

# FIFA<sup>®</sup>

## Regulations on the Nomination and Appointment of FIFA International Match Officials



Fédération Internationale de Football Association

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# **Regulations on the Nomination and Appointment of FIFA International Match Officials**

## 2 Definitions

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### 3 Definitions

For the purpose of these regulations, the terms set out in the Regulations on the Organisation of Refereeing in FIFA Member Associations shall apply.

**NB:** Terms referring to natural persons are applicable to both genders. Any term in the singular applies to the plural and vice-versa.

## **1** Introduction

These regulations describe the eligibility of and the process for nominating and appointing match officials to the FIFA Refereeing International Lists.

## **2** Scope of application

These regulations apply to all women and men appointed to the FIFA Refereeing International Lists, including referees, assistant referees, video match officials, futsal referees, beach soccer referees and any other individuals eligible to officiate or assist in officiating international matches.

### **3** Effective dates

Each year, FIFA publishes the lists of match officials who are eligible to officiate at international matches. These lists come into effect on 1 January and are valid until 31 December of the same year.

### **4** Compliance

The FIFA Referees Committee shall draw up the FIFA Refereeing International Lists in compliance with the articles of the FIFA Statutes.

### **5** Nomination deadline

Each year, FIFA Refereeing shall request each member association to nominate candidates whom they consider qualified to act as an international match official. The deadline to nominate these candidates for each upcoming year is 1 October.

### **6** Nomination conditions

#### **1.**

Lists of candidates including both women and men shall be compiled for:

- a) referees
- b) assistant referees
- c) video match officials (VMOs)
- d) futsal referees
- e) beach soccer referees

#### **2.**

When nominating a candidate, member associations shall observe the following conditions:

- a) Candidates may be nominated for only one list, except for video match officials (VMOs), who can also be referees or assistant referees.
- b) Member associations that do not have an organised league may not make any nominations.
- c) The maximum number of match officials from each member association shall be decided annually by the FIFA Referees Committee, taking the following factors, among others, into account:
  - I. The level of refereeing of each member association
  - II. The level or professionalization of competitions within each member association
- d) The proposed match officials shall be at least 25 years old (23 years old in the case of assistant referees) on 1 January of the year for which they have been nominated.
- e) The proposed match officials shall have officiated regularly at matches at the highest level in the member association of their country for at least two years.

- f) Only candidates who have officiated more often as assistant referees than as referees in the previous 12 months may be considered for the list of international assistant referees.
- g) The proposed video match officials (VMOs) shall have officiated regularly at matches at the highest level in the member association of their country for at least two years and have officiated at least 15 matches as a VMO. They can also be directly certified by FIFA or the confederations. There is no fitness requirement for this role.
- h) The proposed match officials shall have passed the appropriate FIFA fitness test related to their category, as well as a medical examination certifying that they are fit to act as match officials within the four months prior to the deadline for nomination for the FIFA Refereeing International Lists (1 June – 30 September). FIFA reserves the right to require match officials over the age of 45 to undergo additional technical assessments as well as specific medical examinations and fitness testing on a case-by-case basis.
- i) Candidates who are temporarily injured, ill or pregnant (or recovering from pregnancy and/or childbirth) at the time of nomination may be approved provisionally until they have passed the above-mentioned medical examination and physical fitness test and FIFA has received official notification of the results.
- j) The member associations shall supply FIFA with the rankings of the proposed match officials based on the marks obtained at national level. These rankings shall apply only to first-division matches at which they have officiated in the 12 months prior to their nomination.
- k) Nominations must be submitted no later than 1 October via the link provided by FIFA Refereeing.
- l) Failure to fulfil any of the foregoing conditions will lead to rejection of the candidate(s) in question.

## **7** Changing roles

International match officials included in one of the lists for any given year may not be proposed for any other list until a period of 12 months (for specialised training) has elapsed. This period shall begin on the day on which the match official concerned no longer appears on the international list. The video match official (VMO) role is exempted from this article.

## **8** Conflicts of interest

Match officials proposed for the lists may not exercise any official function as a member of an executive committee, as a general secretary, or as a member of the referees committee of any football club, member association, confederation or FIFA during the year for which they have been appointed.



## **9** Validation of Nomination

The FIFA Referees Committee shall decide upon any nominations for the FIFA Refereeing International Lists. The FIFA Referees Committee may consult the confederations before reaching a decision.

## **10** Allotments

The FIFA Referees Committee reserves the right to decide on the number of match officials that it deems appropriate for each category of match officials, and may disregard the rankings provided by the member associations under art. 6 par. 2 j) of these regulations.

## **11** Badges

The selected match officials shall receive FIFA international match official badges representing the category for which they were approved. The match officials shall wear their respective badges at all international matches which they officiate during the year for which they were appointed and may wear them for domestic matches as well. They may not, however, wear their FIFA international match official badge if it does not match their role in a match, unless they are a FIFA international referee, in which case they can also wear their badge for other roles.

## **12** Expectations of behaviour

FIFA international match officials shall be role models. As such, they are expected to behave with dignity and respect, while complying with all applicable FIFA regulations and guidelines.

## **13** Suspension and removal requests by a member association

The member association to which an international match official is affiliated may submit a formal request to the FIFA Referees Committee to suspend or remove the match official from the lists for any justifiable reason.

## **14** Suspensions and removals by the FIFA Referees Committee

The FIFA Referees Committee reserves the right to suspend or remove any international match official from the lists on grounds of performance, behaviour or for any other justifiable reason.

## **15** Final approval

The FIFA Referees Committee reserves the right to decide whether or not to appoint a match official to the international lists.

## **16** Appeals

Decisions passed by the FIFA Referees Committee are final and not subject to appeal.

## **17** Official 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.

## **18** Enforcement

These regulations came into force on 1 October 2020.

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