

CAF  
**WOMEN'S**  
FOOTBALL



**CAF**®

**WOMEN'S CHAMPIONS LEAGUE  
REGULATIONS**

ENGLISH  
VERSION



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## Chapter 1 - Organisation of CAF Women Champions League

### Article 1

- 1.1. The African Football Confederation – CAF- shall organise every year a competition called CAF Women Champions League (WCL)
- 1.2. CAF reserves the right to add to this denomination the name of a sponsor partner.

### Article 2

- 2.1. CAF Women Champions League is open to the representative teams of the associations affiliated to CAF each Association being entitled to admit only one team.
- 2.2. An association that wishes to participate in CAF Women Champions League, must engage the champion club of its last national league. In case the national league was not organised, the association may nominate a club under its own responsibility and CAF reserves the right to approve its participation.
- 2.3. If this club champion of a federation cannot be engaged to CAF Champions League for various reasons, the Organizing Committee of Women Football reserves the right to accept the club vice-champion of the national league by virtue of an application to be submitted in accordance with the regulations of the federation and /or the present regulations.
- 2.4. The winner of CAF Women Champions League must take part in the next edition of CAF Champions League. In case the winner of the Women Champions League is at the same time the winner of the local league, the concerned association can engage the club vice champion of the local league.
- 2.5. To be eligible to participate in the competition, clubs must have obtained a licence issued by the competent national body in accordance with the CAF

Women's Club Licensing Regulations and be included in the list of licensing decisions to be submitted by this body to the CAF administration by the given deadline.

Refusal to participate shall entail the following sanctions:

- Prohibition to participate for 1 edition without counting the edition that the club refused to participate.

### Article 3

CAF Women Champions League shall consist of two phases:

- 3.1. A qualifying phase.
- 3.2. A final tournament.

## **Chapter 2 - Organising Committee**

### Article 4

CAF Organizing Committee for Women Football and the Zonal Organizing Committee (under the supervision of CAF) will be in charge of applying of the regulations governing the competition and the organisation of the competition. It is competent for:

Qualifiers:

- Organising the drawing of lots,
- Elaborating the competition calendar that comprises of:
  - The number of the match,
  - The names of the teams,
  - The venue, the date and kick off time of the match,
  - The names of the appointed referees,
  - The week-end (Friday-Saturday-Sunday) fixed for each match.
- Settling financial disputes in case the associations fail to come to an agreement in compliance with the present regulations.

#### Qualifiers and final phases:

- Ensuring that the sanctions taken by any CAF body are implemented.
- Replacing, in conformity with the present regulations, the teams declaring their withdrawal.
- 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.
- Taking decisions in cases of force majeure.
- 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;
- In emergency cases, the Organising Committee may take decisions by correspondence or by fax or email.

#### Final Phase:

- Ensuring, with the collaboration of the organising association, the preparatory work of the Final Tournament.
- Proceeding to the drawing of lots.
- Fixing, after consulting the organising associations, the dates, the venues and the kick-off times of the matches.
- Taking all the necessary decisions for the good organisation of the competition in compliance with the provisions of the present regulations.
- Creating Sub-Committees having the rights and prerogatives of the Organising Committee.

## Chapter 3 - Trophy and Medals of the final tournament

### Article 5

The winner of each edition will receive a replica with the same dimensions of the original trophy

### Article 6

CAF shall grant thirty (30) gold medals to the winner and thirty (30) silver medals to the finalist.

### Article 7

CAF shall grant thirty (30) bronze medals to the team ranked third and thirty (30) diplomas to the team ranked fourth in the Final Tournament.

### Article 8

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

## **Chapter 4 - Fair-play**

### Article 9

A Fair-Play trophy shall be awarded to the team that will have obtained the best fair-play ranking during the final phase of CAF Women Champions League, in conformity with the CAF Fair-play regulations.

## **Chapter 5 - Other Prizes and Rewards**

### Article 10

The granting of any other trophies, prizes and awards requires the agreement of

CAF Executive Committee. Any physical or moral person who wishes to present a prize or an award to one or several players and /or to teams, on the occasion of CAF Women Champions League, must formulate a request to the General Secretariat of CAF, at the latest three months before the competition.

## Chapter 6 – Entries

### Article 11

- 11.1. The national associations wishing to participate in CAF Women Champions League should formulate their request to the General Secretariat of CAF by the dates that will be fixed by CAF and in accordance with the engagement procedures set by CAF. In case, the qualifiers are organized by zonal tournaments, the associations submit their request to the zonal unions.
- 11.2. The Champion club of the national association organising the final phase of CAF Women Champions League is automatically admitted. If for any reason the champion club of the national association participates in the qualifiers and was among the teams qualified to the final tournament, it will be replaced by the last team it had eliminated and will participate as a host team.
- 11.3. As part of their duties, clubs in order to participate the CAF Women Champions League, must comply with the requirements as set out in the CAF Women's Club Licensing Regulations.
- 11.4. On entering the competition, participating clubs agree to provide to CAF the name of the head coach and to play all matches under a head coach who holds at least a CAF licence or equivalent as defined by CAF for the competition, who is confirmed as the head coach by the relevant national association and who is responsible for the following matters: selection, tactics and training of the team squad and management of the players and technical staff in the dressing room and the technical area before, during and after the match.

