

REGULATIONS

2018 FIFA World Cup
Russia™



FIFA®

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14 June – 15 July 2018

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1 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™

1.

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

2.

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

3.

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

4.

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

5.

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

6.

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

7.

The regulations for the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ (hereinafter: the Regulations) regulate the rights, duties and responsibilities of all associations taking part in the 2018 FIFA World Cup™ and of the Organising Association by forming an integral part of the HA. The Regulations and all directives, decisions, guidelines and circulars issued by FIFA shall be binding for all parties participating and involved in the preparation, organisation and hosting of the 2018 FIFA World Cup™.

8.

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

9.

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

2

Organising Association responsibilities

1.

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

2.

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

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

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

3.

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

4.

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

3

Organising Committee for the FIFA World Cup™

1.

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

2.

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

3.

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

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

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

4.

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

4 Participating member associations

1.

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

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

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

2.

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

3.

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

4.

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

5.

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

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

5

Entries for the FIFA World Cup™

1.

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

2.

The FIFA World Cup™ consists of two stages:

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

3.

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

4.

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

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

6 Withdrawal, unplayed matches and abandoned matches

- 1.** All participating member associations undertake to play all of their matches until eliminated from the FIFA World Cup™.
- 2.** Any association that withdraws between the preliminary draw and the start of the preliminary competition is liable to a fine of at least CHF 20,000. Any association that withdraws after the start of the preliminary competition is liable to a fine of at least CHF 40,000.
- 3.** Any association that withdraws no later than 30 days before the start of the final competition is liable to a fine of at least CHF 250,000. Any association that withdraws less than 30 days before the start of the final competition, or during the final competition itself, shall be fined at least CHF 500,000.
- 4.** Depending on the circumstances of the withdrawal, the FIFA Disciplinary Committee may impose sanctions in addition to those provided for in par. 2 and 3 above, including the expulsion of the association concerned from subsequent FIFA competitions.
- 5.** Any match which is not played or which is abandoned – except in cases of force majeure recognised by the FIFA Organising Committee – may lead to the imposition of sanctions against the relevant associations by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee in accordance with the FIFA Disciplinary Code. In such cases, the FIFA Disciplinary Committee may also order that the match be replayed.
- 6.** Any association that withdraws or whose behaviour is liable for a match not being played or being abandoned may be ordered by the FIFA Organising Committee to reimburse FIFA, the Organising Association or any other participating member association for any expenses incurred as a result of its behaviour. In such cases, the association concerned may also be ordered by the FIFA Organising Committee to pay compensation for any damages incurred by FIFA, the Organising Association or any other participating member association. The association in question will also forfeit any claim to financial remuneration from FIFA.

7.

If an association withdraws or a match cannot be played or is abandoned as a result of force majeure, the FIFA Organising Committee shall decide on the matter at its sole discretion and take whatever action is deemed necessary. If a match is not played or is abandoned as a result of force majeure, the FIFA Organising Committee may in particular order a replay.

8.

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

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

For the preliminary competition, if the match still cannot be played on the third day after the match was abandoned, the expenses incurred by the visiting association shall be split between the two associations. The FIFA Organising Committee shall take any other decisions relating to such replay as are deemed necessary.

7 Replacement

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

8 Eligibility of players

1.

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

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

2.

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

3.

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

9 Laws of the Game

1.

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

2.

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

3.

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

4.

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

10 Goal-line technology

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

11 Refereeing

1.

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

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

2.

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

3.

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

4.

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

5.

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

12 Disciplinary matters

1.

Disciplinary incidents are dealt with in compliance with the FIFA Disciplinary Code in force and all relevant circulars and directives, with which the participating member associations undertake to comply.

2.

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

3.

In addition, the players agree in particular to:

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

4.

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

5.

Any violations of these Regulations or any other FIFA regulations, circulars, guidelines, directives and/or decisions that do not come under the jurisdiction of another body shall be dealt with by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee in accordance with the FIFA Disciplinary Code.

