

# **REGULATIONS** **FIFA World Cup 2022™**

Preliminary Competition

Including COVID-19 Regulations

**FIFA®**

## Fédération Internationale de Football Association

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## ORGANISERS

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Chairman:	Aleksander Čeferin
Deputy chairwoman:	María Sol Muñoz

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## GENERAL PROVISIONS

*These Regulations for the FIFA World Cup 2022™ Preliminary Competition have been modified to adopt regulations to address the COVID-19 pandemic (“COVID-19 Regulations”). The COVID-19 Regulations are set out in the boxes below and either supplement or, if expressly indicated, replace the existing regulations. The COVID-19 Regulations will remain in effect for as long as FIFA considers them appropriate. Due to the continuously evolving understanding of COVID-19, including effective and appropriate methods to reduce the risk and severity of infection, FIFA may modify or supplement the COVID-19 Regulations at any time, including by way of issuing a modified version of these Regulations for the FIFA World Cup 2022™ Preliminary Competition or by issuing a FIFA circular letter or other document intended to modify or supplement the COVID-19 Regulations.*

### **1** FIFA World Cup 2022™

- 1.**  
The FIFA World Cup™ is a FIFA competition embodied in the FIFA regulations.
- 2.**  
The FIFA Council has appointed the Organising Committee for FIFA Competitions to supervise the preliminary competition.
- 3.**  
The Regulations for the FIFA World Cup 2022™ Preliminary Competition (hereinafter: the Regulations) regulate the rights, duties and responsibilities of all associations taking part in the FIFA World Cup 2022™ preliminary competition. The Regulations and all directives, decisions, guidelines and circulars issued by FIFA shall be binding for all parties participating and involved in the preparation, organisation and hosting of FIFA World Cup 2022™ preliminary competition matches.
- 4.**  
Any rights associated with the FIFA World Cup 2022™ that are not granted by these Regulations and/or further regulations, guidelines and decisions as set forth in art. 3 par. 2 of these Regulations and/or specific agreements to a participating member association in the preliminary or final competition, or to a confederation, belong to FIFA.

**5.**

The FIFA Statutes and all FIFA regulations in force shall apply. Any reference in these Regulations to the FIFA Statutes and regulations refer to the FIFA Statutes and regulations valid at the time of application.

## **2** Organising Committee for FIFA Competitions

**1.**

The Organising Committee for FIFA Competitions (hereinafter: the FIFA Organising Committee), appointed by the FIFA Council, is amongst others responsible for supervising the organisation of the FIFA World Cup 2022™ preliminary competition in accordance with the FIFA Statutes and the FIFA Governance Regulations.

**2.**

The FIFA Organising Committee may, if necessary, appoint a bureau and/or a sub-committee to deal with emergencies. Any decision taken by the bureau or sub-committee shall come into effect immediately but shall be subject to confirmation by the plenary committee at its next meeting.

**3.**

The decisions taken by the FIFA Organising Committee and/or its bureau/ sub-committee are final and binding and not subject to appeal.

## **3** Participating member associations

**1.**

Each participating member association shall be responsible throughout the preliminary competition for:

- a) the conduct of all accreditation-bearing 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 preliminary competition;
- b) 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 injury, accident, disease and travel in consideration

## 6 General provisions

of the relevant FIFA rules or regulations (cf. in particular Annexe 1, art. 2 par. 3 of the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players);

- c) paying for incidental expenses and for any costs incurred by its Team Delegation Members;
- d) paying for any costs of extending the stay of any member of its delegation, the duration of which is determined by FIFA;
- e) applying for any required visas in good time from the consulate or embassy of the host country; if necessary, the assistance of the host association is to be sought as early as possible;
- f) attending media conferences and other official media activities organised by FIFA and/or by the host association in accordance with the applicable FIFA regulations and instructions issued by FIFA;
- g) ensuring that every member of its delegation complies with the FIFA Statutes, the applicable FIFA regulations, directives, guidelines and circulars and decisions taken by FIFA bodies, in particular the Council, the FIFA Organising Committee, the Referees Committee, the Disciplinary Committee, the Ethics Committee and the Appeal Committee.

*h) complying with and implementing (where applicable) the measures mandated in the FIFA International Match Protocol ("IMP") and bearing the resulting costs for the Team Delegation Members and any other persons carrying out duties on its behalf.*

### 2.

All Team Delegation Members shall comply with the Laws of the Game and the FIFA Statutes and all applicable FIFA regulations (including these Regulations), in particular the FIFA Disciplinary Code, the FIFA Stadium Safety and Security Regulations, the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations, the FIFA Code of Ethics, the FIFA Media and Marketing Regulations and the FIFA Equipment Regulations as well as all circulars, directives and decisions of FIFA bodies, unless these Regulations stipulate otherwise, and all further FIFA guidelines that have any significance regarding the FIFA World Cup™.

### 3.

All Team Delegation Members shall undertake to comply fully with the FIFA Statutes, the applicable FIFA regulations, directives, guidelines and circulars

and decisions taken by FIFA bodies, in particular the Council, FIFA Organising Committee, the Referees Committee, the Ethics Committee, the Disciplinary Committee and the Appeal Committee.

*All Team Delegation Members shall also fully comply with these Regulations (including the COVID-19 Regulations), the IMP and any other COVID-19-related requirements or instructions issued by FIFA, whether in FIFA circular letters or in any other documents.*

#### 4.

All participating member associations shall indemnify, defend and hold FIFA, and all of its 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 participating member associations, their Team Delegation Members, their affiliates and any third parties contracted to the participating member associations.

#### 5.

Unless otherwise mentioned in these Regulations, each participating member association hosting a match in the preliminary competition shall be responsible, amongst other matters, for:

- a) guaranteeing, planning and implementing law and order as well as safety and security in the stadiums and other relevant locations in conjunction with the relevant authorities. The FIFA Stadium Safety and Security Regulations shall apply;
- b) obtaining adequate insurance cover for all risks relating to match organisation, including but not limited to public liability insurance. FIFA shall be expressly identified as a named insured party in all such insurance policies;
- c) providing a national stadium in the country concerned for all of the home match dates on the basis of the provisions of art. 22 paras 1 and 2;
- d) sending three copies of a DVD recording of each home match by courier to the FIFA general secretariat within 24 hours of the end of the match.