## Chapter 7 - Qualifiers

### Article 12

The qualifiers will be organized by the 6 zones recognized in CAF statutes. Each zone will qualify one team to the final tournament and the zone of the team holder of the title will engage two teams (the holder of the title in addition to another team). For the 1<sup>st</sup> edition seeing that there is no holder of title, the zone of the country holding the title of the Women Africa Cup of Nations will engage 2 teams. Seven teams will qualify to the final tournament in addition to the champion team of the host country who is automatically qualified.

A zonal qualifiers tournament will be organized by each zone to determine the team qualified to the final tournament.

Each zone must communicate to CAF 6 months before the final tournament the following:

- The host country of the zonal tournament
- The engagement of the government of the host country
- The engaged clubs
- The format of the tournament

In case a zonal union is unable to provide the above documents before the deadline, CAF reserves the right to organise the qualifiers of the said zone by knock-out system by home and away matches.

### Article 13

In case the qualifiers are organized by zonal tournament qualifying to the final phase:

**13.1.** The matches are organized following the same technical criteria stipulated in the provisions of the final tournament in the actual regulations.

**13.2.** The Organizing Committee of the zones is in charge, after the approval of CAF, to designate the match officials.

**13.3. Financial responsibility of the host association:**

The host association of the zonal tournament has the obligation to cover the following expenses:

- State taxes, provincial or municipal, if actually paid,
- Accommodation for the teams and Officials (Referees, General Coordinators, Match Commissioners, committee members, and others)
- Flight tickets for all above mentioned officials (teams pay for their flight tickets)
- Indemnities following the below scheme:
  - Referees: 50 \$ per day on full board basis
  - Officials: 100\$ per day on Bed and Breakfast basis (General Coordinators, Match Commissioners, committee members, and others)

The Host Country assume the following costs:

- Operational Costs (such as Field rent, ambulance...)
- Internal Transportation
- Reserves are made for cases of exceptional expenses, which are to be decided by the Executive Committee.
- Endorsable air passage tickets for officials must be issued by the Organizing Association and sent to them along with their invitation at least 15 days before the start of the Final Tournament.

**13.4. Responsibility of the participating associations:**

Each participating team is responsible of:

- The obligatory health insurance, accidents, and trip for all the members of the delegation.
- The payment of flight tickets of their delegation
- Any clause that is not stipulated in the articles concerning the zonal qualifiers is covered by the related articles stipulated in the final tournament clauses of the present regulations.

## Chapter 8 - Organisation of the matches

### Article 14

14.1 In case of the organization of the qualifiers by home / away matches:

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 of the competition.

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 recommendations of the International Board. The team scoring the greatest number of goals shall be qualified for the next round of the competition.

14.2. The matches are played exclusively in the order established by the zonal Union /CAF. The dates fixed are final and cannot be changed except in case of force majeure recognised as such by the zonal union / CAF.

14.3 The following conditions shall be applied for the qualifiers:

- The association 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 one thousand five hundred (1.500) US Dollars.

-The matches of the qualifiers must be played in stadiums which meet the structural criteria and requirements of category set in the CAF Stadium Regulations.

- The matches may be played in daylight or under floodlight. If played under floodlights, the illuminance must correspond to the requirements set in the CAF Stadium Regulations.

- The matches shall be played on natural turf or artificial turf. When in case artificial turf is used for the matches of the competition between

representative teams, this turf should meet the requirements of the FIFA regulations for artificial turf.

- The host association shall put at the disposal of the visiting team a training field during their entire sojourn and at their convenience.

- The matches shall be played in compliance with the laws decided by the International Football Association Board and promulgated by FIFA.

- When the stadium of the capital is suspended or unavailable and the national association is compelled to play its match in the stadium of another city, the following conditions should be respected: 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 (round trip). 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. In case this is not possible, the match will be played at 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 km; and if the visiting team wishes to land directly at this airport; the host association must facilitate all formalities for entry.

- 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.

- The matches cannot start before 2:00 p.m. and not after 10:00 p.m., unless approval is granted exceptionally by the Organizing Committee.

