



Regulations for the FIFA World Cup 26™

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NB: Terms referring to natural persons are applicable to both genders.



General provisions

ARTICLE 1: FIFA WORLD CUP™

- 1.1 The FIFA World Cup™ is a FIFA competition embodied in the FIFA Statutes.
- 1.2 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.
- 1.3 Participation in the FIFA World Cup is free of charge.
- 1.4 The FIFA World Cup 26™ consists of a preliminary competition and a final competition.
- 1.5 The final competition (“FIFA World Cup 26”) is scheduled to be played from 11 June to 19 July 2026.
- 1.6 Any rights associated with the FIFA World Cup 26 that are not granted by these Regulations for the FIFA World Cup 26™ (“Regulations”) and/or further regulations, guidelines and decisions as set forth in these Regulations and/or specific agreements to a Participating Member Association in the preliminary or final competition, or to a confederation, shall remain with and/or belong to FIFA.
- 1.7 These Regulations govern the rights, duties and responsibilities of all member associations taking part in the FIFA World Cup 26 (“Regulations”). The Regulations and all directives, decisions, guidelines and circulars issued by FIFA in connection with the FIFA World Cup 26 are binding on all parties participating and involved in the preparation, organisation and hosting of the FIFA World Cup 26.
- 1.8 The FIFA Statutes and all FIFA regulations in force shall apply to and be binding on all parties participating and involved in the preparation, organisation and hosting of the FIFA World Cup 26. Any reference in these Regulations to the FIFA Statutes and regulations refers to the FIFA Statutes and regulations valid at the time of application.
- 1.9 Other rules and/or decisions that are directly binding on FIFA (e.g. due to FIFA being a signatory to the World Anti-Doping Code) may apply to the subject matter of these Regulations. Any such rules and/or decisions implemented by FIFA shall take precedence over these Regulations in the event of any conflict and shall be complied with by all parties participating and involved in the preparation, organisation and hosting of the FIFA World Cup 26™.

ARTICLE 2: PRELIMINARY COMPETITION

- 2.1 The preliminary competition shall be organised by FIFA in collaboration with the confederations. The confederations have established a competition format, which received the required approval from FIFA.
- 2.2 On entering the preliminary competition, each member association:
 - a) acknowledges and agrees that all administrative matters related to the preliminary competition shall be dealt with by the respective confederation in compliance with the regulations submitted, and FIFA will only intervene if a confederation requests FIFA's assistance in those matters; and
 - b) undertakes to observe the principles of fair play.
- 2.3 The FIFA World Cup 26™ Play-Off Tournament ("Play-Off Tournament") is considered to be part of the preliminary competition. It is scheduled to be played within an existing window of the Men's International Match Calendar (23 to 31 March 2026). The Regulations for the FIFA World Cup 26™ Play-Off Tournament are published by FIFA.
- 2.4 In the event that any of the confederations' preliminary competitions are not held or completed in a manner that determines which member association(s) qualify for the final competition (due to cancellation, postponement, abandonment or otherwise), FIFA shall decide, after consultation with the applicable confederation, the member association(s) based within the territorial region of the confederation as the participating member association(s).

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



ARTICLE 3: FIFA ORGANISING BODY

- 3.1 The FIFA Council or the relevant committee appointed by the FIFA Council is responsible for organising the FIFA World Cup 26 in accordance with these Regulations, the FIFA Statutes, the FIFA Governance Regulations as well as the FIFA Media and Marketing Regulations.
- 3.2 The FIFA Council or the Bureau of the FIFA Council, may, if necessary, appoint a sub-committee to deal with unforeseen matters that require an immediate decision. Any decision taken by the Bureau of the FIFA Council, or by the sub-committee, shall come into effect immediately but shall be subject to confirmation by the FIFA Council.
- 3.3 The FIFA Council or the relevant committee shall deal with any aspect of the FIFA World Cup 26 that is not the responsibility of any other body under the terms of these Regulations, the FIFA Statutes, the FIFA Governance Regulations or the FIFA Media and Marketing Regulations.
- 3.4 The decisions taken by the FIFA Council or the relevant committee and/or its sub-committee in relation to the FIFA World Cup 26 may be appealed, pursuant to the FIFA Statutes.
- 3.5 FIFA bears overall responsibility for organising, hosting and staging the FIFA World Cup 26.

ARTICLE 4: LOCAL FIFA SUBSIDIARIES

- 4.1 FIFA has established local FIFA subsidiaries, namely FWC26 Canada Football Ltd, FWC2026 Mexico S. de R.I de C.V and FWC2026 US, Inc. with offices based in Toronto, Canada, Mexico City, Mexico, and Miami, United States (each a “Local FIFA Subsidiary”), in order to deliver various operational projects relating to the FIFA World Cup 26.
- 4.2 Each Local FIFA Subsidiary may communicate with the Participating Member Associations from time to time on matters relating to the FIFA World Cup 26. Notwithstanding the foregoing, FIFA remains the ultimate authority and responsible party on all operational and competition matters relating to the organisation, hosting and staging of the FIFA World Cup 26.

ARTICLE 5: PARTICIPATING MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS – RESPONSIBILITIES

5.1 The member associations that qualify for the FIFA World Cup 26 (the “Participating Member Associations”) automatically undertake to comply at all times with and ensure that every player, coach, manager, official, media officer, representative, guest and any other person carrying out duties on behalf of a Participating Member Association (each a “Delegation Member”) complies with these Regulations, The IFAB Laws of the Game, the FIFA Statutes and all other regulations issued by FIFA, including the FIFA Media and Marketing Regulations, the FIFA Stadium Safety and Security Regulations, the FIFA Disciplinary Code, the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations, the FIFA Code of Ethics and the FIFA Equipment Regulations, as well as with any other FIFA circular letters, regulations, guidelines, directives and/or decisions.

In addition, each Participating Member Association shall, and shall ensure that every Delegation Member shall:

- a) respect the spirit of fair play, non-violence and non-discrimination and the authority of the match officials;
- b) behave accordingly; and
- c) refrain from doping as defined by the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations.

5.2 On entering the FIFA World Cup 26, the Participating Member Associations automatically undertake to:

- a) observe and comply with these Regulations and ensure that their Delegation Members also observe and comply with these Regulations and the principles of fair play;
- b) observe and comply with the FIFA Statutes, as well as with all other FIFA regulations, directives, circular letters, guidelines and decisions as well as all applicable laws;
- c) observe and comply with all instructions and decisions taken by the bodies and officials of FIFA under the terms of these Regulations and any other applicable FIFA regulations;
- d) participate with the best possible team in all matches of the FIFA World Cup 26 in which their team is scheduled to take part;
- e) accept all of the arrangements relating to the FIFA World Cup 26 made by FIFA;
- f) accept the use by FIFA and/or the issue of a sub-licence by FIFA to third parties, as well as the recording and broadcast of the images, names and



records of all Delegation Members that may appear in connection with the FIFA World Cup 26; and

- g) ensure the provision of adequate insurance to cover their Delegation Members and any other persons carrying out duties on their behalf against all risks, including but not limited to injury, accident, disease and travel arrangements in consideration of the relevant FIFA rules or regulations.

5.3 In addition, each Participating Member Association shall be responsible for:

- a) the conduct of its Delegation Members;
- b) paying for incidental costs and expenses incurred by its Delegation Members and any other persons carrying out duties on its behalf during the course of their stay in the host countries;
- c) paying for any costs of extending the stay, before or after the FIFA World Cup 26, of any Delegation Member or any other persons carrying out duties on its behalf;
- d) applying for visas and submitting the required documents in good time in accordance with the relevant procedure; and
- e) attending all media conferences and other media activities organised by FIFA in accordance with the FIFA Media and Marketing Regulations, as well as with any other FIFA circular letters, guidelines, directives and/or decisions.

5.4 All Participating Member Associations shall confirm their participation in the FIFA World Cup 26 by submitting the entry form and any other required documentation as communicated by FIFA via the corresponding circular(s), duly signed by the deadline(s) set by FIFA. The timely submission to FIFA of any such documents is of the essence. If a Participating Member Association fails to adhere to the time limits and/or fails to meet the formal requirements for submitting the necessary documents, the FIFA organising body shall pass a decision.

5.5 All Participating Member Associations shall indemnify, defend and hold FIFA, each Local FIFA Subsidiary, 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 Delegation Members, their affiliates and any third parties contracted to the Participating Member Associations.

ARTICLE 6: WITHDRAWAL, UNPLAYED MATCHES, ABANDONED MATCHES AND REPLACEMENT

- 6.1 All Participating Member Associations undertake to play all of their matches until eliminated from the FIFA World Cup 26.
- 6.2 Any Participating Member Association that withdraws from the FIFA World Cup 26 no later than 30 days before the first match of the final competition shall be fined at least CHF 250,000 by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee. Any Participating Member Association that withdraws from the FIFA World Cup 26 fewer than 30 days before the first match of the final competition shall be fined at least CHF 500,000 by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee.

If any Participating Member Association is not admitted to, is excluded from or withdraws from the FIFA World Cup 26 once the tournament has started, the FIFA Disciplinary Committee may impose additional disciplinary measures. These may take into account, in particular, the timing of the withdrawal or exclusion, the severity of the rule breach leading to non-admission or exclusion, possible mitigating factors as well as any other relevant circumstances.

Disciplinary sanctions may include the expulsion of the Participating Member Association concerned from subsequent FIFA competitions and/or the replacement of the Participating Member Association with another member association. The FIFA Council or the relevant committee may decide, in particular, to replace the member association in question with another association.

- 6.3 Any match which is not played or which is abandoned – except in cases of force majeure recognised by FIFA – may lead to the imposition of disciplinary measures against the relevant Participating Member Association(s) by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee in accordance with the FIFA Disciplinary Code.
- 6.4 Any Participating Member Association that withdraws from the FIFA World Cup 26 or whose behaviour is liable for a match not being played or being abandoned may be ordered by the FIFA Council to compensate FIFA, the Local FIFA Subsidiary or any other Participating Member Association for any expenses or damages incurred as a result of its behaviour including in respect of any additional payments made by FIFA to any replacement Participating Member Association. The association in question shall also forfeit any claim to financial remuneration from FIFA or the Local FIFA Subsidiary.