- e) *ensuring that all measures taken in relation to team travel, transport, accommodation, logistics, match preparation and the match itself are in line with the requirements set by the relevant local authority(ies) and government;*
- f) *completing the football-specific risk assessment tool as mandated by the IMP and submitting it to the confederation in question and FIFA;*
- g) *informing the visiting team as well as the entire FIFA delegation and other stakeholders of any exceptional requirements and restrictions in effect at the match venue due to the COVID-19 pandemic at least 14 days prior to the match date as well as any update as they occur following the template in the IMP "Match Preparation Information Sheet".*

## **4** Entries for the FIFA World Cup™

### **1.**

The FIFA World Cup™ takes place every four years. As a general rule, every association affiliated to FIFA may participate in the FIFA World Cup™ with its representative team.

### **2.**

The FIFA World Cup™ consists of two stages:

- a) the preliminary competition;
- b) the final competition.

### **3.**

The representative team of the Organising Association, Qatar, automatically qualifies for the final competition.

### **4.**

On entering the preliminary competition, the participating member associations and their Team Delegation Members automatically undertake to:

- a) observe and comply with the FIFA Statutes, regulations, directives, circulars, guidelines and decisions as well as national and international laws;
- b) accept that all the administrative, disciplinary and refereeing matters related to the competition shall be dealt with by FIFA in compliance with the relevant FIFA regulations;

- c) participate with the best possible team in all matches of the competition in which their team is scheduled to take part;

*REPLACE 4 c) with:*

*c) participate with the best possible team available in all matches of the competition in which their team is scheduled to take part;*

- d) accept and fully comply with FIFA's right to use and/or FIFA'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 participating member associations in both stages of the FIFA World Cup™ in accordance with the relevant terms of the FIFA Media and Marketing Regulations for the Preliminary Competition. To the extent that FIFA's right to use and/or FIFA'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 participating member associations and their Team Delegation Members shall ensure that such third party waives, pledges and unconditionally assigns and/ or transfers to FIFA with immediate effect, with full title guarantee in perpetuity and without any restriction, any such rights to ensure FIFA's unfettered use as set out above;
- e) ensure the provision of 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 relevant FIFA rules or regulations (if applicable) (cf. in particular Annexe 1, art. 2 par. 3 of the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players);
- f) observe the principles of fair play.

## 5.

Entry into the competition is processed online via a dedicated extranet and it is free of charge.

## 5 Withdrawal, unplayed matches and abandoned matches

### 1.

All participating member associations undertake to play all of their matches until eliminated from the preliminary competition.

### 2.

Any association that withdraws between the submission of the entry form and the start of the preliminary competition will be sanctioned with a fine of at least CHF 20,000. Any association that withdraws after the start of the preliminary competition will be sanctioned with a fine of at least CHF 40,000.

### 3.

Depending on the circumstances of the withdrawal, the FIFA Disciplinary Committee may impose sanctions in addition to those provided for in par. 2 above, including the expulsion of the association concerned from subsequent FIFA competitions.

### 4.

Any match which is not played or which is abandoned – except in cases of force majeure recognised by FIFA – may lead to the imposition of sanctions against the relevant associations by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee in accordance with the FIFA Disciplinary Code. In such cases, the FIFA Disciplinary Committee may also order that the match be replayed.

*The COVID-19 pandemic and related circumstances are not, in and of themselves, considered cases of force majeure. However, examples of circumstances resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic that may be submitted to FIFA for consideration as cases of force majeure include the following:*

- a) *A host association's country's national authorities announce just before a match is scheduled to be played restrictions that prevent the match from being staged;*
- b) *A visiting team is not permitted to leave the country from which it is due to fly out as a result of closed borders;*
- c) *A visiting team travelling to the country where a match is scheduled to be played is refused entry and returned to its country of origin;*

d) *There is an insufficient number of match officials available to referee the match.*

*FIFA has sole discretion to determine cases of force majeure.*

## 5.

Any association that withdraws or whose behaviour is liable for a match not being played or being abandoned may be ordered by FIFA to reimburse FIFA, the host association or any other participating member association for any expenses incurred as a result of its behaviour. In such cases, the association concerned may also be ordered by FIFA to pay compensation for any damages incurred by FIFA, the host association or any other participating member association. The association in question will also forfeit any claim to financial remuneration from FIFA.

*If a participating member association is uncertain as to whether a scheduled match will take place, it shall inform the confederation in question and FIFA without delay. FIFA may decide if the match shall take place or if it needs to be rescheduled or other changes need to be made relating to the scheduled match.*

*FIFA shall take into account the participating member associations' circumstances wherever possible when approving any new match details.*

*Any decisions made by FIFA under this clause with respect to a match are without prejudice to any possible disciplinary sanctions.*

## 6.

If an association withdraws or a match cannot be played or is abandoned as a result of force majeure, FIFA shall decide on the matter at its sole discretion and take whatever action is deemed necessary. If a match is not played or is abandoned as a result of force majeure, FIFA may order a replay.

## 7.

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

- a) the match shall recommence at the minute at which play was interrupted, and with the same scoreline;

- b) the match shall recommence with the same players on the pitch and substitutes available as when the match was abandoned;

*REPLACE 7 b) with:*

*b) the recommencement of play must be scheduled so as to comply with the COVID-19 testing requirements as mandated in the IMP. In general, the match shall recommence with the same players on the pitch and substitutes available as when the match was abandoned. However, if a player who was on the pitch when the match was abandoned cannot participate in the recommenced match based on the result of his COVID-19 test, he may be replaced with a substitute player from the start list.*

- c) no additional substitutes may be added to the list of players on the team sheet;

*REPLACE 7 c) with:*

*c) The recommencement of play must be scheduled so as to comply with the COVID-19 testing requirements as mandated in the IMP. In general, no additional substitutes may be added to the list of players on the team sheet. However, if a player who was a substitute in the abandoned match cannot participate in the recommenced match based on the result of his COVID-19 test, he may be replaced with a player from the provisional list.*

- d) the teams can make only the number of substitutions to which they were still entitled when the match was abandoned;
- e) players sent off during the abandoned match cannot be replaced;
- f) any sanctions imposed before the match was abandoned remain valid for the remainder of the match;
- g) 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;

- h) the kick-off time, date (which shall always first be foreseen for the following day) and location shall be decided by FIFA in consultation with both the host and visiting associations, the FIFA Match Commissioner, and the confederation when applicable;
- i) Any matters requiring a further decision shall be handled by FIFA.

