

2021 Concacaf Gold Cup Regulations



ORGANIZERS

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GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. NAME OF COMPETITION

- 1.1. The Concacaf Gold Cup TM (hereinafter: “The Competition”), is an official Concacaf National team’ competition. The Competition shall be played in 2021 and shall take place in the dates and venues the Concacaf Council determines. The competition is played every two years (odd years). All Member Associations affiliated to Concacaf are invited to participate.
- 1.2. The Member Associations are required to participate with their “A” national team.
- 1.3. The Competition consists of three (3) stages:
 - 1.3.1. Preliminary Stage (hereinafter: Gold Cup Prelims);
 - 1.3.2. Group Stage;
 - 1.3.3. Knockout Stage;
 - 1.3.4. When referring to all three (3) stages – hereinafter: The Competition.
 - 1.3.5. Concacaf shall be the responsible for organizing, hosting and staging The Competition.
- 1.4. Qualifying to The Competition
 - 1.4.1. The qualifying competition to advance to the 2021 Concacaf Gold Cup shall be played among the National Teams of the Member Associations of Concacaf.
 - 1.4.2. Upon entering the Competition, all Member Associations automatically undertake to accept that all administrative and refereeing matters related to such Competition shall be dealt with the approved regulations.
 - 1.4.3. Upon entering the Competition, all Member Associations automatically undertake to accept that all disciplinary and appeals matters (e.g. sanctions, procedures, etc.) will be dealt with in accordance with the submitted and approved regulations.
 - 1.4.4. The qualified PMAs to The Competition will be determined as follows:
 - 1.4.4.1. The third-place finishers from each of the four (4) League A groups of the Concacaf Nations League Group Stage 2019 will qualify to the 2021 Gold Cup Prelims.
 - 1.4.4.2. The second-place finishers from each of the four (4) League B groups of the Concacaf Nations League Group Stage 2019 will qualify to the

2021 Gold Cup Prelims.

- 1.4.4.3. The first-place finishers from each of the four (4) League C groups of the Concacaf National Nations League Group Stage 2019 will qualify to the 2021 Gold Cup Prelims.
- 1.4.4.4. The top two (2) teams from each of the four (4) League A groups of the Concacaf Nations League Group Stage 2019 will qualify directly to 2021 Concacaf Gold Cup Group Stage.
- 1.4.4.5. The winner of the four (4) League B groups of the Concacaf Nations League Group Stage 2019 will qualify directly to the 2021 Concacaf Gold Cup Group Stage.
- 1.4.4.6. One (1) guest participant determined by Concacaf will qualify directly to the 2021 Concacaf Gold Cup Group Stage.

2. THE LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

- 2.1. The Local Organizing Committee (hereinafter: LOC) shall work with Concacaf to organize, promote, host and stage the matches in The Competition as well as the security for the duration thereof. Including and not limited to providing a final accounting for the tournament, including payment of the percentages due to Concacaf within thirty (30) days of the final match of the tournament.
- 2.2. The LOC shall be subject to the supervision and control by Concacaf, which has the final word on all matters relevant to The Competition. The decisions of Concacaf are final and binding and not subject to appeal.
- 2.3. Working relations between the LOC and Concacaf are regulated by the Host Responsibilities Agreement (HRA), the Team Participation Agreement (TPA) and the Gold Cup Regulations (“The Regulations”). The Regulations and all directives, decisions, guidelines and circulars issued by Concacaf shall be binding for all parties participating and involved in the preparation, organization and hosting of The Competition.
- 2.4. Any rights that are not ceded by these regulations to any participating Member Association or any other party previously in writing or by circular shall exclusively belong to Concacaf.
- 2.5. The responsibilities of the LOC shall include but not be limited to:
 - 2.5.1. Guaranteeing, planning and implementing law and order as well as safety and security in the stadiums and other relevant locations in conjunction with the local authorities. The FIFA and/or Concacaf Stadium Safety and Security Regulations shall apply as the minimum standards and guidelines to be used during The Competition;

- 2.5.2. Ensuring the presence of a sufficient number of ground staff and security stewards to guarantee safety of teams, Match Officials and spectators;
- 2.5.3. Securing insurance policies in consultation with Concacaf to cover all risks relating to the organization of all matches, in particular, adequate and broad liability insurance in respect to the stadiums, members of the LOC, employees, volunteers and any other persons involved in the organization of The Competition.
- 2.5.4. Securing liability insurance against possible spectator accidents or deaths.
- 2.6. The LOC shall discharge Concacaf from all responsibility and relinquish any claim against Concacaf and the members of its delegation for any damages resulting from any act or omission relating to the organization and course of The Competition.
- 2.7. Stadium and Training Facilities – Ensuring that both, the stadium and training fields are in a condition suitable for Gold Cup, based on discussions during site inspection, including but not limited to all of the equipment for the field, i.e. nets, goals, and corner flags, covered benches (if required) for the teams and fourth official which should be of a professional standard.
- 2.8. Laundry – Make facilities available or recommend facilities for the teams to do their laundry. Advise teams of cost prior to the tournament.
- 2.9. Media – Appoint an individual who shall be responsible for media relations and advise Concacaf’s Communications Department thirty (30) days in advance of the event, the name of the person together with his/her contact numbers (phone/cellular, phone/fax, e-mail address); before, during and after the event, the person appointed will:
 - 2.9.1. Ensure that the media facilities are in the best possible condition;
 - 2.9.2. Assist the media in their general inquiries;
 - 2.9.3. Ensure that the team sheets with correct player name/number/position, etc. are available to the media in timely manner, prior to kick-off;
 - 2.9.4. Distribute to the media copies of the Media Guide or any other materials that will be supplied by Concacaf;
 - 2.9.5. Arrange for the installation of one dedicated phone line for Concacaf use only;
 - 2.9.6. Arrange for the installation of the phone lines for the radio broadcasters and the designation of radio booths for each right holder;
 - 2.9.7. Assure that the stadium has wireless internet for the media throughout the stadium;

- 2.9.8. Arrange and provide the meals for the media and photographers as approved by Concacaf.
- 2.10. Visas for visiting teams – will request handling from the government agency responsible for visas to expedite request for teams and delegates as much as possible.
- 2.11. The LOC shall ensure that any decision taken by Concacaf or judicial bodies relating to its duties and responsibilities are enforced immediately.

3. Concacaf

- 3.1. The responsibilities of Concacaf include but are not limited to:
 - 3.1.1. Supervising general preparations and deciding on the structure and format of The Competition;
 - 3.1.2. Setting the dates and approving the venues of the matches during The Competition.
 - 3.1.3. Determining the match schedule and kick-off times for The Competition;
 - 3.1.4. Choosing the official football for The Competition.
 - 3.1.4.1. Only footballs abiding by the FIFA Quality Mark standard (FIFA Quality PRO, FIFA Quality, International Match Standard) will be approved;
 - 3.1.5. Approving the choice of the WADA-accredited laboratory that will carry out the doping analyses as proposed by the FIFA Anti-Doping Unit;
 - 3.1.6. Deciding which matches will be subject to doping test;
 - 3.1.7. Appointing Venue Coordinators, Match Coordinators, Match Commissioners, Referees, Referee Assessors, Disciplinary Committee Members and any other delegates (hereinafter: Match Officials) for The Competition;
 - 3.1.8. Daily per-diem and international traveling expenses for the Concacaf Match Officials;
 - 3.1.9. Assessing protests and taking appropriate steps to verify their admissibility, with the exception of protests concerning the eligibility of players, which are dealt with by the Concacaf Disciplinary Committee;
 - 3.1.10. Collecting of team information (i.e., team lists, rooming lists, menus, travel itineraries, visa information, uniform colors, etc.)

