



2017 REGULATIONS

The Scotiabank CONCACAF League is a CONCACAF Club Competition, whereby the champion qualifies to the Scotiabank CONCACAF Champions League



ORGANIZERS

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DOCUMENTS REFERENCED WITHIN THESE REGULATIONS

- CONCACAF Code of Ethics
- CONCACAF Protocol for Racist Incidents During Matches
- CONCACAF League Commercial Regulations
- CONCACAF League Competition Technical Guide
- CONCACAF League Club Media & Broadcasting Regulations
- FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations
- FIFA Disciplinary Code (CONCACAF Disciplinary Code)
- FIFA Equipment Regulations
- FIFA Stadium Regulations
- IFAB Laws of the Game

DEFINITIONS:

- **Club:** The sporting organization that has provided a team to participate in the competition.
- **IFAB:** International Football Association Board, author of the *Laws of the Game* as published by FIFA
- **Regional Association:** CONCACAF is divided into three regions: North American zone, Central American zone, Caribbean zone. The associations that reside within each zone are considered Regional Associations.
- **Regional Qualifying Competition:** Refers to the Caribbean Club Championship.
- **Team:** Consists of the players, substitutes, coaching staff and official delegation that will participate in the football match.
- **Wildcard clubs:** are any teams entered the competition at the sole discretion of CONCACAF, as a replacement for another team above and beyond those teams ordinarily qualified to enter the event.

I. THE CONCACAF LEAGUE

- A. The official name of the tournament is the CONCACAF League (hereinafter: Competition). CONCACAF, at its sole discretion, can change the official name of the competition and include a Title or Presenting Sponsor in the official name and the official marks.
- B. The Competition is an official event of the Confederation of North, Central America and Caribbean Association Football (CONCACAF).
- C. The Competition is played each year.
- D. CONCACAF Associations (hereinafter: Associations) may enter a certain number of clubs for the Competition in accordance with the qualification process as defined by CONCACAF for each Association or Region (as is the case of the Caribbean Region).
- E. CONCACAF is the sole owner of the Competition and of all rights emanating from the Competition and has the exclusive right to organize, control and manage this competition. These rights include, among others, every kind of financial rights, audiovisual and radio recording, reproduction and broadcasting rights, multimedia rights, marketing, sponsorship and promotional rights and incorporeal rights such as emblems and rights arising under copyright law. Any rights relating to the Competition that these Regulations do not specifically grant to a participating club or Association will belong to CONCACAF.
- F. The 2017 CONCACAF League champion qualifies to the 2018 Scotiabank CONCACAF Champions League.
- G. The Competition's Regulations (hereinafter: Regulations) govern the rights, duties and responsibilities of all taking part in the Competition. The Regulations, Technical Guide, CONCACAF Statutes and all other CONCACAF rules, regulations, circulars, directives and decisions in force will apply and are binding for all participating Associations, officials, players and their respective clubs and for all persons involved in the preparation, organization and hosting of the Competition.

II. THE COMPETITION

- A. Matches in the Competition will be evening matches and played on either Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday as decided by CONCACAF.
- B. Clubs agree to play at their home venues, which must be approved by CONCACAF, and must ensure that their league schedule does not conflict with the dates and times as determined and approved by the Confederation.
- C. The Competition will consist of four rounds played in a home and away series:
 - 1. The Round of 16 (R16) draw will be conducted as follows:
 - a. The 16 participating clubs will be drawn into eight pairs; R16-1 through R16-8
 - The eight seeded clubs (based on their Association's ranking over the last five years) will be randomly drawn into slots 1-8.

- b. The non-seeded clubs will be randomly drawn and paired starting with R16-1, and will continue until every non-seeded club is drawn against an opponent.
 - c. Clubs from the same Association cannot be drawn against each other.
 - d. In the event a “wildcard” club enters the Competition, such a club may be drawn to play against teams from its own Association.
 - e. Teams will be awarded three points for every match they win and one point for every match they tie. No points will be awarded for matches lost. The winner of each R16 series will advance to the quarterfinals (QF).
 - QF1: R16-1 vs. R16-2
 - QF2: R16-3 vs. R16-4
 - QF3: R16-5 vs. R16-6
 - QF4: R16-7 vs. R16-8
 - f. The winners of each QF series will advance to the semifinals (SF).
 - QF1 vs. QF2
 - QF3 vs. QF4
 - g. The winners of each semifinal series will advance to the finals.
 - h. The winner of the finals will advance to the Scotiabank CONCACAF Champions League.
2. The team with the greater aggregate of goals in the two matches will qualify for the next round.

D. Tie-Breaker Procedures

1. If the aggregate goals between the two teams are equal at the end of regulation time of the 2nd leg match, the tie-breaker criteria will be determined as follows:
 - a. Greater number of away goals scored in regulation time in the two matches;
 - b. If still tied, then kicks from the penalty spot procedure as per the IFAB *Laws of the Game*.

III. **ENTRIES AND WITHDRAWALS**

Entry Criteria

- A. The specific entry criteria for each Association or regional qualifying competition will be agreed upon between CONCACAF and each Association in question.
- B. In the event of any disagreement in establishing or applying the entry criteria, CONCACAF will determine and apply the entry criteria at its sole discretion.
- C. As a matter of principle, clubs will earn the right to be entered by their Association into the Competition through:
 1. Fair play and sporting merit usually through their existing national championship or regional qualifying competition.
 2. Compliance with their Association’s Confederation Club Licensing requirements.
 3. Financial good standing with their Association and CONCACAF.
- D. The Competition’s Champion does not gain automatic entry to the next edition.

- E. Qualified clubs must submit:
1. The signed Competition Participation Agreement (sent via their Association) by May 29th at which point they will be officially registered for the Competition.
 2. All other documents required by the dates specified as per CONCACAF.
- F. Upon entering the Competition each club agrees:
1. To play in the competition until their elimination;
 2. To field their strongest team throughout the competition;
 3. To ensure that its home venue meets the criteria established in section XII of these Regulations;
 4. To play all scheduled matches on dates and times as determined by CONCACAF and set forth in accordance with these Regulations;
 5. To provide CONCACAF with any requirements defined in these Regulations;
 6. To take all necessary actions for its players, officials and staff to be bound by and comply with all applicable laws, regulations, rules, codes, protocols, directives and decisions, including but not limited to, all disciplinary and appeals rules and procedures, all anti-doping requirements, all anti-match manipulation and anti-racism stipulations and all marketing and media requirements;
 7. To refrain from any illegal, immoral or unethical behavior that damages, or could damage, the integrity and reputation of football and must cooperate fully with CONCACAF always, in its efforts to prevent, investigate and sanction such behavior;
 8. That the club itself as well as its players, officials and staff recognize the jurisdiction of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), as defined by the CONCACAF and FIFA Statutes.
- G. The Champion will be required to participate in the next edition of the Scotiabank CONCACAF Champions League.
- H. If the Champion is unable to participate in the Scotiabank CONCACAF Champions League then the runner-up will be required to participate in their place.

Non-entry and Withdrawals

- I. If an Association does not properly enter an eligible club or clubs into the Competition, or such clubs are unable to meet the criteria established in these Regulations (considered “non-entry”), then CONCACAF will decide, at its sole discretion, the course of action in relation to the vacant space(s) in the Competition. The same will also apply in cases where an Association and/or a club are not in good standing with CONCACAF or a club is not in good standing with its Association. This decision may include:
1. Providing for an alternate club(s) from the Association(s) in question;
 2. Providing for an alternate club from a different Association(s);
 3. In the case of the regional qualifying competition the next eligible club;
 4. Leaving a space vacant and granting a “bye” to their opponent(s).
- J. Once having entered the Competition, participating clubs must meet all obligations including participating in all matches. Failure to participate in any match may be considered by CONCACAF, at

its sole discretion, as a withdrawal from the event. A withdrawal may have a serious impact on the integrity of the event and as such, the penalties as specified below will apply, except in cases of *force majeure* or unforeseen circumstances deemed acceptable by CONCACAF.

- K. The following fines will apply in the case of withdrawal of a club:
1. After entering the Competition but before the day of the Draw: A fine of \$10,000 USD.
 2. From the day of the Draw up to 30 days prior to the first match of the competition: A fine of \$20,000 USD.
 3. After the commencement of the first match in the competition: A fine of \$40,000 USD
- L. Failure to play or complete any specific match will result in immediate elimination of the competition, except in cases of *force majeure* or unforeseen circumstances deemed acceptable by CONCACAF.
- M. Except in cases of *force majeure* or unforeseen circumstances as deemed acceptable by CONCACAF, a club that withdraws at any stage of the Competition:
1. May be ordered to reimburse the opposing club(s) and/or CONCACAF of any expenses that they have already incurred as a result of its proposed involvement or non-involvement in the Competition;
 2. May be required to pay compensation for any damages or losses arising from its withdrawal;
 3. Will be disqualified from taking part in the next two editions of the Competition;
 4. Will be referred to the CONCACAF Disciplinary Committee (hereinafter: Disciplinary Committee) for additional sanctions.
- N. The Association of any penalized club will be responsible for ensuring that specified sanctions are carried out and complied with.
- O. Failure of the Competition Champion to participate in the Scotiabank CONCACAF Champions League, providing it is played, will result in a fine of \$100,000 USD payable to CONCACAF regardless of any further sanction applied by CONCACAF.
- P. No appeal can be lodged against these decisions.