For the preliminary competition, if a match still cannot be played on the third day after the match was abandoned, the expenses incurred by the visiting association shall be split between the two associations. FIFA shall take any other decisions relating to such replay as are deemed necessary.

## 6 Replacement

If any association withdraws or is excluded from the competition, FIFA shall decide on the matter at its sole discretion and take whatever action is deemed necessary.

## 7 Eligibility of players

**1.** Each association shall ensure the following when selecting its representative team for the preliminary competition of the FIFA World Cup™:

- a) all players shall hold the nationality of its country and be subject to its jurisdiction;
- b) 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.

**2.** The associations shall be responsible for fielding only eligible players. Failure to do so shall lead to the consequences stipulated in the FIFA Disciplinary Code.

*Only players who comply with and pass the testing requirements and timelines stipulated in the IMP (negative test result) are considered eligible players.*

**3.**

Protests regarding the eligibility of players shall be decided by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee in accordance with the FIFA Disciplinary Code (cf. art. 14 par. 3).

## **8**

### **Laws of the Game**

**1.**

All matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game in force and as laid down by The International Football Association Board. In the case of any discrepancy in the interpretation of the Laws of the Game, the English version shall be authoritative.

**2.**

Each match shall last 90 minutes, comprising two periods of 45 minutes, with a half-time interval of 15 minutes.

**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 five minutes at the end of normal playing time, but not between the two periods of extra time.

**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 Laws of the Game.

*Number of substitutions: in accordance with the temporary amendment to Law 3 approved by The International Football Association Board, five substitutions are permitted as follows:*

**Law 3 – The Players – temporary amendment**

- *During the match, each team:*
  - *may use a maximum of five substitutes*
  - *has a maximum of three substitution opportunities\**
  - *may additionally make substitutions at half-time*
- *Where extra time is played, each team:*
  - *may use an additional substitute (whether or not the team has used its maximum number of substitutes)*
  - *has one additional substitution opportunity\* (whether or not the team has used its maximum number of substitution opportunities)*
  - *may additionally make substitutions:*
    - *in the period before the start of extra time*
    - *at half-time in extra time*

*If a team has not used its maximum number of substitutes or substitution opportunities, the unused substitutions and opportunities may be used in extra time.*

*\* Where both teams make a substitution at the same time, this will count as a used substitution opportunity for each team.*

*NB: the use of return substitutes is not an option for senior competitions.*

## 9 Football technologies

### 1.

FIFA and/or the confederation when applicable may use football technologies such as goal-line technology (GLT), a video assistant referee (VAR) system or electronic performance and tracking systems (EPTS), as stipulated in the Laws of the Game.

### 2.

A video assistant referee (VAR) may assist the referee to make a decision using replay footage in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Laws of the Game in force at the time of the preliminary competition and as laid down by The International Football Association Board.

# 10 Refereeing

## 1. Appointments

In the preliminary competition, on-field match official appointments (as well as video match official appointments where the use of VAR is implemented) shall be proposed by the confederations to the FIFA Referees Committee for ratification.

For each match, the referee and the assistant referees shall be selected from the FIFA Refereeing International List in force. The fourth official and the reserve assistant referee (where foreseen) shall be selected from the FIFA Refereeing International List in force or exceptionally from the Member Association Top Division List in force. Only qualified FIFA video match officials shall be selected for those matches where the use of VAR is implemented.

## 2.

The decisions of the FIFA Referees Committee are final and not subject to appeal.

## 3.

The referee and other match officials appointed for preliminary competition matches shall receive from FIFA an official refereeing match kit (including match official footwear), which they shall wear for all preliminary competition matches for which they are appointed. Any alterations, additions or changes to the official refereeing match kit, other than tailoring its size, are strictly prohibited.

## 4.

The match officials shall be provided with training facilities by the host association.

## 5.

If the referee is prevented from carrying out his duties, such referee shall be replaced by the fourth official. The same applies for either of the assistant referees if a reserve assistant referee is not appointed.

*A minimum of three match officials are needed to referee the match.*

**6.**

After each match, the referee shall complete and sign the official FIFA report form (and retain a copy for himself). The referee shall hand it over to the FIFA Match Commissioner at the stadium immediately after the match. On the report form, the referee shall note in as much detail as possible all occurrences, such as misconduct of players leading to caution or expulsion, unsporting behaviour by supporters and/or by officials or any other person acting on behalf of an association at the match and any other incident happening before, during and after the match.

# 11

## Disciplinary matters

**1.**

Disciplinary incidents are dealt with in compliance with the FIFA Disciplinary Code in force and all relevant circulars and directives, with which the participating member associations undertake to comply.

**2.**

In addition, the players agree in particular to:

- a) respect the spirit of fair play, non-violence and the authority of the match officials;
- b) behave accordingly;
- c) refrain from doping as defined by the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations as well as to accept all other relevant FIFA regulations, circulars and directives.

**3.**

The participating member associations and their Team Delegation Members shall comply with the FIFA Statutes, the FIFA Disciplinary Code and the FIFA Code of Ethics, in particular in matters regarding the fight against discrimination, racism and match-fixing activities.

**4.**

Any violations of these Regulations or of any other FIFA regulations, circulars, guidelines, directives and/or decisions that do not come under the jurisdiction of another body shall be dealt with by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee in accordance with the FIFA Disciplinary Code.

## 12 Medical/doping

### 1.

Each participating member association shall include a medical doctor in its delegation for each match.

- a) *In addition, the host association shall appoint a medical response coordinator in accordance with the requirements of the IMP.*
- b) *In addition, each participating member association shall appoint a lead hygiene implementation officer and a team medical liaison officer in accordance with the requirements of the IMP.*

### 2.

In order to detect heart issues or risk factors that may lead to sudden cardiac arrest during matches in the preliminary competition, and to protect players' health, each participating member association shall ensure that its players undergo a pre-competition medical assessment prior to the start of the preliminary competition.

### 3.

Doping is strictly prohibited. The FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations, the FIFA Disciplinary Code and all other relevant FIFA regulations, circulars and directives shall apply to the preliminary competition of the FIFA World Cup 2022™.

### 4.

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.

