Identity**

Before the start of the World Cup 2021, every player and official on the final list must prove their identity by producing their legally valid individual passport with photograph. Any player or official who fails to submit this document will not receive an official accreditation and therefore will not be allowed to take part in the World Cup 2021.

## **Article 26: Accreditation**

- 26.1** FIFA shall issue each player and team official included in the final list with an official accreditation bearing a photograph. Additional accreditations may be granted to clubs if it can be demonstrated that the role of a member of staff requires them to access team areas. FIFA shall take the final decision on the granting of additional accreditations.
- 26.2** FIFA may provide a certain number of Supplementary Accreditation Devices (SADs) to each team in order to control and restrict access to the competition area, including the dressing rooms and the field of play (including team technical overflow seats) on matchdays. Further details will be given to the teams at a later stage.
- 26.3** FIFA reserves the right to revoke the accreditation of any official or player due to the misconduct of the individual concerned in accordance with the accreditation terms and conditions.
- 26.4** The participating clubs shall ensure that all accreditation data required by FIFA is submitted by the deadline stipulated by FIFA. Further details will be outlined in a circular letter.

# KIT AND TEAM EQUIPMENT

# VII.

## **Article 27: Kit and colours approval**

- 27.1** The FIFA Equipment Regulations in force apply to all matches of the World Cup 2021, unless specified otherwise in these Regulations.
- 27.2** Each team shall inform FIFA of a minimum of two different and contrasting colours (one predominantly dark and one predominantly light, and preferably a third colour that contrasts with the first two colours) for its first-choice and alternative team kits (shirt, shorts and socks). In addition, each team shall select three contrasting colours for the goalkeepers. These three goalkeeper kits must be different and contrasting from each other as well as from the first-choice and alternative team kits. This information shall be submitted online via the team colour form by the stipulated deadline. Only these colours may be worn during matches.
- 27.3** The participating clubs will be asked to send samples of kits (playing kit and all other items used at the stadium) to FIFA, who will confirm the exact approval procedure. On the basis of this procedure, FIFA will issue a written team kit report, approving or rejecting the kit items.

## **Article 28: Numbers and names**

- 28.1** Throughout the World Cup 2021, each player shall wear the number assigned to him on the final list. Players shall wear set numbers between 1 and 99, provided that the player is registered with the same number in the current season of his club's league competition and upon confirmation by the relevant member association. If number 1 is used, it shall be reserved exclusively for one of the goalkeepers. Such number shall be displayed on the back of each of his playing shirts and on the front of the shorts in accordance with the FIFA Equipment Regulations. The same number may, at the participating club's discretion, be displayed on the front of the shirt, in which case the display must comply with the FIFA Equipment Regulations.
- 28.2** The player's last name or popular name (or abbreviation) shall be affixed above the number on the back of the shirt and shall be clearly legible in accordance with the FIFA Equipment Regulations. The name on the shirt must bear a strong resemblance to the player's popular name as indicated on FIFA's official list of players and in any other official FIFA documentation. In case of doubt, FIFA shall have the final decision regarding the name that appears on the shirt.
- 28.3** Each team shall supply a set of goalkeeper shirts without names or numbers. These shirts will only be used in those special circumstances in which an outfield player must take the position of goalkeeper during a match. This extra set of goalkeeper shirts must be provided in the same three colours as the regular goalkeeper shirts.

## Article 29: Match colours designation

**29.1** FIFA will inform the participating teams of the colours that they shall wear. As far as possible, each team shall wear its first-choice colours as declared on the team colour form. If the two teams' colours and the match officials' colour might cause confusion, the following principles shall be applied by FIFA to allocate the match colours:

- (a) Order of priority from 1 to 5:
  - 1. Team A playing kit
  - 2. Team B playing kit
  - 3. Team A goalkeeper kit
  - 4. Team B goalkeeper kit
  - 5. Match officials (referees) kit
- (b) If the above order of priority does not produce a clear colour contrast of the kits, the allocation shall continue in reverse order until an acceptable colour contrast is confirmed. The colours assignment decided by the FIFA administration is final.
- (c) If necessary, one or both teams may have to wear a combination of their first-choice and alternative player or goalkeeper kits.