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

- The match will resume starting from the minute at which it was interrupted rather than being replayed in full, and with the same score;
- The match is resumed with the same players, on the field and with the same substitutes which were available when the match was interrupted;
- No additional replacement will be added to the list of players summoned;
- Teams are only allowed the number of substitutions that they were entitled to when the match was interrupted;
- Players sent off during the match was interrupted cannot be replaced;

- Any sanction imposed before the match was interrupted remains in force for the rest the match;
- The time, date and kick-off location will be decided by the match commissioner;
- The match can eventually be continued in another stadium in the same city.

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

- The additional sojourn expenses of the visiting team and the match officials, in relation to accommodation within the hosting country as well as internal transportation, 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.

- 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.

In case the power cut occurs in zonal tournaments or final tournaments and the referee stopped it definitively, the Zonal Committee under the supervision of CAF Organizing Committee shall take the necessary decision

- The organising national associations of the competition of CAF Women Champions League are required to conclude civil liability insurance; a copy of this policy is to be sent to CAF three months before the start of the competition in accordance with its specifications.

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

#### 14.4 In the case of a qualifying phase by knockout system (Home & Away):

- the host association is entitled to play its match in the capital of its own 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.

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

- 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.
- 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. The appointed CAF officials have the right to cancel the training session depending on the condition of the pitch. The date and time of the training session can be rescheduled by CAF.
- Unless stated otherwise, the venue and the day of the match will be determined by the host federation that shall inform the General Secretariat of CAF and the opposing team thirty (30) days before the first match. The kick-off time will be fixed at least twenty (20) days before the match. Failure to each of these obligations shall entail a fine of two thousand (2000) US dollars.
- If thirty (30) days before the dates retained by CAF, the host association does not fix the venue and the day of the match, CAF will fix them automatically. CAF can, at any moment amend the dates, kick-off times or the venues of the matches.
- If the referee is forced to stop definitively a match due to darkness before the end of the regular time, and if a delay of the kick off time is the cause behind it, the team of the host Association will lose the match and will be eliminated from the competition.
- If the match is interrupted due to darkness before the end of the regular time and if the visiting team is the cause behind it, except in cases of force majeure, the latter shall be considered loser and shall be eliminated from the competition.
- 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.
- For nocturnal matches, if the match is interrupted due to darkness following a power cut, the referee shall stop definitively the game after waiting for forty-five (45) minutes. The power cut cannot be considered as a case of force majeure 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 two matches is not in favour of the visiting team. In this case, the match is to be replayed 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 as a loser.

## Chapter 9 - Match on Neutral Ground in case of a qualifying phase by knockout system (Home & Away)

### Article 15

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

### Article 16

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 17

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

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

17.2 If this case concerns the two countries, only one match will be played on a neutral ground. In case of a draw match at the end of the match end of the regular time, session of penalty kicks will be used directly to determine the winner.

## Chapter 11 – Balls

### Article 18

The host Federation shall provide for each match at least twelve (14) 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."

In case of a qualifying phase by knockout system (Home & Away):

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 19

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 20

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

## Chapter 12 - The Match Commissioner

### Article 21

21.1. The Zonal Unions recognized by CAF statutes designate, under the supervision of CAF, a match commissioner for every game in the zonal

tournaments. 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. In the home / away matches, CAF will designate the commissioners.

21.2. 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 following his designation, in order to allow the Secretariat to 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.

21.3. If a presentation of the teams to the authorities is approved by CAF, the match commissioner must accompany the guest of honour. He/she shall present the referees and the captains of the two teams to the guest of honour:

21.4. On the eve of the match or in the morning of the day of the match, the commissioner must convene and preside a technical meeting for the officials of both teams with the referees designated for the match in order to explain the main points of the rules of the competition. He must ensure the fulfilment of all conditions necessary for the regularity of the match especially which concerns the control service, the stay of the referees and the visiting team, the 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.

21.5. 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 above-mentioned para. 21.4.

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

21.7. 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.

21.8. 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.

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

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

21.11. If the match commissioner receives before the start of the game, a protest from a team on an article of the regulation, he/she must try to reconcile the points of view within the framework of the regulation. If he/she does not succeed, he/she 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.

21.12. The match commissioner shall observe the match in all its aspects 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/she 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/she 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.

21.13. 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 class flight 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 flight ticket, he will be authorized to pay his own ticket and to travel to the venue of the match. In this case, the host association apart from his sojourn expenses must refund his round trip flight, 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.

21.14. The absence of the commissioner cannot constitute an obstacle to the playing of the match 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.

21.15. 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. In such case only the referee's report will bear witness.

## Chapter 13 - Referees and Assistant Referees

### Article 22

The Referees and assistant referees designated for CAF Women Champions League 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:

22.1. The Referees Department designates by name one referee, two assistant referees and one reserve referee (all neutral) to officiate the matches of CAF Women Champions League qualifiers. The referees' Committee designates the referees of the matches of the final tournament.

22.2 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.

22.3. 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.