Replacement of Withdrawn Clubs

- Q. CONCACAF will decide, at its sole discretion, whether to replace clubs that withdrew prior to the round of 16 and on what basis such a replacement may occur.

IV. RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. CONCACAF will amongst other matters, be responsible for:
1. Organizing the Competition;
 2. Supervising general preparations, deciding on the Competition format, draws and the forming the pairings and groups;
 3. Approving the match schedule and kick-off times;
 4. Inspecting and approving venues;
 5. Appointing Match Delegates;
 6. Deciding which laboratories will carry out any doping analyses;
 7. Deciding which matches will be subject to doping tests;
 8. Informing the Disciplinary Committee of any breach of any applicable regulations for appropriate action;
 9. Replacing clubs that have withdrawn from the Competition;
 10. Settling cases of force majeure;
 11. Dealing with any aspect of the Competition that is not the responsibility of any other body under the terms of these Regulations or the CONCACAF Statutes;
 12. Selecting the official match ball and the stipulated technical material;
 13. Organizing and coordinating the post-match ceremony immediately following the 2nd leg match of the Final Round.
- B. Participating clubs will be responsible throughout the Competition for:
1. The conduct of the members of their delegation (officials and players), and of any person carrying out duties on its behalf throughout the Competition;
 2. Complying with these Regulations (including any appendices) and all other laws, rules, regulations, codes, protocols, directives and decisions as determined in section III.E;
 3. Providing CONCACAF with all the information and/or documentation requested within the stipulated deadlines. Clubs that fail to provide CONCACAF with all requested information and/or documentation within the stipulated deadlines will be imposed a fine of \$1,000 USD. The fine will be doubled for each repeated offence;
 4. Applying for visas within the required time as stated by the diplomatic missions of the countries to be visited, when necessary;
 5. Attending press conferences and other official media activities organized by CONCACAF and in accordance with its instructions;
 6. Attending the mandatory Match Coordination Meeting on Match Day, at the predesignated time and location;
 7. Allowing CONCACAF to use their marks for the promotion of the Competition, and allow the event sponsors to use the marks in a collective form only, for the sole purpose of promoting the Competition as per the Competition Commercial Regulations;
 8. Collaborating and supporting CONCACAF with the promotions and activations of tournament sponsors as per the Competition Commercial Regulations.

9. All clubs and their players and officials participating in the Competition agree to fully respect and comply with:
 - a. The Laws of the Game and the principles of Fair Play;
 - b. The CONCACAF Statutes and all CONCACAF regulations, rules, codes, protocols, circulars, directives, decisions, stipulations and requirements (including these Regulations and the Technical Guide);
 - c. All decisions and directives of the CONCACAF Council;
 - d. The FIFA Disciplinary Code and upon its entry into force, the CONCACAF Disciplinary Code.
 - e. The CONCACAF Code of Ethics and the CONCACAF Code of Conduct;
 - f. The FIFA Doping Control Regulations;
 - g. All CONCACAF anti-match manipulation and anti-racism stipulations;
 - h. All CONCACAF marketing and media requirements as stipulated in the Competition Commercial Regulations, and the Competition Media Regulations;
 - i. All kit and equipment requirements as per section XIII of these regulations.
 10. Additionally, all clubs along with their players and officials participating in the Competition agree to:
 - a. Refrain from any illegal, immoral or unethical behavior that damages, or could damage, the integrity and reputation of football and must cooperate fully with CONCACAF at all times in its efforts to prevent, investigate and sanction such behavior;
 - b. Refrain from (directly or indirectly) referring to its team as an inferior selection publicly or in the print and/or electronic media;
 - c. Be responsible for fielding only eligible players. Failure to do so will lead to the consequences stipulated in the applicable regulations.
- C. Host club responsibilities will include:
1. Providing a venue that is in compliance with the criteria established in section XII of these Regulations as well as described in any policies issued by CONCACAF;
 2. Providing for the local transportation of the designated CONCACAF Delegates and Match Officials upon arrival until departure for all official functions;
 3. Providing for the local hotel rooms (including breakfast and internet) for the designated Match Officials;
 4. Providing all local information as may be reasonably requested by their visiting opponent in accordance with the schedule determined by CONCACAF;
 5. Reserving and providing the necessary rooms and/or equipment for the Match Coordination Meeting (must be made available to CONCACAF Match Officials at least 30 minutes before the predesignated start time, and must be able to accommodate at least 15 people);
 6. Recommend hotels to the visiting team and advise which hotel is being used by the Match Officials to avoid conflict;
 7. Confirm that the local club has proper insurance for the training fields;
 8. Make certain that the match field is available for the team's official training session;
 9. Confirm the seating arrangements for the visiting team VIPs as outlined in section IV.C.7;
 10. Make certain that the police escort (unless otherwise agreed is not necessary by both teams) is arranged and on time for all official movements;

11. Providing a team liaison who will be responsible for and available to the visiting team throughout their stay and must:
 - a. Speak the language of the team;
 - b. Meet the team upon arrival at the airport and accompany them to training and the match;
 - c. Assist the team with special requests such as arranging special menus;
 - d. Arranging for the transportation to and from the match coordination meeting for the team's delegation;
 - e. Make certain that the team locker room is cleaned and ready with the required provisions as per the Competition Technical Guide;
 - f. Any reasonable requests for the locker room on match day by the visiting club or CONCACAF.
 12. Providing the match tickets as explained in the Commercial Regulations, by no later than Match Day -1;
 13. Guaranteeing law and order as well as safety in the stadium in collaboration with the relevant authorities;
 14. Undertaking and arranging adequate liability insurance coverage with respect to the stadium in which the match is to be held, and adding CONCACAF and the Competition's marketing partners as an "Additional Insured" party in the policy and providing CONCACAF with a copy of such policy prior to the club's first match in the competition;
 15. Providing an office at the stadium with a dedicated wireless internet connection for the Match Officials;
 16. Providing for a minimum of ten ball kids for each match who are 14 years of age or older;
 17. If the case of hosting the final match of the Competition, assisting and cooperating with CONCACAF to coordinate the arrangements for the post-match awards presentation on the field immediately following the match;
 18. Providing a segregated safe section for the visiting club's supporters;
 19. Covering all costs associated with section IV.C.
- D. Visiting club responsibilities will include:
1. Arriving in the host city no later than 24 hours prior to kick-off to fulfill their media obligations;
 2. Providing for their own international and local travel and transport and any costs incurred in obtaining visas;
 3. Providing for their own hotel accommodation and meal expenses;
 4. Paying any airport taxes, laundry costs and tips as are customary;
 5. Having a cell phone during away matches that has the capacity to make and receive phone calls while abroad;
 6. Making any reasonable request for guidance, information and assistance from the home club in good time;
 7. Advising the home club, no later than one week before the match of their travel and accommodation arrangements;
 8. Verifying with the home club to ensure that their requested hotel is not being used for the Match Officials;
 9. Advising the home club of any special requests such as a training field, transportation needs, beverages for training, etc. no later than one week prior to the match;

10. Bringing their CONCACAF-provided practice balls and at least 15 bibs of each color;
11. Advising the home club of the approximate number of supporters who will be attending and if they are aware of any problematic supporters who might attend or might try to access the stadium;
12. Traveling with a minimum of 18 players from the approved 23-Player Roster for any match;
13. Covering all costs associated with section IV.D unless otherwise agreed by the host club.

V. FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

- A. A club may be refused participation in the Competition in case of the existence of outstanding debts towards CONCACAF. At CONCACAF's sole discretion, the club may be allowed participation in the Competition if it fulfils its financial obligations within the deadlines stipulated by the Confederation.
- B. CONCACAF will provide each visiting club with a travel subsidy per away match as a contribution to the travel costs. This subsidy will be paid directly to the club at least one month prior to the match in question.

Revenue

- C. All revenues from gate receipts accrue to the home club, subject to the provisions of these Regulations including any levy on gross gate receipts payable to CONCACAF.
- D. Participating clubs agree to submit to CONCACAF for pre-approval, the pricing plan for match tickets within ten business days of the announcement of the schedule in addition to at least 15 business days prior to any upcoming match that is not already covered by the initial pricing plan.
- E. Participating clubs agree to submit to CONCACAF for pre-approval, ten business days prior to the match, any plan to issue in excess of 1,500 complimentary tickets for any home match.
- F. Using forms provided by CONCACAF, participating clubs agree to submit the Financial Report, the Box Office Report and the Ticket Report within 15 business days of each match.
- G. Clubs will provide to CONCACAF a detailed accounting of ticket sales and will, upon request, make their records available to CONCACAF for inspection within 15 business days after each match.
- H. Participating clubs agree to pay 5% of the gross ticket revenues (or a minimum of \$500.00 USD) to CONCACAF for each match within 30 days after each match. Additionally, the Clubs agree to reimburse CONCACAF for any liabilities paid by the Confederation on behalf of the Club including but not limited to the daily meal allowance.
- I. CONCACAF may deduct from any amounts owed to the Club to settle any amounts past due to the Confederation.