- 3.1.11. Deciding cases of Participating Member Associations failing to adhere to the time limits and/or the formal requirements for submitting the necessary documents;
 - 3.1.12. Dealing with cases of abandoned matches (as per the Laws of the Game) in accordance with these Regulations;
 - 3.1.13. Deciding on the rescheduling of matches due to extraordinary circumstances or force majeure;
 - 3.1.14. Disciplinary measures and communication of actions taken;
 - 3.1.15. Daily assignment of officials for the matches;
 - 3.1.16. Providing practice balls to the teams upon arrival and match balls to the venue;
 - 3.1.17. Work with the LOC to produce a stage to be used for the competition award ceremony;
 - 3.1.18. Provide the trophy, medals, and awards;
 - 3.1.19. Replacing Member Associations that have withdrawn from The Competition;
 - 3.1.20. Settling cases of force majeure;
 - 3.1.21. Dealing with any other aspect of The Competition that is not the responsibility of any other body under the terms of these Regulations.
- 3.2. Team Hospitality
- 3.2.1. Local Transportation
 - 3.2.1.1. First class bus with air conditioning for the official delegation and luggage for team official movements (airport, hotel, training sites, stadium and any other relevant tournament official activities).
 - 3.2.1.2. Equipment truck service to and from airport to hotel, hotel to and from stadium on matchday.
 - 3.2.1.3. Air domestic travel for official delegation within venues.
 - 3.2.2. Accommodations (room and board, etc.) – First class accommodations, pursuant to Concacaf’s approval;
 - 3.2.2.1. Rooms - for the official delegation. Also, provide tournament room rates in case extra members of the Member Association accompany their team.

3.2.2.2. One (1) equipment, one (1) medical room, one (1) meeting room, and one (1) meal room per delegation.

3.2.2.3. Meals – for the official delegation. Also, provide rates per meal or daily cost in case of extra members of the Member Association accompany their team or teams exceed tournament budgets;

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

4. PARTICIPATING MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

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

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

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

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

4.1.4. Covering the extended stay of any member from their delegation. Each PMA shall also be responsible to cover the costs of any additional member of their delegation above the number approved by Concacaf.

4.1.5. Applying in a timely manner for any required visas and covering any costs associated with these visas; for this process, the assistance of the LOC is to be sought out as early as possible;

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

4.1.7. Ensuring that every member of its delegation or, where applicable, a duly appointed representative, completes the Concacaf Team Participation Agreement and signs the required documents;

4.1.8. Ensuring that every member of its delegation complies with all applicable regulations (including The Regulations), directives, guidelines and circulars,

decisions made by Concacaf and its Council, Referees Committee, Disciplinary Committee, Ethics Committee and Appeal Committee;

- 4.1.9. Providing Concacaf with all the information and/or documentation requested within the stipulated deadlines. Member Associations that fail to provide Concacaf with all requested information and/or documentation within the stipulated deadlines shall be imposed a fine of two thousand dollars (USD 2,000) as 1st offense, except in unforeseen circumstances and cases of force majeure as determined by the Concacaf General Secretariat. The fine shall increase to three thousand dollars (USD 3,000) as 2nd offense, and five thousand dollars (USD 5,000) as 3rd offense. Member Associations shall be imposed a fine of ten thousand dollars (USD 10,000) for late submission of rosters.
- 4.1.10. Allowing Concacaf to use its Association Marks for the promotion of The Competition as stipulated in the Commercial Regulations governing each phase of The Competition, for the sole purpose of promoting The Competition.
- 4.2. Member Associations and their players and officials participating in The Competition shall agree to fully respect and comply with:
 - 4.2.1. The Laws of the Game and the principles of Fair Play;
 - 4.2.2. The Concacaf Statutes and all Concacaf regulations, rules, codes, protocols, circulars, directives, guidelines and decisions (including The Regulations);
 - 4.2.3. All decisions and directives of the Concacaf Council;
 - 4.2.4. The FIFA Disciplinary Code and, upon its entry into force, the Concacaf Disciplinary Code;
 - 4.2.5. The Concacaf Code of Ethics and the Concacaf Code of Conduct;
 - 4.2.6. The FIFA Doping Control Regulations;
 - 4.2.7. All Concacaf protocols during matches and fully cooperate in their enforcement (e.g. Concacaf protocol for racist incidents during matches);
 - 4.2.8. All Concacaf anti-match manipulation and anti-racism stipulations;
 - 4.2.9. All Concacaf commercial and media requirements, as stipulated in the Media and Commercial Regulations, including but not limited to, the Team Media Day in which individual and group photos and video will be taken of each team upon their arrival at the venue of their first match.
 - 4.2.10. FIFA Regulations in relation to the eligibility of players.

- 4.2.11. Concacaf COVID-19 Return to Play Guidelines
- 4.3. Member Associations shall take all necessary actions for their players and officials to be bound by and comply with all the aforementioned statutes, regulations, rules, codes, protocols, circulars, directives, decisions, stipulations and requirements.
- 4.4. All PMA's shall indemnify, defend and hold Concacaf, 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, any non-compliance with these Regulations by the PMA's, their Team Delegation Members, their affiliates and any third parties contracted to the PMA.
- 4.5. All PMA's which have entered the Competition shall not refer (directly or indirectly) to its selection as an inferior selection publicly or in the print and/or electronic media. A team, which fails to heed this requirement, shall (at a minimum) automatically forfeit part or all of its prize money as determine by the Concacaf Council.

5. ENTRIES FOR THE COMPETITION

- 5.1. The "A" national team of all Member Associations affiliated to Concacaf and any other guest Associations invited by Concacaf have the right to participate.
- 5.2. Notwithstanding the aforementioned, participating in this competition is both an honor and responsibility. Therefore, Concacaf Member Associations have the obligation to participate in the Competition once qualified or shall be automatically suspended from Concacaf. Upon suspension a fine of ten thousand dollars (USD 10,000) shall be paid to obtain readmission, unless the Concacaf Council accepts that failure to enter was due to force majeure.
- 5.3. Each PMA is required to have in their Official Delegation the following roles: Head Coach, Team Manager/Delegate, Team Doctor, Equipment Manager and Team Media Officer. All five (5) of them are mandatory.
- 5.4. On entering The Competition; the PMA and their Team Delegation Members automatically undertake to:
- 5.4.1. Participate and refer to their team as the best available team in all matches of The Competition in which their team is scheduled to take part;
- 5.4.2. Accept Concacaf's right to use and/or Concacaf's right to sub-license the right to use on a non-exclusive basis, in perpetuity and free of any charge, any of their records, names, photographs and images (including any still and moving representation thereof), which may appear or be generated in connection with the participation of the Team Delegation Members of all PMA in The Competition in accordance with the relevant terms of the Concacaf Media and

Commercial Regulations for The Competition (as applicable). To the extent that Concacaf's right to use and/or Concacaf's right to sub-license the right to use any of the records, names, photographs and images may fall in the ownership and/or control of a third party, the PMA's and their Team Delegation Members shall ensure that such third party waives, pledges and unconditionally assigns and/or transfers to Concacaf's with immediate effect, with full title guarantee in perpetuity and without any restriction, any such rights to ensure Concacaf's unfettered use as set out above;

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

6. LAWS OF THE GAME

- 6.1. All matches shall be played in accordance with the IFAB Laws of the Game in force at the time of The Competition and as laid down by the International Football Association Board. In the case of any discrepancy in the interpretation of the IFAB Laws of the Game, the English version shall be authoritative.
- 6.2. Each match shall last 90 minutes, comprising two periods of 45 minutes, with a half-time interval of 15 minutes.
- 6.3. If, in accordance with the provisions of these Regulations, extra time is to be played as the result of a draw at the end of normal playing time, it shall always consist of two periods of 15 minutes each, with an interval of 5 minutes at the end of normal playing time, but with no interval between the two periods of extra time. Further to the above, if extra time is to be played, each team will have the option to make one additional substitution.
- 6.4. If the score is still level after extra time, penalty kicks shall be taken to determine the winner in accordance with the procedure described in the IFAB Laws of the Game published by FIFA.
- 6.5. Each team will be permitted to use a maximum of five (5) substitutes. To reduce disruption to the match, each team will have a maximum of three (3) opportunities to make substitutions during the game; substitutions may also be made at half-time. If both teams make a substitution at the same time, this will count as one (1) of the three (3) opportunities for each team. Unused substitutions and opportunities are carried forward into extra time. In the knockout stage, if the match goes to extra time, teams will each have one (1) additional substitution opportunity; substitutions may also be made before the start of extra time and at half-time in extra time.