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

22.5 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.

In case of home and away matches:

22.6. 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.

22.7 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.

22.8 Any Association that sends PTAs must inform the association to which the referees belong of the dispatch of the PTAs. If the PTAs for the referees are sent on time by the host country and the referees fail to travel, a fine will be imposed upon the national association to which the referees belong.

22.9 In case of 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.

22.10 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.

22.11 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.

22.12 In case of absence of the appointed referees and the match commissioner, and if the visiting team 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 4<sup>th</sup> local referee registered on the FIFA list of the current year of international referees and the

list of international assistant referees and appointed by the host association.

22.13. If the visiting team is not accompanied by an international referee, the provisions of the above article 22.8 shall be applied and CAF informed.

22.14 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 in the running of the game. In default, he will be severely sanctioned.

22.15 The new expenses incurred in the 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.

22.16 If after the playing of the match in the conditions referred to in the above article 22.8, 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.

22.17 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 22-8 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.

## Chapter 14 - Other match officials

### Article 23

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 appointed referees and attend the match in the official tribune where a seat in the first row should be reserved for him. At the end of the match he will send to the General Secretariat of CAF maximum within 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 24

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 within 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 25

The General Coordinator designated by CAF, shall assist the match commissioner for the good organisation and the smooth running of the match. He is particularly in charge of:

- Ensuring the compliance of the reception and sojourn rules of the officials and teams,
- Ensuring the compliance of CAF commitments in the issues of marketing, publicity and audio-visual retransmissions,
- Ensuring the compliance of the fixed schedules and timings of the match protocol.

At the end of the match he will send to the General Secretariat of CAF maximum within 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 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 Book 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 media officer room (Photocopying machine, paper, toilet, desk, chairs, mineral water...).

At the end of the match he will send to the General Secretariat of CAF maximum

within 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 15 - Facilities and covering the expenses for teams and match officials in the home and away matches**

### **Article 27**

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

### **Article 28**

The visiting association shall assume the travel expenses of its delegation including its full board accommodation in case of a qualifying phase by knockout system (Home & Away). The host association shall assume the local transportation of the visiting team, starting from three days before the match and two days after, at the most.

### **Article 29**

Reception requirements

The following minimum requirements for reception should be strictly respected:

29.1. Reception at the airport: A Committee composed 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.

29.2. 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 till the time of their departure. Any additional vehicles are subject to an agreement between the two associations.

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

29.4 The host federation could, if possible, assist the visiting team in the reservation of the-rooms.

29. 5. Security measures: The law enforcement forces (the police) 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 law enforcement forces (the police) must prevent any pitch invasion of the field and any attack against players or officials, inside and outside the stadium.

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

### **Article 30**

In case of qualifiers organised by home and away matches, the following financial conditions are applied:

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 allowances 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 allowances of all other CAF officials in conformity to CAF scheme.

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

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.

If the commissioner returns home without the host federation having settled all expenses that are due to them in accordance with the regulations, a fine of four thousand US dollars (4 000 US \$) will be imposed upon the defaulting federation.

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

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 the above articles, are correct.

## Chapter 16 - Qualification of Players in the qualifying phase

### Article 31

Online system:

The federations will receive a link and a password communicated by CAF in order to fill on the internet the following information:

- Number of the jersey of the player.
- Nationality of the player.
- The name of the player as it appears in her official national identity documents.
- The surname of the player as it appears in her official national identity documents.
- The complete date of birth of the player (day,month,year) as it appears in her official national identity documents.
- The home address of the player.
- Confirmation from a doctor that the player is medically fit to practice football.
- The name of the last club in which the player was registered.
- The country of the last club in which the player was registered.
- ITC (International Transfer Certificate) shall be uploaded in case the country of the last club in is different than the actual one.
- The number and the date of registration of the player's license in her own Association
- The clear photograph of the player will be uploaded.

### Article 32

The said information should be filled in accordance to the present regulations. After the deadlines, the system will not accept any registration.

CAF will issue a high quality secured license or send an official list that will contain the main information of the players filled by the national association.

### Article 33

1. A player who is qualified to play in CAF Women Champions League must:
  - a) Possess a license in her club issued by its national association and registered in her federation on the 31<sup>st</sup> of March of the same year of the competition at the latest.
  - b) Possess a license issued by CAF or her name is figuring on the list of players sent by CAF
  - c) Be qualified regularly in the national championship of the country for the club engaged in the CAF Women Champions League.
  - d) Live in the country of the club for which she is playing.
2. A player is not qualified to play in CAF Women Champions League in case she was registered with a club and then loaned by this club to another one unless he was registered again before the final tournament.
3. A player who has changed her National Association (international transfer), her transfer certificate must reach the Secretariat in order to be qualified to play in CAF Women Champions League and the date of issuance of the ITC must be 31<sup>st</sup> of March of the same year of the competition at the latest.
4. A complete list of a maximum of 30 players, along with the number of their licenses, validated by their national associations, must be registered on the online system or sent to CAF Secretariat in case of using the offline system.
5. This list must be registered before the 31<sup>st</sup> of March of the same year of the competition.
6. Starting from the 1<sup>st</sup> of April of the year of the start of the competition, no player can be replaced from the list nor added to the list until the end of the qualifying phase.