- J. All other revenues from the commercial exploitation of the Competition including but not limited to the sale of broadcast rights, sponsorship rights and merchandising rights, through whatever means, will be retained by CONCACAF as described in detail in the Competition Commercial Regulations.

VI. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

- A. A player who is elected to represent his club in the Competition, must comply with all CONCACAF statutory requirements for eligibility of players.
- B. Rosters for the Competition.
1. **Final Competition Roster** - clubs must provide their Final Roster of 35 players, on the official form, to CONCACAF a minimum of 14 days prior to start of the Competition. This list is binding;
 2. **Final Match Roster** - clubs must provide their Final Roster of 23 players, on the official form, selected from the Final Competition Roster, to CONCACAF no later than 17:00 hrs. eastern time MD-2 of your match. This must include players from the previously submitted Final Competition Roster only.
 3. Clubs must register at least two goalkeepers on their 23-player roster.
 4. The Final Match Rosters must be sent to CONCACAF via email at clubs@concacaf.org as well as to your opponent.
 5. All rosters must be approved by club's associations prior to being sent to CONCACAF.
 6. A player already registered by a club cannot be deleted from the roster regardless of the reason.
 7. After submission of the initial 35-Player Roster, additional players may be added until a total of 35 players have been reached. This roster must be submitted along with the Final Match Roster.
- C. Once a player has had active time on the field for a club in the competition, that player may not be registered for any other club during the same edition of the Competition.
- D. All Players must be registered with the club and the appropriate Association and eligible to play in any league match for the current playing season per the FIFA transfer deadlines in each country.
- E. All participating players must have a legal and valid government issued identification containing an up-to-date photograph and giving full particulars on the date of birth (day, month and year) of the player.
- F. After arrival at the venue and no later than 90 minutes prior to any CONCACAF League match, a representative from each club must submit to CONCACAF, their match roster of 18 players, selected from within the previously submitted 23-Player Roster, and should also have the aforementioned identification documentation for verification if needed. Any player without the relevant documentation may be deemed ineligible to play.

- G. If a starting player sustains a serious injury or is so ill that he cannot longer be expected to play, he may be replaced prior to Pregame Protocol without penalty, but must be listed as injured on the Start List and will be ineligible to play the match.
- H. Any club found to have fielded an ineligible player will forfeit the match. If the result of the match was a victory for the club fielding the ineligible player, three points will be awarded to the opposing club on the basis of a 3-0 score, or higher depending on the result of the match. This incident will be submitted to the Disciplinary Committee for further review.

VII. **DISCIPLINARY MATTERS AND APPEALS**

- A. Disciplinary Committee
 1. The Disciplinary Committee is responsible for enforcing the regulations of the Competition. The Disciplinary Committee may suppletorily apply the FIFA Disciplinary Code until the entry into force of the CONCACAF Disciplinary Code (when it will apply subsidiarily). In particular, the Disciplinary Committee may pronounce the sanctions described in these Regulations, the CONCACAF Statutes and all other CONCACAF rules, regulations and codes as well as the FIFA Disciplinary Code (and, upon its entry into force, in the CONCACAF Disciplinary Code).
 2. In cases of infringement of these or any applicable Regulations or unsporting behavior on the part of the participating clubs, their players, officials and/or staff, or in any kind of incident, the Disciplinary Committee is empowered to:
 - a. Admonish, sanction, fine, apply a Group Stage point penalty, suspend and/or disqualify clubs, their players, staff and/or officials.
 - b. Take action against any person(s), club(s) or Association(s) which incurs in such infringement of these or any applicable Regulations (which include the Laws of the Game and the rules of Fair Play).
 - c. Prohibit violators from participating in a specific number of CONCACAF organized competitions in which they might otherwise have participated.
 3. The 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.
 4. The Disciplinary Committee decisions may be based upon written record or by conducting a hearing.
 5. When taking a decision, the Disciplinary Committee may refer to the reports made by the Match Delegates, Officials or any other CONCACAF official or staff present. 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 will not affect a referee's decision regarding facts connected with play.
 6. At its discretion, the Disciplinary Committee may convene a personal hearing and will decide any procedures to be followed. Decisions of such hearings will only be valid if at least three members of the Disciplinary Committee are present.
 7. The following decisions of the Disciplinary Committee will not be subject to appeal:

- d. Cautions and censures imposed on players, Match Officials, clubs (staff and officials), other persons, or Associations.
 - e. Suspensions of up to two matches, or of up to two months, imposed on players, Match Officials, clubs (staff and officials) or other persons.
 - f. Fines imposed on players, Match Officials, clubs (staff and officials), other persons (not exceeding \$10,000 USD) or Associations (not exceeding \$30,000 USD).
8. The appropriate Association under the provisions of its own regulations may sanction any offenses that are committed during the course of the Competition by club officials, technical staff or other personnel for Championships and Competitions. For this purpose, the Disciplinary Committee will refer to the appropriate Association the referee's report of the match in question. The Association will, in turn, report back to the Disciplinary Committee on the resolution of the matter and any disciplinary action taken.
 9. Except in cases of force majeure as recognized by CONCACAF, if a club does not report for a match, or refuses to commence or continue to play, or leaves the stadium before the end of the match, the club will be considered to have lost the match with a score of 3-0 or more. In any case, the matter will also be referred to the Disciplinary Committee for appropriate actions.
 10. Any other infringement of these Regulations, whether by players, officials, clubs or Associations that are punishable by economic sanctions will be reported to the CONCACAF General Secretariat for consideration by CONCACAF.
 11. All imposed economic sanctions must be paid no later than 60 days after notification of the relevant decision. Unless otherwise specified, the total amount of all fines will accrue to CONCACAF. CONCACAF may debit accounts of debtors to settle any amounts due to the Confederation.
- B. CONCACAF Appeals Committee
1. The CONCACAF Appeals Committee will hear appeals eligible to be lodged against decisions taken by the Disciplinary Committee.
 2. The CONCACAF Appeals Committee may suppletorily apply the FIFA Disciplinary Code until the entry into force of the CONCACAF Disciplinary Code (when it will apply subsidiarily). In particular, the CONCACAF Appeals Committee may conduct any appeal procedures in accordance with the FIFA Disciplinary Code.
 3. The CONCACAF Appeals Committee will reach its decisions on the basis of the documents and the 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.
 4. Any party intending to appeal must inform the CONCACAF Appeals Committee, via the CONCACAF General Secretariat, of its intention to do so in writing within three days of notification of the relevant decision.
 5. Anyone wishing to lodge an appeal must transfer an appeal fee of \$3,000 USD to CONCACAF's bank account and submit confirmation of such transfer before expiry of the time limit for submitting the appeal. Such confirmation must be e-mailed to the CONCACAF General Secretariat at general.secretariat@concacaf.org.
 6. If the aforementioned requirements have not been complied with, the appeal is not admissible.

7. Decisions pronounced by the Appeals Committee are final and binding.

C. Protests

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.
2. Anyone wishing to lodge a protest must transfer a protest fee of \$500 USD to CONCACAF's bank account and submit confirmation of such transfer before expiry of the time limit for submitting the protest. Such confirmation must be e-mailed to the CONCACAF General Secretariat at general.secretariat@concacaf.org.
3. Unless otherwise stipulated in this article, protests must be submitted in writing to the CONCACAF Match Commissioner 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 to the CONCACAF General Secretariat at general.secretariat@concacaf.org within 24 hours of the end of the match, otherwise they will be disregarded.
4. Protests regarding the eligibility of players registered for matches must be submitted in writing to the CONCACAF General Secretariat no later than 48 hours before the match in question.
5. Protests regarding the state of the pitch, its surroundings, markings or accessory items (e.g. goals, flag posts or footballs) must 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 must immediately lodge a protest with the referee in the presence of the captain of the opposing team. The protests must be confirmed in writing to the CONCACAF Match Commissioner by the head of the team delegation no later than two hours after the match.
6. Protests against any incidents that occur during the course of a match must be made to the referee by the team captain immediately after the disputed incident and before play has resumed. The protest must be confirmed in writing to the CONCACAF General Coordinator by the head of the team delegation no later than two hours after the match.
7. No protests may be made against the Referee's decisions on points of fact connected with play, such decisions being final. If an unfounded or irresponsible protest is lodged, the CONCACAF Disciplinary Committee may impose a sanction.
8. If any of the formal conditions of a protest as set out in these Regulations are not met, such protest will be disregarded by the competent body. Once the final match of the Competition has ended, any protest described in this article will be disregarded.
9. CONCACAF will pass decisions on any protests lodged.

