




REGULATIONS

FIFA World Cup 2026™ Preliminary Competition

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10.

**GENERAL
PROVISIONS**

1 FIFA World Cup 2026™

1. The FIFA World Cup™ is a competition embedded in the FIFA Statutes.
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 2026™ Preliminary Competition (“Regulations”) regulate the rights, duties and responsibilities of all associations taking part in the FIFA World Cup 2026™ preliminary competition and play-off tournament.

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 2026™ preliminary competition matches and play-off tournament matches.

4. Any rights associated with the FIFA World Cup 2026™ that are not granted by these Regulations and/or further regulations, guidelines and decisions as set forth in these Regulations and/or specific agreements to a participating member association in the preliminary competition or the play-off tournament, 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.
6. Other rules and/or decisions that are binding on FIFA (e.g. due to FIFA being a signatory to the World Anti-Doping Code) may apply to the subject matter of these Regulations. Any such rules and/or decisions implemented by FIFA shall take precedence over these Regulations in the event of any conflict and must be complied with by each participating member association.

2 Organising Committee for FIFA Competitions

1. The Organising Committee for FIFA Competitions (“the “FIFA Organising Committee”), appointed by the FIFA Council, is amongst others responsible for supervising the organisation of the FIFA World Cup 2026™ preliminary competition and play-off tournament 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 Confederations

1. The preliminary competition shall be organised by FIFA in collaboration with the confederations. The confederations shall establish a competition format, which shall require approval from FIFA. FIFA will communicate the respective timelines for such process in due course.
2. Subject to FIFA's approval, the confederations are authorised to issue and implement rules and operational guidelines.
3. Stadiums to be selected for the preliminary competition of the FIFA World Cup 2026™ shall be inspected and approved by the confederations.
4. The confederations, in collaboration with the participating member associations, shall inform FIFA of the proposed match schedule, venues and kick-off times. Final decisions shall require approval from FIFA.
5. Match operations should be coordinated by each host association in collaboration with the confederations.
6. The confederations shall propose to FIFA the appointment of FIFA Match Commissioners and any other relevant officials. The final appointments shall be confirmed by FIFA after running integrity and compliance checks.
7. The confederations shall propose to the FIFA Referees Committee the appointment of on-field match officials (as well as video match official appointments where the use of video assistant referee (VAR) systems are implemented). The final appointments shall be ratified by FIFA.
8. Usage of VAR shall be decided by the confederations in consultation with FIFA. Such decision shall be circulated in due course prior to the start of the corresponding competition phase(s).
9. In the event that any of the preliminary competitions are not held or completed in a manner that makes it possible to determine which member association(s) would qualify for the final competition (due to cancellation, postponement, abandonment or otherwise), the relevant confederation shall propose, to FIFA's approval, one or more member association(s) based in the confederation's territorial region as its qualified member association(s) for the final competition.



The confederation shall base its proposal strictly on the sporting merits of the member association(s) and shall provide a written report to FIFA explaining the reasons for proposing the qualification of the member association(s) for the final competition. In the event that FIFA does not approve the confederation's proposed member association(s), the confederation shall propose an alternative member association(s) for FIFA's approval.

10. Any issue between two or more member associations that cannot be resolved before or during a match must be addressed to the confederation, who will then propose a resolution to FIFA.

11. The confederations shall provide FIFA, whenever possible, with a link to all live broadcast match feeds.

4 Participating member associations

1. On entering the preliminary competition and play-off tournament, the participating member associations automatically undertake to and shall be responsible for:

- a. observing and complying with these Regulations and ensuring that each of their Delegation Members also observes and complies with these Regulations and the principles of fair play;
- b. the conduct of all accreditation-bearing players, coaches, managers, officials, media officers, representatives and guests of its delegation ("Delegation Members"), and of any person carrying out duties on its behalf throughout the preliminary competition and play-off tournament;
- c. ensuring the provision of adequate insurance to cover their Delegation Members and any other persons carrying out duties on their behalf against all risks, including but not limited to injury, accident, disease and travel in consideration of the relevant FIFA rules or regulations, and paying for incidental costs and expenses incurred by their Delegation Members and any other persons carrying out duties on their behalf during the course of their stay in the host countries;
- d. applying for any required visas, as soon as the dates of the match have been confirmed, from the consulate or embassy of the host country in accordance with the respective procedures in force in the respective country. The assistance of the host association is also to be sought;
- e. attending media conferences and other official media activities organised by FIFA, the confederation and/or by the host association in accordance with the applicable FIFA regulations and instructions issued by FIFA circular letters, guidelines, directives and/or decisions;
- f. ensuring that every member of its delegation complies with the FIFA Statutes, the applicable FIFA regulations, directives, guidelines, circular letters and decisions taken by FIFA bodies, in particular the Council, the Organising Committee, the Referees Committee, the Disciplinary Committee, the Ethics Committee and the Appeal Committee; and

- g. complying with and implementing (where applicable) the measures mandated and bearing the resulting costs for the Delegation Members and any other persons carrying out duties on its behalf.