FIFA will endeavour to ensure that each team wears its first-choice team playing kit at least once during the World Cup 2021.

In principle, FIFA shall also consider the option of dark-kit and light-kit colour-contrast assignments in the interests of accommodating individuals with a colour vision deficiency whenever reasonably practicable.

**29.2** FIFA shall confirm the playing colours to the participating clubs before the start of each match. The colours shall be reviewed during the Match Coordination Meeting by the referee assessor and the FIFA Match Director. The colours assignment decided by FIFA is final.

**29.3** The first-choice and alternative team playing kits and all goalkeeper kits (including the goalkeeper shirts without names and numbers) shall be taken to every match.

## Article 30: Other equipment

- 30.1 FIFA will supply a sufficient number of players' sleeve badges with the official competition logo of the World Cup 2021, which shall be affixed on the right-hand sleeve of each shirt. A different FIFA campaign logo may be affixed on the left-hand sleeve. FIFA will communicate to the participating clubs the instructions for use of the players' sleeve badges.
- 30.2 FIFA will provide each participating club with a set of special equipment upon arrival in the host country (drinks bottles, drinks coolers, medical bags, captain's armbands, etc.). This equipment must be used at the stadium to the exclusion of any similar items.
- 30.3 The footballs used in the World Cup 2021 shall be selected and exclusively supplied by FIFA. Time permitting, each team will receive training balls from FIFA prior to the World Cup 2021 after the successful submission of the required team entry. Training balls will also be provided to the participating clubs upon arrival in the host country. Only these balls provided by FIFA may be used for training and warm-up sessions at the official stadiums and training sites.
- 30.4 Only warm-up bibs provided by FIFA may be used during the match on the team benches and for the warm-up of substitute players.



# MATCH ORGANISATION

# VIII.

## **Article 31: Start list**

- 31.1** At the Match Coordination Meeting (before each match), the teams will receive a start list with all 23 players' full names and shirt numbers together with the full names of the officials eligible to be seated on the bench.
- 31.2** The start list should be duly completed by selecting the 11 players who will start the match, indicating the captain, selecting the officials to be seated on the bench (maximum of 11) and signed by the head coach or the competent participating club official. Both teams must submit their completed start list to the FIFA Match Director at least 80 minutes before kick-off. If the start list is not submitted on time for any reason, the matter will be reported to the FIFA Disciplinary Committee.
- 31.3** The numbers on the players' shirts must correspond to the numbers indicated on the start list. Each team is responsible for ensuring that the start list is completed properly and that only the 11 selected players start the match.
- 31.4** If any of the 11 players submitted on the start list are not able to begin the match due to injury or illness, they may be replaced by any of the eligible substitutes as long as the FIFA Match Director is officially informed thereof prior to kick-off. Within 24 hours, the team concerned must also provide FIFA with a medical report issued by the team doctor responsible (in one of the four official languages of FIFA).
- 31.5** Further to the above, any injured or ill player who is removed from the start list will no longer be eligible to take part in the match, and thus cannot be selected as a substitute player at any time during the match. Such a change to the start list will not reduce the number of official substitutions that may be made by a team during the match. Although no longer eligible to play as a substitute, the injured or ill player who was removed from the start list before kick-off may be seated on the team bench.

## **Article 32: Technical area**

- 32.1** The technical area is the area which the coach, other team officials and substitutes are allowed to occupy during the match. It includes the dugout (if applicable), the team bench and a marked zone adjacent to the pitch.
- 32.2** No more than 23 people (11 officials and 12 substitutes) shall be allowed to sit on the team bench. A suspended player or official will not be allowed to sit on the team bench. Only the officials indicated on the start list may sit on the team bench or be in the technical area during the match.
- 32.3** If there is sufficient space, team technical overflow seats in the stand shall be allocated for accredited officials providing technical support to the team during the match (kit manager, assistant physiotherapist, etc.). Staff occupying such seats shall have access to the competition area, including the dressing rooms.