D. Disciplinary Procedures

1. Notwithstanding the above provisions, any player cautioned or sent off from the field of play by the Referee will be subject to the sanctions specified in VII.D.2, VII.D.3 and VII.D.4. Such punishments are automatic and are not subject to appeal. These punishments may be augmented by the Disciplinary Committee and any such augmentation is subject to the appeals process previously defined.

2. Any player sent off the field of play, whether directly (a straight red card) or as a result of two yellow cards in the same match, is at a minimum, suspended for the next match.
3. Any player who accumulates two single yellow cards in two different matches in the Competition is suspended for the following match.
4. Any substitute player, member of the technical staff or official that enters the field of play in an aggressive manner and/or without being summoned by the referee, may be sanctioned by the referee and referred to the Disciplinary Committee for additional fines and/or sanctions.
5. Unserved suspensions as a result of a red card will be carried over to the following edition of the Competition in which a player is eligible to participate.
6. In case a club advances, a player or club official with pending suspension participates (with the same or different club) in the Scotiabank CONCACAF Champions League or the Caribbean Club Championship, any outstanding suspension will be carried over to these competitions or other CONCACAF recognized club competition in which this individual participates.
7. The violation of article 52 par. a) of the FIFA Disciplinary Code shall result in a fine amounting to \$1,000 USD for the first five team members sanctioned, plus \$200 USD for each additional person of the team that has been sanctioned. An additional \$200 USD will be added to the respective fine for each case of repetition.
8. Clubs and other persons bound by these regulations will not bring disputes before ordinary courts of law. Instead of recourse to ordinary courts of law, provision will be made for arbitration. Such disputes will be taken to an arbitration tribunal recognized by CONCACAF or to CAS.

VIII. MEDICAL AND DOPING CONTROL

- A. In order to protect players' health as well as to prevent players from experiencing sudden cardiac death during matches at the Competition, each Participating Member Association will ensure and confirm to the Organizing Committee that its players underwent 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 an Echocardiogram must be obtained and be normal before a player can be released to play.
- B. The duly licensed medical representative of each club 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 will also include the signatures of the President and General Manager of the participating club and must be received by the CONCACAF General Secretariat at the latest seven (7) business days prior to the start of the Competition.
- C. Further to the above, each club is recommended 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.

- D. It is mandatory that the home team has a duly licensed doctor on hand for the match. If the visiting club fails to bring a team doctor, then the home team doctor will sit beside the Fourth Officials' bench and be accessible to both teams.
- E. CONCACAF will not be held liable for any injury sustained by any participating player. Equally, CONCACAF will not be held liable for any incident (e.g. death) linked to any injury or health problems of any participating player.
- F. Each club will be responsible, throughout the Competition, for providing health, travel and accident insurance coverage for all members of its delegation. Proof of insurance must be provided to CONCACAF no later than 14 days before the start of the Competition.
- G. Failure to comply with these provisions will require a review by the CONCACAF Disciplinary Committee for possible disciplinary action.
- H. In regards to 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 organizing association to ensure that there is a properly functioning AED immediately at hand and that there is an ambulance with an access and egress plan.
- I. 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 will stop play. In these instances, the referee will signal (hand to the top of the head) to the team doctor to enter the field to assess and manage the player. Up to three minutes should be sufficient time to make this assessment. Once the player has left the field of play, he must be given a Sideline Concussion Assessment Test (SCAT) or similar test. It is the responsibility of the team doctor to determine the player's ability to return to play.
- J. Further to the above, in regards 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.
- K. 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.

- L. 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 will apply to all CONCACAF competitions.
- M. 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.
- N. If, in accordance with the FIFA Doping Control Regulations, a player tests positive for the use of banned substances, he will be immediately declared ineligible from further participation in the Competition and will be subject to further sanctions from the Disciplinary Committee.

IX. **REFEREEING**

- A. The Referees, Assistant Referees, and Fourth Officials (Match Officials) will be appointed for each match by CONCACAF. They will be selected from the official FIFA list of eligible referees and will be neutral. The selections made by CONCACAF are final and not subject to appeal.
- B. If one of the Assistant Referees is unable to carry out his duties, such Assistant Referee will be replaced by the Reserve Assistant Referee, if a Reserve Assistant Referee (RAR) is appointed to the match in question. If no RAR is appointed to this match, the 4th official becomes the Assistant Referee (AR) and the AR becomes the 4th. In the case of force majeure, CONCACAF will, at its sole discretion, be allowed to replace any Match Official with an official from any country.
- C. The match officials will be given the opportunity to use training facilities.
- D. CONCACAF's decisions will be final and not subject to appeal.

X. **LAWS OF THE GAME**

- A. All matches will be played under the Laws of the Game as approved by IFAB.
- B. In the case of any discrepancy between the different language versions of the Laws of the Game, the English language version will be considered authoritative.
- C. A maximum of seven substitute players and nine club officials are permitted on the substitute bench. The club officials must have their names and functions indicated on the official form provided by

CONCACAF prior to the match. Note: a suspended player or official are not permitted to sit on the substitute's bench.

XI. MATCH DURATION

- A. Each match will last 90 minutes, comprising of two 45 minute periods with an interval of 15 minutes in between each half.
- B. Clocks in the stadium showing the amount of time played may run during the match, provided that they run up (from 0'-45' in the 1st half and 45'-90' in the second half) and that they are stopped at the end of normal playing time in each half.
- C. At the end of the two periods of regular playing time, the Referee will indicate to the Fourth Official, either orally or by gesturing with his hands, the number of minutes he has decided to allow for time lost. Each allowance for lost time will be announced to the public by the Fourth Official using the electronic display boards and by the public-address announcer.
- D. If a match cannot commence on-time or is stopped by the Referee before the end of normal time due to force majeure or any other incidents such as, but not limited to, the field is not fit for play, weather conditions, floodlight failure, etc. the following procedures must be followed:
 - 1. The match must first be delayed for a minimum of 30 minutes, unless the Referee decides that the match can commence earlier, before a decision to reschedule the match is taken;
 - 2. At the discretion of the Referee, another delay of a maximum of 30 minutes will be allowed if in his opinion this extra period of delay will allow the match to commence;
 - 3. Otherwise, at the end of this second 30-minute period, the Referee must declare the match to have been cancelled;
 - 4. In the case of a cancelled match, CONCACAF will decide within two hours of the Referee's decision to cancel the match, whether the match can be rescheduled (taking sporting and organizational considerations into account), or whether any other action and decision is needed to continue with the Competition. Any disciplinary sanctions resulting from the cancelled match will remain in force.
 - 5. If the match is stopped and cannot resume for the reasons stated above, then it will be considered abandoned. Play will resume the following day at the point where it was stopped and played to completion, thus avoiding considerable extra expense for the visiting club. If it is still impossible to complete the match the next day for the same reasons, CONCACAF will determine how and when the match will be completed. The expenses thus incurred by the visiting club will be divided equally between the two clubs.
- E. The following principles will apply to the recommencement of the match:

1. The match will recommence with the same players on the field and substitutes available as when the match was initially abandoned;
2. No additional substitutes may be added to the list of players on the Start List;
3. The teams can make only the number of substitutions to which they were still entitled when the match was abandoned;
4. Players sent off during the abandoned match cannot be replaced;
5. Any sanctions imposed before the match was abandoned remain valid for the remainder of the match;
6. The kick-off time, date (foreseen for the following day) and location will be decided by CONCACAF in consultation with the participating clubs;
7. Any matters requiring further decision will be treated by CONCACAF.

XII. STADIUM

- A. Each participating club will be responsible to ensure that their home stadium and its facilities comply with the standards of safety and security required for international matches, including venue staffing levels as per the FIFA Stadium Regulations. The fields of play, facilities and accessory equipment will be in optimum condition and must comply with the provisions stipulated in the Laws of the Game and all other relevant regulations.
- B. Unless stipulated otherwise in these Regulations, matches in this Competition must be played in a stadium which meets all the requirements and standards as stated in these Regulations. Participating clubs must ensure that their stadium meets the aforementioned requirements and standards no later than 60 days prior to the first match.
- C. CONCACAF will conduct stadium inspections:
 1. If deemed necessary by CONCACAF before or during the Competition;
 2. No later than 45 days prior to a match in any round for a stadium that will act as a substitute for the participant's home stadium, after initial inspections have already been conducted;
 3. If a substitute stadium must be utilized after inspections of the primary stadium have already been completed, and at any time after the commencement of the Competition, the cost of the inspection will be charged to the club and/or the Association who requested this change;
 4. If a secondary or a follow-up inspection is required, the cost of the additional inspection(s) will be charged to the club.
- D. Home Stadium
 1. The home stadium selected by the participating club should be the regular stadium used by the club for its home matches;
 2. In the event that the club's usual stadium does not meet the minimum criteria established in these Regulations and other CONCACAF policy documents, the club will be required to make all reasonable efforts, , to meet such standards at no cost to CONCACAF;

3. If after exhausting all reasonable efforts, the club's home stadium does not meet the minimum criteria, then the participating club will be permitted to select an alternate stadium, which is subject to the approval by CONCACAF, as their home stadium provided such stadium is located within the same country.
4. Any club permitted or required, under the terms of these Regulations, to play a home match in a stadium not ordinarily their own, does so at entirely its own cost.
5. If no alternative stadium is available, then the club will forfeit their entry into the tournament and CONCACAF will decide on a replacement at its sole discretion.