13 Medical/Doping

1.

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

2.

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

3.

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

4.

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

5.

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

6.

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

14 Disputes

1.

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

2.

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

3.

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

4.

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

15 Protests

1.

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

2.

Unless otherwise stipulated in this article, protests shall be submitted in writing to the FIFA Match Commissioner or the FIFA General Coordinator within two hours of the match in question and followed up with a full written report, including a copy of the original protest, to be sent in writing by fax or by registered letter to the FIFA general secretariat within 24 hours of the end of the match, otherwise they shall be disregarded.

3.

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

4.

Protests regarding the state of the pitch, its surroundings, markings or accessory items (e.g. goals, flagposts or footballs) shall be made in writing to the referee before the start of the match by the head of delegation of the team lodging the protest. If the pitch's playing surface becomes unplayable during a match, the captain of the protesting team shall immediately lodge a protest with the referee in the presence of the captain of the opposing team. The protests shall be confirmed in writing to the FIFA Match Commissioner and/or FIFA General Coordinator by the head of the team delegation no later than two hours after the match.

5.

Protests against any incidents that occur during the course of a match shall be made to the referee by the team captain immediately after the disputed incident and before play has resumed, in the presence of the captain of the opposing team. The protest shall be confirmed in writing to the FIFA Match Commissioner or FIFA General Coordinator by the head of the team delegation no later than two hours after the match.

6.

No protests may be made about the referee's decisions regarding facts connected with play. Such decisions are final and not subject to appeal, unless otherwise stipulated in the FIFA Disciplinary Code.

7.

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

8.

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

9.

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

16 Commercial rights

1.

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

2.

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

17 Operational guidelines

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

18 Entry form

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

19 List of players

1.

Each association entering the preliminary competition shall provide the FIFA general secretariat with a provisional list of at least 50 prospective players for the preliminary competition no later than 30 days before its first qualifying match. This list shall show each player's last name, first name, current club, date of birth and passport number as well as the coach's last name, first name, date of birth and nationality.

2.

This list is not binding. Further players may be added, showing the same information, at any time but no later than the day before the qualifying match in question.

3.

The only document considered to be valid proof of a player's identity and nationality shall be a passport that explicitly states the player's day, month and year of birth. Identity cards or other supporting official documents shall not be accepted as a valid means of identification. The participating member associations shall present each player's valid national passport for the country of the participating member association to the FIFA Match Commissioner on the day before the match. A player without a valid passport shall not be entitled to play.

4.

23 players may be entered on the start list (11 players and 12 substitutes). The 11 first-named players must start the match, the other 12 are designated as substitutes. The numbers on the players' shirts must correspond with the

numbers indicated on the start list (numbers 1-23 only). All goalkeepers and the captain must be identified as such. Three players must be goalkeepers, with the number 1 shirt reserved for one of them.

5.

Both teams must return their start list to the referee at least 85 minutes before kick-off. They shall also provide the referee with two copies of their start list. The opposing team can request one of these copies.

6.

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

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

7.

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

8.

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

9.

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

20 Preliminary draw, format of play and group formation

1.

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

2.

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

3.

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

4.

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

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

5.

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

6.

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

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

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

- d) greatest number of points obtained in the group matches between the teams concerned;
- e) goal difference resulting from the group matches between the teams concerned;
- f) greater number of goals scored in all group matches between the teams concerned;
- g) the goals scored away from home count double between the teams concerned (if the tie is only between two teams).

7.

With the approval of the FIFA Organising Committee, play-off matches shall be played on neutral ground to resolve equal rankings that remain within groups after all other ranking criteria have been applied (cf. art. 20, par. 6d to 6g). If any such play-off ends in a tie, extra time of two periods of 15 minutes each shall be played. If the score is level after extra time, penalty kicks shall be taken to determine the winner in accordance with the procedure described in the Laws of the Game.

8.

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

9.