### 5.

Extreme weather conditions may warrant cooling and/or drinks breaks to be implemented during the course of a match in accordance with the protocols established by the FIFA Medical Committee and/or documented in the FIFA Football Emergency Medicine Manual. Such breaks would be considered on a match-by-match basis. Responsibility for implementing and controlling cooling breaks resides with the referee.

### 6.

A player who experiences a suspected concussion during a match must undergo an examination by the team doctor in accordance with the protocols

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

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

**7.**

*Proof of a negative test conducted no earlier than 72 hours before accessing the match stadium and in accordance with the provisions of the IMP must be provided in order for a Team Delegation Member to enter the match stadium and remain on the premises during matchday.*

## **13** Disputes

**1.**

All disputes in connection with the FIFA World Cup™ preliminary competition shall be promptly settled by negotiation.

**2.**

In compliance with the FIFA Statutes, participating member associations, players and officials may not take disputes to an ordinary court of law but to the exclusive jurisdiction of FIFA.

**3.**

The participating member associations, players and officials acknowledge and accept that, once all internal channels have been exhausted at FIFA, their sole recourse shall be to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne,

Switzerland, unless excluded or the decision is declared as final and binding and not subject to appeal. Any arbitration proceedings at CAS shall be governed by the CAS Code of Sports-related Arbitration.

## 14 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 organised in the preliminary competition of the FIFA World Cup 2022™, including but not limited to the state of and markings on the pitch, accessory match equipment, eligibility of players, stadium installations and footballs.

### 2.

Unless otherwise stipulated in this article, protests shall be submitted in writing to the FIFA Match Commissioner within two hours of the match in question and followed up with a full written report, including a copy of the original protest, to be sent by email to the FIFA general secretariat within 24 hours of the end of the match, otherwise they shall be disregarded.

### 3.

Protests regarding the eligibility of players selected for matches in the preliminary competition shall be submitted in writing to the FIFA Match Commissioner within two hours of the match in question and followed up with a full written report, including a copy of the original protest, to be sent by email to the FIFA general secretariat within 24 hours of the end of the match, otherwise they will be disregarded.

### 4.

Protests regarding the state of the pitch, its surroundings, markings or accessory items (e.g. goals, flagposts or footballs) shall be made in writing to the referee before the start of the match by the head of delegation of the team lodging the protest. If the pitch's playing surface becomes unplayable during a match, the captain of the protesting team shall immediately lodge a protest with the referee in the presence of the captain of the opposing team. The protests shall be confirmed in writing to the FIFA Match Commissioner by the head of the team delegation no later than two hours after the match.

### 5.

Protests against any incidents that occur during the course of a match shall be made to the referee by the team captain immediately after the disputed incident

and before play has resumed, in the presence of the captain of the opposing team. The protest shall be confirmed in writing to the FIFA Match Commissioner by the head of the team delegation no later than two hours after the match.

**6.**

No protests may be made about the referee's decisions regarding facts connected with play. Such decisions are final and not subject to appeal, unless otherwise stipulated in the FIFA Disciplinary Code. The same applies for any potential issue concerning the use of goal-line technology (GLT) and the video assistant referee (VAR) system.

**7.**

If an unfounded or irresponsible protest is lodged, the FIFA Disciplinary Committee may impose a fine.

**8.**

If any of the formal conditions of a protest as set out in these Regulations are not met, such protest shall be disregarded by the competent body. Notwithstanding the above, the FIFA Disciplinary Committee remains competent to prosecute any disciplinary infringement ex officio, as established in the FIFA Disciplinary Code.

**9.**

FIFA shall pass decisions on any protests lodged, subject to the exceptions stipulated in these Regulations, the FIFA Statutes or any other FIFA regulations.

## **15** Yellow and red cards

**1.**

Single yellow cards and pending suspensions as a consequence of cautions received in different matches in the preliminary competition of the FIFA World Cup 2022™ are not carried over to the final competition. Pending match suspensions imposed as a result of a direct or an indirect red card in matches in the preliminary competition of the FIFA World Cup 2022™ are carried over to the final competition.

**2.**

If a player receives two cautions in two different matches, he will be automatically suspended from his team's subsequent match.

**3.**

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

**4.**

Any suspension that cannot be served during this competition will be carried over to the representative team's next official match.

## **16** Commercial rights

**1.**

FIFA is the original owner of all of the rights emanating from the final competition of the FIFA World Cup™, from the preliminary competition of the FIFA World Cup™ as a collective whole, as well as from 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.

**2.**

FIFA has issued Media and Marketing Regulations for the Preliminary Competition and shall issue, at a later date, Media and Marketing Regulations for the Final Competition specifying these commercial and intellectual property rights. All FIFA members must comply with the Media and Marketing Regulations for the Preliminary Competition and with the Media and Marketing Regulations for the Final Competition, and they must ensure that their members, officials, players, delegates and other affiliates also comply with these regulations.

## **17** Operational guidelines

Subject to FIFA's approval, the confederations are authorised to issue implementation rules and operational guidelines.

## PRELIMINARY COMPETITION ORGANISATION

### 18 Entry form

Subject to any other decision by the FIFA Council, the associations shall complete and submit the official FIFA entry form for the preliminary competition via a dedicated extranet online registration in accordance with the deadline stipulated in the relevant FIFA circular. Only the entry forms that are duly registered with FIFA by the stipulated deadline shall be valid and taken into consideration.

### 19 List of players

**1.**

Each association entering the preliminary competition shall provide FIFA with as extensive and realistic a provisional list as possible of prospective players for the preliminary competition no later than 30 days before its first qualifying match. This list shall show each player's last name, first name(s), current club, date of birth and passport number as well as the head coach's last name, first name(s), date of birth and nationality.

**2.**

This list is not binding. Further players may be added, showing the same information, at any time but no later than the day before the qualifying match in question.

**3.**

The only document considered to be valid proof of a player's identity and nationality shall be a permanent international passport that explicitly, and in Latin characters, states the player's first name(s) and surname(s), as well as his day, month and year of birth. Identity cards or other local supporting official documents shall not be accepted as a valid means of identification. The participating member associations shall present each player's valid permanent international passport for the country of the participating member association to the FIFA Match Commissioner on the day before the match. A player without a valid permanent international passport shall not be entitled to play.

