



CAF 
**AFRICA CUP
OF NATIONS**
MOROCCO 25

REGULATIONS OF THE AFRICA CUP OF NATIONS



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter 1 – Organization of the Africa Cup of Nations
Chapter 2 – Organizing Committee
Chapter 3 – Trophy and Medals
Chapter 4 - Fair-play
Chapter 5 - Other prizes and Awards
Chapter 6 - Entries
Chapter 7 – Qualifying phase
Chapter 8 - Organization of matches
Chapter 9 – Matches on neutral ground
Chapter 10 – Countries at war / matches affected by domestic situations
Chapter 11 - Balls
Chapter 12 – The match commissioner
Chapter 13 – The referees and the assistant referees
Chapter 14 – Other match officials
Chapter 15 - Facilities and bearing sojourn expenses of teams and match officials
Chapter 16 - Qualification of players
Chapter 17- Sanctions of players
Chapter 18 - Protests - rights
Chapter 19 – Appeals
Chapter 20 – Fraud - Falsification – Administrative error
Chapter 21 – List of players
Chapter 22 – Colors of Jerseys and shorts - numbering
Chapter 23 – National anthems and colors
Chapter 24 –Advertising in the stadia
Chapter 25 –commercial Rights
Chapter 26 - Doping
Chapter 27 - Forfeit, withdrawal, refusal to play, replacement
Chapter 28 – Organization of the final tournament
Chapter 29- Colors of Jerseys and shorts - Numbering
Chapter 30 – List of players for the final tournament
Chapter 31- First phase of the final tournament



Chapter 32 - Second phase of the final tournament
Chapter 33 - Organising sub-committee
Chapter 34 - Forfeit, sanctions for refusal to play and replacements
Chapter 35 - Withdrawals
Chapter 36 - National anthems- national colours- prohibited manifestations
Chapter 37 – Refereeing of the final tournament
Chapter 38 – Friendly Matches
Chapter 39 – Financial provisions
Chapter 40 – Intercontinental matches
Chapter 41 - Government Undertakings for the organisation of the AFCON
Chapter 42 - Engagements of participating National Associations
Chapter 43 - Responsibilities of the Organising Association
Chapter 44 - Copyright
Chapter 45 - Language
Chapter 46 – Matters not provided for
Chapter 47 – Adoption and implementation of the regulations



CHAPTER 1- ORGANISATION OF THE AFRICA CUP OF NATIONS

ARTICLE 1

1.1. The Confederation of African Football – CAF – shall organise every other year an international competition called the Africa Cup of Nations – AFCON –

1.2. CAF reserves the right to add to this denomination the name of a sponsor partner.

ARTICLE 2

The Africa Cup of Nations – AFCON – is open to the representative teams of the national associations affiliated to CAF, each association being entitled to enter one team.

ARTICLE 3

The Africa Cup of Nations is organised in two phases:

3.1. A qualifying phase

3.2. A final phase

CHAPTER 2- ORGANISING COMMITTEE

ARTICLE 4

The Organising Committee of the Africa Cup of Nations will be in charge of the elaboration of the regulations governing the competition and the organisation of the competition.

It is competent for:

4.1. Qualifying Phase;

4.1.1. Organising the drawing of lots,

4.1.2. Elaborating the competition calendar that comprises of:

- The number of the match,
- The names of the countries,
- The venue, the date and kick off time of the match
- The name of the country that delegates the referees or the names of the appointed referees,
- The name of the match commissioner, and any other official designated by CAF

4.1.3. Settling financial disputes in case the associations fail to come to an agreement in compliance with the present regulations.

4.2. Qualifying and final phases:

4.2.1. Ensuring that the sanctions taken by any CAF body are implemented,

4.2.2. Replacing, in conformity with the present regulations, the associations declaring their withdrawals,

4.2.3. Taking decisions relative to any complaint. Its decisions shall be based on the written reports of the referee, the assistant referees and/or the commissioner, and any other official designated by CAF.

4.2.4. Taking decisions in cases of force majeure,

4.2.5. Designating commissioners,

4.2.6. Homologating the results of the matches. In the absence of protests or claims, the matches are automatically homologated 10 days after the match in the qualification phase and 48 hours after the match in the final phase. All homologation decisions are binding and final.

4.2.7. In emergency cases, the Organising Committee may take decisions by correspondence or by fax or email.

4.3. Final Phase:

4.3.1. Ensuring, with the collaboration of the organising association, the preparatory work of the final tournament.

4.3.2. Proceeding to the drawing of lots,

4.3.3. Fixing, after consulting the organising associations, the dates, the venues and the time of the kick-off of the matches.

4.3.4. Taking all the necessary decisions for the good organisation of the competition in compliance with the provisions of the present regulations,

4.3.5 Creating Sub-Committees having the rights and prerogatives of the Organising Committee.

CHAPTER 3 -TROPHY AND MEDALS

ARTICLE 5

5.1. A trophy called the Africa Cup of Nations, property of CAF, shall be given to the winner of each edition.

5.2. The trophy shall be returned to the General Secretariat of CAF two months before the opening of the final phase of the following edition.

5.3. The team that wins the Cup three times shall receive an original copy of the trophy.

5.4. The winner of each edition will receive a replica whose dimensions are equal to that of the original trophy.



5.5 The winning association engages to take at its own responsibility all the appropriate measures to ensure the security of the trophy throughout all the time it is in their possession.

ARTICLE 6

CAF shall give 50 gold medals to the winner and 50 silver medals to the finalist.

CAF shall give 50 bronze medals to the team ranked third and 50 diplomas to the team ranked fourth in the final tournament.

ARTICLE 7

A medal will be given to each referee, referee assistants, fourth official, commissioner and general coordinator designated for the third place match and the final match.

CHAPTER 4 - FAIR-PLAY

ARTICLE 8

A Fair-Play trophy shall be awarded to the team that will have shown the best fair-play spirit during the final phase of the Africa Cup of Nations, in conformity with the CAF Fair-play regulations.

CHAPTER 5 - OTHER PRIZES AND AWARDS

ARTICLE 9

The granting of any other trophies, prizes and awards requires the agreement of CAF Executive Committee. Any person physical or moral who wishes to present a prize or an award to one or several players and /or to teams, on the occasion of the Africa Cup of Nations must formulate a request to the General Secretariat of CAF, at the latest three months before the competition.

CHAPTER 6 - ENGAGEMENTS

ARTICLE 10

10.1 The national associations wishing to participate in the Africa Cup of Nations should formulate the request to the General Secretariat of CAF before the 31st December of the year preceding the qualifying phase of the competition.

10.2 The application for participation should be accompanied by the entry fee of one thousand (1000) US dollars and a specific –CAN- application form provided by CAF.

10.3 The national association organising the final phase is automatically admitted.

CHAPTER 7- QUALIFYING PHASE

ARTICLE 11

The organisation, the calendar and the order of the qualifying phase matches and the number of qualifiers for the next phase are decided by the organising committee taking into account, the Official FIFA Ranking of National “ A” teams as well as the number of countries engaged in the competition.

ARTICLE 12

The latest official FIFA ranking published before the drawing of lots, is the one considered to set the different levels of the teams during the draw.

ARTICLE 13

The classification of the teams of the group matches shall be applied according to the following system of points:

- 3 points for the winner

- 1 point for a draw match
- 0 point the loser

ARTICLE 14

14.1 In case of equality between two teams at the end of the group matches, the teams will be ranked according to the following criteria in the order listed below:

14.1.1 The greatest number of points obtained in the matches between the two teams concerned;

14.1.2 The best goal difference in the matches between the two teams concerned;

14.1.3 The greatest number of away goals scored in the direct encounters between the two concerned teams;

14.1.4 The goal difference in all group matches;

14.1.5 The greatest number of goals scored in all group matches

14.1.6 A drawing of lots conducted by the Organising Committee

14.2 In case of equality between more than two teams at the end of the group matches, the teams will be ranked according to the following criteria in the order listed below:

14.2.1 the greatest number of points obtained in the matches between the teams concerned;

14.2.2 the best goal difference in the matches between the teams concerned;

14.2.3 the greatest number of goals scored in the matches between the teams concerned;

14.2.4 the greatest number of away goals scored in the matches between the concerned teams;

14.2.5 If after applying criteria 14.2.1 to 14.2.4, two teams are still tied, 14.2.1 to 14.2.4 criteria are again applied to matches played between the two teams in question to determine the final ranking of the two teams. If this procedure does not allow separating them, the criteria listed from 14.2.6 to 14.2.9 are applied in the indicated order;

14.2.6 the goal difference in all group matches;

14.2.7 the greatest number of goals scored in all group matches;

14.2.8 the greatest number of away goals scored in all group matches;

14.2.9 a drawing of lots conducted by the Organising Committee.

ARTICLE 15

The matches organised by direct knockout system, are played home and away. In this case, the team that shall have a higher aggregate number of goals in the two matches shall be qualified for the next round.

If after the end of the regular time of the second match, the two teams have scored the same number of goals during the two matches, the team which will have scored the greatest number of away goals shall be qualified for the following round of the competition.

If the number of away goals is the same or if the results of the matches are nil, the winner shall be determined by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark carried out by each team in compliance with the Laws of the Game. The team that will score the greatest number of goals shall be qualified for the next round of the competition.