- 6.5 If a Participating Member Association withdraws or a match cannot be played or is abandoned as a result of force majeure, the authorised FIFA organising body (including the Tournament Operation Centre) shall decide on the matter at its sole discretion and take whatever action is deemed necessary.
- 6.6 Further to the above provision, in the case of a match being abandoned as a result of force majeure after it has already kicked off, the following principles shall apply:
- a) The match shall recommence at the minute at which play was interrupted rather than being replayed in full, and with the same scoreline. The match shall recommence where play was stopped when the match was interrupted (e.g. with a free kick, throw-in, goal kick, corner kick, 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.
 - b) The match shall recommence with the same players on the pitch and substitutes available as when the match was abandoned.
 - c) No additional substitutes may be added to the list of players on the start list.
 - d) The teams can make only the number of substitutions to which they were still entitled when the match was abandoned.
 - e) Players sent off during the abandoned match cannot be replaced.
 - f) Any disciplinary measures imposed before the match was abandoned will be dealt with in accordance with the FIFA Disciplinary Code.
 - g) The kick-off time, date, location and any other matter shall be decided by FIFA.
- 6.7 If any Participating Member Association withdraws and/or is excluded from the FIFA World Cup 26, FIFA shall decide on the matter at its sole discretion and take whatever action is deemed necessary. FIFA may decide to replace the Participating Member Association in question with another association.
- 6.8 If a Participating Member Association withdraws and/or is disqualified prior to the end of the group stage, the results of all of its matches will be declared null and void.
- 6.9 FIFA has the right to cancel, reschedule or relocate one or more matches (or the entire FIFA World Cup 26) for any reason at its sole discretion, including as a result of force majeure or due to health, safety or security concerns.



Disciplinary matters and procedures

ARTICLE 7: DISCIPLINARY MATTERS

- 7.1 Disciplinary infringements are dealt with in compliance with the FIFA Disciplinary Code in force as well as with all relevant circulars and directives, with which the Participating Member Associations and Delegation Members undertake to comply.
- 7.2 FIFA may introduce new disciplinary rules and measures for the duration of the FIFA World Cup 26. Such rules shall be communicated to the Participating Member Associations before the first match of the final competition at the latest.
- 7.3 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 FIFA body shall be dealt with by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee in accordance with the FIFA Disciplinary Code.

ARTICLE 8: DISPUTE RESOLUTION

- 8.1 All disputes in connection with the FIFA World Cup 26 shall be promptly settled by negotiation (with the exception of those falling under art. 7 above).
- 8.2 As provided for in the FIFA Statutes, Participating Member Associations and their Delegation Members may not take disputes to an ordinary court of law but to the exclusive jurisdiction of FIFA.
- 8.3 The Participating Member Associations and all Delegation Members acknowledge and accept that, once all internal channels have been exhausted at FIFA, their sole legal recourse shall be to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne, Switzerland, as provided for in the FIFA Statutes, and unless excluded by the FIFA Statutes or applicable FIFA regulations. Any such arbitration proceedings shall be governed by the CAS Code of Sports-related Arbitration.

ARTICLE 9: PROTESTS

- 9.1 For the purpose of these Regulations, protests are objections of any kind related to events or matters that have a direct effect on matches, including but not limited to the state of and markings on the pitch, accessory match equipment, eligibility of players, stadium installations and footballs.

- 9.2 Unless otherwise stipulated in this article, protests shall be submitted in writing to the FIFA Match Director within two hours of the match in question, as well as via the FIFA Legal Portal at legalportal.fifa.com (cf. art. 18 par. 1 of the FIFA Disciplinary Code) within 24 hours of the end of the match, otherwise they shall be disregarded.
- 9.3 Protests regarding the eligibility of players nominated for matches shall be submitted via the FIFA Legal Portal at legalportal.fifa.com no later than five days before the first match of the final competition and shall be dealt with by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee.
- 9.4 Protests regarding the state of the pitch, its surroundings, markings or accessory items (e.g. goals, flag posts 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 Director by the head of the team delegation no later than two hours after the match.
- 9.5 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 Director by the head of delegation no later than two hours after the match.
- 9.6 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.
- 9.7 If an unfounded or irresponsible protest is lodged, the FIFA Disciplinary Committee may impose disciplinary measures against the Participating Member Association concerned.
- 9.8 If any of the formal conditions of a protest as set out in these Regulations (and in the FIFA Disciplinary Code, where applicable) are not met, such protest shall be disregarded by the competent body. Once the final match of the FIFA World Cup 26 has ended, any protests described in this article shall be disregarded. Notwithstanding the above, the FIFA Disciplinary Committee remains competent to prosecute any disciplinary infringement *ex officio*, as established in the FIFA Disciplinary Code.
- 9.9 FIFA shall pass decisions on any protests lodged, subject to the exceptions stipulated in these Regulations, the FIFA Statutes or any other FIFA regulations.



ARTICLE 10: YELLOW AND RED CARDS

- 10.1 The referee has the authority to take disciplinary action from entering the field of play for the pre-match inspection until leaving the field of play after the match ends (including penalties (penalty shoot-out)). If, before entering the field of play at the start of the match, a player or team official commits a sending-off offence, the referee has the authority to prevent the player or team official from taking part in the match (see Laws of the Game, Law 12.3, or any relevant amendment); the referee will report any other misconduct.
- 10.2 Single yellow cards and pending suspensions as a consequence of cautions in different matches in the preliminary competition are not carried over to the final competition. Pending match suspensions imposed as a result of a red card in matches in the preliminary competition are carried over to the final competition.
- 10.3 Single yellow cards in the final competition will be cancelled after both the group stage and the quarter-finals.
- 10.4 If a player or team official receives two cautions during two different matches, they will automatically be suspended from their team's subsequent match.
- 10.5 If a player or team official is sent off as a result of a direct or indirect red card (second caution), they will automatically be suspended from their team's subsequent match. In addition, further sanctions may be imposed.
- 10.6 Any suspension that cannot be served during the FIFA World Cup 26 will be carried over to the representative team's next official match in accordance with the relevant provisions of the FIFA Disciplinary Code.
- 10.7 Further details on rules and on the management of suspensions and expulsions will be confirmed via circular letter.



Competition format

ARTICLE 11: NUMBER OF TEAMS

- 11.1 The FIFA Council fixed the number of teams taking part in the FIFA World Cup 26 at 48, namely the host member associations' representative teams of Canada, Mexico and the USA, and the 45 other teams that qualify from the preliminary competition.
- 11.2 FIFA shall form groups for the final competition by seeding and drawing lots whilst taking sporting and geographical factors into consideration, as far as possible. Further details will be communicated by circular letter.
- 11.3 The decisions of FIFA on the group formation and the duration of the final competition are final. In the event of any withdrawals or exclusions, FIFA shall decide on the matter at its sole discretion and take whatever action is deemed necessary.
- 11.4 On 9 May 2017, the FIFA Council decided to allocate the following number of slots to the confederations for the FIFA World Cup 26:

Confederation	Number of slots	Number of slots
AFC	8	1
CAF	9	1
Concacaf	6 (including Canada, Mexico and the USA as co-hosts)	2
CONMEBOL	6	1
OFC	1	1
UEFA	16	-
Total number of qualification slots for the FIFA World Cup 26	46	2

The above slot allocation includes 46 direct slots as well as two slots to be decided in a centralised Play-Off Tournament featuring six teams. The following Play-Off Tournament competition format was approved by the FIFA Council on 9 May 2017:

1. One team per confederation (AFC, CAF, CONMEBOL, OFC) with the exception of UEFA, plus two teams from the confederation of the host countries (Concacaf).

2. Two teams to be seeded based on the FIFA/Coca-Cola Men's World Ranking. The two seeded teams will play for a FIFA World Cup 26 slot against the winners of the first two play-off matches involving the four unseeded teams.

On 14 February 2023, the FIFA Council approved the hosts of the FIFA World Cup 26, namely Canada, Mexico and the USA, to qualify automatically for the final competition, with their slots therefore being deducted from the overall allocation of six assigned to Concacaf.

ARTICLE 12: GROUP AND KNOCKOUT STAGES

- 12.1 The format of the final competition consists of a group stage, followed by the knockout stages with a round of 32, a round of 16, quarter-finals, semi-finals, the match for third place and the final.
- 12.2 The 48 teams taking part in the final competition will be divided into 12 groups of four teams.
- 12.3 FIFA will seed the teams for the Final Draw for the FIFA World Cup 26™ in accordance with the teams' ranking within the FIFA/Coca-Cola Men's World Ranking, as established in the draw procedures. FIFA will divide the teams into groups by seeding and drawing lots in public, taking into account geographical and sporting considerations.

As the host countries, Canada, Mexico and the USA will be assigned to the following positions: A1 for Mexico, B1 for Canada and D1 for the USA, as per the match schedule released on 4 February 2024 and as applied in the draw procedures.

The teams in the 12 groups will be designated as follows:

Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D	Group E	Group F
A1 (Mexico)	B1 (Canada)	C1	D1 (USA)	E1	F1
A2	B2	C2	D2	E2	F2
A3	B3	C3	D3	E3	F3
A4	B4	C4	D4	E4	F4



Group G	Group H	Group I	Group J	Group K	Group L
G1	H1	I1	J1	K1	L1
G2	H2	I2	J2	K2	L2
G3	H3	I3	J3	K3	L3
G4	H4	I4	J4	K4	L4

- 12.4 The group matches will be played following the schedule below. Each team plays each of the other teams in the same group once, according to a league system with three points for a win, one point for a draw and no points for a defeat.

MATCH DAY 1	MATCH DAY 2	MATCH DAY 3
A1 v. A2 A3 v. A4	A1 v. A3 A4 v. A2	A4 v. A1 A2 v. A3
B1 v. B2 B3 v. B4	B1 v. B3 B4 v. B2	B4 v. B1 B2 v. B3
C1 v. C2 C3 v. C4	C1 v. C3 C4 v. C2	C4 v. C1 C2 v. C3
D1 v. D2 D3 v. D4	D1 v. D3 D4 v. D2	D4 v. D1 D2 v. D3
E1 v. E2 E3 v. E4	E1 v. E3 E4 v. E2	E4 v. E1 E2 v. E3
F1 v. F2 F3 v. F4	F1 v. F3 F4 v. F2	F4 v. F1 F2 v. F3
G1 v. G2 G3 v. G4	G1 v. G3 G4 v. G2	G4 v. G1 G2 v. G3
H1 v. H2 H3 v. H4	H1 v. H3 H4 v. H2	H4 v. H1 H2 v. H3
I1 v. I2 I3 v. I4	I1 v. I3 I4 v. I2	I4 v. I1 I2 v. I3
J1 v. J2 J3 v. J4	J1 v. J3 J4 v. J2	J4 v. J1 J2 v. J3
K1 v. K2 K3 v. K4	K1 v. K3 K4 v. K2	K4 v. K1 K2 v. K3
L1 v. L2 L3 v. L4	L1 v. L3 L4 v. L2	L4 v. L1 L2 v. L3

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

The last two matches in each group shall have simultaneous kick-off times on the same day, unless stipulated otherwise by FIFA (e.g. in cases of force majeure).