- 6.6. Goal-line technology may be used for the purpose of verifying whether a goal has been scored to support the referee's decision. The participating teams shall consent, without reservation, to the use of goal-line technology in the Gold Cup, 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 goal-line technology in matches of the Gold Cup.
- 6.7. Video assistant referee (VARs) may be used for reviewing match-changing decisions/incidents as per the protocol established by the IFAB.

COMPETITION

7. WITHDRAWAL, UNPLAYED MATCH AND ABANDONED MATCHES

- 7.1. After the participation agreement is signed, all PMA's have the obligation to play all of their matches until eliminated from The Competition.
- 7.2. Any PMA that withdraws up to 30 days prior to the start of the Gold Cup is liable to a fine of at least thirty thousand dollars (USD 30,000). Any PMA that withdraws within 30 days before the start of the Gold Cup, or during the Gold Cup itself, shall be fined at least sixty thousand dollars (USD 60,000).
- 7.3. Depending on the circumstances of the withdrawal, the Concacaf Disciplinary Committee may impose sanctions in addition to those provided for in par. 7.2 above, including the expulsion of the Member Association concerned from subsequent Concacaf competitions.
- 7.4. Any match which is not played, or which is abandoned (except in cases of force majeure recognized by Concacaf) may lead to the imposition of sanctions against the relevant Member Associations by the Concacaf Disciplinary Committee in accordance with the FIFA Disciplinary Code and upon its entry into force, the Concacaf Disciplinary Code. In such cases, the Concacaf Disciplinary Committee may also order that the match be replayed.
- 7.5. Any PMA that withdraws or whose behavior is liable for a match not being played or being abandoned may be ordered to reimburse Concacaf, the opposing team, or any other PMA involved, any expenses incurred as a result of its behavior. In such cases, the Member Association concerned may also be ordered by Concacaf to pay compensation for any damages incurred by Concacaf or any other Member Association. The PMA in question will also forfeit any claim to financial remuneration from Concacaf.
- 7.6. If a PMA withdraws or a match cannot be played or is abandoned as a result of force majeure, Concacaf shall decide on the matter at its sole discretion and take whatever action is deemed necessary. If a match is not played or is abandoned as a result of force majeure, Concacaf may in particular, order the match to be rescheduled. If the circumstances of withdrawal are sufficiently serious, the Concacaf Disciplinary Committee may also take additional actions if necessary.

- 7.7. If a team does not report for a match, except in cases of force majeure, or refuses to continue to play, or leaves the pitch before the end of the match, the mentioned team shall be considered to have lost the match 3-0 and three points shall be awarded to its opponent. If in the case of an abandoned match, the winning team had already reached a higher score at the time the team in question left the field, then the higher score shall remain. The Concacaf Disciplinary Committee will decide if a team that has withdrawn will be excluded from further participation in The Competition and the results of those matches shall be considered to have lost them by a result of 3-0 and three points shall be awarded to those opponents. The results of any matches played before by the team in question, those results will remain as the final result of the match.
- 7.8. In addition to the above, the team in questions shall pay compensation for any damages or losses suffered by Concacaf, the LOC and/or the other PMAs, and shall forfeit any claim to financial remuneration from Concacaf.
- 7.9. No appeals can be lodged against these decisions.
- 7.10. 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 will apply:
 - 7.10.1. The match shall recommence at the minute at which play was interrupted rather than being replayed in full and with the same score line;
 - 7.10.2. The match shall recommence with the same players on the pitch and substitutes available as when the match was abandoned;
 - 7.10.3. No additional substitutes may be added to the list of players on the team sheet;
 - 7.10.4. The teams can make only the number of substitutions to which they were still entitled when the match was abandoned;
 - 7.10.5. Players sent off during the abandoned match cannot be replaced;
 - 7.10.6. Any sanctions imposed before the match was abandoned remain valid for the remainder of the match;
 - 7.10.7. The match shall restart at the place where play was stopped when the match was abandoned (i.e. with a free kick, throw-in, goal kick, corner kick, penalty kick, etc.). If the match was abandoned while the ball was still in play, it shall restart with a dropped ball from the position of the ball when play was stopped.
 - 7.10.8. The kick-off time, date (which shall be foreseen for the following day) and location shall be decided by Concacaf.
 - 7.10.9. Any matters requiring a further decision shall be handled by Concacaf.

8. REPLACEMENTS

- 8.1. If any PMA withdraws or is excluded from The Competition, the Concacaf Council shall decide whether to replace or not the Member Association in question with another Member Association.

9. ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

- 9.1. Each PMA must ensure the following, when selecting its representative team, for The Competition:
 - 9.1.1. All players shall hold the nationality of its country and be subject to its jurisdiction;
 - 9.1.2. All players shall be eligible for selection in accordance with the FIFA Statutes, the Regulations Governing the Application of the FIFA Statutes and other relevant FIFA rules and regulations.
- 9.2. Protests regarding the eligibility of players shall be decided by the Concacaf Disciplinary Committee in accordance with the FIFA Disciplinary Code and upon its entry into force, the Concacaf Disciplinary Code.
- 9.3. The Member Associations shall be responsible for fielding only eligible players. Failure to do so shall lead to the consequences stipulated in the FIFA Disciplinary Code and upon its entry into force the Concacaf Disciplinary Code.
- 9.4. If Concacaf believes a player's eligibility is in question, Concacaf reserves the right to consider the said player ineligible to participate in any stage of The Competition until the player's eligibility status is confirmed by Concacaf in accordance with the applicable regulations.

10. PLAYERS' LIST

- 10.1. Each PMA must select its national representative teams from the best players who are nationals of its country and under its jurisdiction and are eligible for selection in accordance with the provisions of the applicable FIFA Regulations.
- 10.2. Each Member Association participating in the competition must provide Concacaf with a provisional list of up to 60 players (4 must be goalkeepers) no later than 30 days prior to the start of the competition group stage. Players may not be added to the provisional list after the specified deadline. This list shall reflect each player's last name, first name, date of birth and passport number as specifically noted in their International Passport. In addition to any other information requested by Concacaf. This information must be submitted through the COMET platform as it will be time stamped.
- 10.3. Each PMA in the competition must submit to Concacaf its final list of up to 23 players (3 must be goalkeepers), no later than 10 days prior to the start of the competition

group stage, which Concacaf will provide specifics by a way of a circular. The players on the final list must be chosen from the players on the provisional list. This information must be submitted through the COMET platform as it will be time stamped.

- 10.4. A player listed on the final list may only be replaced during The Competition in the event of serious injury up until 24 hours before the kick-off of his team's first match in the Group Stage and must come from the provisional list. Including such PMA's qualified from the Gold Cup Prelims, into the Group Stage. Such replacements must be approved in writing by Concacaf or the Medical Committee upon receipt and acceptance of a written detailed medical assessment with doctor's stamp or valid letterhead in one of the four official Concacaf languages. Concacaf or the Medical Committee shall approve the request if the injury is sufficiently serious to prevent the player from taking part in The Competition. Upon approval, the association shall immediately nominate a replacement and inform the Concacaf general secretariat accordingly. The replacement player must be assigned the shirt number of the injured player being replaced.
- 10.5. The only document considered to be valid proof of a player's identity and nationality shall be a valid passport that explicitly states the player's day, month and year of birth. Identity cards or other supporting official documents shall not be accepted as a valid means of identification. The PMA's shall present each player's valid national passport for the country of the PMA to the Venue Coordinator at the team arrival meeting. A player without a valid passport shall not be entitled to play.
 - 10.5.1. Concacaf reserves the right to request additional information from the player to confirm eligibility, such as birth certificate from the player, his parents or grandparents.

11. START LIST AND SUBSTITUTE ON THE BENCH

- 11.1. Up to 23 players may be entered on the start list (11 starters and 12 substitutes). Up to a maximum of five (5) of the substitutes may take the place of the selected players at any time during the match. The start list shall be signed by the head coach upon arrival to the stadium on matchday.
- 11.2. The numbers on the players' shirts must correspond with the numbers indicated on the start list (numbers 1-23 only). All goalkeepers and the captain must be identified as such, number 1 shirt must be reserved for one of the goalkeepers.
- 11.3. Both teams must arrive to the stadium at latest 90 minutes prior to kick-off and return their start list to the Venue Coordinator at the latest 90 minutes prior to kick-off. Both teams will receive a copy of the start list 75 minutes prior to kick off.
- 11.4. After the start lists have been completed, signed by the head coach and returned to the Venue Coordinator and if the match has not yet kicked off, the following instructions apply:
 - 11.4.1. If any of the starting 11 players listed on the start list are not able to start the

match for any reason, they may be replaced by any of the 12 substitutes. The replaced player(s) may no longer take part in the match, and the quota of substitute players shall be reduced accordingly. During the match, five (5) players may still be substituted.

