

COMPETITION REGULATIONS



CAFA
NATIONS CUP
2023



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For the purposes of these Regulations, and provided the context so permits:

- a) the singular shall include the plural and vice-versa;
- b) the feminine gender shall include the masculine and vice-versa;
- c) all defined terms, unless otherwise stated herein shall bear the same meaning as ascribed in the CAFA Statutes, and the AFC Competition Operations Manual, unless the context indicates otherwise.



DEFINITIONS

In these Competition Regulations, capitalised terms shall have the following meanings, unless the context specifically indicates otherwise:

Accommodation	Any location approved by the CAFA which provides accommodation to the CAFA Delegation, Team Official Delegations, CAFA Commercial Rights Partner, and Commercial Affiliates.
Accreditation Card	Any physical item which is issued by the CAFA and/or Organising Association which provides the recipient the right to access a Controlled Access Area (or part thereof) where the Controlled Access Area is under the control of the CAFA or the Organising Association.
Advertising Rights	The right to promote brand and/or corporate names and/or products and/or services at and/or in relation to the Competition by whatever means available, whether existing now or to be developed in the future, whether at the Stadiums or Facility Areas or within the Controlled Access Areas, by instadium/out-stadium perimeter signage and other advertising, digital signage and screens, closed circuit television, equipment usage or other methods and through printed matter (including digitally delivered printed matter) such as programmes, posters, letterheads, press releases, newsletters and Tickets, and subject to any relevant CAFA and/or AFC regulations, the right to display such advertising on the clothing or footwear worn, or on any equipment used, carried or transported by officials (including for the avoidance of doubt Match Officials), medical and security staff, ball kids, player escorts, flag bearers and/or photographers. The display of the name and/or logo of the bona fide supplier of clothing on the strip of the uniforms of the officials are also included. For the avoidance of doubt, advertising on the strip of Participating Players is excluded, other than where it is the trademark of the bona fide manufacturer and is in accordance with any FIFA and/or AFC regulations. Similarly, branding on any equipment, goods and/or services used in connection with the Competition, save where supplied by a Commercial Affiliate, may only include customary branding of the bona fide manufacturer.
AFC	Asian Football Confederation
Broadcast Partner	Any entity, including the Host Broadcaster, which has been granted the Media Rights to the Competition.
CAFA	Central Asian Football Association
CAFA Member Association	A Football Association which is a member of the CAFA. For the avoidance of doubt, Football Associations of Afghanistan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.
CAFA Commercial Rights Partner	The entity appointed by the CAFA for the sale of Commercial Rights (or any part thereof) and the provision of services in relation thereto.



CAFA Committee	Any Committee of the CAFA as constituted in accordance with the CAFA Statutes.
CAFA Delegation	(i) CAFA staff; (ii) Match Officials; (iii) other officials appointed by the CAFA; (iv) CAFA Committee members; and (v) CAFA guests.
CAFA Marks	All design marks, slogans, designations, names, logos, insignia, emblems or devices (in any application) owned and/or controlled by the CAFA (in any language) relating to the CAFA itself, but excluding the Competition Marks.
CAFA Website	The official website of the CAFA (currently http://www.the-cafa.com), including without limitation all other domains or official media platforms and channels created and/or owned by the CAFA (e.g. Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, etc).
Champion	The Participating Team that wins the Final Match of the Competition.
Clean Stadium	A Stadium or Official Training Site, whether inside, in the air space above or the outer perimeter, delivered to the CAFA at a prescribed time, that is free from: (i) any advertising and commercial signage of any kind, whether on any stadium infrastructure, staff uniforms, accreditations, fences, equipment or elsewhere; (ii) third party agreements relating to the use and operation of the Stadium (or part thereof); and/or (iii) Stadium or venue naming rights.
Commercial Affiliate	Any entity which has been granted the right to exercise and exploit the Commercial Rights (or any part thereof) in respect of the Competition.
Commercial Rights	Advertising Rights, Concession Rights, Hospitality Rights, Image Rights, Media Rights, Merchandise Rights, Promotional Rights, Sponsorship Rights, and any other rights of a commercial nature relating to the Competition.
Competition	The CAFA Nations Cup 2023, which includes without limitation, all Matches as set out in the Match Schedule, all activities on the Field of Play (other than Matches), opening ceremonies, presentation or closing ceremonies, press conferences or Official Functions connected therewith.
Competition Data	Any and all information related to the Competition, including fixture lists, Image Rights, information and/or statistics about the Participating Teams and/or Participating Players, information and/or statistics about their participation and/or performance in the Competition, Match analysis, Referee decisions, and any other information in relation to the Competition.
Competition Marks	All design marks, slogans, designations, names, logos, insignia, emblems, mascot or devices (in any application) owned and/or controlled by the CAFA (in any language) relating to the



Complimentary Tickets	Competition. Tickets which are supplied without charge
Concession Rights	Sampling, vending, display and other distribution methods and payment methods connected therewith for and of products or services, including pourage rights at the Stadiums and Facility Areas.
Controlled Access Area	(i) any Stadium; (ii) any Official Training Site; (iii) any official hotel (public areas being excepted), subject to and to the extent agreed in any executed hotel agreement; (iv) any official exclusion zone encircling a Stadium on a Match day; (v) any official parking area, accreditation centre, International Broadcast Compound, and/or hospitality area; (vi) the venue of any Official Function; (vii) Facility Areas; and/or (ix) any other location and/or facility designated by the CAFA as a Controlled Access Area, associated to the Competition to which access is permitted only to those in possession of an Accreditation Card, Ticket, and/or other officially-sanctioned entry permit.
Digital Media	Any digitalised media (including the CAFA Website and any related Competition Website) created by CAFA in relation to the Competition, including but not limited to any mobile website, mobile application (app), online video channel, data product, photo-sharing account, social media account, and any further form of digital media developed herewith.
Extra Time	Two (2) equal periods of additional time which shall be played in accordance with these Regulations should there be no winner at the conclusion of a Match.
Facility Areas	The location of Official Functions, ceremonies, press centres, ticket offices, Competition hotels, media areas (including without limitation areas used for viewing of any public exhibition), official hospitality areas (including without limitation areas used for the exploitation of the Hospitality Rights), and information centres controlled by or on behalf of the CAFA and used in connection with the Competition whether at the Stadium or elsewhere at the Venues.
FCMS	The FIFA Competition Management System, the CAFA's online competition management and registration system provided by FIFA.
Field of Play	The area described in Law 1 of the Laws of the Game issued by the International Football Association Board (IFAB) and administered by FIFA.
FIFA	The Federation Internationale de Football Association
Football Association	The controlling body for football within a country or territory recognised by FIFA.
Force Majeure	Any event affecting the performance or any provision of these Regulations arising from or attributable to acts, events, omissions or accidents which are beyond the reasonable control of a party, and



	shall include but not be limited to abnormally inclement weather, flood, lightning, storm, fire, explosion, earthquake, structural damage, epidemic or other natural disaster, failure or shortage of power supplies, war, terrorist action, military operations, riot, crowd disorder, strike, lock-outs or other industrial action, or civil commotion.
Group Stage	The first stage of the Competition held in accordance with these Regulations.
Hospitality Rights	The opportunity to offer and sell hospitality and entertainment services at the Venues or within the Controlled Access Areas in combination with the Tickets whether such facilities are in boxes, marquees or otherwise, but excluding those non-commercial functions and facilities reserved for CAFA and/or Organising Association officials and its guests not forming part of the Commercial Rights.
Host Broadcaster	The party appointed, to ensure and provide the production of broadcast signals of the Matches and other events of the Competition, and the provision of all related services in accordance with the Media Rights granted to it.
Host City	Any city and/or identifiable metropolitan area in which any Match is staged.
Image Rights	The right to use still and/or moving images and/or representations of Participating Teams, Participating Players, Participating Officials, Match Officials, and other officials forming part of the Competition.
Kicks from the Penalty Mark	“Kicks from the Penalty Mark” as described in the Laws of the Game.
Laws of the Game Match	The laws of association football issued by the IFAB. A football match in its entirety (including a replayed and/or deferred football match, Extra Time and Kicks from the Penalty Mark) which takes place as part of the Competition in accordance with the Match Schedule. For the avoidance of doubt, a match formally commences when the Stadium is officially opened to spectators and formally concludes when the Stadium is officially closed to spectators.
Match Officials	Any individual appointed to officiate a Match in the Competition in the role of the Referee, Assistant Referee, Fourth Official, Referee Assessor and any other match official stipulated in the Laws of the Game.
Match Schedule	The official schedule which sets out, without limitation, the dates and times on which Matches will be played, the Stadiums at which the Matches will be played, and the names of the Participating Teams.
Media Media Rights	Any individual granted a media Accreditation Card by the CAFA. The right and license to produce, edit and/or transmit, for intelligible reception throughout the world in any language and in any format, and on any platform including film, fixed media, Digital