- 12.5 The 12 teams finishing first and second in each group as well as the eight best teams among those finishing third will qualify for the round of 32.
- 12.6 The 32 teams that qualify from the group stage will contest the round of 32 as follows:

Match no.	Team A	v.	Team B	Winner
(1) M73	Runner-up A (2A)	v.	Runner-up B (2B)	= Winner (1) M73 (W73)
(2) M74	Winner E (1E)	v.	Best 3 rd place of ABCDF	= Winner (2) M74 (W74)
(3) M75	Winner F (1F)	v.	Runner-up C (2C)	= Winner (3) M75 (W75)
(4) M76	Winner C (1C)	v.	Runner-up F (2F)	= Winner (4) M76 (W76)
(5) M77	Winner I (1I)	v.	Best 3 rd place of CDFGH	= Winner (5) M77 (W77)
(6) M78	Runner-up E (2E)	v.	Runner-up I (2I)	= Winner (6) M78 (W78)
(7) M79	Winner A (1A)	v.	Best 3 rd place of CEFHI	= Winner (7) M79 (W79)
(8) M80	Winner L (1L)	v.	Best 3 rd place of EHJK	= Winner (8) M80 (W80)
(9) M81	Winner D (1D)	v.	Best 3 rd place of BEFIJ	= Winner (9) M81 (W81)
(10) M82	Winner G (1G)	v.	Best 3 rd place of AEHJJ	= Winner (10) M82 (W82)
(11) M83	Runner-up K (2K)	v.	Runner-up L (2L)	= Winner (11) M83 (W83)
(12) M84	Winner H (1H)	v.	Runner-up J (2J)	= Winner (12) M84 (W84)
(13) M85	Winner B (1B)	v.	Best 3 rd place of EFGJJ	= Winner (13) M85 (W85)
(14) M86	Winner J (1J)	v.	Runner-up H (2H)	= Winner (14) M86 (W86)
(15) M87	Winner K (1K)	v.	Best 3 rd place of DEIJL	= Winner (15) M87 (W87)
(16) M88	Runner-up D (2D)	v.	Runner-up G (2G)	= Winner (16) M88 (W88)

Note: the above configuration of matches for the round of 32 does not necessarily represent the chronological order in which the matches will be played as teams from the same group shall not meet each other in the round of 32.



Annexe C of these Regulations includes the 495 different possible combinations of the eight best-ranked third-placed teams and their next match-up for the round of 32, at the completion of the group stage.

- 12.7 The 16 teams that qualify from the round of 32 will contest the round of 16 as follows:

Match no.	Team A	v.	Team B	Winner
(17) M89	(2) Winner M74 (W74)	v.	(5) Winner M77 (W77)	= Winner (17) M89 (W89)
(18) M90	(1) Winner M73 (W73)	v.	(3) Winner M75 (W75)	= Winner (18) M90 (W90)
(19) M91	(4) Winner M76 (W76)	v.	(6) Winner M78 (W78)	= Winner (19) M91 (W91)
(20) M92	(7) Winner M79 (W79)	v.	(8) Winner M80 (W80)	= Winner (20) M92 (W92)
(21) M93	(11) Winner M83 (W83)	v.	(12) Winner M84 (W84)	= Winner (21) M93 (W93)
(22) M94	(9) Winner M81 (W81)	v.	(10) Winner M82 (W82)	= Winner (22) M94 (W94)
(23) M95	(14) Winner M86 (W86)	v.	(16) Winner M88 (W88)	= Winner (23) M95 (W95)
(24) M96	(13) Winner M85 (W85)	v.	(15) Winner M87 (W87)	= Winner (24) M96 (W96)

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

- 12.8 The eight teams that qualify from the round of 16 will contest the quarter-finals as follows:

Match no.	Team A	v.	Team B	Winner
(A) M97	(17) Winner M89	v.	(18) Winner M90	= Winner (A) M97 (W97)
(B) M98	(21) Winner M93	v.	(22) Winner M94	= Winner (B) M98 (W98)
(C) M99	(19) Winner M91	v.	(20) Winner M92	= Winner (C) M99 (W99)
(D) M100	(23) Winner M95	v.	(24) Winner M96	= Winner (D) M100 (W100)

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

- 12.9 The four winners of the quarter-finals will contest the semi-finals as follows:

Match no.	Team A	v.	Team B	Winner
(SF1) M101	(A) Winner M97	v.	(B) Winner M98	= Winner SF1 (W101)
(SF2) M102	(C) Winner M99	v.	(D) Winner M100	= Winner SF2 (W102)

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

- 12.10 The two runners-up of the semi-finals will contest the play-off for third place, as follows:

Match no.	Team A	v.	Team B	Winner
M103	Runner-up SF1 (M101)	v.	Runner-up SF2 (M102)	= Winner M103 Winner of play-off for third place

- 12.11 The two winners of the semi-finals will contest the final, as follows:

Match no.	Team A	v.	Team B	Winner
M104 (Final)	Winner SF1 (W101)	v.	Winner SF2 (W102)	= Winner M104 FIFA World Cup 26 champions



ARTICLE 13: EQUAL POINTS AND QUALIFICATION FOR KNOCKOUT STAGES

If two or more teams in the same group are equal on points after the completion of the group stage, the following criteria, in the order below, shall be applied to determine the ranking:

Step 1:

- a) greatest number of points obtained in the group matches between the teams concerned;
- b) superior goal difference resulting from the group matches between the teams concerned;
- c) greatest number of goals scored in all group matches between the teams concerned.

Step 2:

If, after having applied criteria a) to c) above, teams still have an equal ranking, and in order to determine their final rankings, criteria a) to c) above are applied to the matches between the remaining teams only. If no decision can be made through this procedure, criteria d) to f) below shall apply as follows to the two or more teams still equal on points:

- d) superior goal difference in all group matches;
- e) greatest number of goals scored in all group matches;
- f) highest team conduct score (players and team officials) relating to the number of yellow and red cards obtained:

- yellow card:	minus 1 point
- indirect red card (as a result of two yellow cards):	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 or team official in a single match. The team with the highest number of points shall be ranked highest.

With respect to the second step, all affected teams will be ranked by applying the criteria d) to f) in order. If one team qualifies for a higher or lower ranking pursuant to one criterion, but it is not possible to rank all teams on the basis of the same criterion, the remaining two or three teams will be ranked pursuant to the next

criterion, and so on. In any case, the second step of the ranking does not restart for the two or three teams remaining after application of a criterion.

Step 3:

If no decision can be made through the procedures of step 1 and 2, the following shall apply:

- g) the two or more teams still equal on points shall be ranked according to the most recent published edition of the FIFA/Coca-Cola Men's World Ranking;
- h) the two or more teams still equal on points shall be ranked according to the published edition of the FIFA/Coca-Cola Men's World Ranking immediately preceding the most recent published edition continually until a decision can be made.

The eight best-ranked teams among those finishing third (third-placed teams from 1 to 8)

The eight best teams among those ranked third will be determined as follows:

- a) greatest number of points obtained in all group matches;
- b) goal difference resulting from all group matches;
- c) greatest number of goals scored in all group matches;
- d) highest team conduct score (players and team officials) relating to the number of yellow and red cards obtained in all group matches and calculated as per article 13 paragraph 1, step 2;
- e) the two or more teams still equal on points shall be ranked according to the most recent published edition of the FIFA/Coca-Cola Men's World Ranking;
- f) the two or more teams still equal on points shall be ranked according to the published edition of the FIFA/Coca-Cola Men's World Ranking immediately preceding the most recent published edition continually until a decision can be made.



ARTICLE 14: EXTRA TIME AND PENALTIES (PENALTY SHOOT-OUT)

- 14.1 In the knockout stages, if a match is level at the end of normal playing time, extra time shall be played. Extra time shall consist of two 15-minute periods, with an interval of five minutes at the end of normal playing time, but not between the two periods of extra time. The players shall remain on the pitch during both of these intervals.
- 14.2 If the score is still level at the end of extra time, penalties (penalty shoot-out) shall be taken to determine the winner, in accordance with the procedure specified in the Laws of the Game.
- 14.3 Before the start of a penalty shoot-out to determine the outcome of a match:
 - a) unless there are other considerations (e.g. ground conditions, safety, etc.), the referee tosses a coin to decide the goal at which the kicks will be taken, which may only be changed for safety reasons or if the goal or playing surface becomes unusable; and
 - b) the referee tosses a coin again, and the team that wins the toss decides whether to take the first or second kick.

IV.

**Competition
preparation**

ARTICLE 15: FINAL DRAW, TEAM SEMINAR AND TEAM WORKSHOP

The Final Draw for the FIFA World Cup 26™ will take place together with the Team Seminar. In addition, FIFA may organise a Team Workshop as a separate event prior to the commencement of the final competition. Detailed information concerning the Final Draw, Team Seminar and Team Workshop shall be communicated by circular letter.

ARTICLE 16: VENUES, DATES AND KICK-OFF TIMES

- 16.1 The venues, dates and kick-off times of the matches shall be determined by FIFA.
- 16.2 The dates and venues of the matches shall be set, allowing each team a minimum rest period of three days between matches, except for the period between the semi-finals and the play-off for third place. The minimum rest period can only be less than three days if stipulated by FIFA in cases of force majeure.
- 16.3 In principle, the last matchday matches of the group stage of the same group shall kick off simultaneously, unless stipulated otherwise by FIFA (e.g. in cases of force majeure).
- 16.4 FIFA may decide the allocation and kick-off times of the matches after the Final Draw.

ARTICLE 17: FRIENDLY/PREPARATION MATCHES

- 17.1 Each team taking part in the FIFA World Cup 26 is entitled to play friendly matches and/or other preparation matches ("closed door" training matches), before the final competition from the date of its arrival in one of the host countries until five days prior to its first match in the FIFA World Cup 26, according to the procedure for approval of friendly matches established in the FIFA Regulations Governing International Matches and the following rules:
 - a) Prior approval must be given by the relevant host member association, the confederations concerned and FIFA. In principle:
 - i. Friendly/preparation matches in stadiums selected for use during the final competition will be prohibited; and
 - ii. Requests to play matches at Team Base Camp Training Sites (and, potentially, Venue-Specific Training Sites) will be considered, taking into account the prevailing conditions, such as the quality of the field of play, the weather and operational considerations.