- 11.4.2. If any of the 12 substitutes listed on the start list are not able to be fielded for any reason, the player(s) concerned may not be replaced on the bench by an additional player, which means that the quota of substitutes shall be reduced accordingly. During the match, five (5) players may still be substituted.
- 11.5. Although no longer eligible to play as a substitute, the injured or ill player who was removed from the start list may be seated on the substitutes' bench, and if so, would then also be eligible for doping control selection.
- 11.6. No more than 23 people (11 officials and 12 substitutes) shall be allowed to sit on the substitutes' bench. The names of these officials must be indicated on the "Officials on the Substitutes' Bench" form to be provided to the Concacaf Venue Coordinator. A suspended player or official will not be allowed in the competitions area (i.e. locker room and/or tunnel), field of play or sit on the substitutes' bench.
- 11.7. Team Officials and substitutes shall remain within the technical area during the match except in special circumstances, e.g. a physiotherapist/doctor entering the field of play, with referee's permission, to assess an injured player. Team officials and substitutes who fail to abide by the aforementioned provision can be sanctioned and reported to the Disciplinary Committee.
- 11.8. The LOC shall issue each of the official Team Delegation Members with an accreditation during The Competition.
- 11.9. Injured players who are replaced up until 24 hours before the kick-off of their team's first group stage match must return their accreditation to Concacaf. Accordingly, players who have returned their accreditation shall no longer be considered members of the Official Team Delegation list.
- 11.10. The PMA's shall ensure that all accreditation data required by Concacaf is submitted by the deadline stipulated by Concacaf. Further details including accreditations and other particular items will be outlined in the relevant Concacaf circular letter.

12. FORMAT AND STRUCTURE OF THE COMPETITION

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

2021 Concacaf Gold Cup Prelims

- 12.1. The Gold Cup Prelims will be played in a format which features two (2) rounds of competition.

- 12.2. Round One: The twelve Participating Member Associations will be divided into six matchups as follows:
- Matchup #1: Team A vs Team B
 - Matchup #2: Team A vs Team B
 - Matchup #3: Team A vs Team B
 - Matchup #4: Team A vs Team B
 - Matchup #5: Team A vs Team B
 - Matchup #6: Team A vs Team B
- 12.3. The teams in each matchup will be determined via a draw. After single elimination play, the six winners of each matchup will advance to Round Two.
- 12.4. Round Two of the Gold Cup Prelims will be played in a single elimination format composed of three matchups:
- Matchup #7: Winner Matchup #1 vs Winner Matchup #6
 - Matchup #8: Winner Matchup #2 vs Winner Matchup #5
 - Matchup #9: Winner Matchup #3 vs Winner Matchup #4
- 12.5. The three winners of Round Two of the Gold Cup Prelims will advance to the 2021 Concacaf Gold Cup Group Stage.
- 12.6. If the score is tied at the end of regulation time, the matches will go straight to kicks from the penalty mark to determine the winner in accordance to the Laws of the Game.

Group Stage

- 12.7. The Concacaf Gold Cup group stage will be played in a format which features four (4) groups among no more than sixteen (16) teams. The PMAs that participate in the Concacaf Gold Cup would include all eligible Concacaf MAs and invited guest Member Association, Qatar. The decisions of the Concacaf Council are final and not subject to appeal.

Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D
A1	B1	C1	D1
A2	B2	C2	D2
A3	B3	C3	D3
A4	B4	C4	D4

- 12.8. The matches in the groups shall be played in a Round Robin Format, each team playing

one match against each of the other teams in the same group, with three (3) points for a win, one (1) point for a draw, and zero (0) points for a defeat.

12.9. At the conclusion of each group in the Concacaf Gold Cup, PMAs shall be ranked according to the following criteria:

12.9.1. Greatest number of points obtained in all matches;

12.9.2. Goal difference in all group matches;

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

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

12.9.4. greater number of points obtained in matches between the tied teams;

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

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

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

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

12.9.8. Drawing of lots by Concacaf.

12.10. After Round Robin play, the top two (2) teams from each group shall advance to the Knockout Stage consisting of Quarterfinals, Semifinals and the Final match. The eight (8) teams that qualify from the Group Stage will contest in the Quarterfinals as follow:

Quarterfinals

1st place in Group D v 2nd place in Group A (1D v 2A) = Winner QF # 1

1st place in Group A v 2nd place in Group D (1A v 2D) = Winner QF # 2

1st place in Group C v 2nd place in Group B (1C v 2B) = Winner QF # 3

1st place in Group B v 2nd place in Group C (1B v 2C) = Winner QF # 4

The four (4) teams that qualify from the Quarterfinals will contest the Semifinals as follows:

Semifinals

Winner QF #1 v Winner QF #4 = SF # 1

Winner QF #2 v Winner QF #3 = SF # 2

The winner of SF1 will play against the winner of SF2 in the Final match, as follows:

Final

Winner of SF #1 v Winner of SF #2

- 12.11. In the Knockout Stage, if both teams are tied at the end of regular time during the Knockout Stage, extra time will be played. Further to the above, if extra time is to be played, each team will have the option to make one (1) additional substitution. Therefore, each team will be allowed a total of six (6) substitutions. If the score is tied at the end of extra time the matches will go straight to kicks from the penalty mark per the Laws of the Game.
- 12.12. The dates of the matches shall be fixed by Concacaf.
- 12.13. The decisions of Concacaf on the structure and format of The Competition are final. In the event of any withdrawals, Concacaf may change the structure and format in accordance with the provisions.

13. FRIENDLY INTERNATIONAL MATCHES

- 13.1. Matches within a period of 3 months prior to The Competition are subject to authorization by Concacaf. A request for permission must be submitted to Concacaf in advance by a Member Association(s) concerned with an indication of the venue and date of the planned match, the name of the opposing team and the financial arrangements. In those cases, where such special permission is granted, financial conditions and provisions (as per FIFA and Concacaf) with respect to international matches will apply.
- 13.2. Unless Concacaf gives special permission, the teams participating in The Competition shall not have the right to play friendly and/or official matches in the venues and/or markets of The Competition in a period commencing 60 days before the start and ending one month after the conclusion of The Competition. Such venue and/or market is defined as 100-miles radius from any official stadium. In those cases, where such special permission is granted, financial conditions and provisions (as per FIFA and Concacaf) with respect to international matches will apply.
- 13.3. Once the groups for The Competition have been announced, teams in the same group may not play a friendly match in any of the venues of The Competition. Such venue and/or market is defined as 100-miles radius from any official stadium. In those cases, where such special permission is granted, financial conditions and provisions (as per FIFA and Concacaf) with respect to international matches will apply.
- 13.4. In all cases, the Member Association concerned shall be responsible for all consequences which may result from failure to observe the regulations mention above.