- 32.4** During the match, substitutes are allowed to leave the technical area to warm up. At the match coordination meeting, the FIFA Match Director determines exactly where they may warm up (either behind the first assistant referee or behind the advertising boards behind the goal).
- 32.5** A maximum of six players shall warm up at the same time (with a maximum of two officials). Only the goalkeeper may warm up with a ball. If there is not sufficient space behind the goals, both teams shall warm up in the designated area behind the first assistant referee. In this case, only a maximum of three players and one official per team may warm up at the same time and without any balls.
- 32.6** Smoking, vaping and the use of any tobacco-related products are not allowed in the technical area, in the vicinity of the field of play or within the competition areas, such as the dressing rooms.
- 32.7** Small, hand-held electronic or communication devices are permitted in the technical area if used for coaching/tactics or player welfare, in accordance with the Laws of the Game.

### **Article 33: Match protocol**

- 33.1** The countdown to kick-off provided to both teams in advance of the match shall be strictly complied with by both teams.
- 33.2** Flags will be displayed in the stadium in accordance with FIFA's Flag Protocol.
- 33.3** The FIFA anthem, or other music selected by FIFA, shall be played while the teams are entering the pitch. No other anthems will be played.

### **Article 34: Official training in the stadiums and pre-match warm-up**

- 34.1** Weather and pitch conditions permitting, teams that are due to play a match in a stadium in which they have not previously played will be entitled to one 60-minute training session in that stadium on either the day before the match or two days before the match in the case of double-header matches.
- 34.2** The two teams who qualify for the final may be permitted to have another official 60-minute training session, even if they have already played a match in the stadium before. The final decision will be taken by FIFA, depending on the condition of the pitch.
- 34.3** In principle, a minimum of 30 minutes shall be set between the end of one team's training session and the start of the next team's training session. Any changes shall be approved by FIFA.

34.4 If the pitch is not in good condition or the training session would negatively affect the state of the pitch, FIFA may shorten or cancel the training session and offer the teams the opportunity to have a familiarisation session of the pitch wearing training shoes.

34.5 The teams will be entitled to warm up on the pitch before each match on matchday, weather and pitch conditions permitting. In principle, such warm-up will be 30 minutes long and will take place from 50 minutes prior to kick-off until 20 minutes prior to kick-off. If the pitch is not in good condition or if warm-up sessions would negatively affect the state of the pitch for the match, or if the pitch is to be used for ceremonies related to the World Cup 2021, FIFA may shorten or cancel the warm-up session.

**REFEREEING**

**IX.**

## Article 35: Laws of the Game

- 35.1** All matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game in force at the time of the World Cup 2021 and as laid down by The International Football Association Board ("The IFAB"). In the case of any discrepancy in the interpretation of the translations of the Laws of the Game, the English version shall be authoritative.
- 35.2** One additional substitute may be used at the World Cup 2021 when a match goes into extra time (regardless of whether or not the team has already used the full number of permitted substitutes before extra time).
- 35.3** Players are entitled to a 15-minute interval at half-time; a short drinks break (which should not exceed one minute) is permitted at the interval of half-time in extra time. When a match goes into extra time, a break not exceeding five minutes is permitted before the first period of extra time begins.
- 35.4** Extreme weather conditions may warrant cooling breaks to be implemented during the course of a match in accordance with the protocols established by the FIFA Medical Committee and/or documented in the FIFA Football Emergency Medicine Manual. Such breaks will be considered on a match-by-match basis. Responsibility for implementing and controlling cooling breaks resides with the referee.
- 35.5** Goal-line technology or any other technology may be used for the purpose of verifying whether a goal has been scored to support the referee's decision. The participating clubs shall consent, without reservation, to the use of the said technology in the World Cup 2021, and unconditionally and irrevocably waive any and all rights and interests they may have in connection with or as a result of the use of the said technology in matches of the World Cup 2021.
- 35.6** Video assistant referees (VARs) may be used for reviewing match-changing decisions/incidents as per the protocol established by The IFAB.