2. All Delegation Members shall undertake to comply fully 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. They shall also undertake to comply fully with all circulars, directives and decisions of FIFA bodies, in particular the Council, the Organising Committee, the Referees Committee, the Ethics Committee, the Disciplinary Committee and the Appeal Committee, unless these Regulations stipulate otherwise, as well as with all further FIFA guidelines that have any significance regarding the FIFA World Cup 2026™.

3. 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 Delegation Members, their affiliates and any third parties contracted to the participating member associations.

4. 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 stadium in the host country concerned for all home match dates on the basis of the provisions of article 13 paragraphs 1 and 2, and securing an alternative compliant stadium in the host country in the event of identified issues with the first stadium; in exceptional situations where the visiting team cannot enter the host country due to circumstances of force majeure, the host association shall secure an alternative venue, previously approved by the confederation and subject to final approval by FIFA;



- d. ensuring that all matches of the preliminary competition are played in the country of the host association;
- e. submitting requests to FIFA for any venue changes that may be required due to circumstances of force majeure and/or if a stadium located in a country that is different from that of the host association needs to be used. Such requests are subject to FIFA approval;
- f. sending FIFA an official link to the full footage of each match within 24 hours of its completion.

5 Withdrawal, unplayed matches and abandoned matches

1. All participating member associations undertake to play all of their scheduled matches.
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 additional disciplinary measures, including the expulsion of the participating member association concerned from subsequent FIFA competitions. The FIFA Organising Committee may decide to replace the withdrawn participating member association in question with another member association.
4. Any match which is not played or which is abandoned – except in cases of force majeure recognised by FIFA – may lead to the imposition of disciplinary measures against the relevant participating member association 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.
5. Any participating member 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.

- 6.** If a participating member association withdraws or if 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, the confederation and the two participating member associations shall agree on a resolution to be presented to and approved by FIFA.
- 7.** Further to the above provision, in the case of a match being abandoned as a result of force majeure after it has already kicked off, the following principles shall apply:
- a. The match shall recommence at the minute at which play was interrupted, 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.
 - c. No additional substitutes may be added to the list of players on the start list.
 - d. The teams can make only the number of substitutions to which they were still entitled when the match was abandoned.
 - e. Players sent off during the abandoned match cannot be replaced.
 - f. Any disciplinary measures imposed before the match was abandoned remain valid for the remainder of the match and may be dealt with in accordance with the FIFA Disciplinary Code.
 - g. The match shall recommence where play was stopped when the match was interrupted (e.g. with a free kick, throw-in, goal kick, corner kick, kick from the penalty mark, etc.). If the match was abandoned while the ball was still in play, it shall restart with a dropped ball from the position of the ball when play was stopped.
 - 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.



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**DISCIPLINARY
PROCEDURES**

6 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 and team officials agree in particular to:
 - a. respect the spirit of fair play, non-violence and the authority of the match officials;
 - b. behave accordingly; and
 - 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 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.

7 Disputes

1. All disputes in connection with the FIFA World Cup 2026™ preliminary competition shall be promptly resolved by the participating member associations concerned in coordination with the confederation concerned. If a dispute is not resolved, the confederation shall present a solution to FIFA for approval.
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 unless 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.