	Media, games, internet, public exhibition, radio, mobile, and television, a visual, audio-visual, and/or audio signal and/or image or recording (including without limitation the basic feed, multi feeds, additional feeds, audio feeds, a feed incorporating Competition Data, world feed, and unilateral feeds) of the Competition, and all interview activities and action during and forming part of the Competition including Official Functions and the Image Rights by any and all means of transmission distribution, exhibition and reception, now existing or hereinafter developed including but not limited to analogue, digital, satellite cable and interactive communication systems, on a live, delayed, and unlimited repeat basis, in full or in part (including without limitation by way of clips and/or highlights and/or support programmes and/or magazine shows and/or news access), and all rights to exploit any and all commercial opportunities (including for example broadcast sponsorship and commercial airtime opportunities) arising from and/or in connection with such rights.
Merchandise Rights	The right granted to Commercial Affiliates for the use and exploitation of the Competition Marks and/or official designation in the manufacture, packaging, distribution, and sale of goods and services of all kinds, including items of equipment (i.e. footballs), clothing, coins, medals, games (electronic or otherwise), other collectibles and premiums related to the Competition.
Non-CAFA Member Association	A Football Association which is not a member of the CAFA.
Official Function	Any event which is officially organised or sanctioned by the CAFA in connection with the Competition. For the avoidance of doubt, this expressly includes, without limitation, all matches and/or events held at Official Training Sites, the opening ceremony, the closing ceremony, any CAFA gala dinner, lunch, or banquet, cultural events, official press conferences, and launch events.
Official Training Site	Any site designated by the Organising Association and approved by the CAFA for use by the Participating Teams throughout the duration of the Competition for training purposes.
Organising Association	A Member Association approved by the CAFA to organise, stage, and host Matches of the Competition.
Participating Member Association	A Member Association whose representative team participates in the Competition.
Participating Official	Any official who is registered to participate in the Competition.
Participating Player	Any player who is registered to participate in the Competition.
Participating Team	Any representative team affiliated to a Participating Member Association.
Play-off Stage	The second stage of the Competition held in accordance with these Regulations.
Premiums	Any promotional item (including packaging, labelling, and/or containers thereof) which incorporates a mark and/or logo of the



Promotional Rights	<p>CAFA and/or the Competition, and which is distributed free of charge or via prize competitions.</p> <p>Any rights to produce and/or distribute official publications, official suppliers, official products, sales promotion including but not limited to the right to organise promotional competitions (including without limitation any sweepstakes or lotteries) and to make awards and give prizes, official music rights, the right to use an official designation and all other promotional, marketing and/or other rights of commercial value in regard to the Competition.</p>
Proprietary Interests	<p>Without limitation, intellectual property, copyright and analogous rights, trademark rights, moral rights, performing rights, personality rights, and all remedies available under the applicable laws of unfair competition comprised in the Commercial Rights.</p>
Regulations	<p>These Competition Regulations.</p>
Sponsorship Rights	<p>The right, in any and all media, throughout the world, and in all languages, to promote an association between the Competition and certain products, services, and/or brands, and shall include (by way of illustration only) the exclusive right to exercise rights of association with the Competition, including without limitation the right to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) use an official designation; (ii) use the CAFA Marks and/or applicable Competition Marks on branded products and/or product packaging (including Premiums, and in relation to the Competition Marks only on items for retail sale) and/or advertising; (iii) receive commercial programme Tickets; and (iv) receive broadcast sponsorship opportunities in connection with broadcasts of a Match or Official Function.
Stadium	<p>Any stadium at which a Match is played. For the avoidance of doubt, this includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the entire premises (to the extent that a valid Accreditation Card or Ticket is required in order to gain access) of a stadium facility inside the outer stadium perimeter fence and (on Match days and any day on which any official training takes place within the stadium), the aerial space above such stadium premises; (ii) parking facilities; (iii) VIP and hospitality areas (including any hospitality village); (iv) the Media tribune; (v) concession areas; (vi) commercial display areas; (vii) buildings; (viii) the Field of Play; (ix) any broadcast compound or stadium media centre; (x) any stands; and, (xi) any areas beneath the stands.
Team Official Delegation	<p>The final-registered delegation of a Participating Team for the duration of the relevant stage of the Competition subject to the</p>



Ticket	limits set out in the competition regulations.
Ticketing	A pass providing access to a venue for the purpose of attending either a Match, official training, or Official Function.
Venue	All operational measures to provide Tickets to all spectators of every Match and for Official Functions of the Competition allowing them to enter the Stadium or a Venue. Ticketing shall include the management of the operation necessary for the production, sale, distribution, delivery and payment of the Tickets of the Competition.
	The Host City and immediate surrounding area in which a Stadium is located.

For the purposes of these Regulations, and provided the context so permits:

- (a) the singular shall include the plural and vice-versa;
- (b) the feminine gender shall include the masculine and vice-versa;
- (c) reference to natural persons shall include any legal person or corporation;
- (d) references to the CAFA shall include its successors and permitted assigns and its respective Member Associations and CAFA Committees;
- (e) reference to the CAFA Commercial Rights Partner or Commercial Affiliates shall include where advised by the CAFA, its successors, and permitted assigns;
- (f) all defined terms, unless otherwise stated herein shall bear the same meaning as ascribed in the CAFA Statutes, unless the context indicates otherwise.



SECTION 1: GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. CAFA Nations Cup 2023

- 1.1. CAFA Nations Cup 2023, comprising of a Group Stage and a Play-off Stage is organized by Central Asian Football Association;
- 1.2. These Regulations govern the rights, duties, and responsibilities of the CAFA, Organizing Association(s), Member Associations, Participating Teams, Participating Players and Participating Officials taking part in the Competition.
- 1.3. These Regulations and all related directives, decisions, match protocols, guidelines, and circulars issued by the CAFA shall be binding upon all parties participating and involved in the preparation, organization, and hosting of the Competition.
- 1.4. The AFC Competition Operations Manual ("Manual") forms an integral part and shall be read in conjunction with these Regulations. The Manual shall be binding upon all parties participating and involved in the preparation, organisation and hosting of the Competition.
- 1.5. Any rights and Proprietary Interests associated with the Competition that are not granted by these Regulations and/or specific agreements to any Organising Association or Participating Member Association shall vest in the CAFA.
- 1.6. Each Member Association shall be represented at the Competition by only one Participating Team.

2. The Central Asian Football Association

- 2.1 The CAFA General Secretariat shall carry out the necessary administrative work in preparation for the Competition.
- 2.2. The responsibilities of the CAFA shall include, but are not limited to:
 - 2.2.1. supervising general preparations and deciding on the Competition format, the draws, and the entries to the Competition;
 - 2.2.2. determining the Match Schedule;
 - 2.2.3. selecting Stadiums for the Competition (cf. Article 16);
 - 2.2.4. appointing Match Officials for each Match;
 - 2.2.5. choosing and/or approving the official footballs and stipulated technical material;
 - 2.2.6. replacing Participating Teams that have withdrawn from the Competition (cf. Article 6);
 - 2.2.7. dealing with cases of cancelled Matches or abandoned Matches (cf. Articles 14 and 15);



- 2.2.8. dealing with cases of Force Majeure (cf. Article 68);
- 2.2.10. dealing with any other aspect of the Competition that is not the responsibility of any other body pursuant to these Regulations or the CAFA Statutes (cf. Article 70).
- 2.3. All decisions made by the CAFA Competitions Committee and/or CAFA General Secretariat in relation to the Competition are final and binding and not appealable.
- 2.4. All decisions made by the CAFA Disciplinary and Ethics Committee in relation to the Competition are subject to the operation of the CAFA Disciplinary and Ethics Code.

3. Organising Associations

- 3.1. The principal obligations and responsibilities of any Organising Association(s) are stipulated in the (where relevant) Organising Association Agreement ("OAA"), these Regulations, the Manual, the CAFA Statutes and all other CAFA regulations, directives, guidelines and circulars.
- 3.2. Each Organising Association shall undertake, at its own cost, to:
 - 3.2.1. observe all obligations set out in the (where relevant) OAA, these Regulations, the Manual, the CAFA Statutes and all other CAFA regulations, directives, guidelines and circulars and all applicable national and supra-national laws;
 - 3.2.2. perform each of its obligations and exercise each of the rights granted to it as host, in connection with the hosting, staging and organisation of the Competition in accordance with professional standards;
 - 3.2.3. assist and coordinate with Member Associations on all arrangements relating to the Competition in agreement with the CAFA;
 - 3.2.4. negotiate with and/or lobby the appropriate government bodies and/or local authorities to assist for the successful hosting, staging and organising of the Competition;
 - 3.2.5. obtain all applicable and relevant licenses, permits, grants and authorisations as may be required to fulfil its obligation in relation to the hosting, staging and organising of the Competition;
 - 3.2.6. comply with the CAFA's instructions on the provision of key services, facilities, equipment and infrastructure at each Stadium;
 - 3.2.7. provide the necessary assistance and support to the CAFA, CAFA Commercial Rights Partner and Commercial Affiliates in relation to the use and exploitation of the Commercial Rights and all Proprietary Interests of the CAFA and the protection and enforcement of rights in relation thereto;



- 3.2.8. procure all necessary insurance policies which shall provide coverage for all risks relating to the hosting, staging and organising of the Competition and name the CAFA as a co-insured;
 - 3.2.9. obtaining all clearances and executing all required documentation to enable the free and unfettered exercise and exploitation of Commercial Rights and clearance of all products, equipment or materials relating to the exploitation of the Commercial Rights of the Competition; and
 - 3.2.10. guarantee safety and security at the Stadium.
- 3.3. Each Organising Association shall indemnify, hold harmless and defend the CAFA, the CAFA Commercial Rights Partner, its Commercial Affiliates as well as their officers, members, agents, auxiliary persons, representatives, and employees from and against all liabilities, obligations, damages, losses, claims, demands, recoveries, deficiencies, costs or expenses (including without limitation all costs and expenses for finding and contracting with another Organising Association able and willing to stage the Competition and/or all attorneys' fees and expenses) which such parties may suffer or incur in connection with, resulting from, or arising out of any breach by the Organising Association (including its officers, directors, representatives, auxiliary persons, employees or agents) or any act or omission of the Organising Association (including its officers, directors, representatives, auxiliary persons, employees or agents) in connection with the performance of its obligations under this Agreement.