14. VENUES, KICK-OFF TIMES AND TRAINING SESSIONS

- 14.1. The venues of the matches shall be submitted to Concacaf by the LOC concerned and the matches may only be played in stadiums that have been inspected and approved by Concacaf.
- 14.2. The venue of the match shall have sufficient high-standard hotels to accommodate all Participating Member Associations and Concacaf Delegation.
- 14.3. On the day before the first match of the preliminary stage and weather permitting, both teams are entitled to have one (1) training session of 45 minutes where the match is due to take place. In the event of severe adverse weather conditions, the Concacaf Venue and Match Coordinator may cancel the training session. In this case, the teams shall be allowed to inspect the pitch wearing training shoes.
- 14.4. On the day before the first match of the group stage and weather permitting, both teams are entitled to have one (1) training session of 45 minutes where the match is due to take place. In the event of severe adverse weather conditions, the Concacaf Venue and Match Coordinator may cancel the training session. In this case, the teams shall be allowed to inspect the pitch wearing training shoes.
 - 14.4.1. Drones may only be used during practice for technical purposes. Concacaf reserves the right to approve or disapprove the use of drones.
 - 14.4.2. Concacaf will determine the time and date of the official training at the stadium for each team according to the Match Schedule.
- 14.5. If there is any doubt regarding the condition of the pitch once the teams have already left to play the match, the referee shall decide whether the pitch is playable or not. If the referee declares the pitch unplayable, the procedure to be followed is described in the Laws of the Game.
- 14.6. The matches may be played in daylight or under floodlight. Matches played at night may be played only at venues where the floodlighting installations meet the minimum lighting requirements laid down by Concacaf Stadium Guidelines, i.e. that the whole pitch shall be evenly lit, with a minimum requirement lighting level of at least 1,000 vertical EV lux. Additionally, the uniformity gradient of light on the field of play should be of 1.4:1. An emergency power generator must also be available which, in the event of a power failure, guarantees at least two-thirds of the aforementioned intensity of light for the whole pitch. Concacaf is entitled to grant exceptions.
- 14.7. On matchdays, the teams must be entitled to warm-up on the pitch before the match, weather and pitch condition permitting. In principle, the first game will be entitled to warm-up on the field of play before the match for 30 minutes. The duration of the warm-up on the field of play before the match for the teams of the second match, will depend on the time the first match of the day ends. Alternative warm-up areas for the second game teams will be provided to start their warm-up before entering the field of

play. If the pitch is not in good condition or the warm-up would negatively affect the state of the pitch for the match, Concacaf may limit the area on the field of play for the warm-up or shorten or cancel the warm-up session.

- 14.8. For the final match of the Competition, the two Participating Member Associations must hold their official MD-1 training session in the official match stadium if weather and field conditions permitting. These training sessions must be open to the media for at least the first 15 minutes and must last 60 minutes.
- 14.9. For the competition, each team will be provided with a training site for their use in each venue according to the match schedule. The training sites shall be made available in each venue for the use of the teams upon their arrival according to the match schedule.

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

- 15.1. Concacaf retains the right to set the match dates and confirm the venues of all matches in The Competition.
- 15.2. The PMA shall arrange for their representative teams to arrive at the venue no later than three (3) days before the PMA's first match of The Competition and depart the day after the last game of their respective group. If a team advances to the Knockout State, they must book their return flight to depart the day after the match in which they are eliminated from the competition. Concacaf and the LOC shall be informed of the travel itinerary of the PMAs no later than 10 days prior to the start of the competition.
- 15.3. During The Competition, only official team hotels under contract with Concacaf or Concacaf's designated service company shall be used for the official teams' accommodation. Concacaf will provide further details about accommodation policies, and in particular about the use of venue-specific team hotels, in a circular letter.

16. STADIUM INFRASTRUCTURE AND EQUIPMENT

- 16.1. Concacaf and the LOC must ensure that the stadiums and facilities in which the matches take place fulfill the requirements described in the Concacaf Stadium Guidelines and comply with the safety and security standards and other Concacaf and FIFA regulations, guidelines and instructions for international matches. The fields of play, accessory equipment and facilities must be in optimum condition and comply with the Laws of the Game and all other relevant regulations (including the international dimensions of the field per IFAB Laws of the Game). Each stadium must be equipped with a minimum of 2 white goal posts and white goal nets with dark-colored support posts and a minimum of 2 spare goals, 2 spare nets and 4 spare corner flags located in close proximity to the field of play for contingency purposes.
- 16.2. The field of play shall have the international dimensions. In addition, the total surface area shall have sufficient space to ensure safety, as well for warm-up and pitch-side photographer positions.

- 16.3. Periodic safety checks for the benefit of spectators, players and officials must be carried out on the stadiums selected for matches in The Competition by the authorities responsible. If requested, the associations shall provide Concacaf with a copy of the relevant safety certificate, which shall not be more than one year old.
- 16.4. Only stadiums that have been inspected and approved by Concacaf may be selected for The Competition. Should a stadium no longer comply with the Concacaf Stadium Guidelines, Concacaf may reject the selection of the stadium concerned. Brand-new stadiums are to be inspected prior to use; the application for the final inspection and subsequent use of the facilities must be filed with the confederation at least six (6) months prior to the match concerned. Refurbished or renovated stadiums are to be inspected prior to use; the application for the final inspection and the subsequent use of the facilities shall be filed with Concacaf at least four (4) months prior to the match concerned.
- 16.5. As a general rule, matches may only be played in all-seater stadiums. If only stadiums with both seating and standing areas are available, the standing space shall remain vacant. Regarding the spectator areas, the FIFA Stadium Safety and Security Regulations apply.
- 16.6. The field of play, accessory equipment and all facilities for each match of The Competition shall be in optimum condition and comply with the Laws of the Game and all other relevant regulations.
- 16.7. If a stadium has a retractable roof, in consultation with the Match Coordinator, referee and the two teams' officials, must decide before the match whether the roof must be open or closed during the match. This decision must be announced at the match coordination meeting, although it may subsequently be modified prior to kick-off in the event of sudden and significant weather condition changes. If the match starts with the roof closed, it must 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 Match Coordinator and the referee have the authority to order its closure during the match, provided that the safety and security of all spectators, players and other stakeholders remain fully guaranteed by the host association. In such an event, the roof shall remain closed until the end of the match.
- 16.8. Matches may be played on natural or artificial surfaces. Where artificial surfaces are used, the surface must meet the requirements of the FIFA Quality Program for Football Turf or the International Artificial Turf Standard, unless special dispensation is given by Concacaf.
- 16.9. Each stadium shall have enough space for warm-up during the match, ideally behind the goals. A maximum of six (6) players shall warm up at the same time (with a maximum of two (2) officials without any balls). If there is not enough space behind the goals, each team shall warm up in the designated area beside their substitute bench. In this case, the maximum number of players will be determined by the Venue Coordinator and the Referees and communicated in the Match Coordination Meeting

(One (1) official per team will be allowed in the warm-up area without any warmup equipment and balls).

- 16.10. Clocks in the stadium showing the length of time played may run during the match, provided that they are stopped at the end of 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). The half-time interval shall be 15 minutes.
- 16.11. At the end of the two periods of normal playing time (45 and 90 minutes), the referee must indicate to the fourth official, either orally or by gesturing with his hands, the number of minutes that he has decided to allow for time lost. This also applies to the two periods of 15 minutes of extra time.
- 16.12. Panels or electronic display boards, numbered on both sides for clarity, must be used to indicate the substitution of players and the number of minutes to be allowed for time lost.
- 16.13. The use of giant screens must be in compliance with the relevant Concacaf instructions.
- 16.14. Smoking is not permitted in the technical area or in the vicinity of the field of play or within competition areas such as the dressing rooms.
- 16.15. The stadiums must be made available to Concacaf for its exclusive use and must be free of any and all commercial activities and identifications not previously approved by Concacaf, e.g. boards and signage other than those of Concacaf's Commercial Affiliates, from at least five (5) days prior to the match and up to two (2) days after the match.

17. TEAM EQUIPMENT

- 17.1. The PMAs shall comply with the FIFA Equipment Regulations in force. The display of political, religious or personal messages or slogans in any language or form by players and officials on their playing or team kits, equipment (including kit bags, beverage containers, medical bags, etc.) or body is prohibited. The similar display of commercial messages and slogans in any language or form by players and officials is not allowed for the duration of their time at any official activity organized by Concacaf (including in the stadiums for official matches and official training sessions, as well as during official press conferences and mixed-zone activities).
- 17.2. Each team shall provide Concacaf of a minimum of two different and contrasting colors (one predominately dark and one predominately light kit) for its official and reserve team kit (shirt, shorts, socks, all three goalkeeper's kits, gloves, caps, wristbands and headbands etc.). In addition, each team shall provide three contrasting colors for the goalkeepers. These three goalkeeper kits must be distinctly different and contrasting from each other as well as different and contrasting from the official and reserve team kits. The physical kits must be sent to Concacaf 60 days prior to their first match of The Competition for Concacaf approval. Only these colors may be worn at the matches. Any

requests to change these kits must be submitted to Concacaf for approval ten (10) days prior to the match in question.