CHAPTER 8 - ORGANISATION OF THE MATCHES

ARTICLE 16

16.1. The matches are played exclusively in the order established by the Organising Committee. The dates fixed by the Committee are final and cannot be changed except in case of force majeure recognised as such by the said Committee.

16.2. The host association is entitled to play its match in the capital of its country or in another city. In this latter case, the transportation expenses (round trip) of the visiting team from the capital to the city designated for the match will be borne by the host association.

16.3. By agreement between the two concerned federations and the organising committee, the two matches (home and away) may be played in the same country.

16.4. The matches may be played in daylight or under floodlight.

16.5. The matches shall be played on natural turf or artificial turf of the third or fourth generation type, when artificial turf is used in the matches of the competition between representative teams, the turf must correspond to the FIFA regulations for artificial turf.

16.6. In case the host association organises the match on artificial turf, the visiting team shall have the right to two training sessions on the field in question, one of which at least at the time fixed for kick-off.

16.7. The pitch with natural turf where the match is to be played shall be put at the disposal of the visiting team for a minimum of one training session and this, at the time fixed for kick-off one day before the match.

16.8. The host team shall put at the disposal of the visiting team a training field during all their sojourn and at their convenience.



16.9. The matches shall be played in compliance with the Laws of the Game.

16.10 the kick-off time and the day of the match will be fixed by CAF after consulting the host federation who must send to CAF their preference before the drawing of lots of the preliminaries.

CAF can at any moment amend the dates, the kick-off times or the venues of the matches.

Failure to respect the dates and kick-off times will entail a fine of four thousand (4 000) US dollars.

16.11. The venue of the match will be fixed by the host federation 2 months before the match.

Failure of this obligation shall entail a fine of four thousand (4 000) US Dollars and CAF will have the right to fix the venue of the match.

16.12. The associations to which the visiting team belongs must inform the Organising Association and CAF of the arrival date of its team fourteen (14) days before the date of the match at the latest. Defaulting associations shall pay a fine of three thousand (3.000) US Dollars.

16.13. When the stadium of the capital is suspended or unavailable and that the national association is compelled to play its match in the stadium of another city, the conditions para. 16.14 should be respected.

16.14 If the distance between the capital and the city where the match is to take place is greater than 200 km, the host association shall provide transportation for the visiting delegation by air (back and forth). The travel should be made on the day before the match at the latest and at a reasonable hour of the day, except if visiting team arrives late. If this is not possible, the match will be played in the capital except in case of agreement between the two teams.

If there is an international airport in the city where the match will be held or near that city by less than 200 kms; and if the visiting team wishes to land directly at this airport; the host association must facilitate all formalities for entry.

16.15. In case of a clash of the dates fixed by CAF with the regional, sub-regional and national competitions, priority will be given to the competitions of CAF.

16.16. The matches cannot start before 14 hours and not after 22 hours, unless approval is granted exceptionally by the Organizing Committee.

16.17. If the referee is forced to stop definitively a match because of darkness before the end of the regular time, and if a delay of the kick off time is the cause of it, the team of the host Association will lose the match and will be eliminated from the competition.

16.18. If the match is interrupted because of darkness before the end of the regular time and if the visiting team is the cause for it except in cases of force majeure, the latter shall be considered loser and shall be eliminated from the competition.

16.19. If the referee is forced to stop the match before the end of the regular time because of pitch invasion or aggression against the visiting team, the host team shall be considered loser and shall be eliminated from the competition, without prejudice to the sanctions provided for in the regulations.

16.20. If a match is interrupted after kick off due to force majeure, the following principles apply:

16.20.1 The match will resume at the minute at which it was interrupted, and with the same score;

16.20.2 The match is restarted with the same players on the field and with the same substitutes available when the match was interrupted;

16.20.3 No additional replacement will be added to the list of players summoned;

16.20.4 Teams are only allowed the number of substitutions that they were entitled to when the match was interrupted;

16.20.5 Players sent off during the match interrupted cannot be replaced;

16.20.6 Any sanctions imposed before the match was interrupted remains in force for the rest the match;

16.20.7 The time, date and kick-off location will be decided by the match commissioner.

16.20.8 The match can eventually be continued in another stadium in the same city

16.21. If a team refuses to take part in the rescheduled game, it will be sanctioned in compliance with the present rules.

16.22. The additional sojourn expenses of the visiting team and the match officials, in relation to accommodation within the hosting country as well as internal transport, shall be borne by the host federation. The additional expenses of the visiting team in relation to flight tickets and transit fees shall be borne by the visiting team.

16.23. For nocturnal matches, if the match is interrupted because of darkness following a failure of electricity, the referee shall stop definitively the game after waiting for forty-five (45) minutes. The failure of electricity cannot be considered as a case of force majeure unless if at the moment of the failure, it is a second leg match of the competition played according to the direct knockout system and that the score on the whole of the two matches is not in favour of the visiting team. In this case, the match is to be replayed within twenty-four (24) hours later. If the score of the two legs is in favour of the visiting team, the host team will be declared loser.

16.24. For nocturnal group matches if the match is interrupted due to obscurity following an electricity failure, the referee cannot stop definitively the game but after waiting for forty-five minutes. After this deadline the visiting team shall be declared winner with the score of three to nil.

16.25 The national associations hosting the Africa Cup of Nations have to contract an insurance covering the civil responsibility, out of which a copy of the contract must be provided to CAF three months before the start of the competition in accordance with the Organising Association Agreement (O.A.A.)

16.26. CAF officials should ensure that these instructions are carried out by the organising country.

CHAPTER 9 - MATCH ON NEUTRAL GROUND

ARTICLE 17

The preliminary matches of AFCON may take place on a neutral ground, after an agreement is reached between the two concerned national associations and the Organising Committee.

ARTICLE 18

In case of a match to be played on a neutral ground, only one match may be played if necessary with penalty kicks to determine the winner.

CHAPTER 10 - COUNTRIES IN A STATE OF WAR / MATCHES AFFECTED BY INTERNAL SITUATIONS

ARTICLE 19

In case of troubles, war, force majeure or internal situations in a country that may affect security conditions when holding a match, the Organising Committee can take the following measures:

19.1 During home and away matches:



19.1.1 If the case involves a single country, its federation shall organize the match in another country, or a single match on the field of the opposing team will be played. Where appropriate, the organizing committee will determine the match venue.

19.1.2 If this case concerns both countries, only one match will be played on a neutral ground.

19.2 During group matches

19.2.1 If the case involves a single country, its federation shall organize the match in another country. Where appropriate, the organizing committee will determine the match venue.

19.2.2 If this case involves both countries, the match will be played on a neutral ground.

CHAPTER 11 - BALLS

ARTICLE 20

The host Federation shall provide at each match at least ten (10) legal balls approved by FIFA which shall be put at the referees' disposal. They must have one of the following three imprints: the FIFA official logo "FIFA APPROVED" the official logo "FIFA INSPECTED" or "INTERNATIONAL MATCH BOARD STANDARD."

CAF may, from time to time, designate a specific brand and ball as the official ball of AFCON ("Official Ball"), and may provide an allocation of the official balls to the host association; in which event the host association shall be required to provide 10 Official Balls which shall be put at the referee's disposal. Failure to do so shall result in the host association being sanctioned and/or fined in accordance with these regulations.

If a game is stopped due to the absence of balls, the referee shall wait for fifteen minutes. After this deadline, the match shall be stopped. The host shall lose the match by penalty (3-0) unless if the score in favour of the visiting team is superior.

ARTICLE 21



For the matches on neutral ground, each team must provide at least seven (07) balls that shall be put at the referees' disposal. The team not having brought balls will be sanctioned.

ARTICLE 22

Any disputes on financial matters shall be dealt with by the Organising Committee.

CHAPTER – 12 - THE MATCH COMMISSIONER

ARTICLE 23

23.1. The organising Committee designates a match commissioner for every game. He is the official representative of CAF and he must be present at the match. In this capacity, he is entitled to a place in the first row of the official tribune.

23.2. Upon the receipt of the notification, the match commissioner shall confirm acceptance of his appointment to CAF. In case of impediment, he must inform the latter by fax or email, within 48 hours, to allow the Secretariat provide a replacement. In cases of force majeure at the very last minute, the commissioner must send his apologies both to the Secretariat and the Host association by email or fax. The appointed commissioner can be replaced only by the decision of CAF.

23.3. If a presentation of the teams to the authorities is approved by CAF, the match commissioner must accompany the guest of honour and he shall present the referees and the captains of the two teams to the guest of honour.

23.4. On the eve of the match or on the morning of the day of the match, the commissioner must convene at a technical meeting the officials of both teams with the referees designated for the match to explain the main points of the rules of the competition. He must ensure the fulfilment of all conditions necessary for the proper conduct of the match especially what concerns the supervision of the match, stay of the referees and the visiting team, proper qualification of the referees on the FIFA list



and the control of the players' passports. There will not be any minutes for this meeting. Any eventual dispute shall be recorded by the match commissioner in his report.

23.5. In the absence of the match commissioner, the central referee designated to officiate the match will preside over the technical meeting stipulated for in the abovementioned para. (23.4).

23.6. In the absence of the coordinator, the match commissioner will go to the dressing rooms to attend the preliminary match formalities. He may, if he deems it necessary, go back to the dressing rooms during the half-time recess or after the match.

