

REGULATIONS

2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™



FIFA®

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14 June – 15 July 2018

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1 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™

1.

The FIFA World Cup™ is a FIFA event embodied in the FIFA Statutes.

2.

On 2 December 2010, the FIFA Executive Committee designated the Football Union of Russia (hereinafter: the FUR) as the Organising Association of the final competition for the 2018 FIFA World Cup™. The Organising Association shall be responsible for organising, hosting and staging the final competition, as well as the security for the duration thereof.

3.

The FUR has set up a Local Organising Committee (hereinafter: LOC) in the form of a separate legal entity to organise the final competition, in accordance with the Bidding and Hosting Agreement (collectively the Hosting Agreement, hereinafter: HA) between FIFA and the FUR.

4.

The FUR and its LOC are collectively referred to as the Organising Association. The Organising Association shall be subject to the supervision and control of FIFA, which has the last word on all matters relevant to the 2018 FIFA World Cup™. The decisions of FIFA are final and not subject to appeal.

5.

Working relations between the Organising Association and FIFA are regulated in a special contract, the HA, its annexes and amendments, FIFA directives, decisions, guidelines and circulars as well as the FIFA Statutes and various FIFA regulations. The Organising Association undertakes to observe the FIFA Statutes, regulations, directives, decisions, guidelines, circulars as well as the HA.

6.

The FIFA Executive Committee has also appointed the Organising Committee for the FIFA World Cup™ (hereinafter: FIFA Organising Committee) to organise the competition.

7.

The regulations for the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ (hereinafter: the Regulations) regulate the rights, duties and responsibilities of all associations taking part in the 2018 FIFA World Cup™ and of the Organising Association by forming an integral part of the HA. 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 the 2018 FIFA World Cup™.

8.

Any rights associated with the 2018 FIFA World Cup™ that are not granted by these Regulations and/or further regulations, guidelines and decisions as set forth in art. 4 par. 2 of these Regulations and/or specific agreements to a participating member association in the preliminary or final competition, or to a confederation, belong to FIFA.

9.

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

2

Organising Association responsibilities

1.

The obligations and responsibilities of the Organising Association are stipulated in the HA and ancillary documents, these Regulations and other FIFA regulations, guidelines, directives, decisions, circulars or any other agreement reached between FIFA and the Organising Association.

2.

The responsibilities of the Organising Association shall include but not be limited to:

- a) ensuring that order and safety is maintained in cooperation with the government of Russia, particularly in and around the stadiums and other venues of the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™. It shall take adequate measures to prevent and avoid outbreaks of violence;

- b) ensuring the presence of a sufficient number of ground staff and security stewards to guarantee safety;
- c) concluding insurance policies in consultation with FIFA to cover all risks relating to the final competition's organisation, in particular, adequate and broad liability insurance in respect of the stadiums, local organisation, members of the Organising Association and the LOC, employees, volunteers and any other persons involved in the organisation of the final competition with the exception of the Team Delegation Members (cf. art. 4 par. 1 b) of the Regulations);
- d) concluding liability insurance against possible spectator accidents or deaths.

3.

The Organising Association shall discharge FIFA from all responsibility and relinquish any claim against FIFA and the members of its delegation for any damages resulting from any act or omission relating to the organisation and course of the FIFA World Cup™.

4.

The Organising Association shall ensure that any decision taken by the FIFA Organising Committee or FIFA's judicial bodies relating to its duties and responsibilities is enforced immediately.

3

Organising Committee for the FIFA World Cup™

1.

The FIFA Organising Committee for the FIFA World Cup™, appointed by the FIFA Executive Committee, shall be responsible for organising the FIFA World Cup™ in accordance with the FIFA Statutes.

2.

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

3.

The responsibilities of the FIFA Organising Committee include but are not limited to:

- a) supervising general preparations and deciding on the competition format, the draw and the formation of groups and sub-groups;
- b) fixing the dates and venues of the matches in the final competition as well as in the preliminary competition whenever associations fail to agree;
- c) determining the match schedule and kick-off times for the final competition;
- d) choosing the stadiums and training grounds for the final competition in accordance with the HA after consultation with the LOC;
- e) choosing the official football and stipulated technical material for the final competition;
- f) approving the choice of the WADA-accredited laboratory that will carry out the doping analyses as proposed by the FIFA Anti-Doping Unit;
- g) appointing FIFA Match Commissioners for the final competition of the FIFA World Cup™;
- h) reporting cases in relation to article 6 of these Regulations which fall under the jurisdiction of the FIFA Disciplinary Committee to the latter for its deliberation;
- i) replacing associations that have withdrawn from the FIFA World Cup™;
- j) judging protests and taking appropriate steps to verify their admissibility, with the exception of protests concerning the eligibility of players, which are dealt with by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee (cf. art. 8 par. 2 and 3 as well as art. 15 par. 3);
- k) deciding cases of participating member associations failing to adhere to the time limits and/or the formal requirements for submitting the necessary documents;
- l) dealing with cases of abandoned matches (cf. Law 7 of the Laws of the Game) in accordance with these Regulations;
- m) deciding on the rescheduling of matches due to extraordinary circumstances;
- n) settling cases of force majeure;

- o) dealing with any other aspect of the FIFA World Cup™ that is not the responsibility of any other body under the terms of these Regulations or the FIFA Statutes.

4.

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

4 Participating member associations

1.

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

- a) the conduct of all accreditation-bearing players, coaches, managers, officials, media officers, representatives and guests of its delegation (hereinafter: Team Delegation Members), and of any person carrying out duties on its behalf throughout the competition, from their arrival in the host country until their departure;
- b) ensuring the provision of adequate insurance to cover its Team Delegation Members and any other persons carrying out duties on its behalf against all risks, including but not limited to injury, accident, disease and travel in consideration of the relevant FIFA rules or regulations (cf. in particular Annexe 1, art. 2 par. 3 of the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players);
- c) paying for incidental expenses and for any costs incurred by its Team Delegation Members;
- d) paying for any costs of extending the stay of any member of its delegation, the duration of which is determined by FIFA;
- e) applying for any required visas in good time from the consulate or embassy of the host country; if necessary, the assistance of the Organising Association is to be sought as early as possible;
- f) attending media conferences and other official media activities organised by FIFA and/or by the Organising Association in accordance with the applicable FIFA regulations and instructions issued by FIFA;

- g) ensuring that every member of its delegation or, where applicable, a duly appointed representative, completes the FIFA entry forms and signs the required declarations;
- h) ensuring that every member of its delegation complies with the FIFA Statutes, the applicable FIFA regulations, directives, guidelines and circulars and decisions taken by FIFA bodies, in particular the FIFA Council, FIFA Organising Committee, Referees Committee, Disciplinary Committee, Ethics Committee and Appeal Committee.

2.

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

3.

All Team Delegation Members shall undertake to comply fully with the FIFA Statutes, the applicable FIFA regulations, directives, guidelines and circulars and decisions taken by FIFA bodies, in particular the FIFA Council, FIFA Organising Committee, Referees Committee, Ethics Committee, Disciplinary Committee and Appeal Committee.

4.

All participating member associations shall indemnify, defend and hold FIFA, the Organising Association, and all of their officers, directors, employees, representatives, agents, and all other auxiliary persons free and harmless against any and all liabilities, obligations, losses, damages, penalties, claims, actions, fines and expenses (including reasonable legal expenses) of whatsoever kind or nature resulting from, arising out of, or attributable to, any non-compliance with these Regulations by the participating member associations, their Team Delegation Members, their affiliates and any third parties contracted to the participating member associations.

5.

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

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

5

Entries for the FIFA World Cup™

1.

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

2.

The FIFA World Cup™ consists of two stages:

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

3.

The Organising Association's representative team, Russia, automatically qualifies for the final competition.

4.

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

- a) observe and comply with the FIFA Statutes, regulations, directives, circulars, guidelines and decisions as well as national and international laws;
- b) accept that all the administrative, disciplinary and refereeing matters related to the competition shall be dealt with by FIFA in compliance with the relevant FIFA regulations;
- c) participate with the best possible team in all matches of the competition in which their team is scheduled to take part;
- d) accept all the arrangements made by the Organising Association in agreement with FIFA;
- e) accept FIFA's right to use and/or FIFA's right to sub-license the right to use on a non-exclusive basis, in perpetuity and free of any charge, any of their records, names, photographs and images (including any still and moving representation thereof), which may appear or be generated in connection with the participation of the Team Delegation Members of all participating member associations in both stages of the FIFA World Cup™ in accordance with the relevant terms of the FIFA Media and Marketing Regulations for the final competition and the preliminary competition (as applicable). To the extent that FIFA's right to use and/or FIFA's right to sub-license the right to use any of the records, names, photographs and images may fall in the ownership and/or control of a third party, the participating member associations and their Team Delegation Members shall ensure that such third party waives, pledges and unconditionally assigns and/or transfers to FIFA with immediate effect, with full title guarantee in perpetuity and without any restriction, any such rights to ensure FIFA's unfettered use as set out above;
- f) ensure the provision of adequate insurance to cover their Team Delegation Members and any other persons carrying out duties on their behalf against all risks, including but not limited to injury, accident, disease and travel in consideration of the relevant FIFA rules or regulations (if applicable) (cf. in particular Annexe 1, art. 2 par. 3 of the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players);
- g) observe the principles of fair play.