### Article 34

In case of qualifiers organized by home and away matches, only the 30 players registered before 31<sup>st</sup> March are allowed to participate in the qualifiers.

In case of qualifiers organized by zonal tournament, each club shall register 21 players 10 days before the first match of the zonal tournament. These 21 players are among the 30 players already registered before 31<sup>st</sup> March. Hence, 9 players shall be removed from the initial list.

Any national Association that does not conform to this provision will pay to CAF a fine of five thousand (5.000) US dollars. No other modification to the list of twenty-one (21) players will be allowed, unless in cases of force majeure recognized as such by the organising Committee. If the list of 21 players is not received 7 days prior to the kick-off day of the Final Tournament, the concerned team will be only allowed to register 19 players.

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. Zonal or CAF medical Committee must approve his substitution in written, after reception and approval of a detailed medical certificate. The zonal or CAF medical Committee shall write a certificate attesting that the wound is sufficiently serious to prevent the player from participating at CAF Women Champions League and will submit this certificate to the Organising Committee for approval.

Once the certificate is approved, the association should then immediately appoint a substitute and inform the zonal union and CAF General Secretariat accordingly.

The name of the twenty one (21) players must be written on the list of each match in the zonal tournament (11 players and 10 substitutes). Only 17 persons (7 officials and 10 substitutes) shall be authorised to sit on the substitution bench.

## **Article 35**

1. During the same year a player is in principle only eligible to play for one and the same club in CAF Women Champions League. However a player even though registered on the list of a club as substitute who has not been fielded in any match of CAF Women Champions League will be authorised to play for another participating club in CAF Women Champions League during the same year so long as all the regulations are complied with. This Case may only be applicable in the change in the list from the qualifying phase to the final tournament.

2. The players' licenses or the list of players duly validated by CAF in conformity with the provisions of the present regulations must be presented by the officials of the two teams to the referee before the match for verification. Each team may check the licenses of the opposing team.

3. The referee must give back to the captains of the two teams all the players' licenses with the exception of the ones belonging to players whose qualification has been regularly contested by the opposing team.
4. All disputes concerning the regularity of the licenses may be subject to protest lodged in conformity with the present regulations and submitted to CAF Organising Committee for decision. The copy of the licenses of the contested players must be sent by the commissioner of the match to the Secretariat of CAF along with his or her official report.
5. If a team whose licenses were received at CAF within the stipulated deadline and this team cannot present the licenses of one or more players, the referee can allow them to take part in the match provided that they take photographs of the players with the referee and commissioner. The match referee must send these photographs to CAF Secretariat together with his or her report so that in case of a confirmed protest lodged by the opponents the photographs will be compared with the photographs of the licenses deposited at the Secretariat, as per the provisions of the present regulations.
6. If the non-presentation of one or many licenses is due to negligence from the team, the latter will have to pay a fine of one hundred US Dollars (\$100) for every missing license card, in the case of CAF having printed out and sent these licenses to the said team.

### Article 36

1. Substitutes up to a maximum of three per team are permitted at any time during the match.
2. A substituted player can no more take part in the match. Before the start of the game, the names of seven players three of whom may be called upon to play as substitutes must be registered on the match form.

### Article 37

In case of Protest against the gender of a female player, the " FIFA Gender Regulations" will be applied.

### Article 38

Every club may, at its own discretion, modify the formation of its team, between one match and another, even in case of matches to be replayed, provided that only the players appearing registered before 31<sup>st</sup> of March and approved by CAF are used.

### **Article 39**

However, teams qualified to the final tournament are allowed to modify their list of players.

## **Chapter 17 - Sanctions of Players**

### **Article 40**

40.1. 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 zonal union Secretariat (for the zonal tournaments) and by CAF secretariat (for the final tournaments) to the concerned Associations.

40.2 The cautions received during the matches of the 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.

At the end of the first phase of the ZONAL and 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.

40.3 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 her subsequently.

40.4 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 her subsequently.

40.5. 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 her subsequently.

40.6 The suspensions for more than one match shall be applicable to the matches of this competition – CAF Women Champions League – and/or the matches of any another women clubs competition organised by CAF.

40.7 In case of serious violations, the guilty player might be suspended not only from CAF Women Champions League but also from all the competitions of CAF.

40.8 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.

40.9 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.