8 Protests

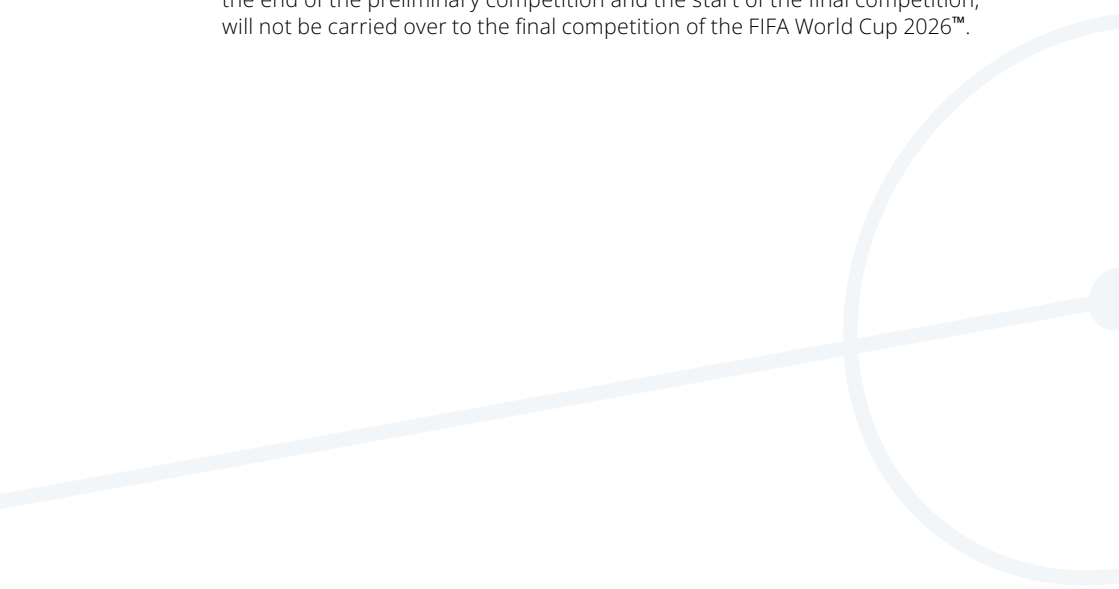
1. For the purpose of these Regulations, protests are objections of any kind related to events or matters that have a direct effect on matches organised in the FIFA World Cup 2026™ preliminary competition, including but not limited to the state of and markings on the pitch, accessory match equipment, the 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 FIFA within 24 hours of the end of the match, otherwise they shall be disregarded. In addition, and where applicable, a copy of the full written report, including a copy of the original protest, shall be submitted to the FIFA Disciplinary Committee in accordance with the applicable provisions of the FIFA Disciplinary Code.
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 submitted to the FIFA Disciplinary Committee in accordance with the applicable provisions of the FIFA Disciplinary Code and by email to qualifiers@fifa.org within 24 hours of the end of the match and shall be dealt with by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee, 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 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.
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.

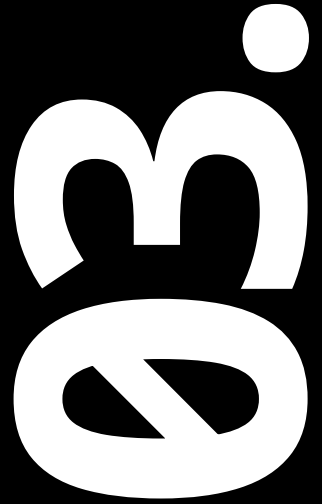
6. No protests may be made about the referee's decisions regarding facts connected with play. Such decisions are final and not subject to appeal, unless otherwise stipulated in the FIFA Disciplinary Code. The same applies for any potential issue concerning the use of goal-line technology (GLT) and the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

9 Yellow and red cards

1. The referee has the authority to take any disciplinary action from the moment of entering the field of play for the pre-match inspection until leaving the field of play after the match ends (including penalties (penalty shoot-out)). If, before entering the field of play at the start of the match, a player or team official commits a sending-off offence, the referee has the authority to prevent the player or team official from taking part in the match (see Laws of the Game, Law 12.3). The referee will report any other misconduct.
2. Single yellow cards and pending suspensions as a consequence of cautions received in different matches in the preliminary competition of the FIFA World Cup 2026™ will not be 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 2026™ will be carried over to the final competition.
3. If players or team officials receive two cautions in one match (in matches decided by penalties) or in two different matches of the competition, they will be automatically suspended from their team's subsequent match.
4. If players or team officials are sent off as a result of a direct or an indirect red card, they will be automatically suspended from their team's subsequent match. In addition, further sanctions may be imposed by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee.



- 5.** Any match suspension resulting from a player or team official being sent off (as a result of a direct or an indirect red card) that cannot be served during the preliminary competition of the FIFA World Cup 2026™ (due to the team's elimination or last match in the competition) will be carried over in accordance with the relevant provisions of the FIFA Disciplinary Code.
 - 6.** Any match suspension imposed in terms of matches in relation to a direct or an indirect red card received in a continental competition of a confederation that takes place between matches of the preliminary competition, or between the end of the preliminary competition and the start of the final competition, will not be carried over to the final competition of the FIFA World Cup 2026™.
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**PRELIMINARY
COMPETITION**

10 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, including the centralised play-off tournament; and
 - b. the final competition.
3. The representative teams of the host member associations – Canada, Mexico and the United States of America – shall qualify automatically for the final competition as per the decision approved by the FIFA Council on 14 February 2023.
4. On entering the preliminary competition, the participating member associations and their Delegation Members automatically undertake to:
 - a. accept that all administrative, disciplinary and refereeing matters related to the competition shall be dealt with by FIFA in compliance with the relevant FIFA regulations and in collaboration with the confederation(s);
 - b. participate with the best possible team in all matches of the competition in which their team is scheduled to take part;
 - c. field only one senior national team in any matches during the international match window, and only the senior national team in the competition;
 - 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) that may appear or be generated in connection with the participation of the 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; and
 - e. accept FIFA's right to use and/or sub-license the right to use any of the records, names, photographs and images that may fall under the ownership and/or control of a third party. The participating member associations and their Delegation Members shall ensure that such third party waives, pledges and unconditionally assigns and/or transfers to FIFA any such right to ensure FIFA's unfettered use as set out above with immediate effect, retaining full title guarantee in perpetuity and without any restrictions.