Should the best second- or third-placed team within a group stage qualify for the next stage or for the final competition, the criteria to decide such best second- or third-placed team shall depend on the competition format and shall require the approval of FIFA following proposals from the confederations.

10.

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

11.

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

21

Venues, kick-off times and training sessions

1.

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

2.

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

3.

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

4.

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

5.

On the day before the match and weather permitting, the visiting team is entitled to have one training session of 60 minutes on the pitch where the match is due to take place. Prior to their arrival in the host country, the exact time and duration of the training session shall be mutually agreed, and then confirmed in writing by the host association. In the event of severe adverse weather conditions, the FIFA Match Commissioner may cancel the training session. In this case, the visiting team shall be allowed to inspect the pitch wearing training shoes. Should both teams wish to train at the same time, the visiting team shall be given priority.

6.

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

7.

If there is any doubt regarding the condition of the pitch once the visiting association has already left to play the match, the referee shall decide whether the pitch is playable or not. If the referee declares the pitch unplayable, the procedure to be followed is described in art. 6. par. 8.

8.

The matches may be played in daylight or under floodlight. Matches played at night may be played only at venues where the floodlighting installations meet the minimum lighting requirements laid down by FIFA, i.e. that the whole pitch shall be evenly lit, with a recommended lighting level of at least 1,200 lux. An emergency power generator shall also be available which, in the event of a power failure, guarantees at least two-thirds of the aforementioned intensity of light for the whole pitch. The FIFA Organising Committee is entitled to grant exceptions.

9.

All matches in the preliminary competition shall be identified, promoted and advertised as qualifying matches in accordance with the relevant FIFA Media and Marketing Regulations and qualifying competition branding guidelines.

22 Stadium infrastructure and equipment

1.

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

2.

Periodic safety checks for the benefit of spectators, players and officials shall be carried out on the stadiums selected for matches in the preliminary competition by the authorities responsible. If requested, the associations shall provide FIFA with a copy of the relevant safety certificate, which shall not be more than one year old.

3.

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

4.

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

5.

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

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

6.

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

7.

Matches may be played on natural or artificial surfaces. Where artificial surfaces are used, the surface must meet the requirements of the FIFA Quality Programme for Football Turf or the International Artificial Turf Standard, unless special dispensation is given by FIFA. In this case, the visiting team is entitled to have two practice sessions before the match, if requested.

8.

Each stadium shall have sufficient space for warm-up during the match, ideally behind the goals. A maximum of six (6) players shall warm up at the same time (with a maximum of two (2) officials). Only the goalkeeper may warm up

with a ball. If there is not sufficient space behind the goals, both teams shall warm up in the designated area beside the substitute bench of team B, behind assistant referee no. 1. In this case, only a maximum of three (3) players and one (1) official per team may warm up at the same time and without any balls.

9.

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

10.

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

11.

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

12.

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

13.

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

23 Footballs

1.

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

2.

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

24 Team equipment

1.

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

2.

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

3.

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

4.

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

5.

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

6.

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

25 Flags and anthems

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

26

Media

1.

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

2.

The associations' media officers shall coordinate media accreditation requests and ensure that all accreditation requests come from bona fide media representatives. Priority shall be given to media from the two teams playing. Space permitting, access shall be given to international media from any country.

In close cooperation with the relevant host association, FIFA is entitled to establish the terms and conditions applicable to the accreditation provided to media representatives at all matches.

3.

Each association shall arrange a pre-match media activity on the day before each match. These activities shall ideally be official press conferences, but for matches with less media interest, they may also be a mixed-zone activity or single interview. In principle, such media activities shall be staged in the stadium in which the match is to be played, unless an alternative location is agreed in advance. As a minimum, each media activity shall be attended by the head coach of the team and, ideally, a player. The host association shall be responsible for providing the necessary technical infrastructure and services at pre-match media activities in the match stadium, including interpreting services.

The two associations' media officers shall be responsible for coordinating the activities and informing the media accordingly about all pre-match media activities.