FIFA may withhold its approval for matches to be played at the Team Base Camp Training Sites (or Venue-Specific Training Sites) as from one month prior to the opening match of the final competition in order to ensure that the field of play is of the highest quality.

For approved matches, all related costs (including the rental fee) must be borne by the relevant participating member association(s).

In particular, FIFA may withhold its approval for matches intended to be held at the above sites as from one month prior to the opening match of the final competition in order to ensure that the field of play is of the highest quality.

- b) Each team shall comply with the FIFA Media and Marketing Regulations, the FIFA Equipment Regulations and any other applicable FIFA regulations or guidelines.
 - c) Teams drawn into the same group of the final competition shall not play friendly/preparation matches against each other.
 - d) Friendly/preparation matches must be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game in force, as they count towards the FIFA/Coca-Cola Men's World Ranking.
 - e) Neutral FIFA referees on the 2026 FIFA Refereeing International Lists shall be appointed for these matches. This rule also applies to assistant referees as well as video match officials, if used.
- 17.2 The rights emanating from an approved friendly and/or other preparation match in any of the host countries 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 (and provided no association is made with the FIFA World Cup 26, e.g. "Preparation match for the FIFA World Cup 26" or other prohibited messaging pursuant to the FIFA Media and Marketing Regulations):
- a) In the event of such match taking place at a Team Base Camp Training Site (or a Venue-Specific Training Site), commercialisation is only permitted if the friendly/preparation match takes place earlier than five days prior to the opening match of the FIFA World Cup 26.
 - b) As from five days prior to the opening match of the FIFA World Cup 26, only non-commercialised friendly/preparation matches may take place at a Team Base Camp Training Site (or Venue-Specific Training Site).



- c) If such match does not take place at an official competition site, commercialisation is permitted until five days prior to the team's first match of the FIFA World Cup 26.
- d) FIFA reserves the right to film any friendly/preparation matches in which the Participating Member Association plays in a host country after the Final Draw for the FIFA World Cup 26 and before the start of the final competition. For this purpose, FIFA filming crews and FIFA photographers will be accredited for the friendly/preparation match as per the applicable procedures in place. Any footage captured may be provided to FIFA's Media Rights Licensees as source material or as part of fully produced features and may be used in any competition-related programming.

17.3 FIFA may provide further information on friendly/preparation matches by means of a circular letter.

ARTICLE 18: TEAM ARRIVALS

- 18.1 Each team participating in the FIFA World Cup 26 shall arrive in the host country no later than five days before its first group match in the respective host country.
- 18.2 Only official team accommodation in Canada, Mexico and the USA (Team Base Camp Hotels and Venue-Specific Team Hotels) designated as such by FIFA shall be used for the teams' accommodation from five days before the team's first match and up to one day after its elimination or last match in the FIFA World Cup 26.
- 18.3 Each team participating in the FIFA World Cup 26 shall choose a Team Base Camp from the Team Base Camp brochure, as per the official Team Base Camp selection policy, which shall be its main accommodation and training base until the knockout stages begin (i.e. round of 32). Each team shall travel from its Team Base Camp to the match venue one day before matchday (MD-1) and in exceptional cases on MD-2, and shall return to their Team Base Camp after the match (on MD/MD+1).
- 18.4 From the round of 32 onwards, each team will be requested to release its Team Base Camp and start venue-hopping (moving from match venue to match venue until the end of its participation in the FIFA World Cup 26), unless otherwise authorised by FIFA.
- 18.5 Further details will be communicated at a later stage in the Team Accommodation and Movement Policy via a circular letter.



Stadiums and training sites

ARTICLE 19: STADIUMS

- 19.1 Matches shall be played on natural grass. 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 months before the first match held in the stadium in connection with the FIFA World Cup 26. It shall also not be used for any kind of event as of one month before the first match held in the stadium in connection with the FIFA World Cup 26. Any exemption to these deadlines is subject to FIFA's explicit prior approval in writing.
- 19.2 Unless otherwise approved by FIFA, the stadium pitch shall have the following dimensions: length 105m, width 68m.
- 19.3 The pitch watering schedule and the height of the grass will be communicated by the FIFA Match Director at the Match Coordination Meeting. The FIFA Match Director, in consultation with the pitch management expert, shall define the grass height and watering schedule.
- 19.4 The field of play, accessory equipment and all facilities for each match shall be in optimum condition and comply with the Laws of the Game and all other relevant regulations. All goals shall be equipped with white goalposts and white goal nets with dark support posts and padding. Each stadium shall have spare goals, nets and corner flags located in close proximity to the field of play for contingency purposes.
- 19.5 In all FIFA World Cup 26 stadiums, smoking, vaping and the use of any tobacco-related products are only allowed in the designated areas (if made available).

ARTICLE 20: STADIUM ROOF

- 20.1 If a stadium has a retractable roof, the FIFA Match Director shall decide before the match whether the roof shall be open or closed during the match. This decision must be announced by the FIFA Match Director at the Match Coordination Meeting.
- 20.2 If the match starts with the roof open and there is a serious deterioration in the weather conditions impacting the match, the referee, in consultation with the FIFA Match Director, has 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. The roof may only be opened or closed if there is no one on the pitch.

ARTICLE 21: TRAINING SITES

- 21.1 In principle, all training sites shall be approved by FIFA.
- 21.2 The training sites shall be made available at least five days before the team's first match until one day after its elimination or last match in the FIFA World Cup 26. In principle, the training sites shall be made available at any time requested by the teams in accordance with their training schedule.
- 21.3 As from five days before the respective team's first match in the final competition, each team shall only use the official training sites allocated to it (i.e. the Team Base Camp Training Site and the Venue-Specific Training Site, where applicable) for any training sessions.
- 21.4 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 any other event for a period commencing one month prior to the opening match of the FIFA World Cup 26 without the express written permission of FIFA.
- 21.5 Official training sites for the match officials and teams (Team Base Camp Training Sites and, potentially, Venue-Specific Training Sites) shall be in excellent condition and situated near the match officials' base camp hotel and the Team Base Camp Hotels (and, potentially, Venue-Specific Team Hotels). They 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 14 days prior to the opening match of the FIFA World Cup 26 until three days after it was last required by a team (Venue-Specific Training Site), or until the team completes its use of the training site (Team Base Camp Training Site) or until the completion of the final match of the FIFA World Cup 26 (match officials' training site).
- 21.6 Unless otherwise approved by FIFA, all training-site pitches shall be in accordance with the pitch sizes for international matches specified in the Laws of the Game.
- 21.7 The training sites shall be in excellent condition, freshly mowed and fully marked in accordance with the Laws of the Game.
- 21.8 Pitch maintenance personnel and suitable pitch equipment shall be provided at all official training sites, including but not limited to cones, free-kick walls, speed ladders and portable goals. Each training site shall be equipped with at least one dressing room with showers and toilets.



- 21.9 At all FIFA World Cup 26 training sites, smoking, vaping and the use of any tobacco-related products are only allowed in the designated areas if made available).

VI.

**Players' and
officials' lists**

ARTICLE 22: ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

- 22.1 Each Participating Member Association shall ensure the following when selecting its representative team for the FIFA World Cup 26:
- a) All players shall hold the nationality of their country or territory as represented by the Participating Member Association and be subject to its jurisdiction.
 - b) All players shall be eligible for selection in accordance with the FIFA Statutes, the Regulations Governing the Application of the FIFA Statutes and other FIFA rules and regulations.
- 22.2 Each Participating Member Association is responsible for fielding only eligible players. Infringements concerning the eligibility of players shall be decided by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee in accordance with the FIFA Disciplinary Code.
- 22.3 Protests regarding the eligibility of players shall be decided by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee in accordance with article 9 paragraph 3 of these Regulations and the FIFA Disciplinary Code.

ARTICLE 23: PROVISIONAL RELEASE LIST

- 23.1 Each Participating Member Association shall provide FIFA with a list of a minimum of 35 and no more than 55 players (four of whom shall be goalkeepers, hereinafter: “provisional release list”) whom it may call up in accordance with the relevant provisions of Annexe 1 to the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players and the mandatory release date as defined in these Regulations.
- 23.2 Each Participating Member Association shall submit online a provisional release list of players to FIFA of a minimum of 35 and no more than 55 players (at least four of whom shall be goalkeepers), accompanied by an accreditation photo and a copy of the passport of each player appearing on the list. The provisional release list shall be submitted to FIFA by the deadline stipulated in the relevant circular letter.
- 23.3 The provisional release list shall contain information such as the player’s 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 they play for, height, weight, number of caps attained and number of international goals scored. Further details on the submission of the provisional release list, and the deadline by which the list shall be submitted to FIFA, will be stipulated in the relevant circular letter.

- 23.4 Each Participating Member Association shall include up to 75 team officials, including the coach, team doctor and team manager, on the provisional release list so that the relevant authorities can proceed with the background checks for visa and accreditation purposes. Each Participating Member Association shall adhere to the visa requirements and process.
- 23.5 The provisional release list will only be used for internal purposes and will not be published by FIFA.
- 23.6 Changes may be made to the provisional release list in exceptional cases and up until the submission of the final release list. Any change requests must be submitted in writing, along with an accreditation photo and a copy of the passport of the new individual.

ARTICLE 24: FINAL RELEASE LIST

- 24.1 Each Participating Member Association shall provide FIFA with a final release list of at least 23 players up to a maximum of 26 players (at least three of whom shall be goalkeepers) and up to 27 team officials (hereinafter “final release list”) by the deadline stipulated in the relevant circular letter. This final release list shall contain only players who were named on the provisional release list. Any exception must be approved by FIFA. A signed copy of the final release list shall also be sent to FIFA by the same deadline. All information requested online about the players should be duly completed.
- 24.2 A player listed on the final release list may be replaced with a player from the provisional release list only in the event of serious injury or illness up until 24 hours before the kick-off of their team’s first match in the FIFA World Cup 26. Any exceptions must be approved by FIFA. The replacement shall be nominated by the Participating Member Association, who shall inform FIFA accordingly. Upon receipt and acceptance of a written detailed medical assessment in one of the official FIFA languages, the FIFA Medical Committee, represented by the FIFA Tournament Medical Lead, will ascertain whether the injury or illness is sufficiently serious to prevent the player from taking part in the FIFA World Cup 26. Injured players who are replaced shall return their accreditation to FIFA. Accordingly, players who have returned their accreditation shall no longer be considered members of the Participating Member Association’s final release list. The replacement player must be assigned the shirt number of the injured player being replaced.