E. Stadium Availability

1. The participating clubs' stadium must be made available solely to be used by CONCACAF starting the day prior to the club's home match to conduct walk-throughs, install signage, branding and to conduct any other activity reasonably requested.
If a substitute stadium is used, CONCACAF will request verification of compliance from the ownership ensuring its availability for the match dates.
2. Stadiums must be made available to the visiting team and match officials for the purposes of training the day before the scheduled match unless such training would, in the view of the Referee, Match Commissioner or other CONCACAF officials, cause excessive damage to the playing surface.
3. If the visiting club cannot train on the match field, the home club must advise the reasons why the field is not available, allow the visiting club to do a walk around the field to get used to the stadium and make a field of comparable quality and surface available at no cost to them.

F. Stadium Seating and Ticketing

1. Matches may only be played in an all-seated stadium.
2. If a stadium with both seating and standing areas are available, the standing space must remain vacant.
3. At least 5% of the total stadium capacity must be available exclusively for visiting supporters in a secured, segregated area of the stadium.
4. Field-side seating is not permitted and all non-permanently fixed seating must be approved by CONCACAF.
5. The visiting club will be provided a suite for their visiting staff and officials or if the stadium does not have suites, then the home club must provide a minimum of 30 Class A tickets in an area that affords protection to the visiting delegation.

G. Field Surface and Condition

1. The matches of the Competition may be played on natural or artificial surfaces.
2. If an artificial pitch is used, the club must provide to CONCACAF the FIFA licensing certificate valid for the duration of the Competition.
3. Clubs must comply with CONCACAF's match-day field watering guidelines as described in the Technical Guide.
4. If the home club considers the field unfit for play, CONCACAF will be informed immediately, as well as the visiting team and the Match Officials before their departure. If the host club fails to do

this, it will be obliged to cover all expenses incurred for travel, board and lodging of the parties involved.

5. However, if prior to the match kickoff time the home club is not able to rectify the pitch in accordance with the Laws of the Game, the home club will forfeit the match. The victory, a score of 3-0 and the resulting three points will be awarded to the opposing team. The matter will also be referred to the Disciplinary Committee for appropriate action.
6. If there is any doubt regarding the condition of the field once the visiting team and the Match Officials have already left for the host city, the Referee will decide whether the field is playable or not. If the Referee declares the field unplayable, the procedure to be followed is described in section X.K.
7. Each stadium must have sufficient space to allow the substitutes to warm up during the match, in accordance with the Competition's Technical Guide.

H. Lighting

1. The Field of Play must comply with the illumination requirements as per the competition technical guide.
2. The field lights must be fully turned on 75 minutes prior to kick off or before sunset, whichever comes first.
3. Clubs must ensure that field lighting installations are maintained and provide CONCACAF with a valid lighting certificate issued within the previous 12 months. CONCACAF may conduct an independent assessment of lighting levels in stadiums and will notify the clubs in good time of the results of such assessments and of any corrections to be made.
4. An emergency power generation system must be available which, in the event of a power failure, guarantees sufficient light for the safe egress of those in attendance.

I. Official Training

1. Weather permitting and based on the condition of the pitch, both teams will be allowed to conduct a one hour official practice at the stadium on MD-1.
2. The visiting team will be given preference to the time they wish to train on Match Day -1 (MD-1). If stadium lighting is required for training, then it must be provided by the home club at no extra charge to the visiting team.
3. If the match is to be played on an artificial pitch, then the visiting team will be permitted a minimum of two 1-hour or one 2-hour training session.
4. Clubs must inform CONCACAF of their official training time one week prior the match.
5. The match officials will also be allowed a one hour training session, if requested, at the stadium.
6. If either club chooses not to train at the stadium, they must inform the General Coordinator of their Official Training time and location at least 48 hours prior. This will be treated as the Official Training Session.

J. Stadium Signage and Audio/Visual Branding

1. Each stadium must provide CONCACAF with "exclusive areas" that are free of any commercial signage and/or advertising (whether temporary or permanent) whatsoever, including corporate,

civic, or club marks. The “exclusive areas” are further defined in the Competition Commercial Regulations. These “exclusive areas” should be provided to CONCACAF on both (MD-1) and (MD).

2. There can be no restrictions, except in cases of national law, on what signage may be permitted to be displayed in the stadium by CONCACAF. Further details are included in the Competition Commercial Regulations.
3. No commercial messages, other than those approved by CONCACAF, may be read over the public-address system prior to, during and after a match. Further details are included in the Competition Commercial Regulations.
4. CONCACAF does not allow any violent, offensive or discriminatory banners to be displayed inside the stadium. Any violation will result in a review by the CONCACAF Disciplinary Committee for possible fines or other sanctions.
5. If the stadium has a stadium video screen, message boards, LED boards, or any other similar digital medium, these will exclusively be reserved for CONCACAF on MD-1 and MD. Usage of these assets by the club or any third party will need to be approved by CONCACAF explicitly and in writing. The use of such digital mediums will be provided to CONCACAF at no additional cost above and beyond the board operator expenses. Further detail included in the Competition Commercial Regulations.
6. Each home club will provide a public-address announcer and scoreboard operator to serve at CONCACAF’s direction during each match. Further detail included in the Competition Commercial Regulations.

K. Stadium Security

1. For each match, the home club will be responsible for developing a security plan which will provide for the safety of all participants including home club, visiting team, CONCACAF staff, officials and delegates from the time of arrival into the stadium until they depart. The plan will also provide for a safe environment for spectators attending the match including a separately secured access and segregated seating area for the visiting spectators, and security checks of each individual and any bags they wish to bring into the stadium.
2. A copy of this security plan must be provided to CONCACAF no later than one week prior to the match.
3. Home clubs will also ensure the ability to manage any controlled zones including areas reserved for clubs, officials, guests, delegates, staff, media or other groups as defined by CONCACAF.
4. CONCACAF will require the home stadium to implement the competitions credentialing system.
5. CONCACAF reserves the right to require additional security be provided, at its own discretion, and participating clubs agree to provide such cooperation as may be required at its own cost.
6. The home club and its Association may be subject to disciplinary measures if appropriate security arrangements are not provided. Sanctions may include fines and/or suspensions.
7. No smoke nor any flammable items are permitted inside the stadium.
8. All stadiums utilized in the Competition will be smoke free.

XIII. KIT AND EQUIPMENT

- A. The Participating clubs will 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 at any official activity organized by CONCACAF (including in the stadiums for official matches and training sessions, as well as during official media conferences and mixed-zone activities). Any violations will be dealt with by the Disciplinary Committee.
- B. Uniform colors
1. Each club will provide CONCACAF with at least two different and contrasting colors (one predominately dark and one predominately light) for its official and reserve field kits (shirt, shorts and socks) by the timeline as stated in the Technical Guide. In addition, each club will select three goalkeeper kits which must be distinctly different and contrasting from each other as well as different and contrasting from the official and reserve kits.
 2. The approval of any kits is at the discretion of CONCACAF and final approval will be provide in writing to each club.
 3. If any of the CONCACAF approved uniforms kits are changed in any way from the point of approval until the point at which the club no longer participates in the competition, it must be reviewed and approved again by CONCACAF.
 4. CONCACAF will inform the clubs of the colors that they will wear one week prior to each match.
 5. Each club must travel with:
 - a. An additional field player and goalkeeper (which do not conflict with the field player's uniform colors) kits of different and contrasting colors;
 - b. A field player kit without a number in the event of damage to the primary uniform;
 - c. In addition to all the above (and as the only exception), each club travel with a set of goalkeeper shirts without names or numbers to be used only if an outfield player must take the position of goalkeeper during a match. This extra set of goalkeeper shirts must be provided in the same colors as the regular goalkeeper shirts.
 - d. If players choose to wear additional undergarments such as thermals or lycras and these garments extend beyond the borders of the sleeves or shorts, then the color of this material must be the same color of the uniform part from where it extends.
 6. If the referee determines that the colors utilized by the teams could lead to confusion, he may decide, in consultation with other CONCACAF officials onsite, to issue a change. In this case, the home team would be required to change if the visiting teams second kit does resolve the issue.
- C. Team kit approval procedures
1. Each participating club will provide CONCACAF with exact samples with numbers, of the following equipment no later than the CONCACAF League Summit:
 - a. Official and reserve player kits (one set each of shirts, shorts, socks);
 - b. One set of each goalkeeper's kit (shirts, shorts, socks);