In zonal tournaments, the secretariat of the zonal union is in charge of the communication of the suspensions and all matters related to Disciplinary measures.

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

40.11 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.

40.12 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.

40.13 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 41

#### Protests

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

41.1. 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.

41.2 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.  
In case of Zonal tournaments, the protests are handled by the Zonal Union organising Committee.

41.3 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.

41.4. If a national association requests, for players whose qualification is contested to be confronted, this association will have to cover the whole expenses incurred for the transport and the sojourn of players and officials accompanying them. If its claim is accepted the expenses will be borne by the association guilty of fraud.

41.5 Other protests are to be communicated to the Secretariat of CAF and the zonal union 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.

41.6 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.

41.7 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 42

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. In case of Zonal tournaments, the appeals are handled by the Zonal Union Jury

42.1 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.

42.2 The appeal must reach the 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

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

42.4 During the Final Tournament of CAF Women Champions League all decisions taken by the organising Committee and or by the disciplinary board, with 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.

42.5 Any decision that may be appealable can be it 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.

42.6 When the appeal comes from the Executive Committee, the defendant is informed, and about the deadline up to which he can submit his comments.

42.7 in case of a main appeal interjected by the plaintiff or his National Association (with the written agreement of the concerned person, 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.

42.8 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 43

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 44

In case the alleged facts are true, the convicted national association will be suspended from participation in the following two editions of CAF Women Champions League.

### Article 45

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

### Article 46

Each player must possess a passport containing her photograph and giving full particulars on the player's age (day, month and year of birth). A player, who does not have a passport issued by the competent authorities, shall not be authorised to participate in the Championship.

## Chapter 21 - List of players of the home and away matches

### Article 47

If the qualifiers are played by home and away matches:

18 players will be allowed on the match list, and no more than 14 people (7 officials and 7 substitutes) shall be allowed to sit on the substitute's 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 forbid 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.

## Chapter 22 - Colours of jerseys and shorts – Numbering

### Article 48

1. Each team must wear the colours registered by its club. The colours & clear photos of the kits must be submitted on the Competition Management System (CMS).
2. When, in the opinion of the referee, the official and duly registered colours of the two opposing teams might lead to confusion, the visiting team must change its jerseys.
3. If the match is played in a neutral country, a draw shall be made to determine the team having to change its jerseys.
4. Every team must have two spare outfits available, other than their originally registered colours.
5. The jerseys of the players must be numbered from 1 to 30 if the qualifiers are played by home and away matches and from 1 to 21 if the qualifiers are played by zonal tournament. The jerseys' numbers must be identical to the numbers indicated on the players' licenses and this for the whole duration of the competition.
6. Advertisement is permitted on the players' kits, provided that such advertisement is (i) allowed by the country in which the match is being played and (ii) complies with the kit regulations.
7. The visiting team must always travel with two kinds of kits one having publicity on it and one totally free from publicity.

### Article 49

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

### Article 50

The match commissioner and referees must see that above provisions are strictly observed and if needs be, prevent the playing of the match. The faulty team shall be sanctioned according to CAF Equipment regulations.

## **Chapter 23 – Flags**

### Article 51

Every travelling team must carry the flag of its country.

## **Chapter 24 - Publicity In the Stadia**

### Article 52

Publicity for alcohol and tobacco is permitted on the occasion of all matches organised by CAF within the framework of CAF Women Champions League, provided that the laws of the host country allow such publicity.

## **Chapter 25 - Transmission and Publicity Rights**

### Article 53

The transmission and publicity rights of all matches during the preliminary

rounds are the propriety of CAF. The national associations should respect all CAF agreements, contracts and engagements. CAF will distribute the publicity receipts to the participating teams.

## Chapter 26 – Doping

### Article 54

54.1. 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.

54.2. Doping is strictly forbidden internationally.

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

54.4 The organising committee has the right to carry out anti-doping control on the players at any time during the matches of CAF Women Champions League.

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

54.6 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 CAF Women Champions League.

## Chapter 27 - Forfeit, Withdrawals, Refusal to Play, and Replacement

### Article 55

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 56

Any team declaring forfeit after having registered and before the drawing of lots is liable to a fine of one thousand two hundred and fifty US dollars (1,250 US \$). It shall also not be allowed to participate in the next edition of CAF Women Champions League.

### Article 57

Any team declaring forfeit after the drawing of lots and before the start of matches is liable to a fine of two thousands five hundred (~~2,500~~) U.S. dollars. It will also not be allowed to participate in the next edition of CAF Women Champions League.

### Article 58

Any team declaring forfeit after the start of the matches is liable to a fine of five thousand (~~5,000~~) U.S. dollars. It will also not be allowed to participate in the next edition of CAF Women Champions League.

### Article 59

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

### Article 60

If the qualifiers are organized by group matches and If a team withdraws during the group matches, all its results shall be annulled (points, scored and conceded goals).