- 24.3 A goalkeeper listed on the final release list may be replaced by another goalkeeper from the provisional release list only, in the event of serious injury or illness, at any time during the final competition. Any exceptions must be approved by FIFA. The replacement shall be nominated by the Participating Member Association, who shall inform FIFA accordingly. Upon receipt and acceptance of a written detailed medical assessment in one of the official FIFA languages, the FIFA Medical Committee, represented by the FIFA Tournament Medical Lead, will ascertain whether the injury or illness is sufficiently serious to prevent the goalkeeper from taking part in the FIFA World Cup 26. Injured goalkeepers who are replaced must return their accreditation to FIFA. Accordingly, goalkeepers who have returned their accreditation shall no longer be considered members of the Participating Member Association's final release list. The replacement goalkeeper must be assigned the next possible shirt number not being used yet, e.g. 27.
- 24.4 The final release list of 23 to 26 players and up to 27 team officials will be published by FIFA after the submission deadline.
- 24.5 Before the start of the FIFA World Cup 26, every player on the final release list shall 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 these documents will not be allowed to take part in the FIFA World Cup 26. The identity of team officials will be checked in connection with the accreditation process.

ARTICLE 25: RELEASE OF PLAYERS

To ensure the timely release of players for the FIFA World Cup 26, FIFA will set aside dates as follows:

- a) The rest, mandatory release and preparation period for the FIFA World Cup 26 begins on 25 May 2026 with the mandatory release of players following the last official club match on 24 May 2026.
- b) Exceptions to the mandatory player release will apply to any players involved in the final matches of their confederation club tournaments and the final matchday of the group stages of these competitions, up to and including 30 May 2026, and subject to FIFA approval.

ARTICLE 26: ACCREDITATION

- 26.1 FIFA shall issue each player and team official included on the final release list with an official accreditation bearing a photograph. Each Participating Member Association agrees to fully comply, and to ensure that all members of its delegation, including players, coaches, managers, officials and representatives also comply, with the FIFA Accreditation Terms and Conditions. Each Participating Member Association will receive accreditations in accordance with the final release list. Any additional accreditations may be requested from FIFA Team Services in accordance with the official procedure prior to the final competition. For the sake of clarity, FIFA will only cover the costs of up to a maximum of 50 Delegation Members, as stipulated in the financial provisions of these Regulations.
- 26.2 FIFA reserves the right to revoke the accreditation of any official or player due to the misconduct of the individual concerned.
- 26.3 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 a circular letter.
- 26.4 Players and team officials shall wear their accreditation provided by FIFA when entering hotels, stadiums and training sites. Only players in possession of valid accreditation may play in the FIFA World Cup 26. Players shall wear their accreditation at all times in the team hotels. Team officials must wear their accreditation at all times, including during the match on the team bench.

ARTICLE 27: TEAM SAFEGUARDING/WELFARE OFFICER

Each Participating Member Association shall appoint a designated Team Safeguarding/Welfare Officer to act as a focal point for all matters related to the safeguarding and well-being of the players and team delegation. This role does not have to be exclusive and can be assigned to a team medical doctor or other trained member of the accredited team delegation. It is a mandatory requirement that the designated Team Safeguarding/Welfare Officer complete the FIFA Guardians Safeguarding Essentials: Open Learners online course (<https://safeguardinginfootball.fifa.com/global-football-community-learners/>) and submit the certificate of completion to FIFA. In addition, FIFA recommends that all members of the team delegation accompanying the players complete the course. The role of the Team Safeguarding/Welfare Officer is to:

- a) act as the first point of contact and lead for all safeguarding matters within the team delegation during the FIFA World Cup 26;



- b) liaise with the FIFA Event Safeguarding Manager for the sharing of materials with the delegation and for training session visits, and attend the Team Safeguarding/Welfare Officer Workshop;
- c) take all reasonable steps to ensure that the players' and Delegation Members' mental and physical well-being is prioritised;
- d) liaise with the tournament Safeguarding Manager and the FIFA Event Safeguarding Manager should a concern or an allegation of harassment or abuse (be it psychological, physical or sexual, or neglect) arise;
- e) be aware (and make sure that all members of the team delegation are aware) of the Safeguarding and Anti-Discrimination Code of Conduct, with which all accreditation holders, including the players, are required to comply; and
- f) know the specific safeguarding measures for the FIFA World Cup 26 and the avenues available for reporting concerns.

VII.

**Kit and team
equipment**

ARTICLE 28: KIT AND COLOURS APPROVAL

- 28.1 The FIFA Equipment Regulations and the FIFA Media and Marketing Regulations in force apply to all matches of the final competition, unless specified otherwise in these Regulations. To the extent that these Regulations are inconsistent with any aspect of the FIFA Equipment Regulations, the FIFA Equipment Regulations shall take precedence.

The display of political, religious, or personal messages or slogans of any nature in any language or form by players and team officials on their playing, team kits or other clothing considered as outerwear and formal attire, before and after playing, and equipment (including kit bags, beverage containers, medical bags, etc.) or body is prohibited. The similar display of commercial messages and slogans of any nature 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 official matches and training sessions, as well as during official press conferences and mixed-zone activities).

- 28.2 Each team shall inform FIFA of a minimum of two different and contrasting (one predominantly dark and one predominantly light) colours for each of its first-choice and alternative team kits (shirt, shorts and socks). In addition, each team shall select a minimum of three contrasting colours for the goalkeepers. These three goalkeeper kits must be different and contrasting from each other as well as from the first-choice and alternative team playing kits. This information shall be submitted online via the team colour form by the stipulated deadline. Only these colours, once reviewed and approved by FIFA as stated in article 28 paragraph 3 below, may be worn during matches.
- 28.3 The Participating Member Associations shall send to FIFA for approval a sample of all items of the full first-choice and alternative team playing kits (shirt, shorts, socks, all three goalkeeper's kits, caps, wristbands and headbands, etc.) intended for use during the final competition. In addition, FIFA shall organise a kit-day session prior to the final competition; should it do so, the date shall be confirmed by circular letter or other official communication. Representatives of all Participating Member Associations shall attend. All equipment (kits, bags, medical equipment, etc.) that could be on display in the stadium, the training sites and the hotels, or during transfers to, from or within the three host countries, shall be approved by FIFA.

FIFA shall issue a written team equipment inspection report approving or rejecting the items. Should any article of the team kit or any part thereof not be in accordance with the FIFA Equipment Regulations and/or the FIFA Media and Marketing Regulations, the Participating Member Association will be obliged to change it accordingly and resubmit the corrected items within

the timeline set in the written team equipment inspection report. Any such decisions are not subject to appeal.

- 28.4 All equipment (kits, bags, medical equipment, etc.) that could be on display in the stadiums, the training sites and the hotels, or during transfers to, from or within the three host countries, shall be re-checked and approved by FIFA during the Team Arrival Meeting for the FIFA World Cup 26.
- 28.5 From the moment that their teams first arrive in any of the three host countries, and at the latest five days before the opening match until the end of the final competition, Participating Member Associations may not display (including on any clothing) any third-party commercial identification or branding in any final competition stadiums or training sites, or in connection with any official media activities, other than:
- a) on kit used at unofficial training sessions;
 - b) in the indoor press conference facility at their official training site (or other press conference location approved by FIFA), but only when used for unofficial events/activities; or
 - c) manufacturer's identifications on kit, in accordance with the FIFA Equipment Regulations.

More details may be provided in the FIFA Media and Marketing Regulations.

- 28.6 The approval that has been granted by FIFA on each item is based on all the information made available and provided to FIFA during the equipment inspection and approval process. Any approval by FIFA is specific only to the sample items submitted and reviewed by FIFA. It does not apply to any team kit, uniform, material or other equipment that is not identical in all specifications to the sample submitted and declared to FIFA.

For the avoidance of doubt, changing the context of the design, text, images, associated messages or any other material in which the item is intended to be used constitutes a change to the approved use of such item. If the approved item is used in any manner conflicting with the applicable FIFA requirements and regulations, FIFA shall have the right to, at any time, withdraw its approval and the item shall not be used, as well as to open disciplinary proceedings against the relevant Participating Member Association. Such cases shall be processed in accordance with the FIFA Disciplinary Code.



ARTICLE 29: NUMBERS AND NAMES

- 29.1 Only the numbers 1 to 26 may be allocated to the players, with number 1 being reserved exclusively for one of the goalkeepers. These numbers shall be displayed at chest height on the front of the shirt, on the front of the shorts and on the back of the shirts according to the FIFA Equipment Regulations. The numbers shall correspond to the numbers indicated on the final release list.
- 29.2 During the final competition, for any goalkeeper replacement, the incoming goalkeeper shall be assigned the next possible shirt number not being used yet, e.g. 27.
- 29.3 The player's last name or popular (or abbreviation) name 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 shall bear a strong resemblance to the player's popular name as indicated on the final release list and in any other official FIFA documentation. In the event of two or more players having the same name on the back of the shirt, further letter(s) or initial(s) shall be added until a clear distinction can be made between the players concerned. In case of doubt, FIFA shall have the final decision regarding the name that appears on the shirt.
- 29.4 Each team shall supply a set of goalkeeper shirts without names or numbers for the FIFA World Cup 26. 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 shall be provided in the same three colours as the regular goalkeeper shirts.

ARTICLE 30: MATCH COLOURS DESIGNATION

30.1 No later than one month 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 is possible, FIFA's preference is for each team to wear its first-choice colours as declared on the team colour form. If the two teams' colours and the match officials' colour might cause confusion, the following principles shall be applied by FIFA to allocate the match colours:

- a) Order of priority from 1 to 5:
 1. Team A playing kit
 2. Team B playing kit
 3. Team A goalkeeper kit
 4. Team B goalkeeper kit
 5. Match officials' (referees') kit

If the above order of priority does not produce a clear colour contrast of the kits (having considered the respective first-choice playing kit and alternative playing kit colour options), the allocation shall continue step by step in reverse order (team B colours first, followed by team A colours and/or reversal of team A and team B assignment, if necessary) until an acceptable colour contrast is confirmed.