6 Withdrawal, unplayed matches and abandoned matches

1.

All participating member associations undertake to play all of their matches until eliminated from the FIFA World Cup™.

2.

Any association that withdraws between the preliminary draw and the start of the preliminary competition is liable to a fine of at least CHF 20,000. Any association that withdraws after the start of the preliminary competition is liable to a fine of at least CHF 40,000.

3.

Any association that withdraws no later than 30 days before the start of the final competition is liable to a fine of at least CHF 250,000. Any association that withdraws less than 30 days before the start of the final competition, or during the final competition itself, shall be fined at least CHF 500,000.

4.

Depending on the circumstances of the withdrawal, the FIFA Disciplinary Committee may impose sanctions in addition to those provided for in par. 2 and 3 above, including the expulsion of the association concerned from subsequent FIFA competitions.

5.

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

6.

Any association that withdraws or whose behaviour is liable for a match not being played or being abandoned may be ordered by the FIFA Organising Committee to reimburse FIFA, the Organising 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 the FIFA Organising Committee to pay compensation for any damages incurred by FIFA, the Organising Association or any other participating member association. The association in question will also forfeit any claim to financial remuneration from FIFA.

7.

If an association withdraws or a match cannot be played or is abandoned as a result of force majeure, the FIFA Organising Committee 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 FIFA Organising Committee may in particular order a replay.

8.

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

- a) the match shall recommence at the minute at which play was interrupted, and with the same scoreline;
- b) the match shall recommence with the same players on the pitch and substitutes available as when the match was abandoned;
- c) no additional substitutes may be added to the list of players on the team sheet;
- d) the teams can make only the number of substitutions to which they were still entitled when the match was abandoned;
- e) players sent off during the abandoned match cannot be replaced;
- f) any sanctions imposed before the match was abandoned remain valid for the remainder of the match;
- g) the match shall restart at the place where play was stopped when the match was abandoned (i.e. with a free kick, throw-in, goal kick, corner kick, penalty kick, etc.). If the match was abandoned while the ball was still in play, it shall restart with a dropped ball from the position of the ball when play was stopped.
- h) the kick-off time, date (which shall be foreseen for the following day) and location shall be decided by the FIFA Organising Committee and, for the preliminary competition only, in consultation with the visiting association, the FIFA Match Commissioner and the FIFA general secretariat.
- i) Any matters requiring a further decision shall be handled by the FIFA Organising Committee.

For the preliminary competition, if the 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. The FIFA Organising Committee shall take any other decisions relating to such replay as are deemed necessary.

7 Replacement

If any association withdraws or is excluded from the competition, the FIFA Organising Committee shall decide on the matter at its sole discretion and take whatever action is deemed necessary. The FIFA Organising Committee may in particular decide to replace the association in question with another association.

8 Eligibility of players

1.

Each association shall ensure the following when selecting its representative team for the preliminary and final competitions of the FIFA World Cup™:

- a) all players shall hold the nationality of its country and be subject to its jurisdiction;
- b) all players shall be eligible for selection in accordance with the FIFA Statutes, the Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes and other relevant FIFA rules and regulations.

2.

Protests regarding the eligibility of players shall be decided by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee in accordance with the FIFA Disciplinary Code (cf. art. 15 par. 3).

3.

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

9 Laws of the Game

1.

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

2.

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

3.

If, in accordance with the provisions of these Regulations, extra time is to be played as the result of a draw at the end of normal playing time, it shall always consist of two periods of 15 minutes each, with an interval of five minutes at the end of normal playing time, but not between the two periods of extra time.

4.

If the score is still level after extra time, penalty kicks shall be taken to determine the winner in accordance with the procedure described in the Laws of the Game.

10 Goal-line technology

Goal-line technology may be used for the purpose of verifying whether a goal has been scored to support the referee's decision.

11 Refereeing

1.

The referees, assistant referees and fourth officials (hereinafter referred to collectively as match officials) for the preliminary and final competitions shall be appointed for each match by the FIFA Referees Committee. They shall be selected from the FIFA International Refereeing List in force and shall not come from a member association that is represented by a team playing in the group or match in question. A reserve assistant referee shall also be appointed

for each match of the final competition. The decisions of the FIFA Referees Committee are final and not subject to appeal.

2.

The match officials shall receive their official refereeing kit and equipment from FIFA. They shall wear and use only this kit and equipment on matchdays.

3.

Match officials shall be given the opportunity to use training facilities.

4.

If the referee is prevented from carrying out his duties, such referee shall be replaced by the fourth official. If one of the assistant referees is prevented from carrying out his duties, such assistant referee shall be replaced by the fourth official or by the reserve assistant referee if and when designated. The FIFA Referees Committee shall be informed immediately.

5.

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

12 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.

FIFA may introduce new disciplinary rules and disciplinary measures for the duration of the final competition. Such rules shall be communicated to the participating member associations one month before the first match of the final competition at the latest.

3.

In addition, the players agree in particular to:

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

4.

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

5.

Any violations of these Regulations or 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.

13 Medical/Doping

1.

In order to prevent players from experiencing sudden cardiac death during matches at the final competition, and to protect players' health, each participating member association shall ensure and confirm to FIFA that its players undergo a pre-competition medical assessment prior to the start of the final competition. FIFA provides an assessment form to all participating member associations.

2.

Failure to comply with the aforementioned provision shall be sanctioned by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee in accordance with the FIFA Disciplinary Code.

3.

Doping is strictly prohibited. The FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations, the FIFA Disciplinary Code and all other relevant FIFA regulations, circulars and directives shall apply to the preliminary and final competitions of the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™.

4.

Every player may be subject to in-competition testing at the matches in which he competes and to out-of-competition testing at any time and place.

5.

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

6.

A player who experiences a suspected concussion during a match must undergo an examination by the team doctor in accordance with the protocols established by the FIFA Medical Committee and/or documented in the FIFA Football Emergency Medicine Manual. The referee may temporarily suspend play for up to three minutes whenever an incident of suspected concussion occurs. The referee may only allow the injured player to continue playing with the authorisation of the team doctor, who will have the final decision.

14 Disputes

1.

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

2.

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

3.

The participating member associations, players and officials acknowledge and accept that, once all internal channels have been exhausted at FIFA, their sole recourse shall be to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne, Switzerland, unless excluded or the decision is declared as final and binding and not subject to appeal. Any arbitration proceedings at CAS shall be governed by the CAS Code of Sports-related Arbitration.

4.

Any disputes between FIFA and the Organising Association shall be settled as stipulated in the HA.

15 Protests

1.

For the purpose of these Regulations, protests are objections of any kind related to events or matters that have a direct effect on matches organised in the preliminary and final competitions of the 2018 FIFA World Cup™, including but not limited to the state of and markings on the pitch, accessory match equipment, eligibility of players, stadium installations and footballs.

2.

Unless otherwise stipulated in this article, protests shall be submitted in writing to the FIFA Match Commissioner or the FIFA General Coordinator 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 in writing by fax or by registered letter to the FIFA general secretariat within 24 hours of the end of the match, otherwise they shall be disregarded.

3.

Protests regarding the eligibility of players nominated for matches in the preliminary competition shall be submitted in writing to the FIFA Match Commissioner within one hour of the match in question and followed up with a full written report, including a copy of the original protest, to be sent in writing by fax or by registered letter to the FIFA general secretariat within 24 hours of the end of the match. Protests regarding the eligibility of players nominated for matches in the final competition shall be submitted in writing to the FIFA general secretariat no later than five days before the opening match.

4.

Protests regarding the state of the pitch, its surroundings, markings or accessory items (e.g. goals, flagposts or footballs) shall be made in writing to the referee before the start of the match by the head of delegation of the team lodging the protest. If the pitch's playing surface becomes unplayable during a match, the captain of the protesting team shall immediately lodge a protest with the referee in the presence of the captain of the opposing team. The protests shall be confirmed in writing to the FIFA Match Commissioner and/or FIFA General Coordinator 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 or FIFA General Coordinator 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.

7.

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

8.

If any of the formal conditions of a protest as set out in these Regulations are not met, such protest shall be disregarded by the competent body. Once the final match of the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ has ended, any protests described in this article shall be disregarded.

9.

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

16 Commercial rights

1.