4. Participating Member Associations

- 4.1. The principal obligations and responsibilities of each Participating Member Association are stipulated in the Competition Agreement ("CA"), these Regulations, the Manual, the CAFA Statutes, and all other CAFA regulations, directives, guidelines and circulars
 - 4.1.1. Each Member Association that has entered the Competition must submit a CA.
- 4.2. Each Participating Member Association shall ensure as a condition of its participation in the Competition that every member of its Team Official Delegation for each Match is aware of and agrees to comply with the CA.
- 4.3. Each Participating Member Association shall undertake to:
 - 4.3.1. observe all obligations set out in the CA, these Regulations, the Manual, the CAFA Statutes, and all other CAFA regulations, directives, guidelines and circulars, and applicable national and supra-national laws;
 - 4.3.2. comply with the Laws of the Game laid down by the IFAB;



- 4.3.3. accept that all the administrative, disciplinary and refereeing matters connected with the Competition shall be settled by the CAFA in compliance with these Regulations;
- 4.3.4. field their strongest team throughout the Competition;
- 4.3.5. observe the principles of Fair Play;
- 4.3.6. ensure the good conduct of its Team Official Delegation and of any person carrying out duties on its behalf throughout the Competition, which includes but is not limited to their arrival on the territory of any Organising Association until their departure;
- 4.3.7. accept all arrangements made by any Organising Association in agreement with the CAFA;
- 4.3.8. ensure that Participating Players and Participating Officials attend and participate in all official activities and events, including without limitation any team arrival meeting, match coordination meeting, press conferences, and other media and marketing activities in accordance with the instructions issued by the CAFA;
 - 4.3.8.1. failure to attend and/or fully participate in any official activity or event shall result in the Participating Member Association being fined at least USD 5,000; and
 - 4.3.8.2. the CAFA Disciplinary and Ethics Committee may issue further sanctions in its discretion.
- 4.3.9. provide to the CAFA, free of charge, prior to the Competition, any photographs, audio/visual materials and/or information regarding the Participating Member Association, Participating Team, Participating Player and/or Participating Officials including without limitation statistics and historical information and any further information as requested by the CAFA;
- 4.3.10. link the official URL for the Competition on its official website; and
- 4.3.11. not establish any digital, media or social media platform without the involvement and express approval of the CAFA.
- 4.4. Each Participating Member Association shall, at its own expense, be solely responsible throughout the Competition for:
 - 4.4.1. the procurement of insurance coverage of its Team Official Delegation which shall include without limitation hospital and surgical insurance, travel insurance, and/or sports equipment insurance for all Matches;



- 4.4.2. all other necessary insurance policies, which must provide an appropriate guaranteed sum for injury and damage to persons, objects, and property, and correspond with the specific circumstances of the Participating Member Association's participation in the Competition. The CAFA must be notified of all insurance policies, and may request copies of any and all policies at its discretion;
 - 4.4.3. payment of incidental expenses and for any costs incurred by its Team Official Delegation (cf. Article 26);
 - 4.4.4. payment of any costs of extending the stay of any member of its Team Official Delegation in any Organising Association (cf. Article 26);
 - 4.4.5. obtaining visas to enter the territory of any Organising Association no later than thirty (30) days prior to its first Match at that Venue. This includes all costs related to the visa application process; and
 - 4.4.6. payment of all taxes, fees, duties and any other costs related to the importation and/or exportation of equipment, merchandise and/or goods to be used for the Competition.
- 4.5. Each Participating Member Association shall indemnify, defend, and hold the CAFA 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 Association, their Team Official Delegation, their affiliates and any third-parties contracted to the Participating Member Association.
- 4.6. Each Participating Member Association shall ensure that any decision made by the CAFA relating to its duties and responsibilities is enforced immediately.

5. Entry

- 5.1. Eight (8) Member Associations shall participate in the Competition by virtue of:
 - 5.1.1. being a Member of CAFA; and/or
 - 5.1.2. being invited by the CAFA to participate in the Competition.



6. Withdrawal from the Competition

- 6.1. All Participating Member Associations undertake that their Participating Teams shall play all of their Matches in the Competition until elimination.
- 6.2. In the case of a Participating Member Association withdrawing or being excluded from the Competition, the CAFA General Secretariat shall be responsible for making any decisions, including without limitation whether to:
 - 6.2.1. replace the Participating Member Association;
 - 6.2.2. change the competition system (cf. Article 7); and/or
 - 6.2.3. change the technical rules (cf. Section 4).
- 6.3. All decisions of the CAFA General Secretariat in this regard are final and binding and not appealable.
- 6.4. Any Participating Member Association that withdraws from the Competition shall be fined:
 - 6.4.1. at least USD 50,000; for CAFA Member Associations; and
 - 6.4.2. at least USD 100,000 for non-CAFA Member Associations.
- 6.5. Any Participating Member Association that:
 - 6.5.1. withdraws from the Competition after it has commenced; or
 - 6.5.2. does not report for a Match in the Group Stage or the Play-off Stage; or
 - 6.5.3. refuses to continue a Match in the Group Stage or the Play-off Stage; or
 - 6.5.4. leaves the Stadium prior to the completion of a Match in the Group Stage or the Play-off Stage
 shall be considered to have withdrawn from the Competition and shall:
 - 6.5.5. have all its Matches canceled and considered null and void. For the avoidance of doubt, all points and goals in those Matches shall not be taken into consideration when determining the final rankings in a group pursuant to Article 8.5;
 - 6.5.6. be disqualified from participating in the next edition of the Competition;
 - 6.5.7. be required to pay compensation for any and all damages or losses suffered by, where applicable, the other Participating Member Associations, the CAFA,



the CAFA Commercial Rights Partner, Commercial Affiliates, and the Member Associations. The amount of compensation shall be determined by the CAFA Executive Committee.

- 6.6. Any Participating Member Association that withdraws from the Competition at any stage shall also be referred to the CAFA Disciplinary and Ethics Committee. The CAFA Disciplinary and Ethics Committee may impose additional sanctions to those provided for under Articles 6.3, 6.4 and 6.5 at its discretion.
- 6.7. The above Articles 6.3 to 6.6 are not applicable in cases of Force Majeure recognised by the CAFA General Secretariat. The CAFA General Secretariat shall take whatever action it deems necessary in cases of Force Majeure.



SECTION 2: COMPETITION SYSTEM AND MATCH SCHEDULE

7. Competitions System

- 7.1. The Competition shall consist of:
 - 7.1. Group Stage; and
 - 7.2. Play-off Stage, comprising of the Final Match and 3rd Place Match

8. Group Stage

- 8.1. Eight (8) Participating Teams shall be drawn into two (2) groups of four (4) teams each (cf. Article 5.1).
- 8.2. Each Participating Team shall play against the other Participating Teams within its group once in accordance with the Match Schedule.
- 8.3. At the conclusion of each Match:
 - 8.3.1. Three (3) points shall be awarded for a win;
 - 8.3.2. One (1) point shall be awarded for a draw;
 - 8.3.3. Zero (0) points shall be awarded for a loss.
- 8.4. At the conclusion of the Group Stage:
 - 8.4.1. the first-placed and second-placed Participating Teams in each group shall qualify for the Play-off Stage;
 - 8.4.2. all other Participating Teams shall be eliminated from the Competition.
- 8.5. The ranking in each group shall be determined in descending order as follows:
 - 8.5.1. Higher number of points obtained in all group Matches;
 - 8.5.2. If two (2) or more Participating Teams are equal on points, the following criteria are applied to determine the ranking (in descending order):
 - Head-to-Head criteria
 - 8.5.2.1. Higher number of Points obtained in the group Matches played between the Participating Teams in question;
 - 8.5.2.2. superior goal difference from the group Matches played among the Participating Teams in question;



8.5.2.3. higher number of goals scored in the group Matches played among the Participating Teams in question;

Tiebreaker

8.5.2.4. if, after having applied the Head-to-Head criteria, two (2) or more Participating Teams still have an equal ranking, the Head-to-Head criteria shall be reapplied exclusively to the Matches between the Participating Teams in question to determine their final rankings. If this procedure does not lead to a decision, the Group Results criteria shall apply;

Group Results criteria

8.5.2.5. superior goal difference from all group Matches played;

8.5.2.6. higher number of goals scored from all group Matches played;

8.5.2.7. Kicks from the Penalty Mark if only two (2) Participating Teams still have an equal ranking and have played their last group Match against each other;

8.5.2.8. The lower score calculated according to the number of yellow and red cards received in group Matches (Appendix 1 of the Manual); or

8.5.2.9. The drawing of lots.

Drawing of lots

8.6. If a drawing of lots is required to decide the ranking in a group, the following principles shall apply:

8.6.1. The names of Participating Teams in question shall be placed into a pot;

8.6.2. The first name drawn shall be the highest-ranked of the Participating Teams in question;

8.6.3. If necessary and subject to the number of Participating Teams concerned, the procedure shall be repeated to determine the rankings of all Participating Teams concerned.