## Article 36: Referees

- 36.1** The referees, assistant referees, fourth officials, video assistant referees and assistant video assistant referees (hereinafter referred to collectively as "match officials") for the World Cup 2021 shall be appointed for each match by the FIFA Referees Committee. They shall be selected from the FIFA International Refereeing List in force and come from a member association that is not represented by a team playing in the match in question. The decisions of the FIFA Referees Committee are final and not subject to appeal.
- 36.2** If the referee or one of the assistant referees is prevented from carrying out his duties, such referee or assistant referee shall be replaced by the fourth official.

- 36.3 After each match, the referee shall complete the official match report online form whilst still at the stadium, immediately after the match. On the form, the referee shall note all occurrences of significance, such as misconduct of players leading to caution or expulsion, unsporting behaviour by supporters and/or by officials or any other person acting on behalf of a participating club at the match and any other incident happening before, during and after the match in as much detail as possible.

**FINANCIAL  
PROVISIONS**

**X.**



### Article 37: Costs borne by FIFA

FIFA shall bear the costs of return international air travel (business class) for each member of each participating club, up to a maximum of 35 people to and from the capital city of the country of the respective participating club (or, in exceptional cases, from another city as decided by FIFA) to the capital city of the host country or, if deemed necessary by FIFA, to the international airport nearest to the venue where the team is scheduled to play its first match or any other venue designated by FIFA. Further details on the booking process will be provided in the relevant circular.

### Article 38: Costs borne by the Organising Association

The Organising Association shall bear the costs of:

- 38.1** Domestic travel within the host country for 35 people per participating club;
- (a) One team bus, one passenger van, one equipment truck and one car will be provided for the exclusive use of each participating club during the period commencing five days prior to each team's first match and until one day after its last match.
  - (b) One additional luggage truck will be provided when travelling between the airport and the official team hotel for arrivals and departures, as well as for travel between venues.
- 38.2** Training facilities for the participating clubs.
- 38.3** Board and lodging for 35 Delegation Members from each participating club. This includes:
- (a) 11 double rooms and 13 single rooms;
  - (b) 1 meeting room;
  - (c) 1 exclusive area for dining;
  - (d) 1 equipment room;
  - (e) 1 treatment room;
  - (f) 3 meals per day, and an additional light meal for every matchday.
- These rooms and meals shall be available starting five days prior to each team's first match and ending one day after its last match. FIFA may make exceptions in the event of unforeseen circumstances resulting from transport difficulties.
- 38.4** Laundry service for a set of match or training kits for 35 people per participating club per day, starting five days prior to each team's first match and ending one day after its last match.

## **Article 39: Costs borne by the participating clubs**

- 39.1** Each participating club shall be responsible for and bear the costs of:
- (a) adequate insurance cover for its Delegation Members;
  - (b) board and lodging during the World Cup 2021 in excess of the amounts paid by FIFA or the Organising Association specified above;
  - (c) any costs associated with additional members in excess of the 35 Delegation Members covered;
  - (d) costs for any additional equipment and/or items not covered by FIFA in the team meeting rooms and/or the team dressing rooms;
  - (e) costs for any additional menu items other than those agreed between FIFA and the team hotels.
- 39.2** Any expenses other than those stipulated in these Regulations and explicitly outlined to be borne by FIFA or the Organising Association shall be borne by the relevant participating club.