FIFA is the original owner of all of the rights emanating from the final competition of the FIFA World Cup™, from the preliminary competition of the FIFA World Cup™ as a collective whole and any other related events coming under its jurisdiction, without any restrictions as to content, time, place and law. These rights include, among others, all kinds of financial rights, audiovisual and radio recording, reproduction and broadcasting rights, multimedia rights, marketing and promotional rights and incorporeal rights (such as those pertaining to emblems) as well as rights arising under copyright law whether currently existing or created in the future subject to any provision as set forth in specific regulations.

2.

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

17 Operational guidelines

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

18 Entry form

Subject to any other decision by the FIFA Council, the associations shall complete and send the official entry form to the FIFA general secretariat in accordance with the deadline stipulated in the relevant FIFA circular. Only the entry forms sent to the FIFA general secretariat by the deadline set shall be valid and taken into consideration. Entries sent by fax or e-mail shall be confirmed by sending the original official entry forms by courier or post.

19 List of players

1.

Each association entering the preliminary competition shall provide the FIFA general secretariat with a provisional list of at least 50 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, current club, date of birth and passport number as well as the coach's last name, first name, 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 passport that explicitly states the player's day, month and year of birth. Identity cards or other supporting official documents shall not be accepted as a valid means of identification. The participating member associations shall present each player's valid national 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 passport shall not be entitled to play.

4.

23 players may be entered on the start list (11 players and 12 substitutes). The 11 first-named players must start the match, 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 referee at least 85 minutes before kick-off. They shall also provide the referee with two copies of their start list. The opposing team can request one of these copies.

6.

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

- a) If any of the first 11 players (starting players) listed on the start list are not able to start the match for any reason, they may be replaced by any of the 12 substitutes. The replaced player(s) may no longer take part in the match, and the quota of substitute players shall be reduced accordingly. During the match, three players may still be replaced.
- b) If any of the 12 substitutes listed on the start list are not able to be fielded for any reason, the player(s) concerned may not be replaced on the bench by an additional player, which means that the quota of substitutes shall be reduced accordingly. During the match, three players may still be replaced.

7.

Although no longer eligible to play as a substitute, the injured or ill player who was removed from the start list may be seated on the substitutes' bench, and if so, would then also be eligible for doping control selection.

8.

No more than 23 people (11 officials and 12 substitutes) shall be allowed to sit on the substitutes' bench. The names of these officials must be indicated on the "Officials on the Substitutes' Bench" form to be provided to the FIFA Match Commissioner. A suspended player or official will not be allowed to sit on the substitutes' bench.

9.

The use of any electronic communication equipment and/or systems between and/or amongst players and/or technical staff is not permitted.

20 Preliminary draw, format of play and group formation

1.

The FIFA Organising Committee decides on the format of play and match calendar as well as the group formation of the preliminary competition. It forms groups and/or sub-groups for the preliminary competition by seeding and drawing lots whilst taking sports and geographic factors into consideration, as far as possible. Any seeding based on team performance for each confederation's preliminary competition shall be based on the FIFA/ Coca-Cola World Ranking. The decisions of the FIFA Organising Committee are final and not subject to appeal. The preliminary draw will take place in Saint Petersburg, Russia, on 25 July 2015.

2.

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

3.

The preliminary competition is scheduled to begin on the first official international match date after the preliminary draw according to the coordinated international match calendar. The FIFA Organising Committee shall treat any requests for an earlier start of the preliminary competition on a case-by-case basis.

4.

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

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

5.

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

6.

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

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

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

- d) greatest number of points obtained in the group matches between the teams concerned;
- e) goal difference resulting from the group matches between the teams concerned;
- f) greater number of goals scored in all group matches between the teams concerned;
- g) the goals scored away from home count double between the teams concerned (if the tie is only between two teams).
- h) fair play points system in which the number of yellow and red cards in all group matches is considered according to the following deductions:

– first yellow card:	minus 1 point
– second yellow card/indirect red card:	minus 3 points
– direct red card:	minus 4 points
– yellow card and direct red card:	minus 5 points;
- i) drawing of lots by the FIFA Organising Committee.

7.

In the event of a tournament being played in one of the countries of the participating member associations or on neutral territory in accordance with the provisions of art. 20 par. 4 c) above, if two or more teams are equal after the completion of the group stage in accordance with the criteria stated in article 20 pars 6 a) to 6 f) above, the final rankings will be determined by art. 20 pars 6 h) and i).

8.

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.

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

10.

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

21

Venues, kick-off times and training sessions

1.

The venues of the matches shall be fixed by the host association concerned and the matches may only be played in stadiums that have been inspected and approved by the confederation. The opponents and the FIFA general secretariat shall be notified by the host association at least three months before the match in question is due to be played. In principle, the venue is to be located at a maximum distance of 150km, which shall not exceed a maximum two-hour drive, from the nearest international airport. 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 the associations cannot agree on the venues for the matches, the FIFA Organising Committee shall make the final decisions.

2.

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

3.

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

4.

The associations shall arrange for their representative teams to arrive at the venue no later than the evening before the date the match is due to be played. FIFA and the host association shall be informed of the travel itinerary of the visiting association at least one week in advance and the visiting association shall have made provisions for obtaining the visas, if applicable, in accordance with art. 4 par. 1 e).

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 their 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 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, the FIFA general secretariat shall be informed immediately, as well as the visiting association and the match officials before their departure. If the host association fails to do this, it shall be obliged to cover all of the expenses incurred for travel, board and lodging of the parties involved.

7.

If there is any doubt regarding the condition of the pitch once 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. 6. par. 8.

8.

The matches may be played in daylight or under floodlight. Matches played at night may be played only at venues 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. The FIFA Organising Committee is entitled to grant exceptions.

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 qualifying competition branding guidelines.

22 Stadium infrastructure and equipment

1.

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

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 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 may be selected for the preliminary competition of the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™. Should a stadium no longer comply with FIFA standards, the FIFA Organising Committee may, in consultation with the FIFA Security and Integrity Committee and the confederation, reject the selection of the stadium concerned. Brand-new stadiums are to be inspected prior to use; the application for the final inspection and subsequent use of the facilities shall be filed with the confederation at least six months prior to the match concerned. Refurbished or renovated stadiums are to be inspected prior to use; the application for the final inspection and the subsequent use of the facilities shall be filed with the confederation at least nine months prior to the match concerned.

4.

As a general rule, matches may only be played in all-seater stadiums. If only stadiums with both seating and standing areas are available, the standing space shall remain vacant. With regard to the spectator areas, the FIFA Stadium Safety and Security Regulations apply to the preliminary competition matches.

5.

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

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

6.

If a stadium has a retractable roof, the FIFA Match Commissioner, in consultation with the referee and the two teams' officials, shall decide before the match whether the roof shall be open or closed during the match. This decision must be announced at the match coordination meeting, although it may subsequently be modified prior to kick-off in the event of sudden and significant weather condition changes. If the match starts with the roof closed, it shall remain closed for the entire match. If the match starts with the roof open and there is a serious deterioration in the weather conditions, the FIFA Match Commissioner and the referee have the authority to order its closure during the match, provided that the safety and security of all spectators, players and other stakeholders remain fully guaranteed by the host association. In such an event, the roof shall remain closed until the end of the match.

7.

Matches may be played on natural or artificial surfaces. 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-up during the match, ideally behind the goals. A maximum of six (6) players shall warm up at the same time (with a maximum of two (2) officials). Only the goalkeeper may warm up with a ball. If there is not sufficient space behind the goals, both teams shall warm up in the designated area beside the substitute bench of team B, behind assistant referee no. 1. In this case, only a maximum of three (3) players and one (1) official per team may warm up at the same time and without any balls.

9.

Clocks in the stadium showing the length of time played may run during the match, provided that they are stopped at the end of normal playing time in each half, i.e. after 45 and 90 minutes respectively. This stipulation shall also apply if extra time is played (i.e. after 15 minutes of each half). The half-time interval shall be 15 minutes.

10.

At the end of the two periods of normal playing time (45 and 90 minutes), the referee shall indicate to the fourth official, either orally or by gesturing with his hands, the number of minutes that he has decided to allow for time lost. This also applies to the two periods of 15 minutes of extra time.

11.

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

12.

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

13.

Smoking is not permitted in the technical area or in the vicinity of the field of play or within competition areas such as the dressing rooms.

23 Footballs

1.

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

2.

The footballs used in the preliminary competition shall conform with the provisions of the Laws of the Game and the FIFA Equipment Regulations. They shall bear one of the following three designations: the official “FIFA APPROVED” logo, the official “FIFA INSPECTED” logo, or the “INTERNATIONAL MATCHBALL STANDARD” reference.

24 Team equipment

1.

The participating member associations shall comply with the FIFA Equipment Regulations in force. The display of political, religious or personal messages or slogans in any language or form by players and officials on their playing or team kits, equipment (including kit bags, beverage containers, medical bags, etc.) or body is prohibited. The similar display of commercial messages and slogans in any language or form by players and officials is not allowed for the duration of their time at any official activity organised by FIFA (including in the stadiums for official matches and training sessions, as well as during official press conferences and mixed-zone activities).