- b) If necessary, one or both teams may have to wear a combination of their first-choice and alternative playing or goalkeeper kits, or each team may have to play in its alternative colours, irrespective of its team A or team B status. FIFA will endeavour to ensure that each team wears its first-choice team playing kit at least once during the group stage. In principle, FIFA shall also consider the option of dark-kit and light-kit colour-contrast assignments in the interests of accommodating individuals with a colour vision deficiency whenever reasonably practicable.
- 30.2 FIFA shall confirm the playing colours to the Participating Member Associations before the start of each match. The colours shall be reviewed during the Match Coordination Meeting by the FIFA Match Director. The colours assignment decided by FIFA is final.
- 30.3 The first-choice and alternative team playing kits and all goalkeeper kits (including the goalkeeper shirts without names and numbers) shall be taken to every match.



ARTICLE 31: OTHER EQUIPMENT

- 31.1 FIFA will supply a sufficient number of players' sleeve badges with the official competition logo of the FIFA World Cup 26, which shall be affixed on the right-hand sleeve of each shirt. A different FIFA campaign logo may be affixed on the left-hand sleeve. FIFA will communicate to the Participating Member Associations the instructions for use of the players' sleeve badges.
- 31.2 FIFA will provide each participating team with a set of equipment upon arrival in one of the three host countries (e.g. drinks bottles, drinks coolers, medical bags, etc.). This equipment shall be used at the stadiums and official training sessions, to the exclusion of any other similar items, other than as detailed in the FIFA Media and Marketing Regulations.
- 31.3 For the FIFA World Cup 26, the captain of each team shall wear the captain's armband as issued by FIFA. If FIFA provides a choice of captain's armband, the captain should wear the one that contrasts most clearly with the sleeve on which it is worn. FIFA shall have the right to, at any time, open disciplinary proceedings against the relevant Participating Member Association for any instances of non-compliance. Such cases shall be processed in accordance with the FIFA Disciplinary Code.
- 31.4 The footballs used in the FIFA World Cup 26 shall be selected and exclusively supplied by FIFA. Each team will receive training balls from FIFA prior to the final competition after the conclusion of the preliminary competition, and after all teams have successfully submitted the required team entry details. Training balls will also be provided to the participating teams upon arrival in one of the three host countries. Only these balls provided by FIFA may be used for training and warm-up sessions at the official stadiums and training sites.
- 31.5 Only warm-up bibs provided by FIFA may be used during official training sessions and at the stadium in the pre-match warm-up, on the team benches, and for the warm-up of substitute players during matches.
- 31.6 Participating teams are allowed to use their own wearable tracking system as long as the system has been tested and certified according to the Laws of the Game, registered with FIFA by the Participating Member Association for use in the final competition and otherwise complies with the FIFA Equipment Regulations, the FIFA Media and Marketing Regulations and any other applicable FIFA regulations.

VIII.

**Match
organisation**

ARTICLE 32: START LIST

- 32.1 The electronic start list system will be available and accessible eight hours prior to the kick-off of the respective match with the full names and shirt numbers of the maximum of 26 players listed on the final release list, together with the full names of the officials eligible to be seated on the team bench. A maximum of 26 players (including a minimum of two goalkeepers) may be chosen for the start list. Changes can be made at the team's discretion up to 90 minutes before kick-off. The traditional paper start list will also be available prior to each match.
- 32.2 The start list should be duly completed by selecting the 11 players who will start the match and the maximum of 15 substitutes, indicating the captain, selecting the officials to be seated on the team bench (maximum of 11) and submitted by the authorised team official and/or signed if applicable. Both teams shall submit their completed start list at least 90 minutes before kick-off. If the start list is not submitted on time for any reason the matter will be reported to the FIFA Disciplinary Committee. Both teams' start lists will only be published once both teams have submitted them, fully completed.
- 32.3 At the Match Coordination Meeting (before each match), the teams will receive a start list with the full names and shirt numbers of up to 26 players together with the full names of the team officials eligible to be seated on the bench.
- 32.4 The numbers on the players' shirts must correspond to the numbers indicated on the start list. Each team is responsible for ensuring that the start list is completed properly and that only the 11 selected players start the match.
- 32.5 If, after the submission of the start list, any of the 11 players are not able to begin the match due to injury or illness, they may be replaced by any of the eligible substitutes as long as the FIFA Match Director and the referee are officially informed thereof prior to kick-off. Within 24 hours, the team concerned shall also provide FIFA with a medical report issued by a team medical doctor responsible (in one of the three official FIFA languages).
- 32.6 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 match. 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. Although no longer eligible to play as a substitute, the injured or ill player who was removed from the start list before kick-off may be seated on the team bench and would in that case also be eligible for doping control selection.

- 32.7 Only the players who were identified on the official start list submitted to the FIFA Match Director, or were confirmed as a warm-up injury/illness replacement player, may start the match. In the case of any discrepancies of players on the pitch at the beginning of the match, the matter will be submitted to the FIFA Disciplinary Committee for a decision.

ARTICLE 33: TECHNICAL AND WARM-UP AREAS

- 33.1 The technical area is the area which the coach, other team officials and substitutes are allowed to occupy during the match. It includes the dugout (if applicable), the team bench and a marked zone adjacent to the pitch.
- 33.2 No more than 26 people (up to 15 substitute players and up to 11 team officials – one of these officials shall be a team medical doctor) shall be allowed to sit on the team bench. A suspended player or team official will not be allowed to sit on the team bench or be in the technical area during the match.
- 33.3 Up to 20 additional technical overflow seats (including one seat for the team liaison officer and one seat for the team security liaison officer) in the stands shall be allocated for accredited officials providing technical support to the team during the match (kit manager, assistant physiotherapist, etc.). Staff occupying such seats shall have access to the dressing rooms with a valid accreditation.
- 33.4 During the match, substitutes are allowed to leave the technical area to warm up. At the Match Coordination Meeting, the FIFA Match Director shall explain exactly where they may warm up.
- 33.5 A maximum of five players (including the goalkeeper) and one official per team shall warm up at the same time next to their own team bench. If there is not sufficient space next to their own team bench, both teams shall warm up behind the advertising boards to the rear of the goal. If there is insufficient space behind the goals, both teams shall warm up in the designated area behind assistant referee no. 1. In this case, three players (including the goalkeeper) and one official per team may warm up at the same time. In all cases, the warm-up may not involve the use of any balls.
- 33.6 Smoking, vaping and the use of any tobacco-related products are only allowed in the designated areas (if made available) and are not allowed in the technical area, in the vicinity of the field of play or within the competition areas, such as the dressing rooms.



- 33.7 Small, handheld electronic equipment (e.g. microphones, headphones, earpieces, mobile phones/smartphones, smartwatches, tablets, laptops, etc.) are permitted in the technical area only if used for coaching/tactics or player welfare in accordance with the Laws of the Game and the FIFA Media and Marketing Regulations.
- 33.8 Additional special equipment items (e.g. antennae) for the use of wearable technology at final competition matches may only be positioned in a dedicated area of a final competition stadium defined by FIFA, but not in the technical area of such stadium.

ARTICLE 34: MATCH PROTOCOL

- 34.1 The countdown to kick-off provided to both teams in advance of the match shall be strictly complied with by both teams. Each team is responsible for arriving at the stadium at the latest 90 minutes before the kick-off of the respective match. The FIFA flag and the flag of the host country and both competing Participating Member Associations shall be displayed in the stadium at every match in accordance with FIFA's Flag Protocol, unless FIFA states otherwise.
- 34.2 Unless FIFA states otherwise, the national anthems of the two teams will be played before each match. The Participating Member Associations shall confirm their national anthem to FIFA (maximum duration of 90 seconds) by the date stipulated in the relevant circular.
- 34.3 The display of political, religious or personal messages or slogans of any nature in any language or form by players and officials is prohibited at any time before the match, during the national anthems, during the match and after the conclusion of the match. The similar display of commercial messages and slogans of any nature 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 official matches and training sessions, as well as during official press conferences and mixed-zone activities).

ARTICLE 35: OFFICIAL TRAINING SESSIONS, STADIUM FAMILIARISATION SESSIONS AND PRE-MATCH WARM-UPS

- 35.1 In order to preserve the quality of the pitch for the matches, no official training sessions will be allowed on the stadium pitches before any match. In principle, all Participating Member Associations' official training sessions will be conducted at the Team Base Camp Training Sites and/or, if applicable, Venue-Specific Training Sites assigned by FIFA (exemptions to this rule may be granted if pitch conditions allow).
- 35.2 Teams that are due to play a match in a stadium in which they have not previously played will be entitled to a familiarisation session in that stadium on either the day before the match or two days before the match. The players and team officials will be permitted to walk around the field of play (to inspect the pitch only and wearing training shoes) and stadium to familiarise themselves with the set-up.
- 35.3 Official training session and stadium familiarisation session times will be established and communicated by FIFA.
- 35.4 The teams will be entitled to warm up on the pitch before each match, weather and pitch conditions permitting. In principle, such warm-up will be 30 minutes long and will take place from 50 minutes prior to kick-off until 20 minutes prior to kick-off. If the pitch is not in good condition or if warm-up sessions would negatively affect the state of the pitch for the match, or if the pitch is to be used for ceremonies related to the FIFA World Cup 26, FIFA may shorten or cancel the warm-up session timings and/or specify restricted areas of use.



IX.

Refereeing

ARTICLE 36: LAWS OF THE GAME

36.1 All matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game in force at the time of the FIFA World Cup 26 and as laid down by The International Football Association Board ("The IFAB"). In the case of any discrepancy in the interpretation of the translations of the Laws of the Game, the English version shall be authoritative.

36.2 During the match, each team:

- a) may use a maximum of five substitutes;
- b) has a maximum of three substitution opportunities. Where both teams make a substitution at the same time, this will count as a used substitution opportunity for each team; and
- c) may make substitutions at half-time, which will not count as a substitution opportunity.

36.3 In accordance with Law 3 of the Laws of the Game, teams may make one additional permanent concussion substitution per match. The additional permanent concussion substitution may be made regardless of the number of substitutions already made. The opposing team will then receive an additional regular substitution.

36.4 Where extra time is played:

If a team has not used the maximum number of substitutes and/or substitution opportunities, any unused substitutes and substitution opportunities may be used. In addition, each team:

- a) may use an additional substitute (whether or not the team has used its maximum number of substitutes);
- b) has one additional substitution opportunity (whether or not the team has used its maximum number of substitution opportunities). Where both teams make a substitution at the same time, this will count as a used substitution opportunity for each team; and
- c) may make substitutions:
 - i. in the period before the start of extra time, which will not count as a substitution opportunity; and
 - ii. at half-time in extra time, which will not count as a substitution opportunity.