**4.**

A total of 23 players shall be named on the start list (11 players and 12 substitutes). The 11 first-named players must start the match, and the other 12 are

designated as substitutes. 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. Three players must be goalkeepers, with the number 1 shirt reserved for one of them.

*REPLACE 4 with:*

*The start list must contain a minimum of 14 and a maximum of 23 players, one of which must be a goalkeeper. If there are fewer than 14 players available, FIFA will consider the matter and may make exceptions on a case-by-case basis. The 11 first-named players must start the match, and the remaining players on the start list are designated as substitutes. The numbers on the players' shirts must correspond with the numbers indicated on the start list. All goalkeepers and the captain must be identified as such. At least one player must be a goalkeeper, up to a maximum of three, with the number 1 shirt reserved for one of them.*

**5.**

Both teams must return their start list to the referee at least 85 minutes before kick-off. They shall provide the referee with two copies of their start list. The opposing team can request one of these copies.

**6.**

After the start lists have been completed, signed by the team administrator and returned to the referee, and if the match has not yet kicked off, the following instructions apply:

- a) If any of the first 11 players (starting players) named 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, three players may still be replaced.

*REPLACE 6 a) with:*

*If any of the first 11 players (starting players) named on the start list are not able to start the match for any reason, they may be replaced by any of the available 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, up to five players may still be replaced.*

- b) If any of the 12 substitutes named 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, three players may still be replaced.

*REPLACE 6 b) with:*

*If any of the substitutes named 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, up to five players may still be replaced.*

**7.**

Although no longer eligible to play as a substitute, any 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.

**8.**

One additional substitute may be used when a match goes into extra time (regardless of whether the team has already used the full quota of permitted substitutes).

**9.**

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 FIFA Match Commissioner. A suspended player or official will not be allowed to sit on the substitutes' bench.

*REPLACE 9 with:*

*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 FIFA Match Commissioner and must include, as a minimum, the head coach, medical doctor and team administrator. A suspended player or official will not be allowed to sit on the substitutes' bench.*

**10.**

Small, hand-held electronic or communication devices are permitted in the technical area if used for coaching/tactical purposes or for player welfare, in accordance with the Laws of the Game.

## 20 Preliminary draw, format of play and group formation

### 1.

The FIFA Organising Committee, based on the confederations' needs and proposals, decides on the format of play and match calendar as well as the group formation of the preliminary competition. It forms groups and/or sub-groups for the preliminary competition by seeding and drawing lots whilst taking sports and geographic factors into consideration, as far as possible. Any seeding based on team performance for each confederation's preliminary competition shall be based on the FIFA/Coca-Cola World Ranking. The decisions of the FIFA Organising Committee are final and not subject to appeal. The preliminary draw details for each region will be confirmed and communicated by FIFA and the confederation concerned in due course.

### 2.

In the event of any withdrawals, the FIFA Organising Committee may change the groups in accordance with the provisions of par. 1 above.

### 3.

The preliminary competition may begin on the first official international match date after the preliminary draw of each confederation according to the international match calendar. FIFA shall examine any needs for an earlier start of the preliminary competition on a case-by-case basis.

### 4.

The matches shall be played in accordance with one of the following three formats:

- a) in groups composed of several teams on a home-and-away basis, with three points for a win, one point for a draw and no points for a defeat (league format);
- b) one home and one away match per team (knockout format);
- c) by way of exception and only with the permission of the FIFA Organising Committee, in the form of a tournament in one of the countries of the participating member associations or on neutral territory;

*If a match played as part of a tournament is abandoned due to a team having an insufficient number of players available:*

- *The tournament should proceed as scheduled whenever possible;*
- *FIFA will decide on the matter.*

- d) by way of exception and only with the permission of the FIFA Organising Committee, playoff matches may be played in the form of one single match (cup system) in one of the countries of the participating member associations or on neutral territory.

*Once the format has been confirmed and the preliminary qualification competition has started, any change of format must be approved by the FIFA Organising Committee. The ranking in each group is determined as stated in the paragraphs below.*

## 5.

When matches are played in accordance with format a) or b) above, home matches may not be played in another country without the express permission of the FIFA Organising Committee.

## 6.

In the league format, the ranking in each group is determined as follows:

- a) greatest number of points obtained in all group matches;
- b) goal difference in all group matches;
- c) greatest number of goals scored in all group matches.

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

- d) greatest number of points obtained in the group matches between the teams concerned;
- e) goal difference resulting from the group matches between the teams concerned;
- f) greater number of goals scored in all group matches between the teams concerned;
- g) the goals scored away from home count double between the teams concerned (if the tie is only between two teams);



**10.**

In the knockout format, both teams shall play one home and one away match each, the sequence of which shall be determined by lots drawn by FIFA. The team having scored most goals over the two games shall qualify for the next round. If both teams score the same number of goals over the two matches, the goals scored away shall be counted as double. If the same number of goals is scored away or if both matches end without any goals being scored, extra time of two periods of 15 minutes each shall be played at the end of the second leg. The extra time is an integral part of the second-leg match. Thus, if no goals are scored in extra time, kicks from the penalty mark shall be taken to determine the winner, in accordance with the procedure described in the Laws of the Game. If both teams score the same number of goals in extra time, the visiting team is declared the winner on the basis of away goals counting double.

**11.**

In the event of playoff matches being played in one single match in accordance with the provisions of art. 20 par. 4d) above, if a match is level at the end of normal playing time, extra time shall be played. Extra time shall consist of two periods of 15 minutes, with an interval of five minutes at the end of normal playing time, but not between the two periods of extra time. The players shall remain on the pitch between full-time and extra time, as well as between the two periods of extra time. If the score is still level at the end of extra time, kicks from the penalty mark shall be taken to determine the winner, in accordance with the procedure described in the Laws of the Game.

**12.**

The dates of the matches shall be set by the associations concerned and/or by the confederation in compliance with the international match calendar and subject to the approval of the FIFA Organising Committee. The FIFA general secretariat shall be informed in accordance with the deadline stipulated in the relevant FIFA decision. If the associations cannot agree on the dates of the matches, the FIFA Organising Committee shall make the final decision. The FIFA Organising Committee shall ensure that matches in the same group are played simultaneously when the situation demands this for sporting reasons.