2.

Each team shall inform FIFA of two different and contrasting colours (one predominately dark and one predominately light kit) for its official and reserve team kit (shirt, shorts and socks). In addition, each team shall select three contrasting colours for the goalkeepers. These three goalkeeper kits must be distinctly different and contrasting from each other as well as different and contrasting from the official and reserve team kits. This information shall be sent to FIFA on the team colour form. Only these colours may be worn at the matches.

3.

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

4.

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

5.

Each player shall wear a number between 1 and 23 on the front and back of his team shirt and on his playing shorts. The colour of the numbers must contrast clearly with the main colour of the shirts and shorts (light on dark or vice versa) and be legible from a distance for spectators in the stadium and television viewers in accordance with the FIFA Equipment Regulations. It is not compulsory for the name of the player to appear on his shirt during the preliminary competition.

6.

FIFA shall supply a sufficient number of players' sleeve badges with the official competition logo of the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™, which shall be affixed on the right-hand sleeve of each shirt, and any other badge (FIFA Fair Play, Football for Hope, etc.) as stipulated by FIFA before the tournament, which shall be affixed on the left-hand sleeve. FIFA shall issue the participating member associations with guidelines for the use of official terminology and graphics which also contain instructions for the use of the players' sleeve badges.

25 Flags and anthems

During the preliminary competition, the FIFA flag, the FIFA Fair Play flag, the confederation's flag, the national flags of both participating member associations and the FIFA competition flag shall be flown inside the stadium at every match. In addition, a ceremonial procession of flags onto the pitch will take place, followed by the entry of the teams as the FIFA anthem is being played, according to FIFA's pre-match protocol. The national anthems of the two participating member associations (maximum 90 seconds each) shall be played after the teams have lined up.

26

Media

1.

Each association shall appoint a dedicated media officer to facilitate cooperation between the associations, FIFA and the media in accordance with these Regulations. The association media officer shall be able to speak at least one of the official FIFA languages as well as other relevant languages. The association media officer must ensure that the media facilities and services provided by the association meet the required standards. The association media officer shall coordinate all media arrangements including pre-match and post-match press conferences and interviews.

2.

The associations' media officers shall coordinate media accreditation requests and ensure that all accreditation requests come from bona fide media representatives. Priority shall be given to media from the two teams playing. Space permitting, access shall be given to international media 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. The media shall be able to follow the training sessions from the positions 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 centrally located in the main or opposite stand, with a clear and unobstructed view of the whole pitch and sufficient technical installations (i.e. power and internet connection) provided.

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

6.

Interviews shall not be permitted during the match on the field of play itself or in its immediate vicinity. Interviews with coaches and players shall be allowed upon their arrival at the stadium, subject to their agreement. Post-match interviews ("flash" interviews) shall be conducted after the match in a designated area located between the pitch and the players' dressing room. 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 for the media between the dressing rooms and the team transport area, in order to offer reporters opportunities to conduct interviews with players and coaches. All players from both teams who are listed on the official match sheet are obliged to pass through the mixed zone in order to conduct interviews with the media.

8.

The team dressing rooms shall be off limits to representatives of the media before, during and after the match. However, one of the host broadcaster's cameras may enter the dressing room before the match at a time agreed in advance with the association 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 go on to 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 the field (before the match) and at the start of the second half.

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

27

Financial provisions

1.

All revenue from the exploitation of the commercial rights for the preliminary competition matches belongs to the host association and, with the income from ticket sales, forms the gross receipts.

2.

The following expenditure shall be deducted from the gross receipts:

- a) the levy due to the confederation in accordance with the confederation's statutes and regulations after deduction of the taxes mentioned under 2
- b) The levies due to the confederation shall be paid within 60 days of the match at the official rate of exchange on the day the payment is due;
- b) state, provincial and municipal taxes as well as the hire of the ground, not exceeding 30% (cf. Regulations Governing the Application of the FIFA Statutes).

3.

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

- a) the visiting association shall cover its delegation's own international travel costs to the venue or the nearest airport, as well as board, lodging costs and incidental expenses;
- b) the host association shall cover domestic transport costs for the entire official delegation of the visiting team depending on flight connections (cf. art. 21 par. 1);
- c) the host association shall pay for board and lodging in a high-standard hotel and domestic transport in the host country for the match officials, the FIFA Match Commissioner, the referee assessor and any other FIFA officials (i.e. security officer, media officer etc.);
- d) the teams shall not be permitted to stay at the same hotel as each other or at the hotel chosen for the FIFA delegation.

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 costs of:

- a) international travel and the daily allowances, as fixed by FIFA, for the referees, assistant referees and fourth officials;
- b) international travel and the daily allowances for the respective FIFA delegation members, as fixed by FIFA.

6.

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

28 Ticketing

1.

The relevant host association is responsible for the 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 fixed 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 to be unused and thus returned upon arrival at the venue.

2.

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

3.

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

29 Liability

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

30 Number of teams and draw

1.

The FIFA Executive Committee has fixed the number of teams taking part in the final competition of the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ at 32, namely the Organising Association's representative team, Russia, and the 31 other teams that qualify from the preliminary competition.

2.

The FIFA Organising Committee forms groups for the final competition by seeding and drawing lots whilst taking sports and geographic factors into consideration, as far as possible. The final draw is due to take place in Russia in December 2017.

3.

The decisions of the FIFA Organising Committee on the group formation and the duration of the final competition are final. In the event of any withdrawals, the FIFA Organising Committee may change the groups in accordance with the provisions of par. 2.

4.

The FIFA Executive Committee has decided to allocate the following number of slots to the confederations for the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™:

- Africa (CAF): 5
- Asia (AFC): 4.5
- Europe (UEFA): 13
- North, Central America, Caribbean (CONCACAF): 3.5
- Oceania (OFC): 0.5
- South America (CONMEBOL): 4.5
- Host country (Russia): 1

31 Final competition format

The final competition shall be played in a group stage, followed by three knockout stages, the play-off for third place and the final.

32

Group stage

1.

The 32 teams taking part in the final competition will be divided into eight groups of four teams.

2.

The FIFA Organising Committee will divide the teams into groups by seeding and drawing lots in public at the final draw that will take place in Russia in December 2017, whilst taking sports and geographical factors into consideration, as far as possible. The host country, Russia, will be seeded as team A1.

3.

The teams in the eight groups will be designated as follows:

Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D
A1	B1	C1	D1
A2	B2	C2	D2
A3	B3	C3	D3
A4	B4	C4	D4
Group E	Group F	Group G	Group H
E1	F1	G1	H1
E2	F2	G2	H2
E3	F3	G3	H3
E4	F4	G4	H4

4.

The league format shall be used: each team playing one match against each of the other teams in the same group, with three points for a win, one point for a draw and none for a defeat.

5.

The ranking of each team in each group shall be determined as follows:

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

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

- d) greatest number of points obtained in the group matches between the teams concerned;
- e) goal difference resulting from the group matches between the teams concerned;
- f) greater number of goals scored in all group matches between the teams concerned;
- g) greater number of points obtained in the fair play conduct of the teams based on yellow and red cards received in all group matches as follows:

- | | |
|---|----------------|
| – yellow card: | minus 1 point |
| – indirect red card:
(as a result of a second yellow card) | minus 3 points |
| – direct red card: | minus 4 points |
| – yellow card and direct red card: | minus 5 points |

Only one of the above deductions shall be applied to a player in a single match;

- h) drawing of lots by the FIFA Organising Committee.

6.

The teams finishing first and second in each group shall qualify for the round of sixteen.

7.

The matches in the group stage shall be played in accordance with the following schedule drawn up by the FIFA Organising Committee.

<i>1st matchday</i>	<i>2nd matchday</i>	<i>3rd matchday</i>
A1 v. A2	A1 v. A3	A4 v. A1
A3 v. A4	A4 v. A2	A2 v. A3
B1 v. B2	B1 v. B3	B4 v. B1
B3 v. B4	B4 v. B2	B2 v. B3
C1 v. C2	C1 v. C3	C4 v. C1
C3 v. C4	C4 v. C2	C2 v. C3
D1 v. D2	D1 v. D3	D4 v. D1
D3 v. D4	D4 v. D2	D2 v. D3
E1 v. E2	E1 v. E3	E4 v. E1
E3 v. E4	E4 v. E2	E2 v. E3
F1 v. F2	F1 v. F3	F4 v. F1
F3 v. F4	F4 v. F2	F2 v. F3
G1 v. G2	G1 v. G3	G4 v. G1
G3 v. G4	G4 v. G2	G2 v. G3
H1 v. H2	H1 v. H3	H4 v. H1
H3 v. H4	H4 v. H2	H2 v. H3

8.