23.7. In the absence of referees designated by CAF, the match commissioner shall have the match played in conformity to the provisions of the present rules.

23.8. The responsibility of verifying the field's dimensions, of ascertaining the regularity and the practicability of the field and of ascertaining the adequacy of the electric light for the nocturnal matches is exclusively that of the referee.

23.9. Only the referee and his assistants are in charge of the procedures dealing with the substitution of players during the match.

23.10. The match commissioner may, if he deems it necessary for the security of the referees or the visiting team, decide not to have the match played until his conditions and instructions are carried out. But once the match is started, it is exclusively the prerogative of the referee to decide of the suspension or the total stop of the match for any of the reasons stipulated in Law 5 of the laws of the game.

23.11. If the match commissioner receives before the start of the game, a protest from a team on an article of the regulation, he must try to reconcile the points of view within the framework of the regulation. If he does not succeed, he shall register the protest. In all cases, the match must be played in conformity to the provision of rules and according to the interpretation given by the match commissioner.

23.12 The match commissioner shall observe the match in all its aspects and especially the referees' performance (in the absence of the referees' assessor), the evaluation of fair play, the behaviour of the teams and the spectators, the eventual incidents, the organisation of security in the stadium and its access and the organisation of health services. As soon as the match ends, he shall send by fax and/ or email to the Secretariat of CAF, the result of the game and the preliminary report in which the eventual protest lodged by a team must be signalled. He will send to the General Secretariat of CAF maximum in the forty-eight (48) hours following the match, by express mail, or by using the software Competitions Management System of CAF (CMS), the detailed report on the specific form provided by CAF. In case the match commissioner is absent, this duty will be incumbent upon the referee.

23.13. The host association must inform the designated match commissioner of the date, venue and kick-off time of the match twenty (20) days prior to the match date. It must organise the commissioner's trip, his stay and will put at his disposal a car from the day of his arrival until his departure. It must send him an endorsable full fare economy ticket and ensure that he receives his ticket at least fourteen (14) days before the match. If in this delay, the commissioner does not receive his airplane ticket, he will be authorized to pay his ticket and to travel to the venue of the match. In this case, the host association apart from his sojourn expenses must pay his airplane ticket both ways as well as his indemnities on the day of his arrival according to the applied regulations. It will also pay a fine according to the provisions of the present regulations, without prejudice to other sanctions that the organising Committee could inflict.

23.14. The absence of the commissioner cannot constitute an obstacle to the playing of the matches at the scheduled date and time. In such a case, the appointed commissioner cannot be replaced except by decision of CAF and only the referee's report will bear witness.

23.15 . If the absence of the match commissioner is due to a failure of the host association, no protest raised by the latter shall be taken into consideration.



CHAPTER 13 - REFEREES AND ASSISTANT REFEREES

ARTICLE 24

The Referees and assistant referees designated for AFCON must be on the current annual FIFA list of international referees and assistant referees. The procedure of their designation by CAF Referees' Committee will be as follows:

24.1. The Referees Committee designates by name one referee, two assistant referees and one reserve referee (all neutral) to officiate the matches of AFCON.

24.2 The reserve referee shall be a referee from FIFA International referees list. If needed, the reserve referee may be an international neutral assistant referee or an international assistant referee from the host country but designated by the Referees Committee.

24.3. If the designated referee is absent or becomes unfit before or during a match, he shall be replaced by the neutral reserve referee or the neutral reserve assistant referee.

24.4. If the reserve referee is from the host country, the referee shall be replaced by the first neutral assistant referee and the 2nd assistant referee will become the 1st assistant referee and the reserve referee from the host country will become 2nd assistant referee. In this particular case, an assistant referee from the host association registered on its list of International referees will be designated as a reserve referee for the match.

24.5. The host Federation shall inform the appointed match referees and assistant referees of the venue, date and kick-off time of the match, twenty (20) days before the match. It shall organise their travel, their stay and shall put a car at their disposal from the day of their arrival until the day of their departure. It will make sure that their endorsable economy class flight tickets reach them fourteen (14) days at least before the match. Referees and assistant referees are obliged to use the PTAs put at their disposal by the organising country. They are in no case authorised to purchase their own airplane tickets to ask the organising association for a refund on the spot.



24.6 Any Association that sends PTAs shall inform the association to which the referees belong of the dispatch of the PTAs.

24.7 If the PTAs for the referees are sent on time by the host association and the referees fail to travel, a fine will be imposed upon the national association to which the referees belong.

24.8 In case of the absence of the designated referees, the visiting team must extend its stay in the venue of the match up to 72 hours as of the hour scheduled for the kick off. In such a case the host association has to provide through a neighbouring neutral association, the arrival of international referees registered on the current annual FIFA list, to allow the match to take place within this allotted time.

24.9 If within this extension, both the referees initially designated and those of the neighbouring association fail to arrive at the venue of the match and if the visiting team is accompanied by an international referee registered on the current annual FIFA list, the latter shall officiate with the assistance of two assistant referees and of a fourth referee registered on the current annual FIFA list designated by the host association.

24.10 If the visiting team consents, the match may be played at the hour initially scheduled or before the end of the 72 hours with the officiating of local international referees and assistant referees registered on the current annual FIFA list, designated by the host association.

24.11 In case of the absence of the appointed referees and the match commissioner, and if the visiting is accompanied by an international referee registered on the current annual FIFA list, the latter shall officiate the match at the fixed date, with the assistance of two local assistant referees and a 4th local referee registered on the FIFA list of the current year of international referees and the list of international assistant referees and designated by the host association.

24.12. If the visiting team is not accompanied by an international referee, the provisions of the above article 24.8 shall be applied and CAF informed.

24.13 Any international referee accompanying a visiting team shall refrain from penetrating in the field of play or the players' dressing rooms before, during or after the game. He should imperatively follow the game from the VIP tribune and abstain from intervening at any time moment in the running of the game. In default, he will be severely sanctioned.

24.14 The new expenses incurred in cases of extension of stay of the visiting team at the venue of the match following the absence or late arrival of the referees, shall be borne by the host association.

24.15 If after the playing of the match in the conditions referred to in the above article 24.8, it is established that the absence of the referees designated by CAF was the fault of the host association, and that the competition is played on the knock-out basis, the host team shall be declared loser by penalty and shall be eliminated from the competition. In case of a group match, the team of the host country shall lose by penalty with the score 3 – 0.

24.16 A national association which substitutes from its own initiative the referees or assistant referees designated by CAF, except for the cases mentioned in the above article 24-8 shall be considered loser by penalty and shall be eliminated from the competition if the latter is played on the knock-out basis. In case of a group match, it shall lose a match by penalty 3 – 0.

24.17 At the end of the match the referee will send to the General Secretariat of CAF maximum in the forty-eight (48) hours following the match, by express mail, or by using the software Competitions Management system of CAF (CMS), the detailed report on the specific form provided by CAF.

CHAPTER 14 - OTHER MATCH OFFICIALS

ARTICLE 25

CAF may designate an inspector for referees for the control of the refereeing of a game. The inspector is a match official and must be received and treated as such. He shall sojourn with the designated referees and attend the match in the official tribune where



a seat in the first row shall be reserved for him. At the end of the match he will send to the General Secretariat of CAF maximum in the forty-eight (48) hours following the match, by express mail, or by using the software Competitions Management system of CAF (CMS), the detailed report on the specific form provided by CAF.

ARTICLE 26

The security officer is designated by CAF to oversee security in the stadium under the authority of the match commissioner. The National associations should provide him with any needed support and assistance and invite the stadium's officials in charge of security to cooperate with him. At the end of the match he will send to the General Secretariat of CAF maximum in the forty-eight (48) hours following the match, by express mail, or by using the software Competitions Management system of CAF (CMS), the detailed report on the specific form provided by CAF.

ARTICLE 27

The General Coordinator designated by CAF, shall assist the match commissioner for the good organisation and smooth running of the match.

He is particularly in charge of:

- Attending to the respect of the reception and sojourn rules of the officials and teams,
- Attending to the respect of CAF commitments in the matter of marketing, publicity and audio-visual broadcasts and/or retransmissions,
- Attending to the respect of the fixed schedules and of the match protocol.

At the end of the match he will send to the General Secretariat of CAF maximum in the forty-eight (48) hours following the match, by express mail, or by using the software Competitions Management system of CAF (CMS), the detailed report on the specific form provided by CAF.



ARTICLE 28

a) The Medical Officer, appointed for the anti-doping control of matches in the qualifying phase, must be assisted by the national associations for the accomplishment of his mission. The national associations must especially:

- Reserve a room in a hotel approved by CAF,
- Assist him in his arrival and departure at the airport,
- Ensure his safety and his transportation
- Put at his disposal in the stadium a fully equipped doping control room (fridge, toilet, desk, chairs, mineral water...).

At the end of the match he will send to the General Secretariat of CAF maximum in the forty-eight (48) hours following the match, by express mail, or by using the software Competitions Management system of CAF (CMS), the detailed report on the specific form provided by CAF.

b) In addition to the above officials, CAF may appoint at its own expenses any other official for the management of marketing and media of the matches.