6. Subject to any other decision by the FIFA Council, the associations shall complete and submit the official FIFA entry form for the preliminary competition in accordance with the deadline stipulated in the relevant FIFA communication. Only the entry forms that are duly registered with FIFA by the stipulated deadline shall be valid and taken into consideration.
7. If any member association is excluded from the competition due to a FIFA suspension that is still in force at the time of entry, FIFA shall decide on the matter at its sole discretion and take whatever action is deemed necessary in accordance with FIFA regulations relating to suspensions, replacement and reinstatement.

11 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 draw procedures that shall determine the formation of groups for the preliminary competition. All draws to form groups and/or sub-groups for the preliminary competition shall be conducted by seeding and drawing lots whilst taking sports and geographical factors into consideration, as much as possible. Any seeding based on team performance for each confederation's preliminary competition shall, in principle, be based on the FIFA/Coca-Cola World Ranking. Only the FIFA Organising Committee may approve exceptions to these criteria for the preliminary competition. All 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 matches shall be played in accordance with one of the following 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. In groups composed of several teams playing each other in a single match (not 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) – the home venue will be determined by draw or assigned by the confederation in agreement with the participating member associations
 - c. One home and one away match per team (knockout format)
 - d. 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



7. Should the best second- or third-placed team within a group stage qualify for the next stage or for the final competition, the criteria to decide such best second- or third-placed team shall depend on the competition format and shall require the approval of FIFA following proposals from the confederations.
8. Should the competition format proposed by a confederation include a combined qualification path via another continental competition, in particular for the completion of the last segment of the preliminary competition, FIFA's prior approval will be required in all such cases. This is also valid for the continental play-offs that may be played in a format of one single match.
9. 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 that scores the most goals over the two games shall qualify for the next round. If both matches end without either team having scored more goals than their opponent, extra time of two periods of 15 minutes each shall be played at the end of the second leg. Any extra time is an integral part of the second-leg match. Thus, if one team does not score more goals than the other during extra time, penalties (penalty shoot-out) shall be taken to determine the winner, in accordance with the procedure described in the Laws of the Game.
10. In the event of play-off matches being played in one single match in accordance with the provisions of art. 11 par. 3e) 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, penalties (penalty shoot-out) shall be taken to determine the winner, in accordance with the procedure described in the Laws of the Game.
11. The dates of the matches shall be set by the associations concerned in conjunction with the confederation concerned, in compliance with the international match calendar and subject to the approval of FIFA. FIFA shall be informed in accordance with the deadline stipulated in the relevant FIFA communication. FIFA shall ensure that matches in the same group are played simultaneously when the situation demands this for sporting reasons.



12 Venues, kick-off times and training sessions

1. The venues of matches shall be set by the host association in conjunction with the confederation concerned. Matches may only be played in stadiums that have been inspected and approved by the confederation concerned. The opponents and FIFA shall be notified simultaneously by the host association and the confederation at least three months before the match in question is due to be played. In principle, the venue shall 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 confederation concerned shall mediate and submit a recommendation to FIFA. FIFA 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. 24 par. 3d).
3. The host association and the confederation shall inform the opponents and FIFA 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 substantial 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 and the recommendation issued by the confederation.
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. In exceptional circumstances, FIFA and the confederation concerned may consider an alternative venue, which shall be located in the same host country. The confederation 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. 4 par. 1d).
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, subject to approval by the confederation, or under floodlights. 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, at 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.



04.

STADIUMS

13 Stadium infrastructure and equipment

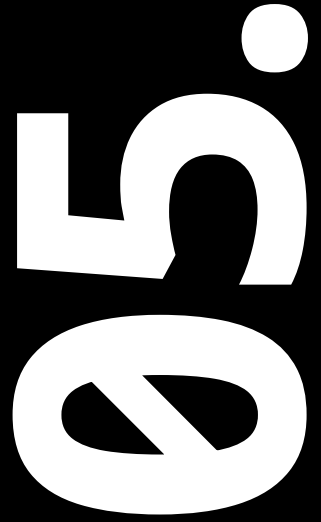
1. Each association organising matches in the preliminary competition shall ensure that the stadiums and facilities in which the matches take place fulfil the requirements described in the Football Stadium Guidelines publication and comply with the safety and security standards and other FIFA regulations, 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 concerned with a copy of the relevant safety certificate, which shall not be more than one year old.
3. Only stadiums that have been inspected and approved by the relevant confederation prior to the start of the FIFA World Cup 2026™ preliminary competition may be selected. Should a stadium no longer comply with FIFA standards, FIFA may, in consultation with the confederation concerned, reject the selection of the stadium concerned. Brand-new stadiums, as well as refurbished or renovated 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.
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 all preliminary competition matches.
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 shall be respected:

- The host association shall 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/technical/football-technology.
- The completed consent form shall be submitted to FIFA for information.
- The entire process shall 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 Artificial Turf 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 beside the team benches. Each team shall warm up either beside the respective bench within the designated area, with a maximum of five players at the same time (with a maximum of one official) without any balls or in the designated area beside the team bench of team B, behind assistant referee no. 1. The final decision shall be assessed on-site by the FIFA Match Commissioner in collaboration with the host association.
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).
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 their hands, the number of minutes that will be allowed 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 FIFA's replay policy.
13. Smoking, including smokeless tobacco products and electronic tobacco products, 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.



**LISTS OF PLAYERS
AND OFFICIALS**

14 Eligibility of players

1. Each association shall ensure the following when selecting its representative team for the preliminary competition of the FIFA World Cup 2026™:
 - 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 participating member associations shall be responsible for fielding only eligible players. Failure to do so shall lead to the consequences stipulated in the FIFA Disciplinary Code.
3. Protests regarding the eligibility of players shall be decided by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee in accordance with the FIFA Disciplinary Code.

15 List of players

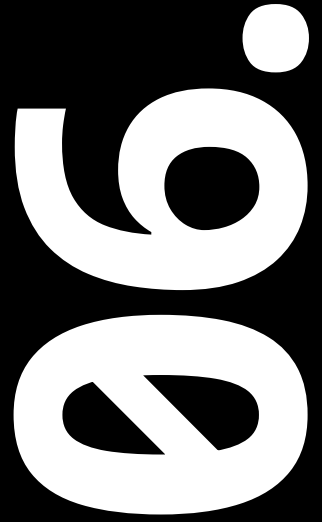
1. Each association entering the preliminary competition shall provide FIFA with as extensive and realistic a provisional list as possible of at least 35 prospective players for the preliminary competition no later than 30 days before its first qualifying match. This list shall show each player's last 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 their 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 up to 23 players shall be named on the start list for each match (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.
- 5.** Both teams must return their start list to the FIFA Match Commissioner and the referee at least 90 minutes before kick-off. They shall provide the referee with four copies of their start list. The opposing team can request one of these copies. Additionally, the FIFA Stadium Data Collector (FSDC) will also require a copy.
- 6.** After the start lists have been submitted, signed by the team administrator and returned to the FIFA Match Commissioner and referee, and if the match has not yet kicked off, the following instructions apply:

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 available substitute players shall be reduced accordingly. During the match, up to five players may still be replaced.

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 available 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 player who was removed from the start list for any reason may be seated on the team bench, and if so, would then also be eligible for doping control selection.
- 8.** No more than 23 people (11 officials and 12 substitutes) shall be allowed to sit on the team 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 team bench.





KIT AND TEAM EQUIPMENT

16 Equipment

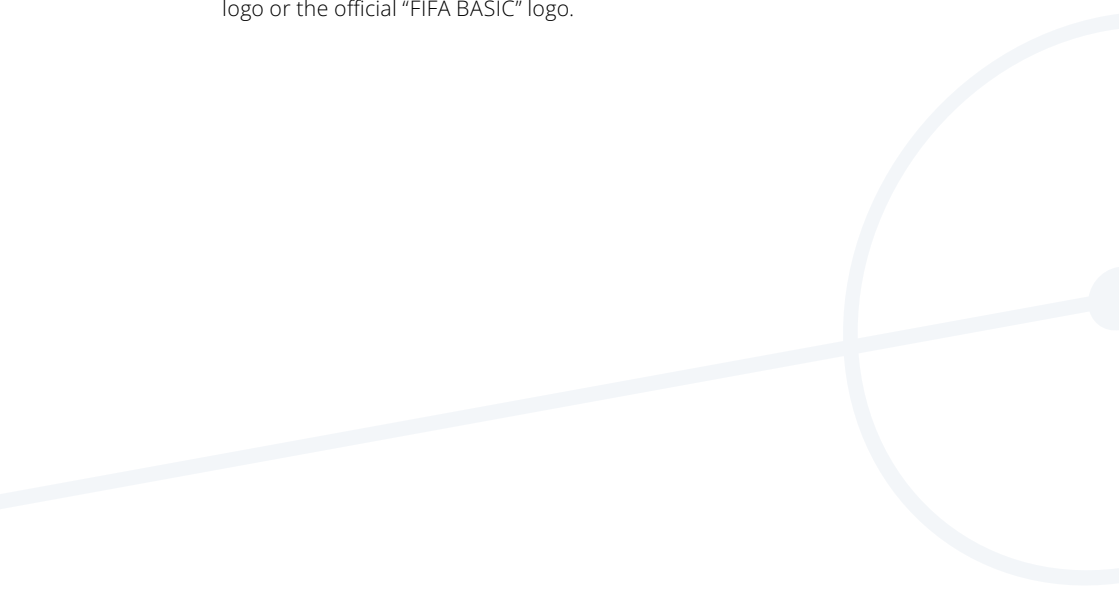
1. The participating member associations shall comply with the FIFA Equipment Regulations in force. The display of political, religious or personal messages or slogans in any language or form by players and officials on their playing or team kits, equipment (including kit bags, beverage containers, medical 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 first-choice and alternative team kits (shirt, shorts and socks). In addition, each team shall select three contrasting colours for the goalkeepers. These three goalkeeper kits must be distinctly different and contrasting from each other as well as different and contrasting sufficiently from the first-choice and alternative 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 first-choice 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 first-choice team kit and the visiting team shall use its alternative team kit or, if necessary, a combination of the first-choice and the alternative team kits.
5. Each player shall wear a number between 1 and 23 on the front and back of their team shirt and on their 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 media, broadcasters and 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 their 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 2026™, which shall be affixed on the right-hand sleeve of each shirt, before the preliminary competition. Additionally, FIFA may stipulate that another badge be affixed on the left-hand sleeve.