## **Article 40: Ticketing**

- 40.1** Each participating club is entitled to receive a number of complimentary tickets for the World Cup 2021. The total number of complimentary tickets for each participating club will be communicated by FIFA during the Team Workshop.
- 40.2** FIFA will issue ticketing documents to each of the participating clubs. All participating clubs shall comply with these ticketing documents and ensure that their members, Delegation Members and other affiliates also comply with such documents.

**MEDICAL**

**XI.**

## **Article 41: Team medical doctor**

Each participating club shall include a medical doctor in its delegation. It is a mandatory requirement that the medical doctor or any other medical staff member of each participating club complete and successfully pass the “Concussion” and “Sudden Cardiac Arrest” modules of the FIFA Diploma in Football Medicine ([www.fifamedicalnetwork.com](http://www.fifamedicalnetwork.com)).

## **Article 42: Sudden cardiac arrest and concussion**

**42.1** In order to discover heart issues or risk factors which might lead to a sudden cardiac arrest during matches in the World Cup 2021, and to protect players’ health, each participating club shall ensure and confirm to FIFA that its players undergo a pre-competition medical assessment prior to the start of the World Cup 2021. FIFA will provide all participating clubs with an assessment form.

**42.2** A player who experiences suspected concussion during a match must undergo an examination by the team doctor in accordance with the protocols documented in the FIFA Football Emergency Medicine Manual. The referee may temporarily suspend play for up to three minutes whenever an incident of suspected concussion occurs. The referee may only allow the player to continue playing with the authorisation of the team doctor, who shall have evaluated the player and concluded that the player is not exhibiting signs or symptoms of concussion. The team doctor will have the final decision based on a clinical examination and subject to an express prohibition against returning a player to play if concussion is suspected.

FIFA recommends that teams follow the return-to-play protocol set forth in SCAT5 for any player who has suffered concussion. SCAT5 recognises that the time frame for return to play may vary, including based on the player’s age and history, and that doctors must use their clinical judgment in making decisions with respect to return to play. FIFA requires that before any player who suffers concussion can return to play in the World Cup 2021, the team doctor certify that (a) such player has passed each of the steps set out in SCAT5, and (b) such player is fit for competition.

# COMMERCIAL RIGHTS

# XII.

## Article 43: Commercial rights and media matters

**43.1** FIFA is the original owner of all of the rights emanating from the World Cup 2021 and any other related events under its respective jurisdiction, without any restrictions as to content, time, place and law. These rights include, among others, every kind of financial rights, audiovisual and radio recording rights, reproduction and broadcasting rights, multimedia rights, marketing and promotional rights and incorporeal rights, such as emblems and rights arising under copyright law, whether currently existing or created in the future, subject to any provision as set forth in specific regulations.

**43.2** Each participating club is required to support, and ensure that its players, coaches, officials and other employees support, the commercial programme established by FIFA to exploit the marketing rights to the World Cup 2021, including the special marketing programmes run by FIFA and its Commercial Affiliates (e.g. ball kids, player escorts, match-ball carriers, flag bearers, man of the match awards and stadium tours). In this regard, each participating club must ensure that its players, coaches, officials and other employees do not use or otherwise exploit, directly or indirectly, any commercial rights to the World Cup 2021 without FIFA's express prior agreement, which may be granted or withheld at its sole discretion.

**43.3** Media matters and obligations for the competition will be outlined in the FIFA Media and Marketing Regulations and those corresponding documents (circular letters, Team Handbook, Media Guidelines, etc.) that relate to TV and media activities. Participating clubs must comply with the stipulations contained within these documents with respect to media matters.

The following obligations apply to participating clubs:

- Each participating club must assist, and ensure that each Team Delegation Member assists, to the best possible extent, any official FIFA media activity during the competition period.
- Each participating club is required to include a team media officer in its delegation to act as a link between the team and the media officers of FIFA, the local organisers and the accredited media.
- Coaches and/or other team representatives are obliged to attend official media activities organised by FIFA as outlined in the FIFA Media and Marketing Regulations, including but not limited to:
  - compulsory media activities upon arrival in the UAE
  - compulsory media activities around official training sessions on MD-1
  - compulsory media activities on matchdays

The obligations listed above are not exhaustive.