9. Play-off Stage

9.1. The Play-off Stage shall consist of the 3rd Place Match and the Final Match, with each Match conducted as single-leg knockout Match.

9.2. Each Match of the Play-off Stage shall be conducted in accordance with the Match Schedule.



- 9.3. The duration of Matches, including Extra Time and Kicks from the Penalty Mark (if required), shall be played in accordance with Article 10.
- 9.4. The four (4) Participating Teams shall play the Play-off Stage matches as follows:
 - 9.4.1. 3rd Place Match: Group B second-placed team vs. Group A second-placed team;
 - 9.4.2. Final Match: Group A first-placed team vs Group B first-placed team.

10. Extra Time and Kicks from the Penalty Mark

- 10.1. If no winner is determined at the end of normal playing time in any Match of the Play-off Stage Extra Time comprising two (2) fifteen (15) minute periods shall be played.
- 10.2. One (1) additional substitute may be used when a match goes into Extra Time (whether or not the team has already used the full number of permitted substitutes).
- 10.3. If no winner is determined at the end of Extra Time, Kicks from the Penalty Mark shall be taken in accordance with the Laws of the Game and the Manual.

11. Match Schedule

- 11.1. All Matches shall be played in accordance with the CAFA Competitions Calendar. The dates are final and binding and not appealable.
- 11.2. The Match Schedule shall be determined following the Official Draw for the Competition.
- 11.3. The CAFA General Secretariat retains final discretion to amend the Match Schedule at any time.

12. Seeding

- 12.1. CAFA will use FIFA Ranking as of the date of the Official Draw for the Competition to identify pots while seeding CAFA MAs. Non-CAFA MAs shall be placed in the same pot to avoid being drawn in the same group.

13. Delay of Kick-off

- 13.1. A Participating Team that causes a delay of any scheduled Kick - off of a Match (as determined by the Official Countdown) may be sanctioned by the relevant



CAFA Committee in its discretion. For the avoidance of doubt delay to kick-off includes delay to start of both halves.

14. Cancellation of Matches

- 14.1. If a Match cannot commence for any reason, the following procedure shall be followed in cases where the Match in question was not cancelled prior to a Match day:
 - 14.1.1. The Match must be delayed for a minimum of thirty (30) minutes. During this delay, the Referee may decide whether the Match can commence prior to the completion of the delay;
 - 14.1.2. following the first delay, either:
 - 14.1.2.1. An additional delay of thirty (30) minutes shall occur if in discretion of the Referee this second delay may allow the Match to commence; or
 - 14.1.2.2. The Match shall be declared cancelled by the Referee;
 - 14.1.3. Following two (2) delays of thirty (30) minutes, the Referee must declare the Match cancelled.
- 14.2. For any Match which is cancelled as a result of Force Majeure, the CAFA General Secretariat shall decide on the matter at its sole discretion and take whatever action is deemed necessary.
 - 14.2.1 Decisions made pursuant to Article 14.2. are final and binding and not appealable.
- 14.3. Any Match which is cancelled, except in cases of Force Majeure recognized by the CAFA General Secretariat, may lead to the imposition of sanctions by the relevant CAFA Committee against the relevant party that has caused the cancellation of a Match in accordance with the CAFA Disciplinary and Ethics Code.

15. Abandonment of Matches

- 15.1. At any stage of a Match, if a Participating Team is only able to field fewer than seven (7) players, the Match shall be abandoned and Article 15.4 shall apply.
- 15.2. If a Match is stopped by the referee for any other reason except for that set out in Article 15.1, the following procedure shall be followed:
 - 15.2.1. the Match is stopped for thirty (30) minutes. During this stoppage, the referee may decide that the Match can commence prior to the completion of the stoppage;
 - 15.2.2. subsequent to the first stoppage, either:



- 15.2.2.1. an additional stoppage of thirty (30) minutes shall occur if at the discretion of the referee this second stoppage may allow the Match to be resumed; or
 - 15.2.2.2. the Match is declared abandoned by the referee.
- 15.2.3. following two (2) stoppages of thirty (30) minutes, the referee must declare the Match abandoned.
- 15.3. Should the CAFA determine that an abandoned Match should be rescheduled and completed, the following principles shall apply:
 - 15.3.1. the Match shall recommence with the same score and from the minute at which it was interrupted rather than being replayed in full;
 - 15.3.2. the Match shall recommence with the same Participating Players on the Field of Play and same substitutes at the time when it was initially abandoned;
 - 15.3.3. no additional substitutes may be added to the Player Selection List or Match Starting List;
 - 15.3.4. the Participating Teams may only make the number of substitutions to which they were still entitled when the Match was abandoned;
 - 15.3.5. any Participating Player sent off during the abandoned Match cannot be replaced;
 - 15.3.6. any sanction imposed before the Match was abandoned remain valid for the remainder of the rescheduled Match;
 - 15.3.7. the Kick-off time, date and Stadium of the re-scheduled Match shall be decided by the CAFA; and
 - 15.3.8 any other matters not set out above shall be decided by the CAFA General Secretariat at its sole discretion.
- 15.4. If a Match is stopped by the referee before the end of normal playing time or during any Extra Time as a result of a Participating Team being able to only field fewer than seven (7) Participating Players, the Match shall be declared abandoned and the Participating Team who is able to field more than seven (7) Participating Players shall be declared the winner by the score 3-0, or the score at the time of abandonment, whichever is higher.
- 15.5. For any Match which is abandoned as a result of Force Majeure, the CAFA General Secretariat shall decide on the matter at its sole discretion and take whatever action is deemed necessary.
 - 15.5.1. Decisions made pursuant to Article 15.5. are final and binding and not appealable.



- 15.6. Any Match which is abandoned, except in cases of Force Majeure recognized by the CAFA General Secretariat, may lead to the imposition of sanctions by the CAFA Disciplinary and Ethics Committee against the relevant party that has caused the abandonment in accordance with the CAFA Disciplinary and Ethics Code.



SECTION 3: STADIUMS AND OFFICIAL TRAINING SITES

16. Stadiums

- 16.1. The Organizing Association(s) shall ensure that all Matches in the Competition are played in Stadiums which meet the requirements defined in the AFC Stadium Regulations. The CAFA General Secretariat may carry out stadium inspections at any time before and during the Competition to check whether the requirements are met.
- 16.2. The relevant Organising Association shall ensure that no football matches and/or any other events or activities are held in any Stadium during the period starting at least seven (7) days prior to the opening Match until one (1) day after the completion of the final match at the Stadium, unless prior written permission has been obtained from the CAFA.
- 16.3. Unless otherwise specified or directed by the CAFA, the Stadiums shall be made available to the CAFA for its exclusive use during the period starting at least seven (7) days prior to the date on which the Stadium will first be used in connection with the Competition (such as the first Match or training session to be held in the Stadium, or other Competition-related event to be held in the Stadium prior to such Match or training session) until one (1) day after the last use of the Stadium in connection with the Competition.
- 16.4. Smoking is strictly prohibited within any Stadium, and in particular, in the technical area, the vicinity of the Field of Play, or within Competition functional areas which include, without limitation, the teams' dressing rooms.
- 16.5. The use of drones or any flying object in the vicinity of a Stadium or an Official Training Site is strictly prohibited, unless otherwise approved in writing by the CAFA.

17. Official Training Sites

- 17.1. The Organizing Association shall nominate the Official Training Sites which shall contain necessary equipment and training field prepared to Match-condition. They shall be treated as the Official Training Sites for the Participating Teams for the duration of the Competition.
- 17.2. Official Training Sites shall be made available at least five (5) days prior to the first Match in the Venue. They shall not be used for any other purpose during this period, unless written permission has been obtained from the CAFA.
- 17.3. Participating Teams must solely utilize Official Training Sites for any official training from two (2) days prior to their first Match.