17 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. They shall bear one of the following three designations: the official "FIFA QUALITY PRO" logo, the official "FIFA QUALITY" logo or the official "FIFA BASIC" logo.
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07.

**MATCH
ORGANISATION**

18 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.

19 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 including semi-automated offside technology, and/or electronic performance and tracking systems, as stipulated in the Laws of the Game.
2. Video match officials may assist the referee to make a decision using the VAR system 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.
3. VAR technology shall be implemented by the confederation for all knockout matches (first and second legs or in a single match) of the preliminary competition that lead directly to qualification for either the centralised FIFA play-off tournament or directly to the FIFA World Cup 2026™ final competition. FIFA may grant exceptions and/or waivers which are determined by circumstances on the ground, within the ability and resources of the host or organising member association, particularly as it relates to available infrastructure and technologies.
4. 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 Ticketing

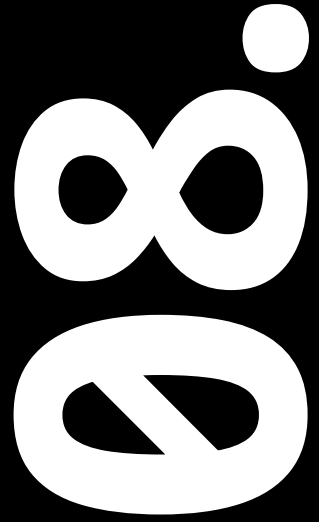
1. The host association is responsible for ticketing and shall manage the ticketing operations in a manner that meets all applicable security and safety standards. It shall set aside an appropriate number – to be determined by mutual agreement and in writing – of complimentary and purchasable tickets 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 that apply to preliminary competition match tickets.

21 Data collection

1. For the purposes of gathering live data and validating official data, FIFA will appoint a FIFA Stadium Data Collector (FSDC) for each match to register all major events, such as line-ups, substitutions, goals, and yellow and red cards.
2. This data will also be published live and made available to FIFA channels, member association channels and (subject to the necessary provisions) to third parties such as for broadcast graphics use.
3. After the match, the FSDC will liaise with the referee to validate the captured data against the referee's report and to electronically submit the validated match report to FIFA's Competition Management system.
4. The host association of each match in the preliminary competition shall ensure that one FSDC is granted, free of charge, access to and accreditation for the relevant stadium facilities (access all areas) and the media tribune, together with working space and facilities (including desk, seating and dedicated internet access).
5. The FSDC shall also be provided with accreditation and access to the referee and Match Commissioner before and after the match in order to enable FIFA's live data-gathering and official data-validation programme to operate.
6. As such, the FSDC shall be recognised as a FIFA official and their work shall not impact any other data-collection processes of either participating team or with any third parties that may or may not have relationships with any member associations.





REFEREEING

22 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, penalties (penalty shoot-out) shall be taken to determine the winner in accordance with the procedure described in the Laws of the Game.
5. During the match, each team may replace up to a maximum of five players and has a maximum of three substitution opportunities. Substitutions may also be made at half-time; these do not count as used substitution opportunities.

If a match goes into extra time, each team may replace an additional player (regardless of whether the team has already used the full quota of permitted substitutes) and will be given an additional substitution opportunity. Any unused substitutes and substitution opportunities may still be used.

Substitutions made in the period between full time and the start of extra time, as well as during half-time in extra time, do not count as used substitution opportunities.