- 17.3. 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 colors as the regular goalkeeper shirts.
- 17.4. Concacaf strives to assign each team their full official or reserve kits. However, in some cases this may not be possible. In these situations, one team will be assigned a predominantly dark kit and the other team will be assigned a predominantly light kit. Only uniforms approved and designated by Concacaf may be used for all matches. Concacaf reserves the right to make changes to these designations based on the contrast of the uniforms, any changes will be notified by Concacaf.
- 17.5. Each player shall wear a number between 1 and 23 (number 1 being reserved exclusively for one of the goalkeepers) in the front and back of his team shirt and on his playing shorts. The color of the numbers must contrast clearly with the main color of the shirts and shorts (light on dark or vice versa) and be legible from a distance for spectators in the stadium and television viewers in accordance with the FIFA equipment regulations.
- 17.6. The player's last name or common name (or abbreviation) must be affixed above the number of the back of the shirt and shall be clearly legible in accordance with the FIFA Equipment Regulations. If the common name will be used, such name to be approved by Concacaf.
- 17.7. Concacaf may supply each team with 50 sleeve patches (tournament patches) per game in The Competition with the official competition logo, which shall be affixed on the right-hand sleeve of each shirt as stipulated by Concacaf before The Competition. Concacaf shall also issue the participating Member Associations with guidelines for the use of official terminology and graphics which also contain instructions for the use of the players' sleeve badges per the commercial regulations.
- 17.8. Each player shall wear the number allotted to them on the final list in accordance with the Equipment Regulations.
- 17.9. The official and reserve team kits and all goalkeeper kits (including the goalkeeper shirts without names and numbers) shall be taken to every match.
- 17.10. Only warm-up bibs provided by Concacaf may be used during official training sessions held at the stadium/venue and for the pre-match warm-up and the warm-up of substitute players during the match.

18. FOOTBALLS

- 18.1. Concacaf must supply the footballs to be used in all matches during The Competition.

Moreover, Concacaf must provide the teams with a total of 23 match balls that will only be used for training purposes.

- 18.2. Concacaf must supply for each match a minimum of 12 match balls in good conditions that meet FIFA Quality Mark standard (FIFA Quality PRO, FIFA Quality, International Match Standard).
- 18.3. The footballs shall be selected and supplied by Concacaf.

19. FLAGS AND ANTHEMS

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

20. TICKETING

- 20.1. The LOC is responsible for all match ticketing during The Competition and shall manage the ticketing operations in a manner that meets all applicable security and safety standards. It shall set aside a minimum of 50 Category A complimentary tickets – any additional tickets to be fixed by mutual agreement and in writing – of complimentary and purchasable tickets for the visiting associations. At least five representatives from the participating teams shall be seated in the VIP tribune for their match. The Participating Member Association shall purchase additional tickets and inform Concacaf and the LOC in writing no later than 60 days prior their first match of the total number of additional tickets requested for their matches, pending availability. If there is a failure to submit the request before the deadline, the LOC will not be held responsible to grant additional request.
 - 20.1.1. The purchasable tickets must be collected and paid for at least thirty (30) days prior to the start of the competition.
- 20.2. The LOC shall agree to provide to Concacaf, upon request and free of charge, the amount of complementary tickets and suites (where applicable) as stipulated in the Commercial Regulations or Host Responsibility Agreement.
- 20.3. All ticket designs must be pre-approved by Concacaf. The LOC must work with Concacaf to make sure their ticketing systems comply with this requirement and must inform Concacaf if there are any potential issues as soon as these are identified.
- 20.4. Concacaf reserves the right to require terms and conditions to be included in the match tickets in addition to the terms and conditions by the LOC, during The Competition.

21. TROPHY, AWARDS AND MEDALS

- 21.1. The winner of the 2021 Concacaf Gold Cup will be presented with the Championship Trophy (hereinafter: The Trophy) The winning team will be provided with the Trophy during a ceremony immediately following the final whistle.
- 21.2. Forty (40) medals will be presented to the top two teams in the Concacaf Gold Cup, i.e. gold medals to the winners and silver medals to the runners-up.
- 21.3. Medals will be presented to each of the officials who officiate at the final.
- 21.4. A fair play contest will be held during the Concacaf Gold Cup, for which Concacaf will draw up special regulations. Concacaf shall determine the ranking at the end of the Championship.
- 21.5. At the conclusion of The Competition, the following special awards will be presented:

Fair Play trophy:

The team with the best Fair Play performance (Fair Play Award). The Fair Play Award shall be awarded to the team, which has shown the best sporting spirit and fair play during the tournament as determined by Concacaf.

Golden Boot:

The Golden Boot will be awarded to the player who scored the most goals throughout the Championship. If two or more players score the same number of goals, the number of assists (as determined by Concacaf) shall be decisive. If two or more players are still equal after taking into account the number of assists, the total minutes played during the competitions will be taken into account, with the player playing fewer minutes ranked first.

Golden Ball:

The Golden Ball will be awarded to the best player throughout the Championship, determined by Concacaf.

Golden Glove:

The Golden Glove will be awarded to the best goalkeeper throughout the Championship on the basis of a ranking compiled by Concacaf.

Young Player Award:

The young player award will be presented to the player with the biggest impact at the 2021 Concacaf Gold Cup, as determined by Concacaf.

- 21.6. There are no official awards other than those listed above, unless otherwise decided by the Concacaf.

22. REFEREEING

- 22.1. The referees, assistant referees and fourth officials (hereinafter referred to collectively as Match Officials) for The Competition must be appointed for each match by the Concacaf Referee Committee and shall be neutral. The decisions of the Concacaf Referee Committee are final and not subject to appeal.
- 22.2. The Match Officials shall receive their official refereeing kit and equipment from Concacaf. They shall wear and use only this kit and equipment on match days.
- 22.3. Match Officials shall be given the opportunity to use training facilities.
- 22.4. If the referee is prevented from carrying out his/her duties, such referee shall be replaced by the fourth official. If one of the assistant referees is prevented from carrying out his/her duties, such assistant referee shall be replaced by the fourth official or by the reserve assistant referee (when appointed).
- 22.5. After each match, the referee shall complete and sign the official match report form. He/she shall hand it over to the Venue Coordinator at the stadium/venue immediately after the match. On the report form, the referee shall note all occurrences, such as misconduct of players leading to caution or expulsion, unsporting behavior by supporters and/or by officials or any other person acting on behalf of an Association at the match and any other incident happening before, during and after the match in as much detail as possible.

DISCIPLINARY MATTERS

23. DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

- 23.1. The Concacaf Disciplinary Committee is responsible for enforcing the Regulations. The Concacaf Disciplinary Committee may apply the FIFA Disciplinary Code until the entree into force of the Concacaf Disciplinary Code (when it will apply subsidiarity). In particular, the Concacaf Disciplinary Committee may apply the sanctions described in the Regulations, the Concacaf and FIFA Statutes and all other Concacaf rules, circulars, guidelines and regulations as well as the FIFA Disciplinary Code (and, upon its enforcement, in the Concacaf Disciplinary Code).
- 23.2. The players agree in particular to:
 - 23.2.1. Respect the spirit of Fair Play, non-violence and the authority of the Match Officials;
 - 23.2.2. Behave accordingly;
 - 23.2.3. Refrain from doping as defined by the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations as well as to accept all other relevant FIFA regulations, circulars and directive.
- 23.3. The PMA and their Team Delegation Members shall comply with Concacaf and FIFA Statutes, the FIFA Disciplinary Code (until the entree into force of the Concacaf

Disciplinary Code) and the Concacaf Code of Ethics, in particular in matters regarding the fight against discrimination, racism and match-fixing activities.