18. Official Training at the Stadium

- 18.1. Depending on the weather and condition of the Field of Play, Each Participating Team is entitled to an official training of sixty (60) minutes duration in the Stadium in which they are due to play either one (1) or two (2) days prior to their first Match in the Stadium in the Competition.
- 18.2. Each official training session shall be open at least for the first fifteen (15) minutes. The areas accessible by the Media (if any) shall be the same as the areas accessible for them during the Match, provided that they are in possession of valid accreditation. Such areas shall be strictly controlled by the Host Organisation.
- 18.3. The official training session shall only commence at the time and run for the duration determined and approved in writing by the CAFA. Participating Players are prohibited from entering the pitch prior to the scheduled time for the official training.
- 18.4. If the Field of Play is not in good condition or the official training session might negatively affect the state of the pitch for the Match, the CAFA Match Commissioner may limit the area on the Field of Play for the official training, shorten or cancel the official training. The CAFA Match Commissioner may allow Participating Teams to inspect the Field of Play, wearing training shoes only.
- 18.5. The CAFA shall determine the official training schedule for the Participating Teams at its discretion. Participating Teams shall strictly follow the official training schedule determined by the CAFA. Any request from the Participating Teams to change the schedule of the official training must be submitted to the CAFA at least twelve (12) hours prior to the relevant training session. If a Participating Team wishes to cancel any official training, they shall provide twelve (12) hours prior notice to the CAFA.



SECTION 4: TECHNICAL REGULATIONS

19. Match Officials and Refereeing

- 19.1. The CAFA Delegation for the Competition shall be appointed by the CAFA respective committee(s) and/or CAFA General Secretariat.
- 19.2. 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.

20. Laws of the Game

- 20.1. 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 (IFAB). In the case of any discrepancy in the interpretation of the Laws of the Game, the English version shall be authoritative.
- 20.2. Each Match shall last ninety (90) minutes, comprising two (2) periods of forty five (45) minutes, with a half-time interval of fifteen (15) minutes.
- 20.3. Only six (6) substitutes listed on the "Match Start List" may take part in the Match during the Group Stage Matches. Any Participating Player who has been substituted may take no further part in that Match.
- 20.4. Only five (5) substitutes listed on the "Match Start List" may take part in the Match during the Play-off Stage Matches and Article 10.2. shall apply accordingly. Any Participating Player who has been substituted may take no further part in that Match.
- 20.5. At any stage of a Match, if a Participating Team is only able to field fewer than seven (7) players, the Match shall be abandoned and Article 15.4 shall apply.

21. Team Bench and Technical Area

- 21.1. A maximum of eleven (11) Participating Officials and a maximum of twelve (12) Participating Players are permitted to sit on the team bench during a Match, provided they are in possession of the appropriate Accreditation Card.
- 21.2. All individuals on the team bench must wear kits that contrast with the kits of the Participating Players and Match Officials present on the Field of Play. These kits must comply with the AFC Equipment Regulations.
- 21.3. Individuals serving a Match suspension, non-selected Participating Players, and Participating Officials part of the Team Official Delegation but not listed in the "Officials on the Team Bench Form" are not permitted to enter the Field of Play and/or sit on the Team bench. They may sit at the designated area in the stands reserved for the Team Official Delegations.



22. Cooling Break

- 22.1. Depending on the weather conditions, cooling breaks of maximum three (3) minutes duration may be implemented by the referee at approximately thirty (30) minute into the run-of-play in both halves (around the thirtieth (30th) minute and seventy-fifth (75th) minute respectively).

23. Footballs

- 23.1. The footballs used in the Competition shall be selected and supplied by the Organizing Association(s). The Organizing Association(s) shall supply each visiting Participating Team with the same footballs in the amount of ten (10) pieces for the period of its stay. For the avoidance of doubt, kindly note that all provided footballs shall be returned to the Organizing Association(s) upon completion of the Competition.
- 23.2. Participating Teams shall solely utilize the footballs provided by the Organizing Association for training and warming-up purposes.

24. Equipment

- 24.1. The CAFA has the sole authority to approve the equipment (including kits) in accordance with the AFC Equipment Regulations.
- 24.2. The AFC Equipment Regulations are operational from the arrival of each Participating Team's Official Delegation at the Match venue until its departure from the Match venue.

25. Allocation of Kit Colors

- 25.1. All Participating Teams shall declare their official and reserve kit colors prior to the Match Coordination Meeting, and are obliged to use these colors during their Matches of the Competition.
- 25.2. The CAFA Match Commissioners shall decide on the kit colors (jersey, shorts, and socks) to be worn by Participating Players for each Match based on the equipment information submitted by each Participating Team prior to the Match Coordination Meeting.



SECTION 5: TEAM OFFICIAL DELEGATION

26. Team Official Delegation

- 26.1. Each Participating Team shall ensure that no person in its Team Official Delegation or otherwise affiliated to it enters or is present on its team bus, in its team dressing room, on the Field of Play, or in any other Controlled Access Area without being in physical possession of the necessary Accreditation Card which has been validly issued to such person.
- 26.2. For each Match in the Competition each Participating Team shall register a Team Official Delegation, subject to the conditions set out below, comprising between eighteen (18) and twenty-three (23) Participating Players and eight (8) Participating Officials.
 - 26.2.1. Each Participating Team may nominate an additional twelve (12) officials who shall receive the same Accreditation Card as the eight (8) Participating Officials included in the Team Official Delegation.
 - 26.2.2. All costs related to the additional ten (10) officials shall be borne by the relevant Participating Member Association.
- 26.3. For each match in the Competition, Participating Teams shall include following four (4) Officials in the registration list:
 - 26.3.1. Head Coach;
 - 26.3.2. Team Manager
 - 26.3.3. Team Media Officer; and
 - 26.3.4. Team Doctor

27. Eligibility of Players

- 27.1. Each Participating Member Association shall ensure that all players:
 - 27.1.1. are duly registered with the CAFA pursuant to these Regulations;
 - 27.1.2. hold the nationality of its country and are subject to its jurisdiction;
 - 27.1.3. are eligible to participate for the representative team of the Member Association in accordance with Articles 5 to 8 of the Regulations Governing the Application of the FIFA Statutes.
- 27.2. Individuals who meet the criteria set out in Article 27.1 are eligible to participate in the Competition, subject to the provisions of the CAFA Disciplinary and Ethics Code.
- 27.3. The approval of the registration of a Participating Player by the CAFA General Secretariat does not automatically provide for the eligibility of the Participating



Player. Each Participating Member Association is responsible for fielding only eligible Participating Players.

- 27.4. The CAFA General Secretariat may decide not to approve the registration of a player if any of the requirements set out in this Section 5 are not met.
- 27.5. A Participating Player shall be deemed ineligible, without limitation, if:
 - 28.5.1. there is a violation of Article 27.1; or
 - 28.5.2. the CAFA determines that any document submitted during registration is false.

28. Registration of Players

- 28.1. There are two (2) stages of registration for the players:
 - 28.1.1. Preliminary Registration: each Participating Team must submit a squad of minimum eighteen (18) and maximum thirty-five (35) Participating Players;
 - 28.1.2. Final Registration/Player Selection List: each Participating Team must submit a squad of minimum eighteen (18) and maximum twenty-three (23) Participating Players by latest ninety (90) minutes prior to each Match which identifies the starting eleven (11) and up to twelve (12) substitutes, comprising individuals registered in the Preliminary Registration;
- 28.2. All Participating Players will be provided with Accreditation Cards authorized by the CAFA General Secretariat. Should a card be misplaced and/or lost the relevant Participating Team shall be required to pay USD 500 as a replacement production fee.
- 28.3. Should the CAFA not receive all required documents by the stipulated deadlines, the Participating Member Association concerned shall be considered to have withdrawn from the Competition prior to its commencement and subject to Article 6, unless otherwise agreed with the CAFA.

29. Documents for Registration of Players

- 29.1. The following documents shall be submitted to the CAFA for registration of Participating Players:
 - 29.1.1. A clear-scanned colour copy of a valid passport (which shall expire not earlier than 6 months since the date of entry), containing the full name, passport number, place of birth, date of birth, date of issue, date of expiry and nationality of the Player. Group passports shall not be accepted;
 - 29.1.2. A colour copy of a National Identification Card (where requested);



29.1.3. One (1) passport-size colour photo taken within three (3) months prior to the submission of registration.

29.2. All documents shall be free from tampering, and any change or erasure must be endorsed or authenticated by the appropriate authority.

30. Preliminary Registration

- 30.1. Each Participating Team shall submit the supporting documents in accordance with Article 29 via e-mail international@the-cafa.com no later than thirty (30) days prior to the commencement of the Competition.
- 30.2. There is no allocation of jersey numbers during the Preliminary Registration.
- 30.3. Each Participating Team shall register minimum eighteen (18) and maximum thirty-five (35) Participating Players in the Preliminary Registration.
- 30.4. Each Participating Team must register a minimum of four (4) goalkeepers in its Preliminary Registration.
- 30.5. Any player listed on the preliminary registration of thirty-five (35) players may only be replaced not later than twenty-four (24) hours before the corresponding Team's first Match in the Competition in the event of serious injury. The Participating Member Association shall nominate a replacement Participating Player and inform the CAFA accordingly. Neither CAFA nor the Organizing Association(s) shall be responsible for any costs incurred due to a player replacement. For the avoidance of doubt, no player in the preliminary registration list may be replaced after the corresponding team's first Match in the Competition.