# 21

## Venues, kick-off times and training sessions

### 1.

The venues of matches shall be set by the host association and/or by the confederation, as applicable, and the matches may only be played in stadiums that have been inspected and approved by the confederation concerned. The opponents and the FIFA general secretariat shall be notified by the host association and/or by the confederation, as applicable, at least three months before the match in question is due to be played. In principle, the venue is to be located no further than 150km away from the nearest international airport, which shall not exceed a maximum two-hour drive. The airport should offer landing possibilities for charter flights in the event that the visiting association opts to charter its delegation's flight directly to this airport. If associations cannot agree on match venues, the FIFA Organising Committee shall make the final decision.

*REPLACE 1 with:*

*The venues of matches shall be set by the host association and/or by the confederation, as applicable, and the matches may only be played in stadiums that have been inspected and approved by the confederation concerned. The opponents and the FIFA general secretariat shall be notified by the host association and/or by the confederation, as applicable, at least eight weeks before the match in question is due to be played. In principle, the venue is to be located no further than 150km away from the nearest international airport, which shall not exceed a maximum two-hour drive. The airport should offer landing possibilities for charter flights in the event that the visiting association opts to charter its delegation's flight directly to this airport. If associations cannot agree on match venues, the FIFA Organising Committee shall make the final decision.*

### 2.

The venue of the match shall have sufficient high-standard hotels to accommodate the home team, the visiting team and the FIFA delegation in accordance with art. 27 par. 3d).

*The venue of the match must be able to accommodate the amendments needed in order to implement the requirements of the IMP.*

**3.**

The host association shall inform its opponents and the FIFA general secretariat of the kick-off time at least 60 days before the match in question is due to be played. If the host association requests a change, the written approval of the visiting team must be obtained at least 30 days before the match. After this deadline, only FIFA may approve a late change of kick-off time based on well-founded and documented reasons.

**4.**

The associations shall arrange for their representative teams to arrive at the venue no later than the evening before the date on which the match is due to be played. FIFA and the host association shall be informed of the travel itinerary of the visiting association at least one week in advance, and the visiting association shall have made provisions for obtaining visas, if applicable, in accordance with art. 3 par. 1e).

*Participating member associations must ensure that provisions for COVID-19 testing are in place in accordance with IMP requirements and that such provisions take into consideration their arrangements when travelling to and from the match venue, as well as the capability of the appointed laboratory to deliver test results as required by the IMP.*

**5.**

On the day before the match and weather permitting, the visiting team is entitled to have one training session of 60 minutes on the pitch where the match is due to take place. Prior to the visiting team's arrival in the host country, the exact time and duration of the training session shall be mutually agreed, and then confirmed in writing by the host association. In the event of severe adverse weather conditions, the FIFA Match Commissioner may cancel the training session. In this case, the visiting team shall be allowed to inspect the pitch while wearing training shoes. Should both teams wish to train at the same time, the visiting team shall be given priority.

**6.**

If the host association considers the pitch unfit for play, they shall immediately inform FIFA and the confederation concerned as well as the visiting association and the match officials before their departure for the match in question. If the host association fails to inform these parties accordingly, it shall be obliged to pay all of the expenses incurred for the travel, board and lodging of the parties involved.

**7.**

If there is any doubt regarding the condition of the pitch after the visiting association has 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 art. 5 par. 7.

**8.**

The matches may be played in daylight or under floodlight. Matches played at night may be played only in stadiums where the floodlighting installations meet the minimum lighting requirements laid down by FIFA, i.e. that the whole pitch shall be evenly lit, with a recommended lighting level of at least 1,200 lux. An emergency power generator shall 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. FIFA, in its sole discretion, may grant exceptions to these lighting requirements in specific circumstances where it determines that such exceptions are warranted.

**9.**

All matches in the preliminary competition shall be identified, promoted and advertised as qualifying matches in accordance with the relevant FIFA Media and Marketing Regulations and branding guidelines for the preliminary competition.

## **22**

### **Stadium infrastructure and equipment**

**1.**

Each association organising matches in the preliminary competition shall ensure that the stadiums and facilities in which the matches take place fulfil the requirements described in the Football Stadiums: Technical Recommendations and Requirements publication and comply with the safety and security standards and other FIFA regulations, guidelines and instructions for international matches. The fields of play, accessory equipment and facilities shall be in optimum condition and comply with the Laws of the Game and all other relevant regulations. Each stadium shall have spare goals, nets and corner flags located in close proximity to the field of play for contingency purposes. An emergency generator shall also be available and fully operational at each stadium for contingency purposes.

**2.**

Periodic safety checks for the benefit of spectators, players and officials shall be carried out on the stadiums selected for matches in the preliminary competition by the authorities responsible. If requested, the associations shall provide FIFA and the confederation with a copy of the relevant safety certificate, which shall not be more than one year old.

*REPLACE 2 with:*

*The host association shall put in place comprehensive COVID-19 preventative measures as described in the IMP and in accordance with the directives issued by the competent authorities. Additional safety checks for the benefit of spectators, players and officials shall be carried out at the stadiums selected for matches in the preliminary competition by the authorities responsible. If requested, the host association shall provide FIFA and the confederation with a copy of the relevant stadium safety certificate, which shall not be more than one year old.*

**3.**

Only stadiums that have been inspected and approved by the relevant confederation may be selected for the preliminary competition of the FIFA World Cup 2022™. Should a stadium no longer comply with FIFA standards, FIFA may, in consultation with the confederation, 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 shall be filed with the confederation as stipulated by the latter. 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 the confederation as stipulated by the latter.

**4.**

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. With regard to the spectator areas, the FIFA Stadium Safety and Security Regulations apply to the preliminary competition matches.

*REPLACE 4 with:*

*The ability to admit spectators to a match is subject to the applicable directives, restrictions and regulations issued by the relevant government authorities in the host country. If spectators are allowed at a match, all relevant directives, restrictions and regulations issued by such authorities must be followed at all times, subject to the following:*

- a) Matches may only be played in all-seater stadiums;*
- b) If only stadiums with both seating and standing areas are available, the standing space shall remain vacant; and*
- c) The FIFA Stadium Safety and Security Regulations apply to the spectator areas.*

**5.**

If the host association has a stadium with certified goal-line technology and wishes to use the technology for a preliminary competition match, both competing teams must sign FIFA's consent form for the technology to be used. The following process must be respected:

- The host association must send the aforementioned consent form to the visiting team for approval to use goal-line technology during the match in question; this is subject to the installation being certified (valid on the day of the match) as described on [www.FIFA.com/quality](http://www.FIFA.com/quality);
- The completed consent form shall be submitted to FIFA for information;
- The entire process must be completed at least seven days before the match is scheduled to take place.