4.

Both associations shall make their training sessions open to the media for at least 15 minutes on the day before the match. In principle, the official training sessions shall take place in the stadium where the match will take place. The media shall be able to follow the training sessions from the positions they will occupy during the match.

5.

An adequate number of covered seats shall be made available for the written press in a separate and secure area centrally located in the main or opposite stand, with a clear and unobstructed view of the whole pitch and sufficient technical installations (i.e. power and internet connection) provided.

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

6.

Interviews shall not be permitted during the match on the field of play itself or in its immediate vicinity. Interviews with coaches and players shall be allowed upon their arrival at the stadium, subject to their agreement. Post-match interviews ("flash" interviews) shall be conducted after the match in a designated area located between the pitch and the players' dressing room. Associations shall make their head coach and at least two key players available for interviews.

7.

Both teams shall make their head coach available for comments after the match in an official post-match press conference at the stadium.

After the match, a mixed zone shall be set up for the media between the dressing rooms and the team transport area, in order to offer reporters opportunities to conduct interviews with players and coaches. All players from both teams who are listed on the official match sheet are obliged to pass through the mixed zone in order to conduct interviews with the media.

8.

The team dressing rooms shall be off limits to representatives of the media before, during and after the match. However, one of the host broadcaster's cameras may enter the dressing room before the match at a time agreed in advance with the association to film the players' shirts and equipment. This filming shall be completed well before the arrival of the players.

9.

No media representatives shall be allowed to go on to the field of play before, during or after the match, with the exception of one hand-held camera crew covering the team line-ups at the start of the match and up to two of the host broadcaster's cameras filming after the end of the match. The same shall apply to the tunnel and dressing-room area, with the exception of cameras for flash interviews, team arrivals and players in the tunnel prior to taking the field (before the match) and at the start of the second half.

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

27

Financial provisions

1.

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

2.

The following expenditure shall be deducted from the gross receipts:

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

3.

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

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

4.

If the financial outcome of a match is insufficient to cover the expenses mentioned under par. 2 above, the host association shall bear the deficit.

5.

FIFA shall bear the costs of:

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

6.

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

28 Ticketing

1.

The relevant host association is responsible for the ticketing and shall manage the ticketing operations in a manner that meets all applicable security and safety standards. It shall set aside an appropriate number – to be fixed by mutual agreement and in writing – of complimentary and purchasable tickets for the visiting association. At least five representatives from the visiting association shall be seated in the VIP box. The visiting association shall inform the host association no later than 15 days before the match and in writing of the total number of tickets to be unused and thus returned upon arrival at the venue.

2.

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

3.

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

29 Liability

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

30 Final competition

Further provisions governing the modalities and specific details relating to the final competition will be inserted in these regulations at a later stage.

31 Special circumstances

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

32 Matters not provided for and force majeure

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

33 Prevailing set of Regulations

In the case of any discrepancy between these Regulations and any competition regulations issued by a confederation, the text of these Regulations shall prevail.

34 Languages

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

35 Copyright

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

36 No waiver

Any waiver by FIFA of any breach of these Regulations (including of any document referred to in these Regulations) shall not operate as, or be construed to be, a waiver of any other breach of such provision or of any breach of any other provision or a waiver of any right arising out of these Regulations or any other document. Any such waiver shall only be valid if given in writing. Failure by FIFA to insist upon strict adherence to any provision of these Regulations, or any document referred to in these Regulations, on one or more occasions shall not be considered to be a waiver of, or deprive FIFA of the right to subsequently insist upon strict adherence to, that provision or any other provision of these Regulations, or any document referred to in these Regulations.

37 Enforcement

These regulations were approved by the FIFA Executive Committee at its meeting in Zurich in March 2015 and come into force with immediate effect.

Zurich, March 2015

For the FIFA Executive Committee

President:
Joseph S. Blatter

Secretary General:
Jérôme Valcke