- 23.4. In cases of infringement of these and all applicable regulations or unsporting behavior on the part of the participating national teams, their players and/or officials, or in any kind of incident, the Concacaf Disciplinary Committee shall be empowered to:
 - 23.4.1. Admonish, sanction, fine, suspend and/or disqualify the national teams, their players and/or officials.
 - 23.4.2. Take action against any person(s) or PMA's which may violate these Regulations, the Laws of the Game or the rules of Fair Play.
 - 23.4.3. Prohibit violators from participating in a specific number of the Concacaf-organized tournaments in which they might otherwise have participated.
- 23.5. The Concacaf Disciplinary Committee may refer to the Concacaf Council any matter relating to an infringement of these Regulations as it sees fit whether for further sanction or any other reason.
- 23.6. The Concacaf Disciplinary Committee decisions may be based upon written record or by conducting a hearing.
 - 23.6.1. When making a decision, the Concacaf Disciplinary Committee may refer to the reports made by the Referee, Assistant Referees, Fourth Official, Match Commissioners, Referee Assessor, Venue Coordinator, Technical Delegate, Security Officer, Diversity Officer and/or any other Concacaf staff or officials present. Additional reports include declarations from the parties and witnesses, material evidence, expert opinions, audio or video recordings. Such reports may be used as evidence but only in so far as the disciplinary aspects of the case being dealt with are concerned and shall not affect a referee's decision regarding facts connected with play.
 - 23.6.2. At its discretion, the Concacaf Disciplinary Committee may convene a personal hearing and will decide any procedures to be followed. Decisions of such hearings shall only be valid if at least three members of the Concacaf Disciplinary Committee are present.

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

- 23.6.2.1. Cautions and censures imposed on Member Associations, players, officials and other persons.
- 23.6.2.2. Suspensions of up to two matches, or of up to two months, imposed on Member Associations, players, officials or any other persons.
- 23.6.2.3. Fines imposed on Member Associations not exceeding thirty

thousand dollars (USD 30,000) or on players, officials or any other persons not exceeding ten thousand dollars (USD 10,000).

- 23.7. All imposed economic penalties must be paid by the appropriate Member Association no later than sixty (60) days after notification thereof.
- 23.8. Cautions and suspensions:
- 23.8.1. Cautions received during any other competition are not carried over to The Competition.
 - 23.8.2. Pending match suspensions (in relation to the direct red card or an indirect red card) will be carried over to The Competition.
 - 23.8.3. Single yellow cards will get eliminated at the end of the preliminary stage and at the end of the Quarterfinals and shall not be carried over to the Semifinals of the competition.
 - 23.8.4. Two (2) cautions received in different games during The Competition shall result in automatic suspension for the next game in The Competition.
 - 23.8.5. Red card (direct or indirect) suspensions shall be served regardless of the stage of The Competition.
 - 23.8.6. Unserved suspensions outstanding at the end of a team's participation in The Competition will be carried over to the next official match of the player's National Team per the FIFA Disciplinary Code and, upon its entry into force, the Concacaf Disciplinary Code.
- 23.9. The appropriate Association under the provisions of its own Regulations shall punish any other offenses that may be committed during the course of the Competition by team officers, technicians or other personnel. For this purpose, the Disciplinary Committee shall refer the referee's report of the match in question to the appropriate Association. The Association will, in turn, report back to the Disciplinary Committee on the resolution of the matter and any disciplinary action taken.
- 23.10. If a game is suspended due to withdrawal, the team(s) refusing to complete the match shall be ineligible to participate in the next two editions of The Competition.
- 23.11. Any other infringement of these Regulations, whether by players, referees, officials, coaches or officers that are punishable by economic sanctions shall be reported to the Concacaf General Secretariat for consideration by the Concacaf Council.

24. APPEALS COMMITTEE

- 24.1. The Concacaf Appeals Committee shall hear appeals eligible to be lodged against decisions taken by the Disciplinary Committee.

- 24.2. The Concacaf Appeals Committee will apply the FIFA Disciplinary Code until the entire into force of the Concacaf Disciplinary Code (when it will apply subsidiarity). In particular, the Concacaf Appeals Committee will conduct any appeals procedures in accordance with the FIFA Disciplinary Code.
- 24.3. The Concacaf Appeals Committee shall reach its decisions on the basis of the documents and other means of evidence contained in the Disciplinary Committee's file. The Concacaf Appeals Committee may additionally, at its sole discretion, also consider additional evidence, including television and video recordings, which it considers relevant.
- 24.4. Decisions pronounced by the Appeals Committee are final and binding.

25. PROTESTS

- 25.1. For the purpose of these Regulations, protests are objections of any kind related to events or matters that have a direct effect on matches organized in The Competition, including but not limited to the state of and markings on the pitch, accessory match equipment, eligibility of players, stadium installations and footballs.
- 25.2. Unless otherwise stipulated in this article, protests shall be submitted in writing to the Match Coordinator or Concacaf representative in the venue no later than two hours after the match in question and followed up within the next 24 hours with a full written report, including a copy of the original protest, to be sent in writing by scan and e-mail to the Concacaf General Secretariat, otherwise they shall be disregarded. Such protests must be accompanied by a check in the amount of five hundred dollars (USD 500) payable to Concacaf.
- 25.3. Protests regarding the eligibility of players nominated for matches in The Competition shall be submitted in writing to the Concacaf General Secretariat by scan and e-mail no later than two hours after the match in question. Such protests must be accompanied by a check in the amount of five hundred dollars (USD 500) payable to Concacaf, this check can be given to the Venue Coordinator or Concacaf representative in venue.
- 25.4. 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 Match Coordinator or Concacaf representative in the venue by the head of the team delegation no later than two hours after the match in question. Such protest must be accompanied by a check in the amount of five hundred dollars (USD 500) payable to Concacaf.
- 25.5. 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 Match Coordinator or Concacaf representative in the venue by the head of the team delegation no later than two hours after the match in question. Such protests must be accompanied by a check in the amount of five hundred dollars (USD 500) payable to Concacaf.

- 25.6. No protests may be made about the referee's decisions regarding facts connected with play. Such decisions are final and not subject to appeal.
- 25.7. Member Associations may not bring disputes with Concacaf before a Court of Justice. They shall undertake to submit any disputes without reservation to the jurisdiction of the competent authority of Concacaf and FIFA.
- 25.8. If an unfounded or irresponsible protest is lodged, Concacaf may impose a fine.
- 25.9. The expenses, which arise from a protest, shall be charged by Concacaf, either wholly or in part, to the losing party.
- 25.10. If any of the formal conditions of a protest as set out in these Regulations are not met, such protest shall be disregarded by the competent body. Once the final match of The Competition has ended, any protests described in this article or complaints about the sports procedure followed during The Competition shall be disregarded.
- 25.11. Concacaf shall pass decisions on any protests lodged, subject to the exceptions stipulated in these Regulations, the Concacaf or FIFA Statutes or any other Concacaf or FIFA regulations.
- 25.12. Once the winning team of The Competition have been proclaimed, any protest or complaint about the sports procedure followed during The Competition shall be disregarded.

26. FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

- 26.1. For the matches in The Competition, the LOC is responsible for the operation and cost of:
 - 26.1.1. Operational cost of the Stadium for the matches and official use during The Competition;
 - 26.1.2. Training facilities approved by Concacaf for the PMAs to use during The Competition;
 - 26.1.3. Volunteers and staff to assist with the operations of The Competition.
- 26.2. Concacaf shall bear the costs of:

- 26.2.1. International travel and the daily allowances for the respective Concacaf delegation members, as fixed by Concacaf;
- 26.2.2. Board and lodging in a high-standard hotel in the host country for the Match Officials, the Match Commissioner, the Referee Assessor, any other Concacaf officials (i.e. security officer, media officer etc.) and Participating Member Associations in each of the stages of The Competition;
- 26.2.3. Transportation for:
 - Referees
 - Referee Assessor
 - Match Commissioner
 - Venue Coordinator (when applicable)
 - Match Coordinator (when applicable)
 - Security Officer (when applicable)
 - Bus for the Participating Member Associations (PMA) for their official movements
 - Equipment truck (if requested in writing 24 hours in advance to Concacaf) for the PMA for their arrival/departure; and on matchday
- 26.2.4. Participation money for the PMA, the amount of which shall be determined by Concacaf (if applicable).
- 26.2.5. Prize money for the participating Member Associations, the amounts of which shall be determined by Concacaf (if applicable);
- 26.2.6. Doping expenses;
- 26.2.7. The costs of insurance taken out by Concacaf to cover its own risks.
- 26.3. The PMAs shall be responsible for and bear the costs of the following:
 - 26.3.1. Adequate insurance to cover their Team Delegation Members and any other persons carrying out duties on their behalf against all risks, including but not limited to injury, accident, disease and travel in consideration of the applicable FIFA and Concacaf rules or regulations.
 - 26.3.2. International travel, visas and the daily allowances for the respective delegation members;
 - 26.3.3. Any additional cost for lodging and meals for the additional staff traveling outside the official delegation from the PMA.
- 26.4. Any disputes arising from financial provisions shall be resolved amongst the Associations concerned but may be submitted to Concacaf for a final decision to be

taken.