CHAPTER 15 - FACILITIES AND BEARING OF EXPENSES FOR TEAMS AND MATCH OFFICIALS

ARTICLE 29

The host association that does not provide to the visiting team and the designated match officials all the facilities mentioned in the present regulations, shall reimburse all the expenses without prejudice to the sanctions that the Organising Committee may impose upon it subsequently.

ARTICLE 30

The visiting association shall assume the travel expenses of its delegation as well as its accommodation and catering in conformity with article 31 below. The host association



shall assume the local transportation of the visiting team, during three days before the match and two days after, at the most.

ARTICLE 31

RECEPTION REQUIREMENTS

The following minimum requirements for reception should be strictly respected:

31.1. Reception at the airport: A Committee formed of the officials of the host association must be at the airport to meet the visiting delegation and must provide all facilities for the entry formalities in the country. One official of the host association, who speaks the language of the visiting delegation, will be at the disposal of the visiting delegation and will act as liaison officer between the two associations.

31.2. Transport Facilities: One bus for the players and one car for the officials will be put at the disposal of the visiting delegation from the time of their arrival to that of their departure. Any additional vehicles are subject to an agreement between the two associations.

31.3. Accommodation: the visiting association is responsible for organizing, securing and covering financially the accommodation of its team.

31.4 The host federation is obliged to assist the visiting team for the reservation of the rooms.

31.5. Security measures: The police service of the host association must ensure the security of all the visiting delegation's members as well as the referees and the commissioner designated to officiate the match. The police service must prohibit any invasion of the field and any attack against the players or the officials, inside and outside the stadium.

31.6. Seeing the visiting team off: Officials of the host association shall see the visiting delegation off at the airport and shall facilitate all formalities for departure.

ARTICLE 32

The host association shall bear the costs of travel in economy class fees, full board accommodation, local transportation of the Referees and CAF will pay the indemnities of the referees.

The host association shall bear the costs of travel in economy class fees, full board accommodation, local transportation as well as the indemnities of the match commissioner in conformity to CAF scheme.

CAF shall bear the costs of travel in economy class fees, full board accommodation, as well as the indemnities of all other CAF officials in conformity to CAF scheme.

ARTICLE 33

The host federation will also take in charge the local transport for all other official designated by CAF.

ARTICLE 34

The host association will ensure that each official designated by CAF is accommodated in a room in the same hotel, the latter being approved by CAF and/or the Match Commissioner.

ARTICLE 35

If the match officials (Commissioner and/or referees and/or assistant referees) return home without the host federation having settled all expenses that are due to them in accordance with the regulations, a fine of four thousand (4 000) dollars U.S. will be imposed upon the defaulting federation.

ARTICLE 36

If one or more match officials (commissioner, referee and/or assistant referees) are residing outside the capital of their country, the host federation will bear their travel expenses by air (if the distance is more than two hundred kilometres) or by car from their city of residence to the capital of their country and return.

ARTICLE 37

Match officials will be required to provide all supporting documents to the host federation to be refunded, according to market prices, including in particular a letter from their federation attesting that the expenses incurred, in conformity with article 36, are correct.

CHAPTER 16 - QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

ARTICLE 38

38.1 Each Association shall select its national representative team from players enjoying the citizenship of its country, subject to its jurisdiction and qualified for selection in conformity with the provisions of the regulations governing the application of the FIFA statutes. All players must present on request, to the Secretariat of CAF or to the match commissioner, their valid passport being.

38.2 In accordance with the provisions of the FIFA international calendar, clubs are required to put at the disposal of the associations the players selected for their represented national teams. Failure to do so will result in sanctions.

ARTICLE 39

39.1. For each match, the players must present their valid passport.

39.2. If a travelling team loses the passports of one or many of its players, the team is authorized to field the concerned player or players provided that each one of them takes photographs with the match commissioner or the referee, before the match. These photographs shall be given to the referee who shall send them to CAF Secretariat, together with his report. In case of a protest duly lodged, the concerned team shall



present to the Secretariat of CAF the valid passports for comparison with the photographs taken with the referee or the match commissioner.

39.3. A host team is not allowed to field any of its players, if before the kick-off, it does not present valid passports of the concerned players.

ARTICLE 40

Every National Association may, at its own discretion, during the qualifying phase, modify the formation of its team between one match and another, even in case of matches to be replayed, provided that only the players qualified under the present regulations are used.

ARTICLE 41

Substitutions up to a maximum of five players per team are permitted at any time during a match. A substituted player can no longer take part in the match. However, in case of an extra time, one additional substitution will be allowed for each team. Law 3 of the Laws of the Game shall apply.

Before the start of the game, the names of twelve substitute players must be registered on the match form.

CHAPTER 17 - SANCTIONS OF PLAYERS

ARTICLE 42

42.1. For the qualifying phase and the final tournament, a player who receives two cautions shall be automatically suspended from playing the following match. This automatic suspension shall be communicated by the Secretariat to the Associations concerned.

42.2 The cautions received during the matches qualifying phase shall not be taken into account for the matches of the final tournament. At the end of the first phase of the final tournament (group matches), all cautions received shall be cancelled for the rest



of the competition. Nevertheless, a player having collected two yellow cards will sustain the one match suspension.

42.3 A player expelled from the field by the referee is automatically suspended for the following match in the framework of the same competition, without prejudice to other sanctions that might be imposed upon him subsequently.

42.4 A player expelled from the field by the referee in two matches of the qualifying phase is automatically suspended for the remaining phase of the qualifiers, without prejudice to other sanctions that might be imposed upon him subsequently.

42.5. If a referee reports a player whose behaviour has caused the abandonment of a match or who has committed a serious violation after the end of the match, the involved player shall be automatically suspended from playing in the following match of the same competition, without prejudice to the sanctions which might be imposed upon him subsequently.

42.6 The suspensions for more than one match shall be applicable to the matches of this competition – AFCON – and/or the matches of any another competition organised by CAF and involving the senior representative national teams.

42.7 In case of serious violations, the guilty player might be suspended not only from AFCON but also from all the competitions of CAF.

42.8 CAF disciplinary Board is empowered to apply disciplinary measures on all incidents registered on the official match reports, before, during or after the match, and this in conformity with the present regulations and CAF disciplinary code.

42.9 Before every match, the Secretariat of CAF shall communicate to the designated match commissioners and referees the name(s) of the suspended player(s) for each match. In this case, the suspended player(s) shall be prohibited from taking part in the match by the match officials. Defaulting officials shall be sanctioned by CAF.



42.10 The tallying of these sanctions remains the responsibility of the national association that shall assume any violation to the regulations.

42.11 A team which allows a non-qualified or a suspended player to take part in a direct knock-out match shall lose the match and shall be eliminated from the competition, even in the absence of protests.

42.12 A team which allows a non-qualified or a suspended player to take part in group matches shall lose the match by penalty (3 – 0), even in the absence of protests/reservations.

42.13 For any deliberate intention to defraud by falsifying official documents, the concerned association shall be suspended in accordance with the present regulations and CAF disciplinary code.

CHAPTER 18 - PROTESTS – RIGHTS

ARTICLE 43 PROTESTS

A protest against the qualification of the players who take part in competition matches must be made according to the following requirements:

43.1 It must be preceded by a nominal and motivated protest formulated before the match on the proper form of the match by the captain of the protesting team and communicated to the captain of the opposing team who will countersign it.

43.2 It must be confirmed by a registered letter or by a fax or email, sent to CAF Secretariat 48 hours after the match at the latest.

43.3 It must be accompanied by the payment of a protest right fixed to 2000 US\$ (two thousand US dollars). This amount will be returned to the protesting team if the protest is upheld.

43.4. If a national association requests, for players whose qualification is contested to be confronted, this association will have to bear the whole expenses incurred for the



transport and the sojourn of the players and the officials accompanying them. If its claim is accepted the expenses will be borne by the association guilty of fraud.

43.5 Other protests are to be communicated to the Secretariat of CAF within the 48 hours that follow the match by fax or email, registered mail or express courier. A detailed confirmation by registered letter, fax message, or email must reach CAF Secretariat five clear days from the date of the match at the latest.

43.6 The right of protest fixed to 2000 US\$ (two thousand US dollars) shall be paid to CAF before the protest can be examined. This amount will be refunded if the protest is upheld.

43.7 The decisions taken by the referee on the ground during the match on matters of fact shall not be subject to protests in any case.

CHAPTER 19 - APPEALS

ARTICLE 44

44.1 An appeal can be addressed to the Appeals Committee against the decisions taken by the Organising Committee and by the disciplinary board but not against those stipulated as final.

44.2 The right of appeal is fixed at \$3000 (Three Thousand US Dollars) which will be returned to the Association concerned if the appeal is upheld.

44.3 The appeal must reach CAF Secretariat by fax or email within the three days following the dispatch by fax or email of the decision of the Organising Committee or the disciplinary board.

44.4. An appeal shall have no delaying effect except in financial matters and for fines.

44.5 During the final tournament of the Africa Cup of Nations all decisions taken by the organising Committee and or by the disciplinary board , to the exception of those



reporting the application of the disciplinary measures pronounced on the basis of the reports of match officials are final and without appeal.

44.6 Any decision that may be appealable can be by the plaintiff, his national association, the CAF Executive Committee or by its (their) representative (s) nominally designated by the Executive Committee to detain this faculty.