23 Refereeing

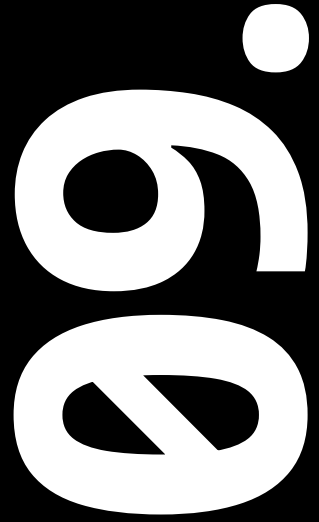
1. In the preliminary competition, on-field match official appointments (as well as video match official appointments where the use of a VAR system is implemented) shall be proposed by the confederations to the FIFA Referees Committee for ratification at least 30 days in advance.

For each match, the referee and 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 FIFA-listed video match officials shall be selected for those matches where the use of a VAR system 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 will 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. Other provisions, e.g. accommodation, are stipulated in art. 24.
5. If the referee is prevented from carrying out their 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. In case of exceptional circumstances, FIFA may decide to proceed with either a fourth official from the host association or to play the match without a fourth official.
6. After each match, the referee shall validate the official match data as collected by the FSDC and electronically sign the report. The referee and FIFA Match Commissioner at the stadium, along with FIFA and the confederation concerned, shall immediately receive an electronic copy of the report after the match. On the electronic 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 team 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.

If the FSDC cannot attend the match or if there are any technical issues impacting the official collection, the referee and FIFA Match Commissioner shall revert to the FIFA report form provided.



**FINANCIAL
PROVISIONS**

24 Financial matters

1. Without prejudice to art. 29 and subject to the rights and restrictions set out in the Media and Marketing Regulations for the FIFA World Cup 2026™ Preliminary Competition:
 - a. the participating member associations shall control and be entitled to exploit on a worldwide basis any and all commercial rights and opportunities arising from, and in relation to, their FIFA World Cup 2026™ preliminary competition home matches only;
 - b. participating member associations may assign such aforementioned commercial rights and opportunities to their respective confederation to allow for the centralisation and administration of those rights, except for the matches of the play-off tournament. In this regard, however, it is to be understood that the Media and Marketing Regulations for the FIFA World Cup 2026™ Preliminary Competition require that the relevant confederation first acquire FIFA's written approval prior to any such centralisation of commercial rights; and
 - c. with regard to the matches and the centralised format of the play-off tournament, as approved and announced by the FIFA Council in May 2017, the commercial rights and opportunities for these matches to be played within the March 2026 FIFA international match calendar window shall be controlled and exploited on a worldwide basis by FIFA.
2. The levies due to the confederation concerned in accordance with the confederation's statutes and regulations shall be deducted from the gross receipts.
3. The following provisions shall apply to the settlement of costs by the participating member associations:
 - 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. 12 par. 1).
 - c. The host association shall pay for full-board accommodation (room and three meals per day) as well as an individual internet connection in a high-standard hotel (four stars or higher) including domestic transport in the host country for the match officials, the FIFA Match Commissioner, the referee assessor and any other FIFA officials (e.g. safety and security officer, media officer, FSDC (if applicable), 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.

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 international travel and daily allowances for the FIFA delegation members, match officials included, as determined by FIFA.
6. All disputes arising from financial provisions in connection with the FIFA World Cup 2026™ preliminary competition shall be promptly resolved by the participating member associations concerned in coordination with the confederation concerned. If a dispute is not resolved, the confederation concerned shall present a solution to FIFA for approval.



10.

MEDICAL

25 Team medical doctor

Each participating member association shall include at least one medical doctor (two are recommended) in its delegation for each match, who shall be named as an official on the team bench. It is a mandatory requirement that the medical doctor or any other medical staff member of each participating member association complete and successfully pass the “Concussion” and “Sudden Cardiac Arrest” modules of the FIFA Diploma in Football Medicine (www.fifamedicalnetwork.com).