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

27. MEDICAL/DOPING

- 27.1. In order to protect players' health as well as to prevent players from experiencing sudden cardiac death during matches at The Competition, each PMA shall ensure and confirm to Concacaf that its players and officials undergo a pre-competition medical assessment (PCMA) prior to the start of The Competition. The PCMA will include a full medical assessment as well as an EKG to identify any cardiac abnormality. If the EKG is abnormal, and echocardiogram must be obtained and be normal before a player can be released to play. The medical assessment must be carried out between 270 days and 10 days prior to the start of each match during The Competition. Concacaf will provide a PCMA form to all PMA's.
- 27.2. The duly licensed medical representative of each PMA (i.e. national team doctor) will be required to sign the PCMA declaration form certifying the accuracy of the results and confirming that the players and officials have passed the pre-competition medical assessment. The medical assessment form shall also include the signatures of the President and General Secretary of the PMA and shall be received by the Concacaf General Secretariat at the latest ten (10) days prior to the start of The Competition.
- 27.3. Further to the above, each PMA is required to have a duly licensed medical professional (i.e., a doctor) as part of their official delegation. Such doctor must be fully integrated and familiar with all medical aspects of the delegation and must remain with the delegation throughout the entire official period of The Competition. The Match Officials (the Referees) will refer to such team doctor in all cases as required and necessary.
- 27.4. Concacaf shall not be held liable for any injury sustained by any participating player or official. Equally, Concacaf shall not be held liable for any incident (including death) linked to any injury or health problem(s) of any participating player or official.
- 27.5. As stated in these Regulations, each PMA shall be responsible throughout The Competition for providing health, travel and accident insurance cover for all the members of its delegation throughout The Competition. In addition, and in accordance with the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players the PMA with which any participating player is registered shall be responsible for player's insurance coverage against illness and accident during the entire period of the player's release.
- 27.6. Failure to comply with the aforementioned provision shall be sanctioned by the Concacaf Disciplinary Committee.
- 27.7. Regarding non-traumatic loss of consciousness during a game, the referee will assume sudden cardiac failure until proven otherwise. The hand signal is the right-hand fist against the chest. Such signal will indicate to the team doctor and the medical

emergency team (stretcher team) to immediately institute comprehensive resuscitation that includes the use of a defibrillator (AED) and CPR. It is the responsibility of the LOC to ensure that there is a properly functioning AED immediately at hand and that there is an ambulance with an access and egress plan.

- 27.8. During the match if there is a traumatic head injury and concussion to a player, and the player remains on the field of play, the referee shall stop play for as much as three minutes as injury time. The hand signal is the right fist on the top of the head. Such signal will indicate to the team doctor to enter the field to assess and manage the player. At this time, a Sideline Concussion Assessment Test (SCAT) will be administered. At the end of the three minutes, at the discretion of the team doctor, the player may be ready to return to play or immobilized appropriately and transported off the field using the standard protocol.
- 27.9. Further to the above, in regard to traumatic head injury and concussion, full return to play after a previous concussion must include no signs or symptoms of the previous head injury as well as an acceptable Sideline Concussion Assessment Test (SCAT) assessment.
- 27.10. Doping is the use of certain substances or methods capable of artificially enhancing the physical and/or mental performance of a player, with a view to improving athletic and/or mental performance. If there is medical need as defined by the player's doctor, then a Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) application must be filed 21 days prior to competition for chronic conditions and as soon as possible for acute situations. The TUE approval system includes a designated administrative and functional committee that will review applications and certify the exemption as the committee defines.
- 27.11. Doping is strictly prohibited. The FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations, the FIFA Disciplinary Code and all other relevant FIFA as well as Concacaf Regulations, circulars and directives shall apply to all Concacaf competitions.
- 27.12. Every player may be subject to in-competition testing at the matches in which he competes and to out-of-competition testing at any time and place. Furthermore, reference is made to the FIFA Anti-Doping Control Regulations and the list of prohibited substances and methods per the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).
- 27.13. If, in accordance with the FIFA Anti-Doping Control Regulations, a player tests positive for the use of banned substances, the player shall be immediately declared ineligible from further participation in The Competition and shall be subject to further sanctions from the Concacaf Disciplinary Committee.

28. COMMERCIAL RIGHTS

- 28.1. Concacaf is the original and sole owner of all of the rights emanating from The Competition as a collective whole and any other related events coming under its jurisdiction, without any restrictions as to content, time, place and law. These rights include, among others, all kinds of financial rights, audiovisual and radio recording,

reproduction and broadcasting rights, multimedia rights, marketing and promotional rights and incorporeal rights (such as those pertaining to emblems) as well as rights arising under copyright law whether currently existing or created in the future subject to any provision as set forth in specific regulations.

- 28.2. The Competition Marks and the Composite Logo may only be used by Participating Member Associations for the purpose of referring descriptively to their participation in the Competition. All commercial or promotional use of the Competition Marks and the Composite Logo by Participating Member Associations and/or their PMA Affiliates and/or any third party contracted to the Participating Member Associations is strictly prohibited.
- 28.3. To assist with the implementation of these Commercial Regulations, each Participating Member Association (i) must ensure that all Team Delegation Members participate in a Competition photo and video shoot (all such photographs and images to be used and/or sub-licensed by the Confederation in accordance with the remainder of this paragraph), and (ii) shall secure written confirmation from each Team Delegation Member of the Confederation's right to use and/or the Confederation's right to sub-license the right to use, in perpetuity and free of any charge, any of their records, names, photographs and images (including any still and moving representation thereof), which may appear or be generated in connection with the participation of the Team Delegation Members in both stages of the Competition (including, but not limited to photographs of Team Delegation Members taken for accreditation purposes).
- 28.4. Participating Member Associations are expressly prohibited from bringing beverage products or containers that compete with the Commercial Affiliate, as confirmed by Concacaf, into the Controlled Areas. Concacaf will provide to the winning Participating Team products from Commercial Affiliate for the post-match locker room celebration. The winning Participating Team is expressly prohibited from bringing non-commercial affiliate product and/or branded items (i.e., different from Commercial Affiliate) during the competition period in controlled areas as referenced herein.
- 28.5. At all times, Concacaf reserves all its rights to exploit, sell, create, license, sublicense, and dispose of merchandising rights for the Competition, and to authorize and license others to do so. Participating Teams are not authorized to create or sell their own co-branded merchandise without the prior written approval of Concacaf; Concacaf, however, may appoint a third-party licensee to work directly with each participating Team and local licensees, if any, to establish any product offering and associated royalties from local merchandising of co-branded products, when previously authorized and confirmed in writing by Concacaf.
- 28.6. Concacaf will issue separate Media and Commercial Regulations for The Competitions specifying these commercial and intellectual property rights. All Concacaf members must comply with the Commercial Regulations for The Competition and must ensure that their members, official, players, delegates and other affiliates also comply with these regulations.

29. MEDIA

- 29.1. Concacaf will issue separate Media Regulations for The Competition specifying each Associations mandatory promotional and media activities that will take place prior and during The Competition. These will include, among others, interview requests, pre and post-match press conferences and open training sessions.
- 29.2. Each Association must comply with The Competition Media Regulations and must ensure that their members, officials, players, delegates and other affiliates also comply with these regulations.
- 29.3. For more details please refer to the Media Regulations.

FINAL PROVISIONS

30. LIABILITY

The Local Organizing Committee of The Competition shall be exclusively responsible for the organization of the matches and shall discharge Concacaf from all responsibility and relinquish any claim against Concacaf and the members of its delegation for any damages resulting from any claims relating to such matches.

31. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

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

32. MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR AND FORCE MAJEURE

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

33. LANGUAGES

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

34. COPYRIGHT

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

35. NO WAIVER

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

36. ENFORCEMENT

These regulations were approved by the Concacaf Council on September 16, 2020 and come into force immediately thereafter.



**2021 Concacaf Gold Cup
Regulations**