44.7 When the appeal comes from the Executive Committee, the defendant is informed as well as the deadline up to which he can send his observations.

44.8 in case of a main an appeal interjected by the plaintiff or his National Association (with the written agreement of the person concerned), the person (s) designated by the Executive Committee has (have) an additional deadline of three days in addition to the deadline of an ordinary appeal leading up to six days in the counter-appeal period.

44.9 When the appeal's body is called upon by the person concerned or his association, the disputed penalty may not be aggravated.

CHAPTER 20 – FRAUD - FORGERY- ADMINISTRATIVE ERROR

ARTICLE 45

If CAF is informed, no matter the source, that a fraud or a forgery was committed by any means and /or support whatsoever by one or more national team(s), an investigation will be opened.

ARTICLE 46

In case the alleged facts are true, the national association concerned will be suspended from participation in the following two editions of the AFCON.

ARTICLE 47

For any administrative error in the registration of players, the national association concerned will be suspended from participation in the next edition of the AFCON, and its team will be eliminated from the competition if the latter is still on going.

CHAPTER 21 - LIST OF PLAYERS

ARTICLE 48

48.1 Each Team Participating at the qualifying phase of the Africa Cup of Nations must imperatively transmit to the match officials designated by CAF during the pre-match technical meeting the list of 25 players susceptible to take part at each match.

No more than 19 people (7 officials and 12 substitutes) shall be allowed to sit on the substitutes bench. The names of these players and officials must be handed to the match commissioner 90 minutes prior to kick off.

The Commissioner and the referees must disallow any player on the list that does not conform to the standards of qualification of the competition from participation at the match. CAF reserves the right to sanction any failures.

48.2 Additional technical seats in the stand shall be allocated for accredited officials providing technical support to the team during the match (kit manager, assistant physiotherapist, additional players on the list, etc., if any). Staff occupying such seats shall have access to the dressing rooms, with a valid Supplementary Access Device (SAD).

48.3 If any of the 11 players submitted on the start list 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 CAF officials are officially informed prior to kick-off. Within 24 hours, the team concerned shall also provide CAF with a medical report issued by the team doctor responsible.

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 in accordance with the Laws of the Game. 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 substitutes' bench.

CHAPTER 22 - COLOURS OF JERSEYS AND SHORTS – NUMBERING

ARTICLE 49

Each team shall wear the colours of its country. When, in the opinion of the referee, the colours of the two opposing teams might lead to confusion, the visiting team must change its shirts. If the match is played in a neutral country, the referee shall proceed to a draw to determine the team having to change its shirts. Every team shall have a spare outfit available, other than its official colours, it being recorded that any such additional outfits shall comply with the provisions of the CAF kit regulations.

ARTICLE 50

The jerseys and shorts of the players must comply with the CAF kit Regulations.

ARTICLE 51

No Advertising is permitted on the playing kit of the national teams' players. The match commissioner and referees must see to it that this provision is strictly observed and if need be, prevent the playing of the match. The faulty association shall be sanctioned in accordance with CAF Kit regulations.

CHAPTER 23 - NATIONAL ANTHEMS AND COLOURS

ARTICLE 52

Every travelling team must carry with it a recording (K7 and CD) and a partition of its national anthem as well as the flag of its country.



CHAPTER 24 - ADVERTISING IN THE STADIA

ARTICLE 53

Advertising for specific products including alcohol and tobacco is permitted on the occasion of all the matches organised by CAF within the frame work of the Africa Cup of Nations provided that the laws of the host country allow such advertising.

CHAPTER 25 -BROADCASTING AND PUBLICITY RIGHTS

ARTICLE 54

Broadcasting and publicity rights at home, during the qualifying phase are the property of CAF. It may cede them free of charge to the associations. In this case, the associations will pay the share of CAF as fixed by the present regulations.

CHAPTER 26 - DOPING

ARTICLE 55

55.1. Doping is the use of substances that could have the effect of artificially improving the player's physical and/or mental condition and so augmenting artificially his athletic performance.

55.2. Doping is strictly forbidden internationally.

55.3 The use of doping substances shall be punished in accordance with the CAF Disciplinary Code.



55.4 The organising committee has the right to carry out anti-doping control of the players at any time during the matches of AFCON.

55.5 The organising committee is in charge of deciding which authorised laboratory shall proceed to the analysis of samples.

55.6 The regulations of doping control for FIFA and non-FIFA competitions, the disciplinary code of CAF and other related FIFA directives are applied to the matches of the Africa Cup of Nations.

CHAPTER 27 - FORFEIT, WITHDRAWALS, REFUSAL TO PLAY, REPLACEMENT

ARTICLE 56

The registered teams must play all the matches of the qualifying phase. In case of forfeit, they shall be responsible for financial consequences that shall be determined by the organising Committee.

ARTICLE 57

Any national association declaring forfeit after having registered and before the drawing of lots shall lose its entry fees and is liable to a fine of five thousand (5 000) U.S. dollars. It shall also not be allowed to participate in the next edition of the AFCON.

ARTICLE 58

Any national Association declaring forfeit after the drawing of lots and before the start of matches is liable to a fine of Ten thousand (10,000) U.S. dollars. It will also not be allowed to participate in the next edition of the AFCON.

ARTICLE 59



Any association declaring forfeit after the start of the matches is liable to a fine of twenty thousand (20,000) U.S. dollars. It will also not be allowed to participate in the next edition of the AFCON.

ARTICLE 60

If a team withdraws from the qualifying phase, organized in home and away format, the opposing team, which it was scheduled to meet, shall be qualified for the next round.

ARTICLE 61

If a team withdraws after the start of the group matches without having played half of the group matches, the overall results of the matches in which this team participated is cancelled. Otherwise, if a team withdraws after participating in all the matches in the first half of the group matches, the remaining matches to be played in the said group are lost by penalty three goals to nil.

ARTICLE 62

Any team that withdraws or refuses to play the return match after having played the first leg on its own territory must refund the association of the visiting team a minimum sum of fifteen thousand (15,000) U.S. dollars in repair for the damage suffered by the host country.

ARTICLE 63

If after the withdrawal of one or many teams, a group is reduced to two teams only whereas the first leg match between these both teams still in competition was played before the registration of the withdrawals, then the goals difference shall not be taken into account to determine the winner of the group in question. If after the second match, both teams obtain the same number of points, a decisive match shall be organised between the two teams on neutral ground designated by the Organising Committee with extra time and eventually kicks from the penalty mark.

ARTICLE 64

If, for any reason whatsoever, a team withdraws from the competition or does not report for a match, except in cases of force majeure accepted by the Organising Commission or refuses to play or leaves the ground before the regular end of the match without the authorisation of the referee, it shall be considered looser and shall be eliminated for good from the current competition.

ARTICLE 65

A team that shall not be present on the ground, dressed to play at the time fixed for kick-off or at most 15 minutes later, shall forfeit the match. The referee shall register the absence of the team and shall write it in his report. The Organising Committee shall take the final decision in this respect.

ARTICLE 66

The team which contravenes the provisions of articles 64 and 65 will be eliminated for good from the competition. This team will lose its match by 3-0 unless the opponent has scored a more advantageous result at the moment when the match was interrupted, in this case this score will be maintained. The Organising Committee may adopt further measures.

ARTICLE 67

The team which contravenes the provisions of articles 64 and 65 shall be excluded from the tournament and the provisions of article 61 are applied. The Organising Committee can take further measures.

ARTICLE 68

For the group matches, if a team withdraws before the beginning of the competition, the group will be composed of the number of the remaining teams, unless otherwise decided by the Organising Committee.

ARTICLE 69

The Organising Committee shall deal with cases of force majeure likely to be raised.

CHAPTER 28 - ORGANISATION OF THE FINAL TOURNAMENT

ARTICLE 70

Twenty-four representative teams shall be qualified for the final tournament.

70.1 Only the team of the association organising the final tournament is automatically qualified.

70.2 The twenty-three (23) other teams shall qualify for the final tournament through the matches of the qualifying phase.

70.3 The matches of the final tournament must be played in the territory of the organising association. In case of co-organisation, the matches must be played in the territories of the co-organiser countries.

70.4. The opening of the final phase of the Africa Cup of Nations must be held during the months of June and July of each odd year.

70.5 The dates and venues of the final tournament matches shall be fixed by the Organising Committee of CAF, after consultation of the organising association, allowing each team to have a minimum break of 48 hours between two matches.

70.6 The kick-off time of the matches shall be fixed by the Organising Committee. The teams must be present in the dressing rooms at least 90 minutes before kick-off. Each



team must present the accreditations of the 23 players selected and registered on the sheet of the match to take part in the match.

CHAPTER 29 - COLOURS OF JERSEYS AND SHORTS - NUMBERING

ARTICLE 71

Each association shall communicate to CAF, a month before the kick-off of the final tournament, the main colours and the reserve colours of its kit which must comply with the CAF kit regulations. The numbers from 1 to 23 on the shirts and shorts as well as the players' names on the shirts must comply with the CAF kit Regulations. The number 1 will be reserved exclusively to one of the goalkeepers. The selected numbers on the shirts must correspond to those indicated in the final list of players.

CHAPTER 30 - LIST OF PLAYERS FOR THE FINAL TOURNAMENT

ARTICLE 72

72.1 Each national association that qualifies for the final competition shall provide CAF with a list of no more than 55 players (hereinafter: the release list) 30 days before the final tournament.