31. Final Registration

- 31.1. The submission of the Final Registration for each Match shall be undertaken using the "Player Selection List".
- 31.2. The Final Registration may only be composed of those Participating Players registered in the Preliminary Registration for the Competition.
- 31.3. Each Participating Team shall mark the starting eleven (11), including the team captain, and up to twelve (12) substitutes on the "Player Selection List".
- 31.4. Each Participating Team must register a minimum of three (3) goalkeepers in their Final Registration.
- 31.5. Each Participating Player who is marked on the "Player Selection List" must be available at the Player and Equipment Check undertaken by the CAFA Match Commissioner on Match day.



- 31.6. Each Participating Team must submit its 'Player Selection List' signed by the Head Coach or the Team Manager, together with the "Officials on the Substitution Bench" form with the names of up to eleven (11) Participating Officials who shall be entitled to sit on the team bench, to the CAFA Match Commissioner by latest ninety (90) minutes prior to the commencement of each Match.
- 31.7. The Participating Players must be assigned jerseys numbered 1-99. Jersey number 1 shall be reserved for a goalkeeper. Allocation of jersey numbers shall be submitted to the CAFA seven (7) days prior to the commencement of the Competition. Each Participating Player shall wear the same number allocated in the Final Registration during all Matches in the Competition.

32. Registration of Officials

- 32.1. There shall only be one (1) registration period for Participating Officials for the Competition.
- 32.2. Each Participating Team may register a minimum of eight (8) Participating Officials. Each Participating Team may also nominate an additional twelve (12) officials in accordance with Article 26.
- 32.3. Each Participating Team shall submit the following supporting documents via e-mail international@the-cafa.com no later than thirty (30) days prior to the commencement of the Competition:
 - 32.3.1. A clear-scanned colour copy of a valid passport (which shall expire not earlier than 6 months since the date of entry), containing the full name, passport number, place of birth, date of birth, date of issue, date of expiry and nationality of the individual. Group passports are not accepted;
 - 32.3.2. A colour copy of a National Identification Card (where applicable);
 - 32.3.3. One (1) passport-size colour photo taken within three (3) months prior to the submission of the registration;
 - 32.3.4. The CAFA General Secretariat reserves the right to request additional documents in all cases.
- 32.4. Up to eleven (11) officials may sit on the team bench for each Match. The following three (3) Participating Officials must be registered on the "Officials on the Substitution Bench" Form:
 - 33.4.1. Head Coach;
 - 33.4.2. Team Manager; and
 - 33.4.3. Team Doctor.



- 32.5. Each Participating Team is entitled to register a 'Video Analyst' who shall be the only member of a Team Official Delegation entitled to record Matches in the Competition. This recording shall be strictly for technical purposes and should not interfere with Match operations or be utilised by any Broadcast Partner.
- 32.6. All Participating Officials (and additional officials) will be issued with an Accreditation Card. Should a card be misplaced, the relevant Participating Member Association shall be required to pay USD 500 as a replacement production fee.
- 32.7. Should the CAFA not receive all required documents by the stipulated deadlines, the Participating Member Association concerned shall be considered to have withdrawn from the Competition prior to its commencement and subject to Article 6, unless otherwise agreed with the CAFA.
- 32.8. The Team Manager and Team Media Officer shall participate in all Official Functions related to the Matches, including without limitation the Match Coordination Meeting and all Press Conferences. They shall be responsible for coordination of all Participating Team's matters with the Local Organizing Committee.
- 32.9. Once the Registration of the Participating Officials has been received by the CAFA, Participating Member Association may replace any of the listed Participating Officials with twenty-four (24) hour notice to the CAFA , subject to the provision of the relevant documents stipulated in Article 33.3. and to the below conditions;
 - 32.9.1. To replace a Participating Official, a Participating Team must provide his Accreditation Card to the CAFA and shall receive the Accreditation Card of the replacement Participating Official in exchange.
 - 32.9.2. Replacement Participating Officials shall only be eligible to participate in the Competition after receiving their Accreditation Card;
 - 32.9.3. Neither CAFA nor the Organizing Association shall be responsible for any costs incurred due to replacement of a Participating Officials including airfare and/or visa arrangements.



SECTION 6: FINANCIAL PROVISIONS AND LOGISTICS

33. Responsibilities

- 33.1. The Organizing Association(s) shall cover the following expenses of the Participating Teams comprising of maximum twenty-three (23) Participating Players and eight (8) Participating Officials unless otherwise stipulated in the Competition Agreement:
 - 33.1.1. full board accommodation;
 - 33.1.2. water and refreshments;
 - 33.1.3. domestic transportation in the Venue;
 - 33.1.4. training facilities
- 33.2. The Organizing Association(s) shall also pay for the international round trip air-tickets, board and lodging in a high-standard hotel, domestic transportation in the Venue, daily allowances for the CAFA Delegation appointed by the CAFA for the Competition, unless otherwise agreed with the CAFA;
- 33.3. All Participating Teams shall cover the expenses related to the participation in the Competition as stipulated in the Competition Agreement and including, but not limited to, entry visa costs, international airfare travel costs, Insurance cover, etc.
- 33.4. The Participating Teams shall not be permitted to stay at the same hotel chosen for the CAFA Match Officials;
- 33.5. Participating Teams are prohibited to play any matches outside of the Competition during their stay in the Venue.
- 33.6. The CAFA shall reimburse to the Organizing Association(s) all relevant expenses related to the organization of the Competition upon submission of all financial reports and supporting documents as stipulated in the OAA.

34. Arrival and Departure

- 34.1. Each Participating Team shall arrive in the Venue two (2) days prior to the first Match-day of the relevant stage of the Competition or by the arrival date determined by the CAFA;
- 34.2. Each Participating Team shall depart from the Venue next day following the final Match-day of the relevant stage of the Competition or by the departure date determined by the CAFA;



35. Domestic Transportation

35.1. From two (2) days prior to the first Match until one (1) day after the Participating Team's last Match in the Competition, the Organizing Association(s) must provide for the Team Official Delegation of each Participating Team:

29.1.1. One (1) 45-seated air-conditioned bus with designated driver;

29.1.2. One (1) air-conditioned sedan car with designated driver; and

29.1.3. One (1) equipment truck for airport transfers only (when necessary).

36. Visas

36.1. Each Participating Member Association must apply for all necessary visas for their Team Delegation no later than thirty (30) days prior to the commencement of the Competition. For the avoidance of doubt visas shall be obtained for the venues where the Group Stage and Play-off Stage Matches will be played.

37. Accommodation, Meals and Refreshments

37.1. Only Official Hotels proposed by the Organizing Association(s) and approved by the CAFA shall be utilised for the Participating Teams' Accommodation;

37.2. From two (2) days prior to the first Match until one (1) day after the Participating Team's last Match in the Competition, the Organizing Association(s) must provide for the Team Official Delegation of each Participating Team:

37.2.1. Accommodation in a high-standard hotel for the Team Official Delegation comprising of twenty-three (23) Participating Players and eight (8) Participating Officials, which shall include:

37.2.1.1. eleven (11) double rooms

37.2.1.2. nine (9) single rooms; and

37.2.1.3. one (1) empty room in the said hotel for the purposes of medical treatment and/or equipment storage.

37.2.2. All rooms, where possible, shall be located on the same floor.

37.2.3. one (1) meeting room in the said hotel (shared between Participating Teams) for the duration of the Competition equipped with a whiteboard and an LCD projector. The meeting room shall accommodate at least forty (40) persons in a classroom layout setting;



- 37.2.4. three (3) meals per day (international buffet style) in a dedicated dining area for the Team Official Delegation;
 - 37.2.5. six (6) liters of bottled water per person per day for the Team Official Delegation;
 - 37.2.6. daily laundry services (normal wash) for eight (8) pieces of kits per person per day for the Team Official Delegation; and
 - 37.2.7. one (1) liaison officer proficient in English, and preferably the language of the Participating Member Association.
- 37.3. Should the Participating Team decide to be accommodated in a different hotel than those approved by the CAFA, it shall be responsible for all the costs related to its accommodation in a different hotel. It shall also ensure that the CAFA and the Organizing Association(s) is notified on the name and location of such hotel at least seven (7) days prior to the Participating Team's first Match in the Competition.



SECTION 7: MEDIA

38. Media Access

- 38.1. Each Organising Association shall ensure that the CAFA, the Host Broadcaster, and all Broadcast Partners have free access to the Stadium from seven (7) days prior to each Match until one (1) day after each Match to allow for the resolution of any technical issues and for the assembly and/or disassembly of the relevant infrastructure required to execute the Media Rights.