**6.**

If a stadium has a retractable roof, the FIFA Match Commissioner, in consultation with the referee and the two teams' officials, shall decide before the match whether the roof shall be open or closed during the match. This decision must be announced at the match coordination meeting, 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 shall remain closed for the entire match. If the match starts with the roof open and there is a serious deterioration in the weather conditions, the FIFA Match Commissioner 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.

**7.**

Matches may be played on natural or artificial surfaces, or on an integrated combination of artificial and natural materials (hybrid system). Where artificial surfaces are used, the surface must meet the requirements of the FIFA Quality Programme for Football Turf or the International Match Standard, unless special dispensation is given by FIFA. In this case, the visiting team is entitled to have two practice sessions before the match, if requested.

**8.**

Each stadium shall have sufficient space for warm-ups 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). Only the goalkeeper may warm up with a ball. If there is not sufficient space behind the goals, both teams shall warm up in the designated area beside the substitutes' bench of team B, behind assistant referee no. 1. In this case, only a maximum of three (3) players and one (1) official per team may warm up at the same time and without any balls.

**REPLACE 8 with:**

*Space for warm-ups during the match must be considered carefully, and each team shall use its designated warm-up area. Depending on the stadium's layout, designated warm-up areas may be allocated behind each team's substitutes' bench. In such cases, only a maximum of three players and one official per team may warm up at the same time and without any balls.*

**9.**

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.

**10.**

At the end of the two periods of normal playing time (i.e. 45 and 90 minutes), the referee shall 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.

**11.**

Panels or electronic display boards, numbered on both sides for clarity, shall be used to indicate the substitution of players and the number of minutes to be allowed for time lost.

**12.**

The use of giant screens must be in compliance with the relevant FIFA instructions.

**13.**

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.

## **23** Footballs

**1.**

The footballs used in the preliminary competition shall be supplied by the host association. The visiting team shall be supplied with a sufficient quantity of the same football for its practice session(s) at the match stadium.

**2.**

The footballs used in the preliminary competition shall conform with the provisions of the Laws of the Game and the FIFA Equipment Regulations. They shall bear one of the following three designations: the official "FIFA QUALITY PRO" logo, the official "FIFA QUALITY" logo or the "INTERNATIONAL MATCHBALL STANDARD (IMS)" logo.

# 24

## Team equipment

### 1.

The participating member associations 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 organised by FIFA (including in the stadiums for official matches and training sessions, as well as during official press conferences and mixed-zone activities).

### 2.

Each team shall inform FIFA of two different and contrasting colours (one predominantly dark and one predominantly light) for its official and reserve team kits (shirt, shorts and socks). In addition, each team shall select three contrasting colours 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. This information shall be sent to FIFA on the team colour form. Only these colours may be worn at the matches.

### 3.

Each team shall supply a set of goalkeeper shirts without names or numbers. These shirts will only be used in those special circumstances in which an outfield player must take the position of goalkeeper during a match. This extra set of goalkeeper shirts must be provided in the same three colours as the regular goalkeeper shirts.

### 4.

In principle, each team shall wear its official team kit as declared on the team colour form. If the two teams' colours might cause confusion, the host team shall be entitled to wear its official team kit and the visiting team shall use its reserve team kit or, if necessary, a combination of the official and the reserve team kits.

**5.**

Each player shall wear a number between 1 and 23 on the front and back of his team shirt and on his playing shorts. The colour of the numbers must contrast clearly with the main colour 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. It is not compulsory for the name of the player to appear on his shirt during the preliminary competition.

**6.**

FIFA shall supply a sufficient number of players' sleeve badges with the official competition logo of the FIFA World Cup 2022™, which shall be affixed on the right-hand sleeve of each shirt, and any other badge as stipulated by FIFA before the preliminary competition, which shall be affixed on the left-hand sleeve. FIFA shall issue the participating member associations with guidelines for the use of official terminology and graphics, which will also contain instructions for the use of the players' sleeve badges.

## 25 **Flags, anthems and competition music**

FIFA and the confederation concerned will determine the exact ceremonial elements to be put in place at each preliminary competition match. FIFA and the confederations shall issue the participating member associations with guidelines for the implementation of these elements.

## 26 **Media**

*Amendments to media provisions may be necessary in accordance with the requirements of the confederation, the guidelines in the IMP or the directives issued by the competent local authority.*

**1.**

Each association shall appoint a dedicated media officer to facilitate cooperation between the associations, FIFA and the media in accordance with these Regulations. The association media officer shall be able to speak at least one of the official FIFA languages (English, French, German or Spanish) as well as other relevant languages. The association media officer must ensure that the media facilities and services provided by the association meet the

required standards. The association media officer shall coordinate all media arrangements, including pre-match and post-match press conferences and interviews.

**2.**

The associations' media officers shall coordinate media accreditation requests and ensure that all accreditation requests come from bona fide media representatives. Priority shall be given to media representatives from the countries of the two teams playing. Space permitting, access shall be given to international media representatives from any country.

In close cooperation with the relevant host association, FIFA is entitled to establish the terms and conditions applicable to the accreditation provided to media representatives at all matches.

**3.**

Each association shall arrange a pre-match media activity on the day before each match. These activities shall ideally be official press conferences, but for matches with less media interest, they may also be a mixed-zone activity or single interview. In principle, such media activities shall be staged in the stadium in which the match is to be played, unless an alternative location is agreed in advance. As a minimum, each media activity shall be attended by the head coach of the team and, ideally, a player. The host association shall be responsible for providing the necessary technical infrastructure and services at pre-match media activities in the match stadium, including interpreting services.

The two associations' media officers shall be responsible for coordinating the activities and informing the media accordingly about all pre-match media activities.

**4.**

Both associations shall make their training sessions open to the media for at least 15 minutes on the day before the match. In principle, the official training sessions shall take place in the stadium where the match will take place. Media representatives shall be able to follow the training sessions from the positions that they will occupy during the match.

**5.**

An adequate number of covered seats shall be made available for the written press in a separate and secure area that is centrally located in the main or opposite stand, with a clear and unobstructed view of the whole pitch and with sufficient technical installations (e.g. power and internet connection) provided.