The final list will be composed of players chosen from the release list.

72.2 Ten (10) days before the first match of the final tournament, a list of a maximum of twenty-three (23) players must be submitted to CAF secretariat and the teams concerned. Any national Association that does not conform to this provision will pay to CAF a fine of twenty thousand (20.000) US dollars. No other modification to the list of twenty-three (23) players will be allowed, unless in cases of force majeure recognized as such by the organizing Committee. If the list of 23 players is not received at CAF Secretariat 7 days prior to the kick-off day of the final tournament, the concerned team will be only allowed to register 21 players.



72.3 A player on the final list cannot be replaced unless seriously injured at the latest twenty-four hours (24) at least before the beginning of the first match of his team. The CAF medical Committee must approve his substitution in writing, after reception and approval of a detailed medical certificate. CAF medical Committee shall write a certificate attesting that the wound is sufficiently serious to prevent the player from participating at the Africa Cup of Nations and will submit this certificate to the organizing Committee for approval.

Once the certificate is approved, the association should then immediately appoint a substitute immediately and inform CAF General Secretariat accordingly. CAF General Secretariat shall publish the final list of twenty-three (23) players.

CHAPTER 31 - FIRST PHASE OF THE FINAL TOURNAMENT

ARTICLE 73

73.1 Six groups A, B, C,D, E & F each of four teams shall be formed. The organising country shall be the head of group A and the holder of the trophy will be the head of one of the five other groups. The Organising Committee of CAF shall designate four heads of groups or shall designate five heads of groups in case the holder of the trophy is not qualified or is the host country.

73.2 The heads of groups as well as the eighteen (18) other teams and all the procedures of the drawing of lots shall be determined by the Organising Committee of CAF on the basis of the latest official FIFA ranking published before the drawing of lots. The representatives of the participating teams shall be invited to the drawing of lots. However, the absence of these representatives shall not hamper the organisation of the drawing of lots on the scheduled day.

73.3 The date and time of the drawing of lots will be fixed by the Organizing Committee.

73.4. The group matches shall be played in accordance with the calendar established by the Organising Committee.



73.5 The classification of the groups shall be established as follows:

- 3 points for the winner
- 1 point for a draw
- 0 point for the loser.

ARTICLE 74

74.1 In case of equality between two teams at the end of the group matches, the teams will be ranked according to the following criteria in the order listed below:

74.1.1 The greatest number of points obtained in the match between the two teams concerned;

74.1.2 The goal difference in all group matches;

74.1.3 The greatest number of goals scored in all group matches

74.1.4 A drawing of lots conducted by the Organising Committee

74.2 In case of equality between more than two teams at the end of the group matches, the teams will be ranked according to the following criteria in the order listed below:

74.2.1 The greatest number of points obtained in the matches between the teams concerned;

74.2.2 The best goal difference in the matches between the teams concerned;

74.2.3 The greatest number of goals scored in the matches between the teams concerned;

74.2.4 If after applying criteria 74.2.1 to 74.2.3, two teams are still tied, 74.2.1 to 74.2.3 criteria are again applied to matches played between the two teams in question to determine the final ranking of the two teams. If this procedure does not allow separating them, the criteria listed from 74.2.5 to 74.2.7 are applied in the indicated order;



74.2.5 The goal difference in all group matches;

74.2.6 The greatest number of goals scored in all group matches;

74.2.7 A drawing of lots conducted by the Organising Committee

CHAPTER 32 - SECOND PHASE OF THE FINAL TOURNAMENT

ARTICLE 75

75.1 The 24 participating teams will be divided into six groups of four teams.

75.2 The teams in the six groups will be designated as follows:

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

75.3 The two teams finishing first and second in each group and the four best teams among those ranked third qualify for the round of 16.

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

- a) greater number of points obtained in all group matches;
- b) goal difference resulting from all group matches;
- c) greater number of goals scored in all group matches;
- d) drawing of lots by CAF Organising Committee.

75.5 Round of 16:



The 16 teams that qualify from the group stage will contest the round of 16 as follows:

R1	1D vs 3B /3E /3F
R2	2A vs 2C
R3	1A vs 3C /3D /3E
R4	2B vs 2F
R5	1B / vs 3A /3C/3D
R6	1C vs 3A /3B/3F
R7	1E vs 2D
R8	1F vs 2E

Note: the above configuration may not represent the chronological order in which the matches will be played according to the match schedule.

75.6 The following table indicates the pairings in the round of 16, depending upon which third-placed teams qualify from the group stage. For example, if the teams finishing third in groups A, B, C and D qualify, the pairings will be 1Av.3C,1Bv.3D,1Cv.3A and- 1Dv.3B.



THE FOUR BEST-PLACED TEAMS ARE:	1ST A PLAYS	1ST B PLAYS	1ST C PLAYS	1ST D PLAYS
A B C D	3C	3D	3A	3B
A B C E	3C	3A	3B	3E
A B C F	3C	3A	3B	3F
A B D E	3D	3A	3B	3E
A B D F	3D	3A	3B	3F
A B E F	3E	3A	3B	3F
A C D E	3C	3D	3A	3E
A C D F	3C	3D	3A	3F
A C E F	3C	3A	3F	3E
A D E F	3D	3A	3F	3E
B C D E	3C	3D	3B	3E
B C D F	3C	3D	3B	3F
B C E F	3E	3C	3B	3F
B D E F	3E	3D	3B	3F
C D E F	3C	3D	3F	3E

75.7 Quarter finals:

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

QF1	Win R2 - Win R1
QF2	Win R4 - Win R3
QF3	Win R7 - Win R6
QF4	Win R5 - Win R8

75.8 The round of 16 and quarterfinal matches shall be played in accordance with the direct elimination system of the loser. An extra time of 2 x 15 minutes shall be eventually played in case of a draw after the regular time. If after extra time, the result is still not decisive, the winner shall be determined by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in compliance with the Laws of the Game.



75.9 Semi-finals:

The four teams that qualify from the quarter-finals will contest the semi-finals as follows:

SF 1	Win QF1 - Win QF4
SF 2	Win QF3 - Win QF2

The semi-finals shall be played in accordance with the same direct elimination system as applied in the quarterfinals.

75.10 The losers of the semi-finals shall play a match for the third place.

3RD	Los SF1 - Los SF2
-----	-------------------

In case of a draw after the end of the regular time, the winner shall be determined by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in compliance with the Laws of the Game.

75.11 The two winners of the semi-finals will contest the final.

FINAL	Win SF1 - Win SF2
-------	-------------------

The final shall be played between the winners of the semi-finals. In case of a draw after the end of the regular time, an extra time of 2 x 15 minutes shall be played. If, after the extra time, the result is still not decisive, the winner shall be determined by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in compliance with the Laws of the Game.

ARTICLE 76

The matches shall be played in daylight or under floodlights.



CHAPTER 33 - ORGANISING SUB-COMMITTEES

ARTICLE 77

For the final tournament, Organising Sub-Committees shall be established and they shall stay in the organising country to supervise the matches. The President and the members of the Referees Committee, the Medical Committee and the Technical Committee of CAF shall assist these sub-committees on a consultative title, without the right to vote.

77.1 The sub-committees are invested with the attributions of CAF Organising Committee as defined in the present regulations.

77.2. Each sub-committee shall designate a commissioner among its members to officiate each group match it controls.

77.3. Each sub-committee shall organise the technical meeting at the eve or on the day of the match and shall ratify the results the day following the match.

77.4 After each match, a communiqué written by each sub-committee shall be distributed to all the teams on the same day of the match.

CHAPTER 34 - WITHDRAWALS, SANCTIONS FOR REFUSAL TO PLAY AND REPLACEMENT

ARTICLE 78

A forfeit declared from the qualification to the drawing of lots, shall entail further to the loss of entry fees, a fine of one hundred thousand (100,000) US dollars as well as the suspension of the relevant Association for next edition of the African Cup of Nations, except in cases of force majeure as defined by the Organising Committee of CAF.



ARTICLE 79

A forfeit declared after the drawing of lots and up to twenty days before the start of the final competition results, in addition to the loss of entry fees, in a fine of two hundred thousand (200,000) U.S. dollars as well as the suspension of the association for the following two editions of the African Cup of Nations, except in cases of force majeure as defined by the Organising Committee of CAF.

ARTICLE 80

A forfeit declared less than twenty days before the start of the final competition or during it, shall entail in addition to the loss of the entry fee, also causes the loss of the right of entry, a fine of three hundred thousand (300,000) U.S. dollars as well as the suspension of the relevant association for the next two editions of the African Cup of Nations except in cases of force majeure as defined by the Organising Committee of CAF.

ARTICLE 81

For any team qualified for the final phase, the concerned national association must enter its best representative team. If an association declares through its officials including the coaches that it will align another team than its best representative team, the Organising Committee shall impose all the necessary sanctions.

CHAPTER 35 - WITHDRAWALS

ARTICLE 82

If, for any reason whatsoever, a team withdraws from the competition or does not report for a match, or refuses to play or leaves the ground before the regular end of the match without the authorisation of the referee, it shall be considered loser and shall be eliminated for good from the current competition. The same shall apply for the teams previously disqualified by decision of CAF.