39. Press Conferences

- 39.1. The Head Coach and minimum one (1) of the key Participating Players of each Participating Team must attend a pre-Match press conference for each Match in which they participate to be held at least one (1) day prior to the Match.
- 39.2. The Head Coach of each Participating Team and the Player of the Match must attend a post-Match press conference for each Match in which they participate, commencing no later than fifteen (15) minutes after the Match.
- 39.3. Any individual who fails to attend an obligatory press conference shall be fined at least USD10,000. The relevant Participating Team shall also be held liable in accordance with Article 4.3.8.
- 39.4. Each Participating Member Association is responsible for the interpretation of its Head Coach and relevant Participating Players into English. Interpretation into the local language (if applicable) shall be the responsibility of the Organizing Association.
- 39.5. Each Participating Team shall ensure that its selected Official Delegation Member participating in any press conference or interview sessions refrain from making any statements or references which will or are likely to damage or bring into disrepute the good name, image and reputation of the CAFA, Organizing Association(s), relevant Member Association and/or the Competition.
- 39.6. Each Participating Team shall ensure, during any press conference or interview session, that:
 - 39.6.1. the products or other identifiers of their affiliated Member Association or their commercial partners or any associated third parties do not appear and or are not used in any manner;
 - 39.6.2. their Participating Players and Participating Officials do not make any reference to any third-party products or entities.



- 39.7. In the event the Participating Team's Head Coach is suspended for the Match, the Participating Team shall request the individual replacing the Head Coach on the Team Bench to attend any scheduled press conferences or interview sessions.

40. Mixed Zone

- 40.1. The Head Coach and all Participating Players shall pass through the Mixed Zone on their way from their team dressing room to their bus after each Match.
- 40.2. Any individual who fails to pass through the mixed zone shall be fined at least USD5,000. The relevant Participating Team may be held liable for any failure to pass through the Mixed Zone in accordance with Article 4.3.8.
- 40.3. The CAFA Disciplinary and Ethics Committee may impose further sanctions at its discretion.

41. Interviews

- 41.1. If requested by the CAFA, Participating Teams shall make their Head Coach and one (1) Participating Player available the day before each Match for an interview of up to ten (10) minutes, to be recorded by the Host Broadcaster or any other Broadcast Partner, any Commercial Affiliate and/or the CAFA. All interview locations shall be designated by the CAFA Media Officer or CAFA General Coordinator.
- 41.2. If requested by the CAFA, Participating Teams shall make their Head Coach available on Match day for an interview of not more than ninety (90) seconds at their point of arrival at the Stadium for the Match.

42. Flash Interviews

- 42.1. If requested by the CAFA, any Participating Player (Maximum 3) and/or Participating Officials (Head Coach) shall participate in a 'flash interview' following each Match.
- 42.2. Any individual who fails to conduct a 'flash interview' when requested shall be fined at least USD5,000. The relevant Participating Team may be held liable for any failure to conduct a 'flash interview' when requested in accordance with Article 4.3.8.
- 42.3. The CAFA Disciplinary and Ethics Committee may impose further sanctions at its discretion.

43. Team Media Officer

- 43.1. Each Participating Team in accordance with Article 26 shall register a dedicated English-speaking Media Officer to coordinate all media arrangements between the CAFA, Organising Association and where applicable, the Participating Team's Players



and Officials, the Host Broadcaster and the Media, including without limitation participation in all press conferences and interviews, and to cooperate on all matters related to the Competition.

- 43.2. Each Participating Member Association shall be responsible to ensure that their registered Media Officer briefs all Participating Players and/or Participating Officials in respect to their media obligations as required by the CAFA and the Organizing Association.
- 43.3. Each Participating Member Association and their registered Media Officer shall be responsible to ensure the provision of translation services where any of the Participating Team's Players or Officials participates in media activities in languages other than English. For the avoidance of doubt, the translation shall be conducted from all other languages into the English language.

44. Recording of Matches

- 44.1. Organising Association(s) must provide four (4) copies of the Match recording to the CAFA Match Commissioner immediately after the completion of each Match.



SECTION 8: TICKETING

45. General Requirements

- 45.1. Tickets, electronic or hard copy, shall include seat numbering and serial numbering, and only include CAFA Marks, Competition Marks, and/or marks of Commercial Affiliates approved by the CAFA.
- 45.2. The CAFA reserves the right at its sole discretion to substitute the seating area or the gate entrance identified on the ticket with another, if deemed appropriate for security or technical reasons.

46. Terms and Conditions

- 46.1. Each Organising Association shall be responsible at its own cost for the design, production, distribution, and sales of all Tickets. Such matters are subject to the approval of the CAFA.
- 46.2. CAFA, in agreement with the Organising Association, shall determine for each of the Matches:
 - 46.2.1. the total number of Tickets made available in a stadium in which a Match takes place;
 - 46.2.2. the pricing of all Tickets;
 - 46.2.3. the category of Tickets; and
 - 46.2.4. the assignment of Stadium seats to Tickets.

47. Complimentary Tickets

- 47.1. Each Organising Association shall provide Complimentary Tickets to the CAFA for each Match in the Competition as instructed by the CAFA.
- 47.2. Each Organising Association shall provide the following Complimentary Tickets to each Participating Team competing at a Venue which it controls for each Match it participates in:
 - 47.2.1. two (2) VVIP Tickets;
 - 47.2.2. five (5) VIP Tickets; and
 - 47.2.3. twenty (20) Tickets of the next-best category;



47.2.4. two (2) Tickets of the next-best category (as determined by the CAFA) for all other Matches at the Venue not involving the relevant Participating Member Association.

47.3. Submission of the additional complimentary tickets request by any of the Participating Team does not guarantee the availability of Complimentary Tickets for such Participating Team.

48. Purchasable Tickets

48.1. Each Organising Association must make available at least eight percent (8%) of the net saleable capacity of a Stadium available exclusively to the supporters of each Participating Member Association, in a segregated, safe area to be determined by the CAFA and the Organising Association.

48.2. The number of Tickets to be purchased must be declared by each Participating Member Association in accordance with the Ticketing timeline and guidelines issued by the CAFA. Each Participating Member Association is responsible for all Tickets purchased, even if not utilised.

48.3. Each Organising Association shall provide the CAFA Commercial Rights Partner with the opportunity to buy Tickets at face-value for each Match. The number of Tickets to be purchased must be declared at a time to be mutually agreed between the CAFA Commercial Rights Partner and the Organising Association.



SECTION 9: COMMERCIAL

49. Commercial Rights

- 49.1. The CAFA is the owner of all the Commercial Rights emanating from the Competition as well as from any other related events coming under its jurisdiction, without any restrictions as to content, time, place and law. The CAFA may grant the Organizing Association or any other third party such Commercial Rights in whole or in part.
- 49.2. Participating Member Associations shall provide the necessary assistance and support to the Organizing Association and ensure that members of its Team Official Delegation and associated third parties observe all instructions of the CAFA, CAFA Commercial Partner, and/or Organizing Association in relation to the protection and enforcement of the Commercial Rights or any commercial programme established by the CAFA, CAFA Commercial Partner, and/or Organizing Association in relation to the Competition.
- 49.3. Participating Member Associations and their affiliated Participating Teams shall not oppose and shall use reasonable efforts to ensure that none of its affiliates oppose any trademark or copyright applications filed in respect to the CAFA or the Competition and may not in any way challenge or apply for any copyright, trade mark, patent or domain name registrations which would adversely affect the CAFA's, CAFA Commercial Partner's and/or Organizing Association's proprietary interest in the Competition.
- 49.4. Participating Member Associations and their affiliated Participating Teams shall promptly notify the CAFA General Secretariat of any infringement or suspected infringement of any intellectual property rights relating to the Competition upon becoming aware of any such matter.

50. Image Rights

- 50.1. The CAFA is the owner of all the Image Rights emanating from the Competition as well as from any other related events coming under its jurisdiction, without any restrictions as to content, time, place and law. The CAFA may grant the Organizing Association or any other third party such Image Rights in whole or in part.
- 50.2. The CAFA is entitled to use and exploit all Image Rights relating to the Competition and reserves all rights in respect to the use and/or license of such rights for any purposes, commercial or otherwise, free from any royalty or compensation, in relation to the Competition and grant of rights in relation thereto.
- 50.3. Participating Member Associations and their affiliated Participating Teams acknowledge that participation in the Competition shall automatically be considered as a constitute agreement to the use and/or recording of their image without notice or compensation, and shall indemnify, defend and hold harmless the CAFA, the Organizing Association(s) and any Official Licensees from any and all claims relating



to the use of their images in relation to the Competition and/or grant of rights relating to the Competition.

51. Media Rights

- 51.1. The CAFA owns and is entitled to use and exploit all Media Rights relating to the Competition.
- 51.2. The CAFA reserves the right to withhold or revoke any Media Rights granted at any time prior or during the Competition.
- 51.3. The CAFA reserves all rights in respect to the coordination of all media activities related to the Competition including without limitation the coordination of all press conferences, interviews and release of press statements, as well as selection of designated media areas for the conduction of all press conferences and interview sessions.
- 51.4. Participating Teams' Players and Officials shall participate and provide full support to the CAFA, the Organizing Association(s) and any Official Licensees in relation to any media activities organized by the CAFA.
- 51.5. Participating Teams through their registered Media Officer shall assist the CAFA and where applicable the Organizing Association(s)' and/or Commercial Rights Partner with the coordination of all press conferences and/or interview sessions by ensuring availability and timely attendance of the Team Official Delegation members selected to participate in such media activities.