The last two matches in each group shall have simultaneous kick-off times on the same day.

33 Round of sixteen

1.

The teams that qualify from the group stage will play the round of sixteen as follows:

Winner A v. Runner-up B = 1
Winner B v. Runner-up A = 2
Winner C v. Runner-up D = 3
Winner D v. Runner-up C = 4
Winner E v. Runner-up F = 5
Winner F v. Runner-up E = 6
Winner G v. Runner-up H = 7
Winner H v. Runner-up G = 8

Note: the above configuration does not represent the chronological order in which the matches will be played.

2.

If, after 90 minutes, a match ends in a draw, extra time of two periods of 15 minutes each will be played. If the score is level after extra time, penalty kicks will be taken to determine the winner in accordance with the procedure described in the Laws of the Game.

3.

The winners of the eight matches in the round of sixteen will qualify for the quarter-finals.

34 Quarter-finals

1.

The eight teams that qualify from the round of sixteen will contest the quarter-finals as follows:

Winner 1 v. Winner 3 = A

Winner 2 v. Winner 4 = B

Winner 5 v. Winner 7 = C

Winner 6 v. Winner 8 = D

2.

If, after 90 minutes, a match ends in a draw, extra time of two periods of 15 minutes each will be played. If the score is level after extra time, penalty kicks will be taken to determine the winner in accordance with the procedure described in the Laws of the Game.

3.

The winners of the four matches in the quarter-finals will qualify for the semi-finals.

35 Semi-finals

1.

The winners of the quarter-finals will play the semi-finals as follows:

Winner A v. Winner C

Winner B v. Winner D

2.

If, after 90 minutes, a match ends in a draw, extra time of two periods of 15 minutes each will be played. If the score is level after extra time, penalty kicks will be taken to determine the winner in accordance with the procedure described in the Laws of the Game.

36 Final, play-off for third place

1.

The winners of the semi-finals will qualify for the final.

2.

The losers of the semi-finals will contest the play-off for third place.

3.

If, after 90 minutes, the final or the play-off for third place ends in a draw, extra time of two periods of 15 minutes each will be played. If the score is level after extra time, penalty kicks will be taken to determine the winner in accordance with the procedure described in the Laws of the Game.

37 Friendly matches before the competition

1.

Each team taking part in the final competition may play friendly and/or other preparation matches in the host country from the date of arrival in the host country through to the period of the final competition in accordance with the following rules:

- a) prior approval must be given by the host association and FIFA, and the relevant confederations must be informed. FIFA may, in particular, withhold its approval for matches intended to be held as from twenty-eight (28) days prior to the opening match of the final competition in order to ensure that the field of play is of the highest quality. In principle:
 - i) matches in stadiums selected for use during the final competition will generally be prohibited;
 - ii) requests to play matches at official team training sites (i.e. venue-specific training sites and team base camp training sites) will be considered taking into account the prevailing conditions, such as the quality of the field of play and the weather, and operational considerations;
- b) each team must respect the FIFA Media and Marketing Regulations, the FIFA Equipment Regulations and any other relevant FIFA regulations or guidelines.

2.

The rights emanating from an approved friendly and/or other preparation match in the host country including, among others, all kinds of financial rights, audiovisual and radio recording, reproduction and broadcasting rights, multimedia rights, marketing and promotional rights and ticketing rights, may be commercialised by the teams participating in such friendly and/or other preparation matches subject to the following conditions:

- a) in the event of such match taking place in a stadium selected for use during the final competition, no commercialisation is permitted as from fourteen (14) days prior to the opening match of the final competition;
- b) in the event of such match taking place at a venue-specific training site or a team base camp training site, commercialisation is only permitted if the friendly match takes place earlier than five (5) days prior to the team's first match in the final competition (or before the day of the official opening ceremony of the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ whichever date is earlier);
- c) if such match does not take place at an official competition site, commercialisation is permitted;
- d) as from five (5) days before the team's first match in the final competition, only non-commercialised preparation matches may take place at a team's team base camp training site.

38 Venues, dates, arrival at the venues and official team hotels

1.

The venues and dates of the matches shall be submitted by the Organising Association to the FIFA Organising Committee for prior approval in accordance with the deadlines stipulated in the HA.

2.

The FIFA Organising Committee fixes the dates and venues of the matches in the final competition, allowing each team a minimum rest period of at least 48 hours between each match.

3.

Each team taking part in the final competition shall arrive in the host country at least five days before its first match.

4.

Only official team hotels (venue-specific team hotels and team base camps) under contract with either FIFA or FIFA's designated service company shall be used for the teams' accommodation. FIFA will provide further details about accommodation policies, and in particular about the use of venue-specific team hotels, in a circular letter. In principle, the teams shall stay in the venue-specific team hotels the nights before and after the match in question.

39 Stadium infrastructure and equipment

1.

The Organising Association shall ensure that the stadiums and facilities in which the matches of the final competition take place fulfil FIFA requirements and comply with the FIFA Stadium Safety and Security Regulations and other FIFA guidelines and instructions for international matches. The stadiums selected for use during the FIFA World Cup™ shall be subject to approval by FIFA. The Organising Association is responsible for order and security in and around the stadiums before, during and after the matches.

2.

As a general rule, final competition matches may only be played in all-seater stadiums. The FIFA Stadium Safety and Security Regulations may be used as guidance for the matches with regard to the spectator areas.

Field of play and equipment

3.

The field of play, accessory equipment and all facilities for each match of the final competition shall be in optimum condition and comply with the Laws of the Game and all other relevant regulations.

4.

All goals shall be equipped with white goal posts and white goal nets with dark-coloured support posts. Each stadium shall have spare goals, nets and corner flags located in close proximity to the field of play for contingency purposes.

5.

The field of play shall have the following dimensions: length 105m, width 68m. The total surface area shall have the following dimensions at a minimum: length 125m, width 85m, in order to provide sufficient space for warm-up areas and pitch-side photographer positions.

6.

Matches shall be played on natural grass or, provided special dispensation is granted by FIFA, on artificial surfaces. For natural grass pitches, FIFA's guidelines and requirements shall be followed. In order to ensure that the field of play is of the highest quality, it shall not be used for a non-football-event as of two (2) months before the first match held in the stadium in connection with the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™. In order to ensure that the field of play is of the highest quality, it shall also not be used for any kind of event as of one (1) month before the first match held in the stadium in connection with the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™. Any exemption to these deadlines is subject to FIFA's explicit prior approval in writing. In the event that artificial surfaces are used, the surface must meet the requirements of the FIFA Quality Programme for Football Turf or the International Artificial Turf Standard.

Warm-up areas

7.

Each stadium shall have sufficient space behind the goals to allow the players to warm up during the matches. A maximum of six (6) players shall warm up at the same time (with a maximum of two (2) officials). Only the goalkeeper may warm up with a ball. If there is not sufficient space behind the goals, both teams shall warm up in the designated area beside the substitute bench of team B, behind assistant referee no. 1. In this case, only a maximum of three (3) players and one (1) official per team may warm up at the same time and without any balls.

Retractable roof

8.

If a stadium has a retractable roof, the FIFA General Coordinator, 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 on the day before the match, although it may subsequently be modified prior to kick-off in the event of sudden and significant weather condition changes.

9.

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 General Coordinator and the referee have the authority to order its closure during the match. In such an event, the roof is to remain closed until the end of the match.

Stadium clocks, panels/electronic display boards and giant screens

10.

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).

11.

At the end of the two periods of normal playing time (45 and 90 minutes), the referee shall indicate to the fourth official, either orally or by gesturing with his hands, the number of minutes that he has decided to allow for time lost. This also applies to the two periods of 15 minutes of extra time.

12.

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

13.

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

Floodlights

14.

All matches shall be played under floodlights. The Organising Association shall ensure that all stadiums have floodlighting installations that ensure that the whole pitch is evenly lit according to the minimum FIFA specification of 2,000 lux and is in accordance with the relevant television production standards. An emergency independent power generator shall also be available in each stadium which, in the event of a power failure, shall guarantee at least two-thirds of the FIFA-specified intensity of light for the whole pitch and ensure emergency lighting in the whole stadium.

No-smoking policy

15.

Smoking is not allowed in the technical area, in the vicinity of the field of play or within the competition areas such as the dressing rooms.

Exclusive-use period

16.

The stadiums shall be made available to FIFA for its exclusive use and shall be free of any and all commercial activities and identifications, e.g. boards and signage other than those of FIFA's Commercial Affiliates, from at least fifteen (15) days prior to the first use of the stadium in connection with the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ (such as the first match, training session or other competition-related event held in the stadium prior to such match) until three (3) days after the last use of the stadium in connection with the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™.

40 Official training in the stadiums and pre-match warm-up

Official training in the stadiums

1.