ARTICLE 83

A team that shall not be present on the ground, dressed to play at the time fixed for kick-off or at most 15 minutes later, shall forfeit the match. The referee shall register the absence of the team and shall write it in his report. The Organising Committee shall take the final decision in this respect.

ARTICLE 84

The team which contravenes the provisions of articles 82 and 83 shall be eliminated for good from the competition. This team will lose its match by 3-0 unless the opponent has scored a more advantageous result at the time when the match was interrupted, in this case this score will be maintained. The Organising Committee may adopt further measures.

ARTICLE 85

The team which contravenes the provisions of articles 82 and 83 shall be excluded from the tournament and the provisions of article 61 are applied.

The Organising Committee can take further measures.

ARTICLE 86

If a team withdraws after its qualification in the final tournament, but before its actual start, it shall be replaced by the team classified next in the group of the team in question. In default, the group to which belongs the forfeiting team shall be composed of three teams.

ARTICLE 87



If a team withdraws at the start of the final tournament without playing all the matches of its group, it shall be considered loser of all the remaining matches it was scheduled to play by the score of three to nil.

ARTICLE 88

88.1 If a team withdraws after having obtained its qualification for the round of 16, it shall be replaced by the team which is classified next in the group.

88.2 If a team withdraws after having reached the quarter finals, it shall be replaced by the team it has eliminated in the round of 16.

ARTICLE 89

If a team withdraws after having reached the semi-finals, it shall be replaced by the team it has eliminated in the quarterfinals.

ARTICLE 90

If a finalist team refuses to play the final, it shall be replaced by the team it has eliminated in the semi-final. The other losing semi-finalist shall be declared third of the competition.

ARTICLE 91

Reserves are made as to cases of force majeure and shall be decided by the Organising Committee.

ARTICLE 92

If an association having been entrusted with the organisation of the final tournament of the Africa Cup of Nations is desisting or the tournament is being withdrawn from it, it shall be subject, in addition to further disciplinary sanctions, to a fine fixed according to the following scale:



92.1. Withdrawal notified two or more years prior to the final tournament: a fine of one hundred thousand (100,000) U.S. dollars.

92.2. Withdrawal notified less than two years before the date of the final tournament: a fine of three hundred thousand (300,000) U.S. dollars.

92.3. Withdrawal notified within one year before the date of the final tournament: a fine of five hundred thousand (500,000) U.S. dollars and a suspension of the next edition of AFCON of it's A national team, without considering the concerned edition.

92.4. Withdrawal notified less than six months before the date of the final tournament: a fine of one million (1,000,000) U.S. dollars and this association will bear the expenses of all moral and financial damage suffered by CAF and the participants. Its A national team will also be suspended for the next two editions of AFCON, without considering the concerned edition.

ARTICLE 93

93.1 The organising association shall ensure that it: (i) obtains adequate insurance (the "Insurance Policy") in respect of the final tournament; and (ii) shall provide CAF with written confirmation that it has obtained the Insurance Policy.

93.2 The Insurance Policy shall: (i) be obtained from a leading insurer six (6) months prior to the commencement of the final tournament; (ii) insure the organising association and CAF to a minimum value of twenty five million U.S dollars (25,000,000); and (iii) insure the organising association and CAF in respect of any loss, damage, injury or costs, of any nature whatsoever, arising out of or in connection with the acts or omissions of the organising association while organising the final tournament.

93.3 Failure to comply with the provisions of this article allows CAF to select and obtain the Insurance Policy on behalf of organising association.

CHAPTER 36 – NATIONAL ANTHEMS - NATIONAL COLOURS - PROHIBITED MANIFESTATIONS

ARTICLE 94

94.1. For the final competition, national anthems (K7 – CD – partitions) and the flags of the finalist countries must be sent to the organising associations and CAF two months before the start of the final tournament. A letter indicating the dispatch of these documents to the organising association must be sent to the secretariat of CAF.

94.2. During the Final tournament, subject to CAF's Media and Marketing regulations, and for one week before and two days after, no meetings and no religious or political demonstrations can be held in the stadia reserved for the competition, the training fields nor the places venues reserved for the accommodation of the officials, referees and competitors.

94.3. Written or audio-visual slogans offensive to other countries' political or religious convictions are not permitted in the stadia, the accommodation venues and training fields. They shall not be allowed also in the programs of match transmission on radio or television.

CHAPTER 37 - REFEREEING OF THE FINAL TOURNAMENT

ARTICLE 95

95.1 Referees and assistant referees are designated namely by the Referees Committee. They shall be chosen among the referees who are on the current annual FIFA list of international referees and assistant referees regrouped in the host country/countries.

95.2 Associations whose referees are selected for the final tournament must confirm to the Secretariat of CAF, by fax or email, the availability of their referee(s) and this, at



least 30 days before the date of the first match of the final tournament. If not, the Referees Committee shall automatically provide their replacement.

ARTICLE 96

96.1 At the end of each match, the referee shall establish a report on the official document of CAF and transmit it immediately to the General Coordinator or by using the software of competitions management system of CAF (CMS) before leaving the stadium.

96.2 Referees must also hand in conjointly with the report the list of players and substitutes as it appears on the match sheet, and signal eventual observations or protests formulated by a team. They must record all the incidents that occurred during the match (warnings and expulsions).

ARTICLE 97

Video assistant referees (VARs) may be used for reviewing match-changing decisions/incidents, as per the protocol established by The IFAB.

CHAPTER 38 – FRIENDLY MATCHES

ARTICLE 98

98.1 Each team taking part in the final competition is entitled to play friendly matches and/or other preparation matches from the date of its arrival in the host country until five days prior to its first match of the Africa Cup of Nations in accordance with the FIFA Regulations Governing International Matches as well as the following rules:

98.1.1. Prior approval must be given by the host member association, CAF and FIFA. The relevant confederations must be informed.

98.1.2. In principle:

a) Matches in stadiums selected for use during the final competition will generally be prohibited; and requests to play matches at official team 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.

b) In particular, CAF 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.

98.1.3. Each team must comply with CAF Media and Marketing Regulations and circulars, CAF Equipment Regulations and any other applicable regulations or guidelines.

98.1.4. Teams drawn into the same group of the final competition shall not play friendly matches against each other.

CHAPTER 39 - FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

ARTICLE 99

99.1 Should CAF approve the direct partial or total exploitation live and/or delayed of any Commercial Rights by a host association during the qualification phase in writing, such host association shall pay to CAF a fixed fee of one thousand five hundred (1,500) U.S. dollars per match (“Broadcast Fee”). The Broadcast Fee shall be payable by the host association notwithstanding the host associations failure to broadcast any such match.

99.2 For the avoidance of doubt, it is recorded that CAF shall be entitled to, by means of written notice to the host association concerned, revoke any Commercial Rights granted to a host association, with immediate effect from the time which such notice has been delivered to the host association concerned.

ARTICLE 100

100.1 In the final tournament, the receipts shall consist of the gate receipts of all the official matches and the fees received from the television rights and from all Commercial Rights (from the advertising inside and outside the stadia throughout the entire tournament).



100.2 All Commercial Rights and opportunities of whatsoever nature in respect of AFCON, including but not limited to the television, broadcasting and digital media rights, the revenues from advertising, the merchandising rights and the exploitation of symbols, belong exclusively to CAF on a worldwide basis.

100.3. All the rights contemplated in this article including the television and broadcasting on the one hand and the revenues from advertising inside and outside the stadia as well as the exploitation of symbols on the other hand, shall be subject to separate contracts and freely negotiated between CAF and specialised agencies for one or more successive editions of the Africa Cup of Nations.

100.4 The Commercial Rights of the draw's ceremony of the qualifying phase and the final tournament belong to CAF. They shall be subject to separate contracts and freely negotiated between CAF and specialised agencies.

100.5 The organising Associations must give their consent and present the prior agreement of their governments for the full respect on the whole territory of their country of the commitments taken by CAF in the contracts signed with the specialised agencies and to facilitate the task of the specialised agencies.

100.6 The National Associations are required to ensure compliance with the contractual obligations of CAF in relation to Commercial Rights as notified to them by CAF (including as published in the CAF Media and Marketing Regulations issued by CAF). In case of non-compliance to CAF commitments by the National Association or in case of fraudulent disruption or hacking of the TV signal by a television that is resident in the same territory of the national association,, the concerned team shall be excluded from the competition and will be suspended for the next edition, notwithstanding any other sanction that may be imposed to the federation to which the team belongs.

100.7 Twenty (20) % of the revenues actually received by CAF from the exploitation of television, broadcasting and advertising rights will be allocated to the host association(s), as well as all revenues secured from ticketing.



100.8 The national associations of the qualified twenty-four national teams will receive prize moneys based on their ranking in the final tournament and in accordance with the CAF Grid.

ARTICLE 101

The Organising Associations shall put at the disposal of CAF free of charge:

101.1 The stadia where the matches shall be played, empty of publicity, eight days before the beginning of the tournament, during the tournament and 48 hours after the last match played within the concerned venue.

101.2 the necessary installations, the international signal and sound towards the satellite as well as the indispensable technical personnel to ensure the terrestrial transmission of matches live and regularly shall be provided by the organising association in accordance with the CAF Media and Marketing Regulations. In return, the organising association shall be entitled to transmit and/or negotiate with broadcasters in respect of the transmission of all the matches live and /or delayed inside its territory and for which it has provided all the above facilities.