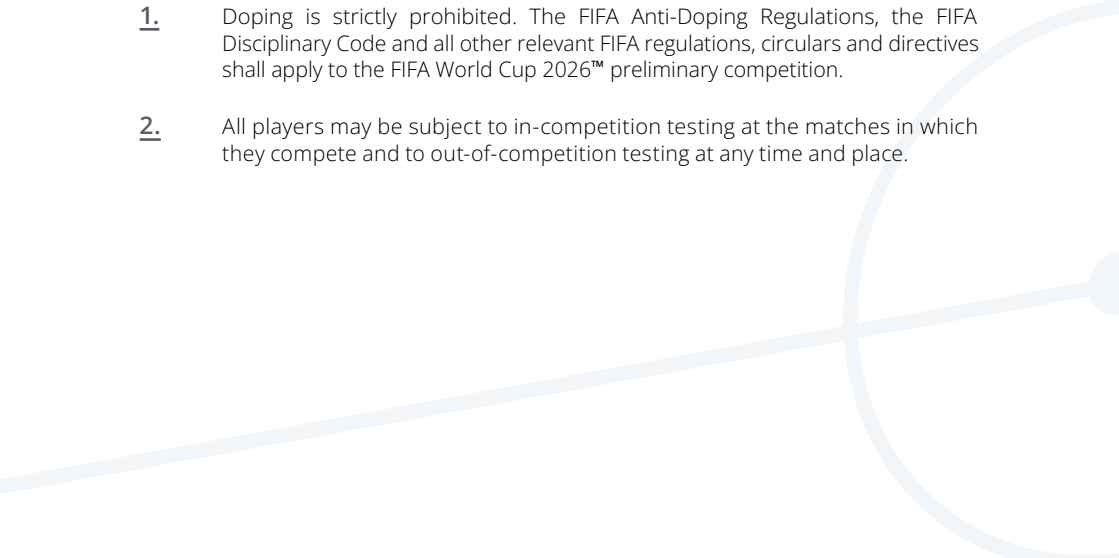
26 Sudden cardiac arrest and concussion

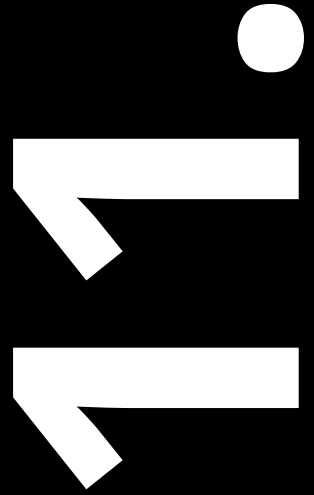
1. Each participating member association shall ensure and confirm to FIFA that its players have undergone a pre-competition medical assessment in the 12 months prior to the start of the preliminary competition.
2. A non-contact collapse of a player should be treated as a sudden cardiac arrest until proven otherwise. The medical team are allowed to enter the pitch immediately to commence resuscitation, without waiting for a signal from the referee. One member of the field-of-play medical team notifies the fourth official of the collapse and need for cardiopulmonary resuscitation.
3. 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 Emergency Care Medicine Manual. The referee may temporarily suspend play for up to three minutes whenever an incident of suspected concussion occurs. The referee may only allow the player to continue playing with the authorisation of the team doctor, who shall have evaluated the player and excluded any suspicion of a concussive injury. The team doctor will have the final decision based on a clinical examination and subject to an express prohibition against returning a player to play if concussion is suspected.
4. FIFA recommends that teams follow the graduated return-to-play protocol set forth in the FIFA Medical Concussion Protocol for any player who has suffered concussion. The protocol recognises that the time frame for return to play may vary, dependent on factors such as the player’s age, gender, their symptoms and medical history, and that doctors must use their clinical judgment in making decisions with respect to return to play. The player’s welfare must be their sole concern. FIFA requires that before any player who suffers a concussive episode can return to play, the team doctor must certify that (a) such player has passed each of the steps set out in the FIFA Medical Concussion Protocol, (b) such player is fit for competition, and (c) the team doctor has discussed the management of the case with the FIFA Venue Medical Coordinator where indicated (subject to consent from the player).



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

27 Doping

1. 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 FIFA World Cup 2026™ preliminary competition.
 2. All players may be subject to in-competition testing at the matches in which they compete and to out-of-competition testing at any time and place.
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MEDIA & MARKETING

28 Media matters

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 English, French 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 association media officer 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 teams’ 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 teams’ 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.



29 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 and from the play-off tournament 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 shall issue Media and Marketing Regulations for the Preliminary Competition as well as Media and Marketing Regulations for the Final Competition outlining these commercial and intellectual property rights. In the case of confederations acting on behalf of their respective participating member associations, the confederation concerned may issue its own media and marketing regulations (subject to the approval of those media and marketing regulations by FIFA) in accordance with this art. 29.2. All FIFA member associations 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 and the relevant confederations must ensure that their members, officials, players, delegates and other affiliates also comply with these regulations.

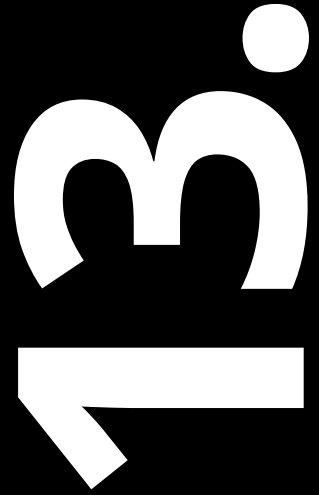
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**FINAL
COMPETITION**

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.





CLOSING PROVISIONS

31 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.

32 Matters not provided for and force majeure

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

33 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.

34 Languages

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

35 Copyright

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

36 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.

37 Enforcement

These regulations were approved by the FIFA Council at its meeting on 23 June 2023 and came into force immediately.

June 2023

For FIFA

President:

Gianni Infantino

Secretary General:

Fatma Samoura