Weather permitting, the teams will be entitled to one 60-minute training session in the stadium where they are due to play on the day before their match. Should a team play more than once in the same stadium, no second training session is currently foreseen. However, based on requests from the teams concerned, FIFA shall take a decision on whether or not to allow a second training session on a case-by-case basis, depending on the pitch conditions.

2.

In principle, a minimum of 60 minutes shall be set between the end of one team's training session and the start of the next team's training session.

3.

Training times and further information will be communicated by FIFA.

4.

If the pitch is not in good condition or the training session would negatively affect the state of the pitch, FIFA may limit the area on the field of play for the training session or shorten or cancel the training session and direct the teams only to inspect the pitch wearing training shoes.

Pre-match warm-up

5.

On matchdays, the teams shall be entitled to warm up on the pitch before the match, weather and pitch condition permitting. In principle, such warm-up will be 30 minutes in length. If the pitch is not in good condition or the warm-up would negatively affect the state of the pitch for the match, FIFA may limit the area on the field of play for the warm-up or shorten or cancel the warm-up session.

41 **Flags and anthems**

1.

During the final competition, the FIFA flag and the flags of Russia and both competing associations shall be flown inside the stadium at every match. The FIFA Fair Play flag and the UN flag shall also be hoisted or draped in the stadium, clearly visible from the VIP box.

2.

The FIFA anthem shall be played while the teams are entering the field, followed by the national anthems of the two teams. The participating member associations shall submit a CD of their national anthem (maximum 90 seconds, no lyrics permitted) to FIFA by the deadline stipulated in the relevant circular.

42 Training sites

1.

Unless otherwise approved by FIFA, all training site pitches shall be 105m x 68m in size.

2.

The training sites shall have the same surface as the match pitches and be in perfect condition, freshly mowed and fully marked in accordance with the Laws of the Game.

3.

The Organising Association shall provide support personnel and suitable training site equipment at all official training sites, including but not limited to cones and movable goals. Each training site shall be equipped with at least one dressing room with lockers, showers and toilets.

4.

Official training sites for the match officials and teams (venue-specific training sites and team base camp training sites) in excellent condition and situated near the match officials' headquarters hotel and the team hotels shall be made available to FIFA for its exclusive use, and shall be free of any and all commercial activities and identifications, e.g. boards and signage other than those of FIFA's Commercial Affiliates, from at least fourteen (14) days prior to the opening match of the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ until three (3) days after either the completion of the final match in the stadium (venue-specific training site), or the team completes its use of the training site (team base camp training site) or the completion of the final match of the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ (match officials' training site).

In order to ensure that the field of play is of the highest quality, such official training sites shall not be used for a football match or other event for a period commencing twenty eight (28) days prior to the opening match of the 2018 FIFA World Cup™ without the express permission of FIFA.

5.

As from five (5) days before the respective team's first match in the final competition, with the sole exception of the official training sessions in a stadium pursuant to art. 40 above, each team shall only use the official training sites allocated to it (i.e. the venue-specific training site and the team base camp training site) for any training sessions or preparation matches.

43 Entry form

1.

Associations qualified to take part in the final competition of the FIFA World Cup™ shall confirm their participation by sending the official entry form, duly completed, to the FIFA general secretariat by the deadline stipulated in the relevant circular. Entries sent by fax or e-mail shall be confirmed by sending the signed official entry forms by post to the FIFA general secretariat.

2.

The final competition is scheduled to be played from 14 June to 15 July 2018.

44 List of players and accreditation

Release list of players

1.

Each association that qualifies for the final competition shall provide FIFA with a list of no more than 30 players (hereinafter: the release list) whom it has called up in accordance with the relevant provisions of Annexe 1 of the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players.

2.

The release list shall contain information such as the full last name(s), all first names, popular name, name on the shirt, place and date of birth, passport number and expiry date, name and country of the club, height, weight, number of caps attained, number of international goals scored, and it must be sent to FIFA. Further details of the release list, and the deadline by which the list shall be submitted to the FIFA general secretariat, will be stipulated in the relevant circular.

3.

The release lists shall be published by the FIFA general secretariat.

Final list of players

4.

Each association shall then be required to provide FIFA with a final list of 23 players (three of whom shall be goalkeepers) and 27 officials (hereinafter: the final list). This final list is limited to the players on the release list. The final list should show the full last name(s), all first names, popular name, name and number on the shirt, position, place and date of birth, passport number and expiry date, name and country of the club, height, weight, number of caps attained number of international goals scored and shall be submitted to the FIFA general secretariat by the deadline stipulated in the relevant circular, using the official form for this purpose.

5.

Only these 23 players (except in cases of force majeure recognised by the FIFA Organising Committee) shall be permitted to compete in the final competition. Only the numbers 1 to 23 may be allocated to these players, with number 1 being reserved exclusively for one of the goalkeepers. The numbers on the back of the shirts shall correspond with the numbers indicated on the final list.

6.

The final lists shall be published by the FIFA general secretariat.

7.

The final list of 23 players plus 27 officials will constitute the Official Team Delegation list.

Replacement of injured players

8.

A player listed on the final list may only be replaced in the event of serious injury up until 24 hours before the kick-off of his team's first match. The replacement players do not need to be limited to the release list. Such replacements must be approved in writing by the FIFA Medical Committee upon receipt and acceptance of a written detailed medical assessment in one of the four official FIFA languages. The FIFA Medical Committee shall approve the request if the injury is sufficiently serious to prevent the player from taking part in the competition. Upon approval, the association shall immediately nominate a replacement and inform the FIFA general secretariat accordingly (including all the specific player information listed in par. 4 herein as well as a copy of the passport). The replacement player must be assigned the shirt number of the injured player being replaced.

Identity

9.

Before the start of the final competition, all listed players must prove their identity, nationality and age by producing their legally valid individual passport with photograph (stating day, month and year of birth). Any player who fails to submit his passport shall not be allowed to take part in the final competition.

Accreditation

10.

FIFA and/or the LOC shall issue each of the official Team Delegation Members with an accreditation bearing a photograph. In addition, FIFA shall provide a certain number of Supplementary Accreditation Devices (SADs), where applicable, to each team in order to control and restrict access to the dressing rooms and field of play on matchdays. Further details will be given to the teams at the Team Workshop and by means of a circular letter.

11.

Only those players who are in possession of such accreditation are entitled to play in the matches of the final competition. The accreditation should always be available for inspection prior to the start of the match.

12.

Injured players who are replaced up until 24 hours before the kick-off of their team's first match (cf. art. 44 par. 8) must return their accreditation to FIFA. Accordingly, players who have returned their accreditation shall no longer be considered members of the Official Team Delegation list.

13.

The participating member associations shall ensure that all accreditation data required by FIFA is submitted by the deadline stipulated by FIFA. Further details will be outlined in the relevant FIFA circular letter.

45 Rest period and preparation phase

Rest period and preparation phase

To protect players from burn-out before the final competition of the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™, FIFA will set aside dates as follows:

- (a) The final matchday at club level for the 30 players nominated on the release lists for the final competition of the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ will be confirmed by a circular at a later stage.
- (b) The mandatory rest period for the players on the release lists will be confirmed by a circular at a later stage. Any special exemptions may only be granted by the FIFA Council.
- (c) The preparation phase for the participating member associations in the final competition of the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ will be confirmed by a circular at a later stage.

46 Start list and substitutes' benches

Start list

1.

All 23 players shall be named on each start list (11 selected players and 12 substitutes). Up to a maximum of three of the substitutes may take the place of the selected players at any time during the match. The start list shall be signed by the head coach.

2.

Each team is responsible for arriving at the stadium at the latest 90 minutes before the kick-off of the respective match and for providing the completed start list to the FIFA General Coordinator upon such arrival.

3.

Each team is responsible for providing the completed start list to the FIFA General Coordinator at least 85 minutes before kick-off and ensuring that the start list is completed properly and submitted on time.

4.

Any of the 11 players submitted on the start list may be replaced by an eligible substitute, but only if they are unable to begin the match due to injury or illness. The FIFA General Coordinator must be officially informed prior to kick-off. Within 24 hours, the team concerned must also provide FIFA with a medical report issued by the team doctor responsible (in one of the four official languages of FIFA).

5.

Further to the above, any injured or ill player who is removed from the start list will no longer be eligible to take part in the match, and thus cannot be selected as a substitute player at any time during the game. Such a change to the start list will not reduce the number of official substitutions that may be made by a team during the match. In accordance with Law 3 of the Laws of the Game, up to a maximum of three substitutions may still be made.

6.

Although no longer eligible to play as a substitute, the injured or ill player who was removed from the start list may be seated on the substitutes' bench, and if so, would then also be eligible for doping control selection.

7.

Only the players who were identified on the start list submitted to the FIFA General Coordinator, or were confirmed as a warm-up injury/illness replacement player, may start the match.