ARTICLE 102

The Organising Associations shall see to it that the commitments taken by CAF as indicated in the contracts concluded with the agencies are fully observed in its territory in accordance with CAF's Media and Marketing Regulations.

ARTICLE 103

The symbol and the mascot of the final tournament shall be proposed by the host association at least twelve (12) months before the opening date of the final tournament, with the final determination of any such symbol and/or mascot to be determined by CAF in its sole discretion.

ARTICLE 104

The Association organising the final tournament shall submit to CAF Finance Committee- six (6) months before the date of the opening of the final tournament- the



budget giving the expected expenditure for the organisation of the final tournament and an estimation of the expected receipts and profits. This budget that must be approved by the Finance Committee, shall include the price of the tickets of different categories for the matches of the final tournament. The Finance Committee may, if it deems it necessary, recommend to the organising association the modification of the prices of the match tickets.

ARTICLE 105

The Organising Association of the final tournament has the obligation to assume the following expenses:

105.1 State taxes, provincial or municipal, if actually paid.

105.2 The expenses of sojourn of the teams of the participant associations for a maximum of 40 persons per team, from five days before the first match of every team up to 2 days after its last match, exception made due to the absence of regular plane service.

105.3 The travel expenses by plane in economical class (full fare) both ways from the capital of the concerned country by the most direct route, for the teams of the participant associations for a maximum of 30 persons.

105.4 The expenses of travel in economical class, of sojourn and daily indemnity of 200 US\$ (two hundred US dollars) for referees and assistant referees for a maximum of 20 days.

105.5 The sojourn expenses and a daily indemnity of 100 US\$ (hundred US dollars) per day and a first class plane ticket for the President, or the honorary Presidents, the Executive Committee members and the General Secretary of CAF.

105.6 The expenses of travel in Business class, of sojourn and daily indemnity of hundred US dollars (100 US\$) for:

105.6.1 The members of the organizing committee



105.6.2 The Deputy Secretary General of CAF

105.6.3 The general coordinators and their assistants

105.6.4 Honorary members

105.6.5 The members of the Disciplinary and Appeal Boards

105.6.6 The members of the Referees' Committee

105.6.7 The members of the Medical Committee

105.6.8 The protocol and event management officials

The daily indemnity shall be paid to the members during their sojourn, starting from the date of departure from their country until the date of their return to their country. A daily amount shall be allocated by the Host association to the members of CAF for food expenses as indicated in the organising association agreement.

105.7 The cost of the match tickets for CAF members. The quotas of the tickets are determined for each match as follows:

- 100 tickets for the presidential box or 50% of its capacity
- 200 tickets for the stands next to the presidential box,
- 300 tickets for the B category (in front of the presidential box).

The tickets shall be given to the General Secretary of CAF before the start of the competition and are in addition to the tickets stipulated in the CAF Media and Marketing Regulations for partners and sponsors.

105.8 Reserves are made as to cases of exceptional expenses which are to be definitely decided by the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE 106

The Organising Association shall send to the finalist associations of the tournament and to the General Secretariat of CAF an abstract of the accounts statement, two months after the date of the final at the latest.

ARTICLE 107

107.1 The payment provided for in these rules must be made at the official rate of exchange on the day they are made without restrictions or special taxes.

107.2 Endorsable air passage tickets for officials must be issued by the Organising Association and sent to them along with their invitation at least 15 days before the start of the final tournament.

ARTICLE 108

Any conflict related to the settlement of accounts shall be decided by the Executive Committee of CAF, whose decision will be final.

CHAPTER 40 - INTERCONTINENTAL MATCHES

ARTICLE 109

109.1 The champion of the edition of the Africa Cup of Nations that precedes the FIFA Confederations Cup will represent CAF in the said competition.

109.2.a The winner of the Cup shall play the following matches, in case CAF has concluded an agreement, in a home/away match or in one match played on neutral ground, against the winner of the Cup of Nations of other continents, at a date, venue and conditions which shall be fixed by CAF. In the drawing of the programme, CAF shall make sure that the national and international calendars of the concerned teams are not disrupted.



109.2.b In case CAF has concluded a contract for Commercial Rights, the travel expenses of the national team champion of Africa to the other continents and back shall be paid by CAF. After deduction of organisational expenses, the benefits resulting from the selling of the television and publicity rights of the match played in Africa will be distributed as follows: 30 % to CAF and 70 % to the National Association champion of Africa.

109.2.c If CAF signed no such contracts, the host association shall keep all the receipts of tickets, television and publicity rights after deduction of the percentages due to FIFA and CAF as per FIFA and/or CAF regulations. In this case, the concerned national association shall assume the travel expenses of its delegation to and from the other continents and shall pay the visiting team's accommodation, food and local transport.

109.3 All association that does not comply with the abovementioned provisions shall be held responsible of any financial, moral prejudices and any other consequences of such failure.

CHAPTER 41 - UNDERTAKINGS FOR THE ORGANISATION OF AFCON

ARTICLE 110

An organising association of the competition shall give a written undertaking of its government confirming:

110.1 That the official delegation of CAF and the participating associations shall obtain the necessary entry and sojourn visas for the whole duration of the event.

110.2 That the CAF Statutes and Regulations of CAF shall be strictly observed, particularly the financial regulations.

110.3 That the engagements officially taken by the concerned national association shall be considered as accepted by its Government.



CHAPTER 42 - ENGAGEMENT OF THE PARTICIPATING ASSOCIATIONS

ARTICLE 111

National Associations taking part in the Africa Cup of Nations (qualifying and final phases) undertake formally to strictly observe the Regulations of the competition, the Media and Marketing regulations, the decisions of the organising and disciplinary committees, the referees committee, the appeal Committee and the executive committee of CAF and to comply with them unconditionally.

ARTICLE 112

Each participating member association is responsible:

112.1 Of the behaviour of the members of its delegation (officials and players) throughout the whole duration of the competition;

112.2 To obtain mandatory health insurance, accidents and travel for all the members of its delegation;

112.3 Of the payment of all additional expenses caused by the members of its delegation during the sojourn at the final tournament;

112.4 Of the constitution in good time of the necessary visa requests near the diplomatic missions of the organizing country;

112.5 Of its duty to attend the press conferences as well as any other official media activity organized by CAF;

112.6 Of accepting the provisions taken by the host association of the final competition, by mutual agreement with CAF.

112.7 For familiarising itself with CAF's Media and Marketing regulations.

CHAPTER 43 - RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ORGANIZING ASSOCIATION

ARTICLE 113

The obligations and responsibilities of the host association relative to the final competition are stipulated in the Organising Association Agreement (O.A.A.) which should be signed by CAF and the organizing association. The latter is responsible:

113.1 Of maintaining law, order and security, in particular in the stadiums, and their accesses, as well as the proper conduct of the matches;

113.2 Of maintaining the law, order and security in the neighbourhoods of the hotels and training fields of participating teams;

113.3 Of granting the finalist teams, free tickets of access to the stadium in accordance to the quotas fixed by the organizing Committee.

ARTICLE 114

The host associations hereby indemnify and hold CAF and all of its officers, employees and other personnel (“Representatives”) harmless against any claims of whatsoever nature which may be made against CAF by any person for any losses, damage, injury or cost go whatsoever nature, suffered, arising out of, or in connection with, the acts or omissions of the host association, its Representatives, whether in terms of these regulations or otherwise, save for any such loss, damage, injury or cost which arises out of the gross negligence or willful default of CAF.

ARTICLE 115

115.1 The host associations will be responsible to make available a number of adequate places and necessary facilities installations for the local and foreign press representatives (press, radio, television and internet). The conditions that are to be



fulfilled by the host association concerning the installations for the media and the technical equipment are specified in the Media and Marketing Regulations.

115.2 The host associations shall be responsible of ensuring that the journalists, the photographers, the TV and radio commentators and the members of their accredited teams do not enter the pitch at any time before, during or after the match. Only a limited number of photographers and television personnel in charge of ensuring the technical side of the transmission, and all of them having a special accreditation for the event, could be admitted in the zone situated between the limits of the field and the spectators.

ARTICLE 116

The host country of AFCON is required to prevent all Competitions at the national level from taking place during the final tournament, failure to do so could lead to CAF sanctions.

CHAPTER 44 - COPYRIGHT

ARTICLE 117

The fixtures of the competition, the matches organised by the Organising Committee and all the data related to them are subject to a Copyright reserved for CAF.

CHAPTER 45 - LANGUAGE

ARTICLE 118

In case of disagreement relative to the interpretations of translations, the French text shall be deemed authentic.



CHAPTER 46 - MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR

ARTICLE 119

Matters not provided for in the present regulation shall be decided by the Organising Committee.

ARTICLE 120

CAF may modify or supplement the Regulations at any time, including but not limited to during the competition, by way of issuing a modified version of these Regulations or by issuing a circular letter or other document intended to modify or supplement them.

CHAPTER 47 - ADOPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REGULATIONS

ARTICLE 121

The present Regulations have been adopted by the Executive Committee of CAF on 18th November 2023 and shall come into force immediately.



CONFEDERATION AFRICAINE DE FOOTBALL

www.cafonline.com
info@cafonline.com