A working area with desks, power supply and cabled or Wi-Fi internet connections shall also be provided for media representatives. The internet connections for media representatives shall be dedicated networks and provided free of charge.

**6.**

Interviews shall not be permitted during the match on the field of play itself or in its immediate vicinity. Interviews with coaches and players shall be allowed upon their arrival at the stadium, subject to their agreement. Post-match interviews ("flash" interviews) shall be conducted after the match in a designated area located between the pitch and the players' dressing rooms. Associations shall make their head coach and at least two key players available for interviews.

**7.**

Both teams shall make their head coach available for comments after the match in an official post-match press conference at the stadium.

After the match, a mixed zone shall be set up between the dressing rooms and the team transport area in order to offer media representatives the opportunity to conduct interviews with players and coaches. All players from both teams who are listed on the official start list are obliged to pass through the mixed zone in order to conduct interviews with the media.

**8.**

Media representatives are forbidden from entering the team and referee dressing rooms before, during and after the match. However, one of the host broadcaster's cameras may enter the dressing rooms before the match at a time agreed in advance with the associations in order to film the players' shirts and equipment. This filming shall be completed well before the arrival of the players.

**9.**

No media representatives shall be allowed to enter the field of play before, during or after the match, with the exception of one hand-held camera crew covering the team line-ups at the start of the match and up to two of the host broadcaster's cameras filming after the end of the match. The same shall apply to the tunnel and dressing-room area, with the exception of cameras for flash interviews, team arrivals and players in the tunnel prior to taking to the pitch (before the match) and at the start of the second half.

In terms of the mass media, only a limited number of photographers, camera operators and production staff of the broadcasters – equipped with appropriate pitch-access accreditation – shall be allowed to work in the area between the boundaries of the pitch and the spectators.

## 27

### Financial provisions

**1.**

All revenue from the exploitation of the commercial rights (advertising, TV and radio broadcasts, film and videos) for the preliminary competition matches belongs to the host association and, with the income from ticket sales, form the gross receipts. The owners of the rights are obliged to provide FIFA, upon request and free of charge, with 15 minutes of action footage per match. FIFA shall use this footage free of charge for promotional purposes in the preliminary competition and in football worldwide. FIFA is also entitled to use the footage for its own electronic data carriers or any such carriers produced on FIFA's behalf, and for its own multimedia database.

**2.**

The levies due to the confederation in accordance with the confederation's statutes and regulations shall be deducted from the gross receipts.

**3.**

The participating member associations shall settle all other costs among themselves. FIFA recommends the following provisions:

- a) the visiting association shall pay for its delegation's own international travel costs to the venue or to the nearest international airport, as well as board, lodging costs and incidental expenses;

- b) the host association shall pay for domestic transport costs for the entire official delegation of the visiting team depending on flight connections (cf. art. 21 par. 1);
  - c) the host association shall pay for board and lodging in a high-standard hotel as well as domestic transport in the host country for the match officials, the FIFA Match Commissioner, the referee assessor and any other FIFA officials (e.g. security officer, media officer, etc.);
  - d) the teams shall not be permitted to stay at the same hotel as each other or at the hotel chosen for the FIFA delegation.
- e) *all costs related to COVID-19 testing and documentation requested shall be borne by the association or team in question.*
  - f) *all costs related to the COVID-19 preventative measures required at the match stadium shall be borne by the host association.*

**4.**

If the financial outcome of a match is insufficient to cover the expenses mentioned under par. 2 above, the host association shall bear the deficit.

**5.**

FIFA shall bear the cost of:

- a) international travel and daily allowances for the FIFA delegation members, match officials included, as determined by FIFA.
- b) *COVID-19 testing of the FIFA delegation members, including match officials.*

**6.**

Any disputes arising from financial provisions shall be resolved amongst the associations concerned but may be submitted to the FIFA Organising Committee for a final decision to be taken.

## 28 Ticketing

### 1.

The host association is responsible for ticketing and shall manage the ticketing operations in a manner that meets all applicable security and safety standards. It shall set aside an appropriate number – to be determined by mutual agreement and in writing – of complimentary and purchasable tickets for the visiting association. At least five representatives from the visiting association shall be seated in the VIP box. The visiting association shall inform the host association no later than 15 days before the match, and in writing, of the total number of tickets that will be unused and thus returned upon arrival at the venue.

### 2.

The host association shall, upon request and free of charge, provide FIFA with ten VIP box tickets and up to 40 category 1 tickets for each match. Such tickets shall be provided no later than 30 days prior to each match.

### 3.

FIFA reserves the right to require certain terms and conditions to be included in the terms and conditions which apply to preliminary competition match tickets.

## 29 Liability

With the sole exception of preliminary competition matches hosted and staged by, or under the auspices of, FIFA at a neutral venue as decided by FIFA and not being considered a preliminary competition home match of either of the two participating associations, the host association of a preliminary competition match shall be exclusively responsible for the organisation of its home matches and shall discharge FIFA from all responsibility and relinquish any claim against FIFA and the members of its delegation for any damages resulting from any claims relating to such match.

**FINAL COMPETITION**

**30** Final competition

Further provisions governing the modalities and specific details relating to the final competition will be adopted by the FIFA Council at a later stage.

## FINAL PROVISIONS

### **31** Matters not provided for and force majeure

Matters not provided for in these Regulations or any cases of force majeure shall be decided by FIFA.

### **32** Prevailing set of regulations

In the case of any discrepancy between these Regulations and any competition regulations issued by a confederation, the text of these Regulations shall prevail.

### **33** Languages

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

### **34** Copyright

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

## **35** No waiver

Any waiver by FIFA 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 FIFA to insist upon strict adherence to any provision of these Regulations, or any document referred to in these Regulations, on one or more occasions shall not be considered to be a waiver of, or deprive FIFA of the right to subsequently insist upon strict adherence to, that provision or any other provision of these Regulations, or any document referred to in these Regulations.

## **36** Enforcement

These regulations were approved by the FIFA Council at its meeting in Miami on 15 March 2019 and come into force with immediate effect.

Temporary amendments were approved by the Bureau of the FIFA Council as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic on 1 October 2020 and come into force immediately. They will be periodically reviewed and removed accordingly.

Zurich, October 2020

For FIFA

President:  
Gianni Infantino

Secretary General:  
Fatma Samoura