Substitutes' benches**8.**

No more than 23 people (11 officials and 12 substitutes) shall be allowed to sit on the substitutes' bench. The names of these officials must be indicated on the "Officials on the Substitutes' Bench" form to be provided to the FIFA General Coordinator. A suspended player or official will not be allowed to sit on the substitutes' bench.

9.

The use of any electronic communication equipment and/or systems between and/or amongst players and/or technical staff is not permitted. FIFA will provide more information by means of a circular letter.

47 Footballs

1.

The footballs used in the final competition of the FIFA World Cup™ shall be selected and supplied by FIFA.

2.

Each team will receive 30 official match balls from FIFA immediately after the final draw as well as 30 additional official match balls upon arrival in the host country. Only these balls may be used for warm-up sessions in the official stadiums and at the official training sites.

48 Team equipment

1.

The participating member associations shall comply with the FIFA Equipment Regulations in force. The display of political, religious or personal messages or slogans in any language or form by players and officials on their playing or team kits, equipment (including kit bags, beverage containers, medical bags, etc.) or body is prohibited. The similar display of commercial messages and slogans in any language or form by players and officials is not allowed for the duration of their time at any official activity organised by FIFA (including in the stadiums for official matches and training sessions, as well as during official press conferences and mixed-zone activities).

Team colours

2.

Each team shall inform FIFA of two different and contrasting colours (one predominately dark and one predominately light kit) for its official and reserve team kit (shirt, shorts and socks). In addition, each team shall select three contrasting colours for the goalkeepers. These three goalkeeper kits must be distinctly different and contrasting from each other as well as different and contrasting from the official and reserve team kits. This information shall be sent to FIFA on the team colour form. Only these colours may be worn at the matches.

3.

Approximately two months before the start of the final competition, FIFA will inform the teams of the colours that they shall wear for each match of the group stage. As far as possible, each team shall wear its official colours as declared on the team colour form. If the two teams' colours and the match officials' colour might cause confusion, in principle, team A in the official match schedule shall be entitled to wear its official team kit and team B shall use its reserve team kit or, if necessary, both teams may have to wear a combination of their official and reserve team kits. FIFA will endeavour to ensure that each team wears its official team kit at least once during the group stage.

Team kit approval procedure**4.**

The participating member associations shall send FIFA a sample of the full official and reserve team kits (shirt, shorts, socks, all three goalkeeper's kits, gloves, caps, wristbands and headbands etc.) intended for use during the final competition for approval. Details on the submission of the kits will be communicated by FIFA via circular letter.

5.

FIFA shall organise a kit-day session in late January 2018, which representatives of all participating member associations are obliged to attend. All equipment (kits, gloves, bags, medical equipment etc.) that could be on display within the stadium, the training grounds, the hotels or during transfers to, from or within Russia must be approved by FIFA. FIFA shall issue a written decision soon after the kit day regarding the approval of all submitted articles. Should any article of the team kit or any part thereof not be in accordance with the FIFA Equipment Regulations, the participating member association will be obliged to change it accordingly and re-submit the corrected items within 30 days of the first written decision. These decisions are not subject to appeal.

Players' names and numbers**6.**

Throughout the final competition, each player shall wear the number allotted to him on the final list in accordance with the FIFA Equipment Regulations. Such number shall be displayed on the front and back of his shirt and on his shorts in accordance with the FIFA Equipment Regulations.

7.

The player's last name or popular name (or abbreviation) shall be affixed above the number on the back of the shirt and shall be clearly legible in accordance with the FIFA Equipment Regulations. The name on the shirt must bear a strong resemblance to the player's popular name as indicated on FIFA's official list of players and in any other official FIFA documentation. In case of doubt, FIFA shall have the final decision regarding the name that appears on the shirt.

Goalkeepers' shirts without name and number**8.**

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.

Team kit on matchdays**9.**

The official and reserve team kits and all goalkeeper kits (including the goalkeeper shirts without names and numbers) shall be taken to every match.

10.

FIFA shall supply a sufficient number of players' sleeve badges with the official competition logo of the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™, which shall be affixed on the right-hand sleeve of each shirt, and any other badge (FIFA Fair Play, Football for Hope, etc.) which FIFA decides before the tournament, which shall be affixed on the left-hand sleeve. FIFA will issue a circular letter to the participating associations, outlining the instructions for use of the players' sleeve badges.

Warm-up bibs**11.**

Only warm-up bibs provided by FIFA may be used during official training sessions held at the stadium and for the warm-up of substitute players during the match.

49 Media

1.

The Organising Association shall be responsible for providing an adequate number of seats and the necessary installations for local and international media representatives (television, press, radio, internet). The conditions to be fulfilled by the Organising Association regarding media facilities and technical installations are specified in the HA.

2.

The Organising Association shall be responsible for preventing journalists, photographers, television and radio commentators and accredited film and television crews from entering the pitch at any time before, during or after the match. Only a limited number of photographers and the television personnel required to operate the broadcasting equipment, all of them issued with special accreditation, may be admitted to the area between the boundaries of the field and the spectators.

3.

Media matters and obligations for the final competition will be outlined in the FIFA Media and Marketing Regulations.

50 Financial provisions

1.

The participating member associations shall be responsible for and bear the costs of the following:

- a) adequate insurance to cover their Team Delegation Members and any other persons carrying out duties on their behalf against all risks, including but not limited to injury, accident, disease and travel in consideration of the applicable FIFA rules or regulations (cf. in particular Annexe 1, art. 2 par. 3 of the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players);
- b) board and lodging during the final competition, including rental of meeting rooms and audio/visual technical equipment, in excess of the contribution paid by FIFA (cf. 3 c) below);

- c) costs associated with additional members of the association's delegation (in excess of the 50 official Team Delegation Members).

2.

The Organising Association shall, in accordance with the HA, organise and bear the costs of all domestic travel (road, rail or air) for each official Team Delegation Member of each participating member association (maximum of 50 people per participating member association), including their equipment (up to a maximum weight to be defined by FIFA at a later stage).

3.

FIFA shall bear the costs of the following:

- a) a contribution towards the preparation costs incurred by the participating member associations in accordance with a set tariff to be fixed in due course by the FIFA Organising Committee;
- b) business-class return flights for 50 people from each participating member association between a city to be designated by the FIFA Organising Committee and the first point of arrival in the host country. For each delegation's international air travel to the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ FIFA may request the participating member associations to use either (i) the airline notified to the participating member associations as being FIFA's designated air carrier or (ii) an appropriate network alliance partner of such designated air carrier (if the designated air carrier does not service the international airports of any participating member association). If, contrary to any such request by FIFA, any participating member association elects not to use FIFA's designated air carrier or an appropriate network alliance partner of such designated air carrier, or if any participating member association elects to charter a private aircraft for the air travel of its delegation, FIFA's obligation will be limited to the amount FIFA would have incurred had the participating member association used FIFA's designated air carrier for its delegation's air travel;
- c) a contribution towards the costs of board and lodging for 50 people from each participating member association in accordance with a set tariff to be fixed in due course, starting five days prior to each team's first match and ending no later than the second day following the team's elimination. The FIFA Organising Committee shall determine these rates based on an average of the prevailing FIFA World Cup™ sales rates in the official team hotels;

- d) prize money for the participating member associations, the amounts of which shall be determined by FIFA;
- e) the costs incurred by match officials, referee assessors and FIFA Match Commissioners and other members of the FIFA delegation;
- f) doping control expenses;
- g) the costs of insurance taken out by FIFA to cover its own risks.

4.

The remaining risks – especially those of the Organising Association – shall be covered by supplementary insurance contracts, the premiums of which shall be charged to the Organising Association. To avoid duplication or insufficient insurance cover, these contracts and the extent of insurance cover shall be agreed upon by both FIFA and the Organising Association.

5.

Any expenses and costs incurred by a participating member association other than those mentioned in these Regulations shall be borne by the participating member association concerned (cf. art. 4).

6.

The financial terms and conditions for participating member associations will be regulated in a circular letter.

51 Ticketing

1.

FIFA is responsible for the entire ticketing operation for the final competition.

2.

Each participating member association is entitled to receive complimentary tickets for the final competition of the FIFA World Cup™. The number of complimentary tickets will be defined at a later date.

3.

FIFA and the FIFA Organising Committee will, at a later date, issue special terms and conditions applicable to all ticketing matters, which shall apply to all ticket holders, including but not limited to the associations.

4.

FIFA will, at a later date, issue a ticket allocation agreement for the final competition to each of the participating member associations. All participating member associations must sign and comply with this ticket allocation agreement and ensure that their Team Delegation Members and other affiliates also comply with this agreement.

52 Trophy, awards and medals

1.