**43.4** Journalists, photographers, television and radio commentators and accredited film and television crews are not permitted to enter the pitch at any time before, during or after the match unless authorised to do so by FIFA. This also applies to club TV channel personnel, videographers, social media managers and photographers. Only a limited number of photographers and the television personnel required to operate the broadcasting equipment, all of them issued with special accreditation, may be admitted to the area between the boundaries of the field of play and the spectators.

**43.5** In the interests of equality, especially gender equality, FIFA appeals to the media to report on fans both in and outside the stadium in a respectful and balanced way. This includes not commenting or focusing on content relating to their physical appearance, which sexualises and objectifies them. Moreover, in the interests of promoting children's rights and best interests at the World Cup 2021, FIFA appeals to the media to use images of children (i.e. all boys and girls under the age of 18) safely and to seek informed consent, where feasible. The safe use of images of children includes, but is not limited to, not providing any information that could facilitate easily locating a child, not portraying children in an unethical, demeaning, tasteless or provocative manner, ensuring that they are properly dressed in a minimum of shirt and shorts, and not allowing any photography or filming of children in bathrooms, toilets or sleeping areas.

It is the responsibility of media organisations to be fully informed of the relevant national legislation in place that applies to the media in order to prevent the unethical coverage of stories involving children, to safeguard their right to privacy and to comply with the data protection rules governing the use of children's data.

**43.6** FIFA shall issue, at a later date, Media and Marketing Regulations for the World Cup 2021, specifying these commercial and intellectual property rights. All participating clubs must comply with these Media and Marketing Regulations for the World Cup 2021 and must ensure that their members, officials, players, delegates and other affiliates also comply with these Regulations.

**AWARDS**

**XIII.**

**FIFA®**



## **Article 44: Trophy, awards and medals**

- 44.1** A souvenir plaque will be presented to each participating club. Participation certificates will be presented to each member of each official team delegation.
- 44.2** Medals will be presented to each of the top three teams in the World Cup 2021, i.e. gold medals to the winners, silver medals to the runners-up and bronze medals to the team ranked third.
- 44.3** At the conclusion of the World Cup 2021, other special awards will be presented (such as the Golden Ball, Fair Play Trophy, etc.) either at the awards ceremony or at a later date.

# CLOSING PROVISIONS

# XIV.

## Article 45: Special circumstances

FIFA is responsible for the operational management of the World Cup 2021 and is therefore entitled to issue any instructions necessitated by special circumstances that may arise in the host country. These instructions shall form an integral part of these Regulations.

## Article 46: Matters not provided for

Any matters not provided for in these Regulations and any cases of force majeure shall be decided by FIFA. All decisions shall be final and binding and not subject to appeal.

## Article 47: Languages

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

## Article 48: Copyright

The copyright of the match schedule drawn up in accordance with the provisions of these Regulations is the property of FIFA.

## Article 49: No waiver

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

## Article 50: Enforcement

50.1 These Regulations were approved by the FIFA Council on 27 November 2021 and came into force immediately.

50.2 The previous version of these Regulations shall apply mutatis mutandis to any matters that arose before these Regulations came into force.

**Zurich, November 2021**

**For FIFA**

**President  
Secretary General**

**Gianni Infantino  
Fatma Samoura**

## APPENDIX: FAIR PLAY CONTEST REGULATIONS

### General provisions

1.

As part of its campaign to promote fair play, FIFA regularly holds a fair play contest during its championships, based on an appraisal of the teams' conduct by a FIFA delegate such as a member of the Technical Study Group, a member of a standing committee or the FIFA Match Commissioner.

2.