### Article 61

Any team that withdraws or refuses to play the return match after having played the first leg on its own territory must refund the team of the visiting team a minimum sum of four thousand (4,000) U.S. dollars in repair to the damage suffered by the host country.

### Article 62

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 as looser and shall be eliminated for good from the current competition.

### Article 63

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 64

The guilty team under the terms of the above articles will be eliminated for good from the competition. This team will lose its matches 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 65

The guilty team shall be excluded from the tournament and as a result none of its matches shall be taken into consideration, unless the incidents mentioned in the above articles did not occur in the last group match. The Organising Committee can take further measures.

### Article 66

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

## Chapter 28 – Organisation of the Final Tournament

### Article 67

8 representative teams shall be qualified for the Final Tournament.

67.1 Only the team champion of the association organising the Final Tournament and the holder of the title are automatically qualified.

67.2 The other teams are qualified for the final tournament after the matches of the qualifying round.

67.3 The matches of the Final Tournament must be played on the territory of the organising association. In case of co-organisation, the matches must be played on the territories of the co-organiser countries.

67.4. The opening of the final phase of CAF Women Champions League must be held during the second semester of the year.

67.5 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.

67.6 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 21 players selected and registered on the sheet of the match to take part in the match.

67.7 The matches of the final tournament must be played in stadiums which meet the structural criteria and requirements of category set in the CAF Stadium Regulations.

67.8 The final must be played in a stadium which meets the structural criteria as defined in the staging agreement.

## Chapter 29 - Colours of jerseys and shorts – Numbering

### Article 68

Each team shall communicate to CAF, a month before the kick-off of the Final Tournament, the main colours and the reserve colours of its equipment. The numbers from 1 to 21 on the shirts and shorts as well as the players' names on the shirts must comply with the CAF Equipment 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 69

69.1 Ten (10) days before the first match of the Final Tournament, a list of a maximum of twenty one (21) players must be submitted to CAF secretariat and the concerned teams. Any national Association that does not conform to this provision will pay to CAF a fine of five thousand (5.000) US dollars. No other modification to the list of twenty-one (21) players will be allowed, unless in cases of force majeure recognized as such by the organising Committee. If the list of 21 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 19 players.

69.2 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 written, 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 CAF Women Champions League and will submit this certificate to the Organising Committee for approval.

Once the certificate is approved, the association should then immediately

appoint a substitute and inform CAF General Secretariat accordingly. CAF General Secretariat shall publish the final list of twenty-one (21) players.

69.3 The name of the twenty one (21) players must be written on the list of each match (11 players and 10 substitutes). Only 17 persons (7 officials and 10 substitutes) shall be authorised to sit on the substitution bench.

## Chapter 31 - First Phase of the Final Tournament

### Article 70

70.1 Two groups A, B, each of four teams shall be formed by the Organising Committee of CAF.

The organising country shall be the head of group A. Group B shall comprise the holder of the trophy, if qualified, or the team having obtained the best classification in the previous tournament.

70.2 The other teams shall be distributed in the groups by a public drawing of lots to which the representatives of the participating teams will be invited. However, the absence of these representatives shall not prevent the organisation of the draw on the scheduled day.

70.3 The date of the drawing of lots will be fixed by the Organizing Committee.

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

70.5 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 71

71.1 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:

- 71.1.1 The greatest number of points obtained in the match between the two teams concerned;
- 71.1.2 The goal difference in all group matches;

- 71.1.3 The greatest number of goals scored in all group matches
- 71.1.4 A drawing of lots conducted by the Organising Committee

- 71.2 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:
- 71.2.1 The greatest number of points obtained in the matches between the teams concerned;
  - 71.2.2 The best goal difference in the matches between the teams concerned;
  - 71.2.3 The greatest number of goals scored in the matches between the teams concerned;
  - 71.2.4 If after applying criteria 71.2.1 to 71.2.3, two teams are still tied, 71.2.1 to 71.2.3 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 classifying them, the criteria listed from 71.2.5 to 71.2.7 are applied in the indicated order;
  - 71.2.5 The goal difference in all group matches;
  - 71.2.6 The greatest number of goals scored in all group matches;
  - 71.2.7 A drawing of lots conducted by the Organising Committee;

## Chapter 32 - Second Phase of the Final Tournament

### Article 72

- 72.1 At the conclusion of the two group matches, the first and the second of each group shall be qualified for the semi-final.  
The semi-final matches shall be played in the following order:
- i. Winner Group A/Second Group B
  - ii. Winner Group B/Second Group A

72.2 The semi-final 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.

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

72.4. 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.

### **Article 73**

The matches shall be played in daylight or under floodlights. If played under floodlights, the illuminance must correspond to the requirements set in the CAF Stadium Regulations.