52. Competition Promotional Material

- 52.1. Prior to the commencement of Competition and/or any Match of the Competition, the Participating Member Associations shall, upon request from the CAFA and/or the Organizing Association, provide photographs and/or audio-visual materials of the Participating Teams' Players and Officials and/or any further information (including without limitation, statistics and historical information) as requested.
- 52.2. All Participating Member Associations hereby grant the CAFA exclusive rights to use and where applicable, authorize the Organizing Association(s) to use the aforesaid provided materials for promotional and/or editorial purposes in relation to the Competition.
- 52.3. All requested materials shall be provided to the CAFA in a timely manner, and in the format requested by the CAFA or its Official Licensees.

53. Clean Stadium

- 53.1. The Organising Association(s) shall deliver all Stadiums and Official Training Sites as a Clean Stadium seven (7) days before the first Match at each Stadium or official



training at each Official Training Site, until 24 hours after the final Match of the Competition.

54. Advertising and Branding

- 54.1. The Organising Association(s) shall ensure that all relevant approvals are secured and unrestricted access for the placement and publishing of advertising or branding of the Competition shall be available to the CAFA seven (7) days before the first Match at each Stadium or official training at each Official Training Site.

55. Official Functions

- 55.1. The CAFA is entitled to exploit all rights relating to the Official Functions and events relating to the Competition and reserves all rights in respect to the organizing and/or staging of such functions or events throughout the Competition.
- 55.2. Participating Member Associations and their affiliated Participating Teams and any third parties associated with the Competition shall not organize any Official Functions or events relating to the Competition without the prior written approval of the CAFA. Any party that wishes to organize and/or stage any Official Function shall provide the CAFA with a detailed plan setting out among others the date, time and venue of the proposed function or event and shall follow and comply with any directions or instructions issued by the CAFA regarding the overall organization and/or staging of the Official Function.
- 55.3. Any approved events or functions shall be organized and/or staged on a non-commercial basis with no sales of tickets or payment from any third party or company and/or no association to the CAFA and Organizing Association(s).



SECTION 10: MEDICAL AND ANTI-DOPING

56. Medical

- 56.1. It is sole responsibility of each Participating Team to ensure that each player in its Preliminary Registration undergoes a Pre-Competition Medical Assessment (“PCMA”) and any necessary medical checks at least thirty (30) days prior to the first Match of the Competition.
- 56.2. Each Organising Association shall provide a medical room fully- equipped with all items stipulated in the Manual.

57. Anti-doping

- 57.1. Doping is strictly prohibited. The AFC Anti-Doping Regulations, the CAFA Disciplinary and Ethics Code, and all relevant AFC directives in relation to anti-doping are applicable to the Competition.

**SECTION 11: SAFETY AND SECURITY****58. General Principles**

- 58.1. All matters relating to safety and security shall be undertaken in compliance with the AFC Stadium Regulations and AFC Safety and Security Regulations.
- 58.2. The Organizing Association(s) shall, in conjunction with the relevant government authorities and/or Stadium owners, devise, plan, and implement adequate security and safety measures for the Competition at all Controlled Access Areas within the Venue and other relevant locations to protect all relevant persons, including without limitation the CAFA Delegation, Team Official Delegations, Organizing Association, Commercial Rights Partner, Commercial Affiliates, Media, and spectators, and all goods brought in by the CAFA, Team Official Delegations, Organizing Association Commercial Rights Partner, and Commercial Affiliates.
- 58.3. The Organizing Association(s) shall have a detailed security plan in the form of a binding agreement with, without limitation, the management of all Stadiums, Official Training Sites, and the Accommodation of the CAFA Delegation and Team Official Delegations. Such security plan shall be based upon the principles set out in the AFC Stadium Regulations and AFC Safety and Security Regulations.



SECTION 12: DISCIPLINARY

59. Disciplinary Measures

- 59.1. All disciplinary measures in relation to the Competition shall be undertaken in accordance with the current CAFA Statutes, AFC Statutes, CAFA Disciplinary and Ethics Code, and any relevant CAFA circular;
- 59.2. The CAFA may introduce new disciplinary rules and sanctions for the duration of the Competition. Such rules shall be communicated to the Participating Member Associations ten (10) days before the first Match of the Competition.
- 59.3. Only Participating Players and Participating Officials may serve match suspensions during the Competition.
- 59.4. All Participating Players agree to:
 - 59.4.1. respect the spirit of fair play, non-violence, and the authority of the Match Officials;
 - 59.4.2. behave accordingly; and
 - 59.4.3. refrain from doping.

60. Good Conduct

- 60.1. Participating Member Associations are liable for the improper conduct of:
 - 60.1.2. any member of its Team Official Delegation; and/or
 - 60.1.3. any person affiliated to it and/or carrying out duties on its behalf throughout the Competition.
- 60.2. Any sanction issued by CAFA General Secretariat comes into force immediately upon notification.

61. Indiscipline or Violent Conduct

- 61.1. Each Member Association is fully responsible for its Participating Team's Players and Officials indiscipline or violent conduct at the Stadium (including without limitation the Team Dressing Room or the Field of Play), Training Sites, places of Accommodation, or any other location within the territory of the Organizing Association(s).

62. Protest

- 62.1. For the purpose of these Regulations, a protest is an objection of any kind related to any event and/or matter that has a direct effect on a Match.



- 62.2. Unless otherwise stipulated in these Regulations, to be considered valid, a protest must be:
- 62.2.1. submitted in writing (using the appropriate Protest Form issued by the CAFA General Secretariat) to the CAFA Match Commissioner for the relevant Match within two (2) hours of the end of the relevant Match;
 - 62.2.2. followed up with a full written report (including a copy of the original Protest Form) which must be sent to the CAFA General Secretariat within twenty-four (24) hours of the end of the relevant Match; and
 - 62.2.3. accompanied by a non-refundable fee of USD 500 (non-inclusive of any bank charges) which must be transmitted to the bank account nominated by the CAFA General Secretariat within twenty-four (24) hours of the end of the relevant Match.
- 62.3. No protest shall be lodged relating to the Referee's decisions regarding facts connected with play. Such decisions are final and binding and not appealable.
- 62.4. If any of the formal conditions of a protest as set out in these Regulations are not met, such protest shall be disregarded. Following the completion of the Final Match of the Competition, all protests shall be disregarded.

63. Arbitration

- 63.1. Any dispute in connection with the Competition shall be promptly settled by negotiation.
- 63.2. In compliance with the CAFA Statutes, Participating Member Associations, Participating Players, and Participating Officials are prohibited from initiating disputes in an ordinary court of law and must submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the CAFA.
- 63.3. Participating Member Associations, Participating Players, and Participating Officials acknowledge and accept that, once all internal channels have been exhausted at the CAFA, their sole recourse shall be to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS). The Code of Sports-related Arbitration shall be applicable. The language of arbitration shall be English.
- 63.4. The jurisdiction of the CAS to resolve disputes is only available where it has not been expressly excluded or a decision is declared as final and binding and not subject to appeal.

**SECTION 13: AWARDS****64. Trophy, Awards and Medals**

- 64.1. The original trophy of the Competition shall be presented to the Champion during the prize presentation ceremony after the last match of the Competition.
- 64.2. The following awards of the Competition shall be presented in accordance with the Regulations:
 - 64.2.1. Most Valuable Player;
 - 64.2.2. Top Goalscorer;
 - 64.2.3. Best Goalkeeper; and
 - 64.2.4. Fair Play Award.
- 64.3. The CAFA shall award the following medals:
 - 64.3.1. forty (40) medals to the Champion;
 - 64.3.2. forty (40) medals to the second place;
 - 64.3.3. forty (40) medals to the third place; and
 - 64.3.4. commemorative medals for the Match Officials of the Final Match.



SECTION 14: CLOSING PROVISIONS

65. Special Instructions

- 65.1. The CAFA General Secretariat shall, in conjunction with the Organizing Association(s), issue any instructions necessitated by special circumstances which might arise in the organization of Matches.
- 65.2. These instructions shall form an integral part of these Regulations.

66. Decisions

- 66.1. All decisions made in accordance with these Regulations, except where expressly identified otherwise, are final and binding and not appealable in accordance with the CAFA Statutes.

67. Amendments

- 67.1. The CAFA reserves the right to make amendments to any part of these Regulations for any reason whatsoever. Such amendments shall be duly communicated in due course.

68. Force Majeure

- 68.1. The CAFA General Secretariat is the only body capable of declaring Force Majeure event.

69. Matters not Provided For

- 69.1. Matters not provided for in these Regulations shall be decided by the CAFA General Secretariat in conjunction with the Organizing Association(s). Such decisions are final and binding and not appealable.

70. Enforcement

- 70.1. These Regulations were ratified by the CAFA Executive Committee on 24 April 2023 and came into force immediately

For the CAFA Executive Committee

Dastanbek Konokbaev
Senior Vice-President

Ulugbek Karimov
General Secretary





CAFA NATIONS CUP
2023



CAFA

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