- c. Goalkeeper's gloves and caps.
- D. Player Names
 - 1. Players may be identified by their last name or an abbreviation or nickname on their shirts, as long as the name is listed on the Player Roster and the player is officially recognized by that name publicly.
 - 2. The size of the lettering must comply with the requirements in the FIFA Equipment Regulations.
- E. Player Numbers
 - 1. Only numbers between 1-99 will be displayed on the back of the jersey and on the shorts in accordance with the FIFA Equipment Regulations and must correspond to the number listed on the start list.
 - 2. Once a number is assigned to a specific player, it cannot be re-assigned to another player of the same team for the duration of the competition.
- F. Sponsor Advertising
 - 1. Teams must wear the uniform worn in their domestic league competitions. This may include, but must not exceed, such sponsor advertising as is normally displayed on the uniform for such games.
 - 2. The advertising of tobacco or distilled spirits, as well as slogans of a political, religious or racist nature or for other causes that offend common decency, is prohibited.
- G. The official Competition sleeve patches will be provided by CONCACAF and affixed on the right-hand sleeve of each shirt. A different CONCACAF campaign logo may be affixed on the left-hand sleeve. If the previous champion qualifies for this edition, they will be required to wear the gold Champions patch centered on the front of their jersey.
- H. CONCACAF will provide official Captains armbands for each team to wear during the matches.
- I. Footballs
 - 1. The footballs used in the Competition will be selected and exclusively supplied by CONCACAF. The footballs will conform to the provisions of the Laws of the Game and the FIFA Equipment Regulations. They will bear one of the following two designations: the official "FIFA QUALITY PRO" logo or the official "FIFA QUALITY" logo and cannot be marked in any way by the club.
 - 2. Prior to the competition, each club will receive footballs from CONCACAF to be used for training and for the official match. Only these balls delivered by CONCACAF may be used for official training and warm-up sessions in the stadiums and at the training sites.
- J. Warm-up Bibs
 - 1. Only CONCACAF provided warm-up bibs may be used during official training sessions held at the stadium and for the warm-up of players during the match.

2. The bibs used by each team must be in contrasting colors to their uniform color and the opposing team's uniforms and bibs.
- K. Throughout the competition, all items such as kit bags, medical bags, drink containers, etc., must be free of any sponsor advertising and/or manufacturer identification unless approved by CONCACAF in writing. This also applies:
1. To any official training sessions before the match;
 2. To any media activities (in particular for interviews and press conferences and appearances in the mixed zone) before and after the match;
 3. On the day of the match from arrival at the stadium until departure from the stadium.
- L. Other equipment
1. The use of any communication equipment and/or systems between and/or amongst players and/or technical staff is not permitted during the match unless where it relates directly with the welfare and safety of the players

XIV. MARKETING RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS

Upon entering the Competition, clubs agree to the following relating to sponsorship and marketing.

- A. Participating clubs agree to develop and submit to CONCACAF a detailed marketing, communications and advertising plan two months prior to their participation in the Competition.
- B. Plan should include specific ways in which the club plans to promote its participation in the Competition using:
 - Club webpage (should at a minimum include the Competition logo and the link to CONCACAF's Official Competition webpage) from the date of the official draw until the end of the club's participation in the Competition;
 - Social media (existing platforms and club strategy);
 - Marketing;
 - Advertising;
 - Ticket promotion;
 - Public relations;
 - And any other relevant market insights.
- C. Participating Clubs agree to submit to CONCACAF for pre-approval, the pricing plan for match tickets within ten business days of the announcement of the schedule in addition to at least 15 business days prior to any upcoming match that is not already covered by the initial pricing plan.

- D. All intellectual property and commercial rights (including television, radio, internet, and merchandise) associated with the Competition and its name and marks are the sole and exclusive property of CONCACAF. Further detail included in the Competition Commercial Regulations.
- E. Clubs may not license any media rights for the Competition, including television, radio, and internet. Further detail included in the Competition Commercial Regulations.
- F. Participating clubs may use the names and marks of the CONCACAF League only for the purpose of promoting their home and away matches and without any commercial branding other than the Competition partner brands. All materials have to be preapproved by CONCACAF in writing.
- G. Under no circumstances whatsoever, may clubs utilize the Competition names and marks in conjunction with any corporate sponsor, except for the Competition corporate sponsorship bar that will be provided to all clubs, and which must be included in all Competition specific game promotion.
- H. All ticket designs must be pre-approved by CONCACAF and may bear no corporate or partner marks other than those of official Competition sponsors as designated by CONCACAF. The clubs 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.
- I. Clubs may not produce or distribute any merchandise bearing the Competition logo inside or out of its stadium without the written permission from CONCACAF.
- J. CONCACAF reserves the right to control all CONCACAF League specific merchandise sales at each Competition home game. The club (or its designated licensee) will have the sole right to sell event related merchandise and the right to receive 20% of merchandise revenue. Merchandise revenue refers to the gross revenue derived from the sale of programs, novelties and souvenirs relating to the event or the personalities appearing therein sold at stadium facilities during the event, less only:
 - 1. Applicable sales and other taxes;
 - 2. Duly documented credit card fees;
 - 3. If requested by licensee, costs of bootleg security; provided however, that bootleg security will be at a mutually agreed upon rate.
- K. CONCACAF, as the licensor, will have the right to receive 80% of the event specific Merchandise Revenue.
- L. CONCACAF has the right to produce and distribute programs for each game in the Competition, however clubs may produce and distribute programs or other informational or printed promotional materials to fans as long as these have been approved in writing by CONCACAF and bearing that they

- don't include any commercial branding other than the brands from the Competitions Commercial partners.
- M. Participating clubs agree to provide to CONCACAF the right to use the official club marks on a royalty free basis and without restriction as described in the Competition Commercial Regulations.
 - N. Participating clubs agree to provide to CONCACAF the right to use collective and individual player images as follows:
 1. Collective player images (within the scope of an action shot and with a minimum of six players of the same club in the same photo) to promote the Competition by CONCACAF and/or any of the Competition's official sponsors.
 2. Individual player images for promotion of matches exclusively by CONCACAF and the participating clubs. Such promotional materials, aimed at ticket sales and tune-ins, bearing that they do not include any commercial branding other than the brands from the Competition's Commercial partners in a collective sponsor brick format.
 - O. Participating clubs will provide to CONCACAF, without unreasonable delay, a high resolution electronic version of the club logo in such format as is requested by CONCACAF.
 - P. Participating clubs agree to incorporate the Sponsor Logo Bar on all print game promotional advertising and in any TV broadcast game promotional spots specifically related to the Competition.
 - Q. Participating clubs agree to provide to CONCACAF, free of charge, the ticket and suite allotment described in detail in the Competition Commercial Regulations.
 - R. Clubs will provide to CONCACAF an allocation of space for the Competition's Commercial partner's activations as described in detail in the Competition Commercial Regulations.
 - S. Clubs must inform CONCACAF of any changes/updates to their official logo and submit an updated version in the required format, no later than 30 days before the start of the tournament.
 - T. Participating Clubs will collaborate and support CONCACAF with the promotions and activations of the tournament sponsors as per the Competition Commercial Regulations.
 - U. Failure to comply with the Commercial guidelines and regulations will compromise the commercial viability of the Competition. Therefore, any failure to comply will result in stiff penalties for any guilty party in accordance with these Regulations.

XV. AWARDS

- A. The Champion of the Competition will be entitled to be referred to as the “CONCACAF League Club Champion” and will receive an automatic qualification to the Scotiabank CONCACAF Champions League.
- B. The Competition Champion will receive a trophy from CONCACAF for its permanent possession and will also receive 50 Gold medals.
- C. The Competition Runner-up will receive 50 Silver medals.
- D. Referees for both final matches will receive commemorative medals.
- E. Additional medals may be produced upon request and at the cost of the requesting club.
- F. Separate trophies will be given to individual award winners.

XVI. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

- A. CONCACAF is the exclusive owner of all intellectual property rights of the Competition, including any current or future rights of CONCACAF’s names, logos, brands, music, medals and trophies. Any use of the aforementioned rights requires the prior written approval of CONCACAF, and must comply with any conditions imposed by the Competition Commercial Regulations.
- B. All rights to the fixture list, as well as the matches in the Competition, are the sole and exclusive property of CONCACAF unless expressly granted to another party pursuant to these Regulations. CONCACAF will have the right to exploit the intellectual property rights as it deems appropriate in its sole discretion.

XVII. MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR

- A. Any matters not provided for in these Regulations and any cases of force majeure will be decided by the CONCACAF Council. All decisions will be final and binding and not subject to appeal.
- B. In the case of any discrepancy in the interpretation of the English, Dutch, French or Spanish texts of these Regulations, the English text will be authoritative.
- C. In case of discrepancy in the interpretation of these regulations, the CONCACAF interpretation will prevail.