- 36.5 Players are entitled to a 15-minute interval at half-time; a short drinks break (which should not exceed one minute) is permitted at the interval of half-time in extra time. If a match goes into extra time, a break not exceeding five minutes is permitted before the first period of extra time begins.
- 36.6 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 will be considered on a match-by-match basis. Responsibility for implementing and controlling cooling breaks resides with the referee.
- 36.7 Goal-line technology may be used for the purpose of verifying whether a goal has been scored to support the referee's decision. The participating teams shall consent, without reservation, to the use of said technology in the FIFA World Cup 26, and unconditionally and irrevocably waive any and all rights and interests they may have in connection with or as a result of the use of goal-line technology in matches of the FIFA World Cup 26.
- 36.8 Video assistant referee (VAR) systems and other forms of technology for reviewing match-changing decisions/incidents (e.g. semi-automated offside technology) may be used for reviewing match-changing decisions/incidents as per the protocol established by The IFAB.
- 36.9 Each match shall last 90 minutes, comprising two periods of 45 minutes.

ARTICLE 37: REFEREES

- 37.1 The referees, assistant referees, fourth officials and video match officials (VMOs) (if appointed) (hereinafter referred to collectively as "match officials") for the FIFA World Cup 26 shall be appointed for each match by the FIFA Referees Committee. They shall be selected from the FIFA International Refereeing List in force and come from a member association that is not represented by a team playing in the 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.
- 37.2 If the referee or an assistant referee is prevented from carrying out their duties, such referee or assistant referee shall be replaced by the fourth official and the reserve assistant referee, respectively. The FIFA Referees Committee will determine who replaces a fourth official or a reserve assistant referee who is prevented from carrying out their duties, or who replaces another match official. In exceptional circumstances, the FIFA Referees Committee may decide to proceed with either a fourth official or a reserve assistant referee

from the host association, or to play the match without a fourth official or a reserve assistant referee.

- 37.3 Immediately, after each match, the referee shall complete the official match report online form whilst still at the stadium. On the form, the referee shall note all occurrences of significance, 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 a Participating Member Association at the match and any other incident happening before, during and after the match in as much detail as possible.





Financial provisions

ARTICLE 38: COSTS BORNE BY FIFA

FIFA shall bear 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 FIFA.
- b) a contribution towards the costs of international business-class return flights for up to 50 Delegation Members from each Participating Member Association between a city to be designated by FIFA and the city of the official Team Base Camp in one of the host countries (unless otherwise authorised by FIFA).
 To receive the contribution, Participating Member Associations are required to submit a cost estimate for the international air fare (business class) of their delegation of 50 people to FIFA. FIFA Travel Operations will then examine the Participating Member Association's estimate and confirm the amount to be paid by FIFA. The amount to be refunded can only be approved once the Participating Member Association has sent copies of the original e-tickets as well as the original invoice issued by the travel agency.
- c) a contribution towards the costs of board and lodging for up to 50 people from each Participating Member Association in accordance with a set tariff to be fixed in due course, starting five nights prior to each team's first match and up to one night following the date of the team's last match (elimination). Additional details will be communicated in the Team Accommodation and Movement Policy;
- d) the rental cost of official training sites (Team Base Camp Training Site and Venue-Specific Training Site) in accordance with the official use period to be determined in the Team Movement and Accommodation Policy and within the pre-defined package;
- e) prize money for the Participating Member Associations, the amounts of which shall be determined by FIFA;
- f) the costs incurred by match officials, referee assessors and FIFA Match Commissioners and other members of the FIFA delegation;
- g) doping control expenses;
- h) the costs of insurance taken out by FIFA to cover its own risks;
- i) the costs of domestic ground and/or air transport services for up to 50 Delegation Members, including their equipment (up to a maximum weight to be communicated by FIFA), from each Participating Member Association; and
- j) the costs of a dedicated fleet of vehicles, including an equipment truck, which will be provided for the exclusive use of each participating team during a period starting five days prior to each team's first match and up to two days following the date of its last match (elimination).



ARTICLE 39: COSTS BORNE BY THE PARTICIPATING MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

- 39.1 Each Participating Member Association shall be responsible for and bear the costs of:
- a) adequate insurance to cover its 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 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 FIFA World Cup 26 in excess of the contribution paid by FIFA specified above;
 - c) all incidental hotel costs;
 - d) any other costs associated with additional members in excess of the 50 Delegation Members;
 - e) costs of any additional transportation not covered by FIFA;
 - f) cost of any additional services and infrastructure at official training sites in excess of the pre-defined package; and
 - g) costs of any service or equipment ordered via a rate card.
- 39.2 Any expenses other than those stipulated in these Regulations and corresponding documents (circular letters, Team Handbook, etc.) and explicitly outlined to be borne by FIFA shall be borne by the relevant Participating Member Association.
- 39.3 The financial terms and conditions for Participating Member Associations will be regulated in a circular letter.

ARTICLE 40: TICKETING

- 40.1 Each Participating Member Association is entitled to receive a number of complimentary tickets and access to an allocation of purchasable tickets for the final competition. The total number of complimentary tickets for each Participating Member Association will be communicated by FIFA prior to the first match of the final competition by means of a circular letter or by the Ticket Allocation Agreement.
- 40.2 FIFA is responsible for the entire ticketing operation of the final competition. FIFA will issue ticketing documents to each of the Participating Member Associations. All Participating Member Associations shall comply with these ticketing documents and ensure that their members, Delegation Members and other affiliates also comply with such documents.
- 40.3 FIFA may, 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 (should one be issued) prior to being granted access to tickets and ensure that their Delegation Members and other affiliates also comply with this agreement.



XI.

Medical

ARTICLE 41: TEAM MEDICAL DOCTOR

- 41.1 Each Participating Member Association shall include at least one team medical doctor (two are recommended) in its delegation, to be present in the technical area during all matches. It is a mandatory requirement that the team medical doctor(s) of each Participating Member Association complete and successfully pass(es) the “Concussion” and “Sudden Cardiac Arrest” modules of the FIFA Diploma in Football Medicine (www.fifamedicalnetwork.com) before the FIFA World Cup 26.
- 41.2 The team medical doctor is responsible for the overall health of their team delegation and any clinical decision-making in this regard, both on and off the field of play. Although the team doctors’ primary responsibility is to the players, their medical responsibility extends to all other members of the delegation. As such, all team doctors shall ensure that they have the appropriate registration and licence in their home country.

ARTICLE 42: SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST AND CONCUSSION

- 42.1 Each Participating Member Association shall ensure and confirm to FIFA that its players have undergone a cardiac screening, including personal and family history, clinical examination and resting 12-lead ECG, within the last 12 months and an echocardiography within the last 24 months prior to the start of the final competition of the FIFA World Cup 26. If specifically performed for the tournament, FIFA recommends that participating teams use the screening form developed by FIFA cardiology consultants.
- 42.2 A non-contact collapse of a player on the field of play should be treated as a sudden cardiac arrest until proven otherwise. The medical team of the team and the field-of-play medical team may enter the pitch immediately and commence resuscitation, without waiting for a signal from the referee. One member of the field-of-play medical team notifies the fourth official of the collapse and need for cardiopulmonary resuscitation.
- 42.3 A player who experiences a suspected concussion during a match must undergo an examination by the team medical doctor in accordance with the FIFA Medical Concussion Protocol. The referee may temporarily suspend play for three minutes whenever an incident of suspected concussion occurs. The referee may only allow the player to continue playing with the authorisation of the team medical doctor, who shall have evaluated the player and excluded any suspicion of a concussive injury. The team medical doctor will have the final



decision based on a clinical examination. Under no circumstances should a player with a suspected concussion return to play.

- 42.4 FIFA recommends that medical teams follow the graduated return-to-play protocol set forth in the FIFA Concussion Protocol for Medical Staff for any player who has suffered a concussion. The protocol recognises that the time frame for return to play may vary, dependent on factors such as the player's age, gender, their symptoms and medical history, and that doctors must use their clinical judgement in making decisions with respect to return to play. The player's welfare must be their sole concern. FIFA requires that before any player who suffers a concussive episode can return to play, the team medical doctor certify that (a) such player has passed each of the steps set out in the FIFA Concussion Protocol for Medical Staff, (b) such player is fit for competition and (c) the team medical doctor has discussed the management of the case with the FIFA Match Doctor where indicated (subject to consent from the player).

ARTICLE 43: DOPING CONTROL

- 43.1 Doping is strictly prohibited. The FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations, the FIFA Disciplinary Code and all other relevant FIFA regulations, circular letters and directives shall apply to the FIFA World Cup 26.
- 43.2 Players may be subject to in-competition testing at the matches in which they compete and to out-of-competition testing at any time and in any place.

XIII.

**Commercial
rights**

ARTICLE 44: MEDIA AND MARKETING REGULATIONS

- 44.1 FIFA is the original owner of all of the rights emanating from the FIFA World Cup 26 and any other related events under its respective jurisdiction, without any restrictions as to content, time, place and law and shall be entitled to exploit the same without limitation. These rights include, among others, every kind of financial rights, audiovisual and radio recording rights, reproduction and broadcasting rights, multimedia rights, marketing and promotional rights and incorporeal rights, such as emblems and rights arising under copyright law, whether currently existing or created in the future, subject to any provision as set forth in specific regulations.
- 44.2 Each Participating Member Association is required to support and ensure that all its Delegation Members support the commercial programme established by FIFA to exploit commercial rights to the FIFA World Cup 26, including the special marketing programmes run by FIFA and its Commercial Affiliates (including ball kids, player escorts, match-ball carriers, flag bearers, player of the match awards and stadium tours, etc.). In this regard, each Participating Member Association shall not, and shall ensure that all its Delegation Members do not, use or otherwise exploit, directly or indirectly, any commercial rights to the FIFA World Cup 26 without FIFA's express prior agreement, which may be granted or withheld at its sole discretion.
- 44.3 FIFA will issue the FIFA Media and Marketing Regulations, which govern the ownership and exploitation of commercial rights relating to the FIFA World Cup 26. All Participating Member Associations shall, and shall ensure that all of its Delegation Members shall, comply with the FIFA Media and Marketing Regulations at all times. To the extent that these Regulations are inconsistent with any aspect of the FIFA Media and Marketing Regulations, the FIFA Media and Marketing Regulations shall take precedence.
- 44.4 Media matters and obligations for the FIFA World Cup 26 will be outlined in the FIFA Media and Marketing Regulations and corresponding documents (circular letters, Team Handbook, Media Guidelines, etc.) relating to TV and media activities. Participating Member Associations and their Delegation Members shall comply with the stipulations contained within these documents with respect to media matters.