The objective of fair play activities is to foster a sporting spirit among players, team officials and spectators, thereby heightening the fans' enjoyment of the game.

3.

At the final whistle of each game, the delegate shall complete the appropriate fair play form after consulting the referee and the referee assessor.

4.

Every match in the final competition shall be taken into account.

5.

The FIFA Organising Committee shall compile and publish the classification at the end of the final competition. Its decision is final.

6.

FIFA will award the team that wins the fair play contest a trophy, a medal for each player and official, and a diploma, all of which the team can keep permanently. The team shall also receive a voucher valued at USD 20,000, which shall be exchanged for a supply of football equipment to be used exclusively for youth development.

### Assessment criteria

1.

The assessment form contains six criteria by which the teams' fair play performance shall be judged, stressing the positive aspects rather than negative. As a general rule, maximum points shall only be awarded if the team concerned displays a positive attitude.



5.

Respect towards the referee/match officials

Minimum 1 point

Maximum 5 points

Players are expected to respect the match officials and the decisions they take.

A positive attitude towards the referee, including acceptance of decisions without protest, shall be rewarded. Behaviour that is basically faultless but does not outwardly show any particularly positive attitude or gesture towards the match officials shall be given a mark of 4 rather than 5.

6.

Behaviour of the team officials

Minimum 1 point

Maximum 5 points

Coaches and other team officials are expected to encourage the sporting, technical, tactical and ethical standards of their team and to direct the players to behave in accordance with the principles of fair play.

Both positive and negative factors in the behaviour of the team officials shall be included in the assessment, such as for instance whether they calm down angry players or how they accept the referee's decisions. Inciting or provoking players shall be rated negatively.

Cooperation with the media shall also be a factor in the assessment. Behaviour that is faultless but does not outwardly show any particularly positive attitude or gesture shall be given a mark of 4 rather than 5.

7.

Behaviour of the crowd

Minimum 1 point

Maximum 5 points

The crowd is considered to be an integral part of a football match. Fans can contribute to the positive atmosphere of a match by encouraging their team by cheering and singing, etc. in the spirit of fair play.

Spectators are, however, expected to respect the opponents and the referee. They should appreciate the opponents' performance regardless of the result and in no way intimidate or frighten opponents, the referee or the opponents' supporters.

The maximum number of points (5) may only be awarded if all these requirements have been satisfied, especially as regards creating a positive atmosphere.

This criterion is applicable only if a substantial number of fans of the team concerned are present. If the number of fans is negligible, "n.a." (not applicable) shall be entered under this item.

## Final assessment

1.

The final assessment of a team is obtained as follows:

- (a) the points awarded are added together, e.g. for team A:  
 $8 + 7 + 3 + 4 + 5 + 4 = 31$
- (b) this total is divided by the maximum number of points possible (40):  
 $31 \div 40 = 0.775$
- (c) this figure is multiplied by 1,000:  $0.775 \times 1,000 = 775$

If, however, the number of fans supporting a certain team is negligible and the "behaviour of the crowd" criterion consequently disregarded (cf. par. 7 above) the maximum number of points obtainable will be 35.

Thus the final assessment would be attained as follows:

- (a) the points awarded are added together, e.g. for team B:  
 $7 + 8 + 2 + 5 + 2 = 24$
- (b) this total is divided by the maximum number of points possible (35):  
 $24 \div 35 = 0.686$
- (c) this figure is multiplied by 1,000:  $0.686 \times 1,000 = 686$

The overall assessment of a team during the final competition shall be calculated by adding the points attained at each match and dividing this figure by the number of matches played.

2.

Teams that are eliminated after the group stage of the final competition shall be excluded from the fair play contest.

In addition to making the assessment, members of FIFA may give a short oral account of the teams' fair play performance to explain the positive and negative factors, which form the basis of their assessment. The account may also point out any outstanding gestures of fair play from a player, official, referee or any other person. However, no additional points shall be awarded for this reason.











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