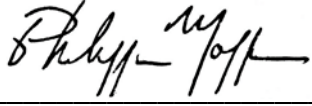
- D. The copyright of the match schedule drawn up in accordance with the provisions of these Regulations is the property of CONCACAF.
- E. Any waiver by CONCACAF of any breach of these Regulations (including of any document referred to in these Regulations) will not operate as, or be construed to be, 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 will 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 will 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.
- F. Enforcement: these Regulations were approved by the CONCACAF Council on April 7 2017 and came into force immediately thereafter.

Miami, 7 April 2017

For the CONCACAF Council



CONCACAF President



CONCACAF General Secretary

ANNEX I - DISCIPLINARY POLICY

Disciplinary action will be taken for non-compliance with the following matters. Further matters will be reviewed by the CONCACAF Disciplinary Committee depending on the severity of the violation.

- I. Late Submission of Documentation – Teams which submit their administrative documentation after the deadlines outlined in the Competition Regulations and/or Circulars will be fined as follow:
 - a. 1st Offense - \$1,000 USD
 - b. 2nd Offense - \$2,000 USD
 - c. 3rd Offense - \$4,000 USD

2. Late arrival at the stadium - Due to the team’s negligence, including late departure from team hotel causing late submission of the Start List (delays the match preparation and the submission of the start list to the broadcasters & media):
 - a. 1st Offense - \$1,000 USD
 - b. 2nd Offense - \$2,000 USD
 - c. 3rd Offense - \$4,000 USD

3. Late departure from the locker rooms – Teams that delay the 1st half or the 2nd half Kick Off-Coach will be suspended for the next game in addition to the following:
 - a. 1st Offense
 - i. If 1 minute or less - \$1,000 USD
 - ii. If 2 minutes or more - \$2,000 USD
 - b. 2nd Offense
 - i. If 1 minute or less - \$2,000 USD
 - ii. If 2 minutes or more - \$4,000 USD
 - c. 3rd Offense
 - i. If 1 minute or less - \$4,000 USD
 - ii. If 2 minutes or more - \$8,000 USD

4. Lack of Security – Including but not limited to the following:
 - a. Fines ranging from \$2,000 USD - \$10,000 USD depending on the severity of the offense:
 - i. Inadequate inspections of bags and spectators at the entrances
 - ii. Inadequate response to flares and other pyrotechnics at the stadium
 - iii. Inadequate response to fans throwing objects onto the Field of Play or within the stands
 - iv. Inadequate security staff at the stadium

5. Media Violations – Including but not limited to the following:
 - a. Fines ranging from \$1,000 USD - \$5,000 USD depending on the severity of the offense:
 - i. Coach and/or players not attending mandatory media activities
 - ii. Photographer or film crew inside the locker rooms
 - iii. Non-compliance with minimum standards
 - iv. Negative comments about the match officials or CONCACAF

6. Minimum standard Violations:
 - a. Fines ranging from \$1,000 USD - \$4,000 USD depending on the severity of the offense:
 - i. Non-compliance with match protocol

- ii. Inappropriate behavior from players and team officials
 - iii. Unsporting and discriminatory conduct
 - iv. Non-compliance with Competition Regulations and/or the Technical guide
7. A fine cannot be appealed, if it is one of the following:
- a. A Warning
 - b. A Reprimand
 - c. Suspensions of up to 2 matches, or of up to 2 months, imposed on players, match officials, clubs (staff and/or officials) or other persons
 - d. Fines imposed on players, match officials, clubs (staff and/or officials), or other persons (not exceeding \$10,000 USD) or Associations (not exceeding \$30,000 USD)
 - e. Failure to respect decisions in accordance with Art. 64 of the FIFA Disciplinary Code

ANNEX 2- QUALIFICATION PROCESS

CONCACAF Club Competition Club Qualification Process for the 2017 Scotiabank CONCACAF League and the 2018 Scotiabank CONCACAF Champions League.

HOW TO DETERMINE THE ENTRIES PER COUNTRY:

❖ BELIZE

- Tournament allocations: One (1) club.
- Tournaments per Year: Two
 - Opening (Apertura): September – December
 - Closing (Clausura): January – May
- Participating Clubs: 9
- League Format:
 - Round Robin with each Club playing each other twice throughout the season
 - The top four clubs advance to the playoffs
 - Semifinals: Clubs are matched as 1 vs. 4 and 2 vs. 3 and play in a home/away series
 - Finals: Two games, home/away series
- Qualification to CONCACAF:
 - If the same club wins both the Opening and Closing playoffs, it will be the #1 ranked club.
 - If two different clubs win the Opening and Closing playoffs:
 - The seasonal champion which has accumulated the most total points from the Opening and Closing seasons will be ranked as club #1;
 - If one or more clubs are tied on total points, then the club with the best goal difference from the combined Opening and Closing seasons will be ranked as club #1;
 - If the clubs are still tied, then the club having scored the most goals in the combined opening and closing seasons will be ranked as club #1.

➤ BLZ #1 – Participates in the 2017 CONCACAF League

❖ COSTA RICA

- Tournament allocations: Three (3) clubs
- Tournaments per Year: Two
 - Opening (Invierno): August – December
 - Closing (Verano): January – May
- Participating Clubs: 12
- League Format:
 - Round Robin with each club playing each other twice throughout the season
 - The top four clubs advance to a Final Round Robin group:
 - If the winner of the Final Round Robin group is the same team as the regular season winner, then this team is the automatic tournament champion.
 - If the winner of the Final Round Robin is different from the regular season champion, then a final will be played between both winners to determine the champion of that tournament.
- Qualification to CONCACAF:
 - If the same club wins both the Opening and Closing seasons it will be ranked #1:

- The non-champion club which has accumulated the highest total points from the Opening and Closing seasons will be Club #2 and the following will be Club #3.
- If two different clubs win the Opening and Closing seasons:
 - The seasonal champion which has accumulated the highest total points from the Opening and Closing tournaments will be Club #1;
 - The seasonal champion which has accumulated the 2nd most total points from the Opening and Closing tournaments will be Club #2;
 - The non-champion club which has accumulated the highest total points from the Opening and Closing tournaments will be Club #3.
 - If the clubs are tied on points, then the club with the best goal differential from the combined Opening and Closing seasons will be the higher ranked club.
 - If the clubs are still tied, then the club having scored the most goals in the combined opening and closing seasons will be ranked as club #1.
- CRC #1 – Participates in the 2018 Scotiabank CONCACAF Champions League
- CRC #2 – Participates in the 2017 CONCACAF League
- CRC #3 – Participates in the 2017 CONCACAF League

❖ **EL SALVADOR**

- Tournament allocations: Three (3) clubs
- Tournaments per Year: Two
 - Opening (Apertura): August – December
 - Closing (Clausura): January – May
- Participating Clubs: 12
- League Format:
 - Round Robin with each club playing each other twice throughout the season
 - The top eight clubs advance to the playoffs
 - Quarterfinals: clubs are ranked and matched the as follows: 1 vs. 8, 2 vs. 7, 3 vs. 6 and 4 vs. 5 playing in a home/away series.
 - Semifinals: winner of 1 vs. 8 against the winner of 4 vs. 5 and the winner of 2 vs. 7 against the winner of 3 vs. 6 playing in a home/away series.
 - Finals: Single game only
- Qualification to CONCACAF:
 - If the same club wins both the Opening and Closing playoffs/Final Round Robin it will be ranked #1:
 - If the losing finalist is the same from both Opening and Closing playoffs/Final Round Robin, it will be ranked #2 and the best team from the semifinals which has accumulated the highest total points from the Opening and Closing seasons will be Club #3;
 - If two different clubs finished as the losing finalists for the Opening and Closing playoffs/ Final Round Robin, then the losing finalist which has accumulated the highest total points from the Opening and Closing seasons will be Club #2 and the other will be Club #3.
 - If two different clubs win the Opening and Closing playoffs/ Final Round Robin:
 - The seasonal champion which has accumulated the highest total points from the Opening and Closing tournaments will be Club #1;
 - The seasonal champion which has accumulated the 2nd most total points from the Opening and Closing tournaments will be Club #2;

- If the losing finalist is the same from both seasons, it will be ranked #3.
 - If two different clubs finished as the losing finalists for the Opening and Closing playoffs, then the losing finalist which has accumulated the highest total points from the Opening and Closing seasons will be Club #2 and the other will be Club #3
 - If the clubs are tied on points, then the club with the best goal differential from the combined Opening and Closing seasons will be the higher ranked club.
 - If the clubs are still tied, then the club having scored the most goals in the combined opening and closing seasons will be ranked as club #1.
- SLV #1 – Participates in the 2018 Scotiabank CONCACAF Champions League
 - SLV #2 – Participates in the 2017 CONCACAF League
 - SLV #3 – Participates in the 2017 CONCACAF League