XIII.

Awards

ARTICLE 45: TROPHY, AWARDS AND MEDALS

- 45.1 The winner of the FIFA World Cup 26 will be presented with the FIFA World Cup Trophy (“Trophy”), which remains the property of FIFA. The winning team will be provided with the Trophy during an on-pitch ceremony immediately following the final whistle and will return it to FIFA in its dressing room immediately after the ceremonies of the final match and prior to its departure from the stadium. At this time, the winning team shall be provided with the FIFA World Cup Winner’s Trophy (“Winner’s Trophy”).
- 45.2 FIFA is responsible for engraving the Trophy with the name of the winning team.
- 45.3 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 its possession.
- 45.4 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.
- 45.5 FIFA will issue, at a later date, Trophy Regulations. The winning Participating Member Association shall ensure its full compliance with these Trophy Regulations.
- 45.6 A souvenir plaque will be presented to each Participating Member Association.
- 45.7 A diploma will be presented to the teams ranked first, second and third in the final competition.
- 45.8 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.
- 45.9 One medal will be presented to each of the match officials who officiate at the play-off for third place and the final.
- 45.10 A fair play contest will be held during the final competition, for which FIFA has drawn up special regulations (cf. Annexe B). The FIFA Technical Study Group shall determine the ranking at the end of the final competition.

45.11 At the conclusion of the FIFA World Cup 26, the following special awards will be presented:

a) FIFA Fair Play Award presented by McDonald's

The FIFA Fair Play Award presented by McDonald's is a prize presented to the Participating Member Association finishing first in the fair play contest. FIFA will, on behalf of and in alignment with McDonald's, deliver a football-related social development (CSR) campaign in the territory of the winning association. The budget for this CSR campaign shall be up to USD 50,000 (fifty thousand US dollars). The applicable regulations of the fair play contest are detailed within Annexe B.

b) adidas Golden, Silver and Bronze Boots

The adidas 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 final competition will be taken into account, with the player playing fewer minutes ranked first. The adidas Silver Boot and the adidas Bronze Boot will also be awarded to the second and third-highest goal scorers, respectively.

c) adidas Golden, Silver and Bronze Balls

The adidas Golden Ball will be awarded to the best player of the final competition. The adidas Silver Ball and the adidas Bronze Ball will be awarded to the second- and third-best players, respectively. Further details will be given to the teams by means of the Team Handbook.

d) adidas Golden Glove

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

e) FIFA Young Player Award presented by Aramco

The FIFA Young Player Award presented by Aramco will be presented to the best young player (born on or after 1 January 2005) in the final competition, as selected by the FIFA Technical Study Group.

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



XIV.



**Closing
provisions**

ARTICLE 46: SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

FIFA is responsible for the operational management of the FIFA World Cup 26 and is therefore entitled to issue any instructions necessitated by special circumstances that may arise in the host countries. These instructions shall form an integral part of these Regulations.

ARTICLE 47: MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR

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

ARTICLE 48: LANGUAGES

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

ARTICLE 49: COPYRIGHT

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

ARTICLE 50: NO WAIVER

Any waiver by FIFA of any breach of these Regulations (including of any document referred to in these Regulations) will 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 will 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.

ARTICLE 51: AMENDMENTS

FIFA may amend these Regulations through operation of the FIFA Council at any time and at its own discretion and shall publish any such amendment in accordance with the FIFA Council procedure.



ARTICLE 52: ENFORCEMENT

These Regulations were approved by the FIFA Council on 28 April 2026 and came into force immediately.

The previous version of these Regulations shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to any matters that arose before these Regulations came into force.

Zurich, 28 April 2026

For FIFA



President

Gianni Infantino



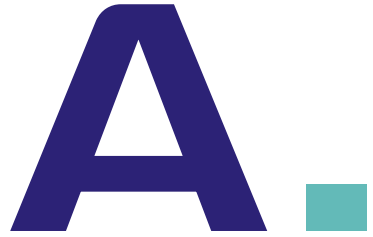
Secretary General

Mattias Grafström

Annexes

ANNEXE

APPROVED FIFA EVENT NAMES



FIFA World Cup 2026™

FIFA World Cup 26™

FIFA World Cup 26™-related terms:

FIFA World Cup 26™ Play-Off Tournament

Final Draw for the FIFA World Cup 26™

Team Workshop for the FIFA World Cup 26™

FIFA World Cup 26™ Host City

FIFA World Cup Trophy*

* The original solid-gold FIFA World Cup Trophy, which is only displayed during certain official FIFA ceremonies and is presented to the winning team during the finals award ceremony.

FIFA World Cup Winner's Trophy*

* The trophy which will be given to the winners of the FIFA World Cup 26 as a permanent reminder of their outstanding achievement, in exchange for the return of the original solid-gold FIFA World Cup Trophy.

We are 26™*

*Official Slogan for the FIFA World Cup 26™

ANNEXE

FAIR PLAY CONTEST REGULATIONS



I. GENERAL

- 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 FIFA shall compile and publish the classification at the end of the final competition. Its decision is final.
- 6 As a prize awarded to the Participating Member Association that wins the FIFA Fair Play Award presented by McDonald's, FIFA will, on behalf of and in alignment with McDonald's, deliver a football-related social development (CSR) campaign in the territory of the winning association. The budget for this CSR campaign shall be up to USD 50,000 (fifty thousand US dollars). Both McDonald's and the member association will be consulted on the campaign; however, FIFA reserves the right to determine the nature of the campaign, the dates on which it will take place and the exact location where it will be delivered.



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.



ANNEXE

COMBINATIONS FOR EIGHT BEST THIRD-PLACED TEAMS

C

Option	1A	1B	1D	1E	1G	1I	1K	1L
1	3E	3J	3I	3F	3H	3G	3L	3K
2	3H	3G	3I	3D	3J	3F	3L	3K
3	3E	3J	3I	3D	3H	3G	3L	3K
4	3E	3J	3I	3D	3H	3F	3L	3K
5	3E	3G	3I	3D	3J	3F	3L	3K
6	3E	3G	3J	3D	3H	3F	3L	3K
7	3E	3G	3I	3D	3H	3F	3L	3K
8	3E	3G	3J	3D	3H	3F	3L	3I
9	3E	3G	3J	3D	3H	3F	3I	3K
10	3H	3G	3I	3C	3J	3F	3L	3K
11	3E	3J	3I	3C	3H	3G	3L	3K
12	3E	3J	3I	3C	3H	3F	3L	3K
13	3E	3G	3I	3C	3J	3F	3L	3K
14	3E	3G	3J	3C	3H	3F	3L	3K
15	3E	3G	3I	3C	3H	3F	3L	3K
16	3E	3G	3J	3C	3H	3F	3L	3I
17	3E	3G	3J	3C	3H	3F	3I	3K
18	3H	3G	3I	3C	3J	3D	3L	3K

19	3C	3J	3I	3D	3H	3F	3L	3K
20	3C	3G	3I	3D	3J	3F	3L	3K
21	3C	3G	3J	3D	3H	3F	3L	3K
22	3C	3G	3I	3D	3H	3F	3L	3K
23	3C	3G	3J	3D	3H	3F	3L	3I
24	3C	3G	3J	3D	3H	3F	3I	3K
25	3E	3J	3I	3C	3H	3D	3L	3K
26	3E	3G	3I	3C	3J	3D	3L	3K
27	3E	3G	3J	3C	3H	3D	3L	3K
28	3E	3G	3I	3C	3H	3D	3L	3K
29	3E	3G	3J	3C	3H	3D	3L	3I
30	3E	3G	3J	3C	3H	3D	3I	3K
31	3C	3J	3E	3D	3I	3F	3L	3K
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33	3C	3E	3I	3D	3H	3F	3L	3K
34	3C	3J	3E	3D	3H	3F	3L	3I
35	3C	3J	3E	3D	3H	3F	3I	3K
36	3C	3G	3E	3D	3J	3F	3L	3K
37	3C	3G	3E	3D	3I	3F	3L	3K
38	3C	3G	3E	3D	3J	3F	3L	3I
39	3C	3G	3E	3D	3J	3F	3I	3K
40	3C	3G	3E	3D	3H	3F	3L	3K
41	3C	3G	3J	3D	3H	3F	3L	3E
42	3C	3G	3J	3D	3H	3F	3E	3K
43	3C	3G	3E	3D	3H	3F	3L	3I
44	3C	3G	3E	3D	3H	3F	3I	3K
45	3C	3G	3J	3D	3H	3F	3E	3I
46	3H	3J	3B	3F	3I	3G	3L	3K
47	3E	3J	3I	3B	3H	3G	3L	3K



48	3E	3J	3B	3F	3I	3H	3L	3K
49	3E	3J	3B	3F	3I	3G	3L	3K
50	3E	3J	3B	3F	3H	3G	3L	3K
51	3E	3G	3B	3F	3I	3H	3L	3K
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221	3E	3G	3I	3C	3A	3F	3L	3K



222	3E	3G	3J	3C	3A	3F	3L	3I
223	3E	3G	3J	3C	3A	3F	3I	3K
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228	3H	3G	3E	3C	3A	3F	3I	3K
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234	3H	3G	3J	3C	3A	3D	3L	3I
235	3H	3G	3J	3C	3A	3D	3I	3K
236	3C	3J	3I	3D	3A	3F	3L	3K
237	3H	3J	3F	3C	3A	3D	3L	3K
238	3H	3F	3I	3C	3A	3D	3L	3K
239	3H	3J	3F	3C	3A	3D	3L	3I
240	3H	3J	3F	3C	3A	3D	3I	3K
241	3C	3G	3J	3D	3A	3F	3L	3K
242	3C	3G	3I	3D	3A	3F	3L	3K
243	3C	3G	3J	3D	3A	3F	3L	3I
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248	3H	3G	3F	3C	3A	3D	3L	3I
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250	3H	3G	3J	3C	3A	3F	3D	3I

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254	3H	3J	3E	3C	3A	3D	3L	3I
255	3H	3J	3E	3C	3A	3D	3I	3K
256	3E	3G	3J	3C	3A	3D	3L	3K
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