The winner of the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ will be presented with the FIFA World Cup Trophy (hereinafter: the Trophy), which remains the property of FIFA. The winning team will be provided with the Trophy during a ceremony immediately following the final whistle, and shall return the Trophy to FIFA on demand or prior to departure from Russia, whichever is the sooner. At this time, the winning team shall be provided with the FIFA World Cup Winner's Trophy (hereinafter: the Winner's Trophy).

2.

FIFA is responsible for engraving the Trophy with the name of the winning team.

3.

The winning participating member association shall take all reasonable steps, at its own expense, to ensure the security and safety of the Trophy and Winner's Trophy while they are in the possession of the winning participating member association.

4.

It is further agreed that the Winner's Trophy may remain in the temporary custody of the winning participating member association but remains at all times the property of FIFA and must be returned immediately to FIFA if so requested by FIFA in writing.

5.

FIFA will issue, at a later date, Trophy Guidelines. The winning participating member association shall ensure its full compliance with these Trophy Regulations.

6.

A souvenir plaque will be presented to each participating member association.

7.

A diploma will be presented to the teams ranked first, second and third in the final competition.

8.

Fifty medals will be presented to each of the top three teams in the final competition, i.e. gold medals to the winners, silver medals to the runners-up and bronze medals to the team ranked third.

9.

One medal will be presented to each of the officials who officiate at the play-off for third place and the final.

10.

A fair play contest will be held during the final competition, for which FIFA will draw up special regulations. The FIFA Technical Study Group shall determine the ranking at the end of the final competition.

11.

At the conclusion of the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™, the following special awards will be presented:

a) *Fair Play trophy*

The FIFA Fair Play trophy, a fair play medal for each player and official, a diploma and a voucher for USD 50,000 worth of football equipment (to be used for youth football development) will be presented to the team finishing first in the fair play contest. The applicable rules are in the fair play contest regulations.

b) *Golden, Silver and Bronze Boots*

The Golden Boot will be awarded to the player who scores the most goals in the final competition. If two or more players score the same number of goals, the number of assists (as determined by the members of the FIFA Technical Study Group) shall be decisive. If two or more players are still equal after taking into account the number of assists, the total minutes played in the tournament will be taken into account, with the player playing fewer minutes ranked first. A Silver Boot and a Bronze Boot for the second and third-highest goal scorers will also be awarded.

c) *Golden, Silver and Bronze Balls*

The Golden Ball will be awarded to the best player of the final competition. Further details will be given to the teams by means of a circular letter. A Silver Ball and a Bronze Ball will be awarded to the second and third-best players.

d) *Golden Glove*

The Golden Glove will be awarded to the best goalkeeper in the tournament, as selected by the FIFA Technical Study Group.

e) *Young Player*

The Young Player Award will be presented to the best young player in the tournament, as selected by the FIFA Technical Study Group.

12.

There are no official awards other than those listed above, unless otherwise decided by the FIFA Organising Committee.

53 Special circumstances

The FIFA Organising Committee shall, in conjunction with the Organising Association, issue any instructions necessitated by special circumstances that may arise in Russia related to the 2018 FIFA World Cup™. These instructions shall form an integral part of these Regulations.

54 Matters not provided for and force majeure

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

55 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.

56 Languages

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

57 Copyright

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

58 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.

59 Enforcement

These regulations were approved by the FIFA Council at its meeting in Zurich on 14 October 2016 and come into force with immediate effect.

Zurich, October 2016

For FIFA

FIFA President:
Gianni Infantino

Secretary General:
Fatma Samoura

I. General provisions

1.

As part of its campaign to promote fair play, FIFA regularly holds a fair play contest during its championships, based on an appraisal of the teams' conduct by a FIFA delegate such as the FIFA Match Commissioner, a member of the Technical Study Group or a member of a standing committee.

2.

The objective of fair play activities is to foster a sporting spirit among players, team officials and spectators, thereby heightening the fans' enjoyment of the game.

3.

At the final whistle of each game, the delegate shall complete the appropriate fair play form after consulting the referee and the referee assessor.

4.

Every match in the final competition shall be taken into account.

5.

The FIFA Organising Committee shall compile and publish the classification at the end of the final competition. Its decision is final.

6.

FIFA will award the team that wins the fair play contest a trophy, a medal for each player and official, and a diploma, all of which the team can keep permanently. The team shall also receive a voucher valued at USD 50,000, which shall be exchanged for a supply of football equipment to be used exclusively for youth development.

II. Assessment criteria

1.

The assessment form contains six criteria by which the teams' fair play performance shall be judged, stressing the positive aspects rather than negative. As a general rule, maximum points shall only be awarded if the team concerned displays a positive attitude.

2.

Red and yellow cards shall be deducted from a maximum of 10 points:

- first yellow card: minus 1 point
- second yellow/indirect red card: minus 3 points
- direct red card: minus 3 points
- yellow card & direct red card: minus 4 points

Red and yellow cards are the only criteria entailing minus points.

3.

Positive play

Minimum 1 point

Maximum 10 points

The aim of this criterion is to reward attacking and attractive play, and shall take into account such aspects as:

- a) *Positive aspects*
 - attacking rather than defensive tactics;
 - speeding up the game;
 - constantly attempting to score even if the desired result (e.g. qualification) has already been achieved.
- b) *Negative aspects*
 - tactics that rely on rough play;
 - play-acting;
 - time-wasting etc.
- c) As a general rule, positive play is correlated with the number of scoring chances created and the number of goals scored.

4.

Respect towards the opponent

Minimum 1 point

Maximum 5 points

Players are expected to respect the Laws of the Game, the competition regulations and opponents, etc.

When assessing the players' behaviour towards the opponents, duplication of the judgment for red and yellow cards should be avoided. However, the delegate may take into account the seriousness of the offences punished by cards as well as those overlooked by the referee.

Assessment shall be based on positive attitudes (e.g. helping an injured opponent) rather than on infringements. Behaviour that is basically faultless but does not outwardly show any particularly positive attitude or gesture towards opponents shall be given a mark of 4 rather than 5.

5.

Respect towards the referee/match officials

Minimum 1 point

Maximum 5 points

Players are expected to respect the match officials and the decisions they take.

A positive attitude towards the referee, including acceptance of decisions without protest, shall be rewarded. Behaviour that is basically faultless but does not outwardly show any particularly positive attitude or gesture towards the match officials shall be given a mark of 4 rather than 5.

6.

Behaviour of the team officials

Minimum 1 point

Maximum 5 points

Coaches and other team officials are expected to encourage the sporting, technical, tactical and ethical standards of their team and to direct the players to behave in accordance with the principles of fair play.

Both positive and negative factors in the behaviour of the team officials shall be included in the assessment, such as for instance whether they calm down angry players or how they accept the referee's decisions. Inciting or provoking players shall be rated negatively.

Cooperation with the media shall also be a factor in the assessment. Behaviour that is faultless but does not outwardly show any particularly positive attitude or gesture shall be given a mark of 4 rather than 5.

7.

Behaviour of the crowd

Minimum 1 point

Maximum 5 points

The crowd is considered to be an integral part of a football match. Fans can contribute to the positive atmosphere of a match by encouraging their team by cheering and singing, etc. in the spirit of fair play.

Spectators are, however, expected to respect the opponents and the referee. They should appreciate the opponents' performance regardless of the result and in no way intimidate or frighten opponents, the referee or the opponents' supporters.

The maximum number of points (5) may only be awarded if all these requirements have been satisfied, especially as regards creating a positive atmosphere.

This criterion is applicable only if a substantial number of fans of the team concerned are present. If the number of fans is negligible, "n.a." (not applicable) shall be entered under this item.

III. Final assessment

1.

The final assessment of a team is obtained as follows:

- a) the points awarded are added together, e.g. for team A:
 $8 + 7 + 3 + 4 + 5 + 4 = 31$
- b) this total is divided by the maximum number of points possible (40):
 $31 \div 40 = 0.775$
- c) this figure is multiplied by 1,000: $0.775 \times 1,000 = 775$

If, however, the number of fans supporting a certain team is negligible and the "behaviour of the crowd" criterion consequently disregarded ("n.a." – cf. art. II par. 7 of the fair play contest regulations), the maximum number of points obtainable will be 35.

Thus the final assessment would be attained as follows:

- a) the points awarded are added together, e.g. for team B:
 $7 + 8 + 2 + 5 + 2 = 24$
- b) this total is divided by the maximum number of points possible (35):
 $24 \div 35 = 0.686$
- c) this figure is multiplied by 1,000: $0.686 \times 1,000 = 686$

The overall assessment of a team during the final competition shall be calculated by adding the points attained at each match and dividing this figure by the number of matches played.

2.

Teams that are eliminated after the group stage of the final competition shall be excluded from the fair play contest.

In addition to making the assessment, members of FIFA may give a short oral account of the teams' fair play performance to explain the positive and negative factors, which form the basis of their assessment. The account may also point out any outstanding gestures of fair play from a player, official, referee or any other person. However, no additional points shall be awarded for this reason.