❖ GUATEMALA

- Tournament allocations: Three (3) clubs
- Tournaments per Year: Two
 - Opening (Apertura): August – December
 - Closing (Clausura): January – May
- Participating Clubs: 12
- League Format:
 - Round Robin with each club playing each other twice throughout the season.
 - The top six clubs advance to the playoffs.
 - Quarterfinals: Clubs ranked 3rd – 6th in the standings are matched 3 vs. 6 and 4 vs. 5 and play in a home/away series.
 - Semifinals: The Semifinal Qualifying Round winners play against the 1st and 2nd place winners of the regular season – winner of 4 vs. 5 plays the first place team and winner of 3 vs. 6 plays the second place team#2 in a home/away series.
 - Finals: Two games, home/away series.
- Qualification to CONCACAF:
 - If the same club wins both the Opening and Closing playoffs/Final Round Robin it will be ranked #1:
 - If the losing finalist is the same from both Opening and Closing playoffs/Final Round Robin, it will be ranked #2 and the best team from the semifinals which has accumulated the highest total points from the Opening and Closing seasons will be Club #3;
 - If two different clubs finished as the losing finalists for the Opening and Closing playoffs/ Final Round Robin, then the losing finalist which has accumulated the highest total points from the Opening and Closing seasons will be Club #2 and the other will be Club #3.
 - If two different clubs win the Opening and Closing playoffs/ Final Round Robin:
 - The seasonal champion which has accumulated the highest total points from the Opening and Closing tournaments will be Club #1;
 - The seasonal champion which has accumulated the 2nd most total points from the Opening and Closing tournaments will be Club #2;
 - If the losing finalist is the same from both seasons, it will be ranked #3.
 - If two different clubs finished as the losing finalists for the Opening and Closing playoffs, then the losing finalist which has accumulated the highest total points from the Opening and Closing seasons will be Club #2 and the other will be Club #3

- If the clubs are tied on points, then the club with the best goal differential from the combined Opening and Closing seasons will be the higher ranked club.
- If the clubs are still tied, then the club having scored the most goals in the combined opening and closing seasons will be ranked as club #1.
- GUA #1 – Participates in the 2018 Scotiabank CONCACAF Champions League
- GUA #2 – Participates in the 2017 CONCACAF League
- GUA #3 – Participates in the 2017 CONCACAF League

❖ **HONDURAS**

- Tournament allocations: Three (3) clubs
 - Opening (Apertura): August – December
 - Closing (Clausura): January – May
- Participating Clubs: Ten
- League Format:
 - Round Robin with each club playing each other twice throughout the season.
 - The top six clubs advance to the playoffs.
 - Quarterfinals: Clubs ranked 3rd– 6th in the standings are matched as 3 vs. 6 and 4 vs. 5 and play in a home/away series.
 - Semifinals: The Semifinal Qualifying Round winners play against the 1st and 2nd place winners of the regular season – winner of 4 vs. 5 plays #1 and winner of 3 vs. 6 plays #2 in a home/away series.
 - Finals: Two games, home/away series.
- Qualification to CONCACAF:
 - If the same club wins both the Opening and Closing playoffs/Final Round Robin it will be ranked #1:
 - If the losing finalist is the same from both Opening and Closing playoffs/Final Round Robin, it will be ranked #2 and the best team from the semifinals which has accumulated the highest total points from the Opening and Closing seasons will be Club #3;
 - If two different clubs finished as the losing finalists for the Opening and Closing playoffs/ Final Round Robin, then the losing finalist which has accumulated the highest total points from the Opening and Closing seasons will be Club #2 and the other will be Club #3.
 - If two different clubs win the Opening and Closing playoffs/ Final Round Robin:
 - The seasonal champion which has accumulated the highest total points from the Opening and Closing tournaments will be Club #1;
 - The seasonal champion which has accumulated the 2nd most total points from the Opening and Closing tournaments will be Club #2;
 - If the losing finalist is the same from both seasons, it will be ranked #3.
 - If two different clubs finished as the losing finalists for the Opening and Closing playoffs, then the losing finalist which has accumulated the highest total points from the Opening and Closing seasons will be Club #2 and the other will be Club #3
 - If the clubs are tied on points, then the club with the best goal differential from the combined Opening and Closing seasons will be the higher ranked club.
 - If the clubs are still tied, then the club having scored the most goals in the combined opening and closing seasons will be ranked as club #1.

- HON #1 – Participates in the 2018 Scotiabank CONCACAF Champions League
- HON #2 – Participates in the 2017 CONCACAF League
- HON #3 – Participates in the 2017 CONCACAF League

❖ **PANAMA**

- Tournament allocations: Three (3) clubs
 - Opening (Apertura): July – December
 - Closing (Clausura): January – May
 - Participating Clubs: Ten
 - League Format:
 - Round Robin with each club plays each other twice throughout the season
 - The top four clubs advance to the playoffs
 - Semifinals: Clubs are matched as 1 vs. 4 and 2 vs. 3 and play in a home/away series
 - Finals: Single game determines the tournament's champion
 - Qualification to CONCACAF:
 - If the same club wins both the Opening and Closing playoffs/Final Round Robin it will be ranked #1:
 - If the losing finalist is the same from both Opening and Closing playoffs/Final Round Robin, it will be ranked #2 and the best team from the semifinals which has accumulated the highest total points from the Opening and Closing seasons will be Club #3;
 - If two different clubs finished as the losing finalists for the Opening and Closing playoffs/ Final Round Robin, then the losing finalist which has accumulated the highest total points from the Opening and Closing seasons will be Club #2 and the other will be Club #3.
 - If two different clubs win the Opening and Closing playoffs/ Final Round Robin:
 - The seasonal champion which has accumulated the highest total points from the Opening and Closing tournaments will be Club #1;
 - The seasonal champion which has accumulated the 2nd most total points from the Opening and Closing tournaments will be Club #2;
 - If the losing finalist is the same from both seasons, it will be ranked #3.
 - If two different clubs finished as the losing finalists for the Opening and Closing playoffs, then the losing finalist which has accumulated the highest total points from the Opening and Closing seasons will be Club #2 and the other will be Club #3
 - If the clubs are tied on points, then the club with the best goal differential from the combined Opening and Closing seasons will be the higher ranked club.
 - If the clubs are still tied, then the club having scored the most goals in the combined opening and closing seasons will be ranked as club #1.
- PAN #1 – Participates in the 2018 Scotiabank CONCACAF Champions League
 - PAN #2 – Participates in the 2017 CONCACAF League
 - PAN #3 – Participates in the 2017 CONCACAF League

❖ **NICARAGUA**

- Tournament allocations: Two (2) clubs
- Tournaments per Year: Two
 - Opening (Apertura): August – December
 - Closing (Clausura): January – May

- Participating Clubs: Ten
 - League Format:
 - Round Robin with each club playing each other twice throughout the season
 - The top four clubs advance to a Final Round Robin group:
 - If the winner of the Final Round Robing group is the same team as the regular season winner, then this team is the automatic tournament champion.
 - If the winner of the Final Round Robin is different from the regular season champion, then a final will be played between both winners to determine the champion of that tournament.
 - Qualification to CONCACAF:
 - If the same club wins both the Opening and Closing playoffs it will be ranked #1:
 - If the losing finalist is the same from both tournaments, it will be ranked #2;
 - If two different clubs finished as the losing finalists for the Opening and Closing playoffs, then the losing finalist which has accumulated the highest total points from the Opening and Closing seasons will be Club #2.
 - If two different clubs win the Opening and Closing playoffs:
 - The seasonal champion which has accumulated the highest total points from the Opening and Closing seasons will be Club #1;
 - The seasonal champion which has accumulated the 2nd most total points from the Opening and Closing seasons will be Club #2;
 - If the clubs are tied on points, then the club with the best goal differential from the combined Opening and Closing seasons will be the higher ranked club.
 - If the clubs are still tied, then the club having scored the most goals in the combined opening and closing seasons will be ranked as club #1.
- NCA #1 - Participates in the 2017 CONCACAF League
- NCA #2 - Participates in the 2017 CONCACAF League
- I. In the case of a country having an additional entry as a result of a country or club not being able to participate for any reason, the CONCACAF council will determine the procedure to select the “wildcard” team based on the scenario for that specific scenario. Such teams may be drawn to play against teams from their own country.

ANNEX 3- GUATEMALA FA CONTINGENCY PLAN

In the event that on May 1st, 2017, Guatemala FA continues to be suspended by FIFA; their entry in the Scotiabank CONCACAF Champions League and their two entries in the CONCACAF League, will be distributed to the following Member Associations based on their club's performance in the last 5 years:

Scotiabank CONCACAF Champions League-

- GUA#1 entry will be awarded to the second-best club of Costa Rica CRC#2 and Costa Rica will have an additional club in the CONCACAF League as CRC#4.

CONCACAF League-

- GUA#2 entry will be awarded to the fourth-best club of Panama, and Panama will have an additional club in the CONCACAF League as PAN#4.
- GUA#3 entry will be awarded to the fourth-best club from Honduras, and Honduras will have an additional club in the CONCACAF League as HON#4.