## **Chapter 33 - Organising Sub-Committees**

### **Article 74**

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.

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

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

## **Chapter 34 - Withdrawals, sanctions for refusal to play and replacement**

### **Article 75**

A forfeit declared from the qualification to the drawing of lots, shall entail, a fine of twenty five thousand (25,000) US dollars, as well as the suspension of the relevant Team for next edition of CAF Women Champions League, except in cases of force majeure as defined by the Organising Committee of CAF.

### Article 76

A forfeit declared after the drawing of lots and up to twenty days before the start of the final competition results, in a fine of fifty thousand (50,000) U.S. dollars, as well as the suspension of the team for the following two editions of CAF Women Champions League, except in cases of force majeure as defined by the Organising Committee of CAF.

### Article 77

A forfeit declared less than twenty days before the start of the final competition or during it, shall entail, a fine of seventy five thousand (75,000) U.S. dollars as well as the suspension of the relevant team for the next two editions of CAF Women Champions League except in cases of force majeure as defined by the Organising Committee of CAF.

### Article 78

For any team qualified for the final phase, the concerned team must enter its best representative team. If a team 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 79

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

looser and shall be eliminated for good from the current competition. The same shall apply for the teams previously disqualified by decision of CAF.

### **Article 80**

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 81**

The guilty team under the terms of articles 79 and 80 shall be eliminated for good from the competition. This team will lose its matches 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 82**

The guilty team shall be eliminated from the tournament and as a result none of its matches shall be taken into consideration, unless the incidents mentioned in article 80 did not occur in the last group match. The Organising Committee may adopt further measures.

### **Article 83**

If a team withdraws after its qualification to 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, unless otherwise decided by the Organising Committee.

### Article 84

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 85

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

### Article 86

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 87

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

### Article 88

If a country having been entrusted with the organisation of the Final Tournament of CAF Women Champions League is desisting or the organisation has been withdrawn from it, this country, shall be subject, in addition to further disciplinary sanctions, to a fine fixed according to the following scale:

88.1. Withdrawal notified two or more years prior to the Final Tournament: a fine of twenty five thousand (25,000) U.S. dollars

88.2. Withdrawal notified less than two years before the date of the Final Tournament: a fine of seventy five thousand (75,000) U.S. dollars

88.3. Withdrawal notified within one year before the date of the Final Tournament: a fine of one hundred and twenty five thousand (125,000) U.S. dollars and a suspension of all its affiliated teams from the following edition of CAF Women Champions League.

88.4. Withdrawal notified less than six months before the date of the Final Tournament: a fine of two hundred and fifty thousand (250,000) U.S dollars and this country will bear the expenses of all moral and financial damage suffered by CAF and the participants. All its affiliated teams will also be suspended for the following two editions of CAF Women Champions League.

## Chapter 36 - national colours- prohibited manifestations

### Article 89

89.1. For the final competition, the flags of the finalist countries must be sent to the organising country and CAF two months before the start of the Final Tournament. A letter indicating the dispatch of these materials to the organising country must be sent to the secretariat of CAF.

89.2. During the Final Tournament, 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 reserved for the accommodation of officials, referees and competitors.

89.3. Written or audio-visual slogans offensive/or non offensive to other countries' political or religious convictions are not permitted in the stadia, the accommodation places 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 90

90.1 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.

90.2 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 91**

91.1 At the end of each match, the referee shall establish a report by using the software of competitions management system of CAF (CMS) before leaving the stadium

91.2 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 (cautions and expulsions).

## **Chapter 38 - Financial Regulations**

### **Article 92**

In case of direct exploitation of TV rights during the qualification phase, each National Federation shall pay CAF a fixed fee of one thousand (1,000) U.S. dollars per game.

### **Article 93**

93.1 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 the publicity inside and outside the stadia during the whole tournament.

93.2 The television and broadcasting rights, the revenues from advertising, the merchandising rights and the symbols exploitation belong exclusively to CAF.

93.3. The television and broadcasting on the one hand and the revenues from publicity inside and outside the stadia as well as the symbols exploitation on the other hand, shall be subject to separate contracts and freely negotiated between CAF and specialised agencies for one or more successive editions.

93.4 The television and publicity rights of the draw ceremony of the final phase belong to CAF. They shall be subject to separate contracts and freely negotiated between CAF and specialised agencies.

93.5 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 within the contracts signed with the specialised agencies, and to facilitate the task of the specialised agencies.

93.6 The National Associations are required to ensure compliance with the contractual obligations of CAF in relation to TV and marketing rights. In case of non-compliance to CAF commitments by the National Association, or in case of piracy of the TV signal, 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.

93.7 Twenty (20) % of the revenues from the television, broadcasting and publicity rights will be attributed to the host association(s), as well as all revenues resulting from ticketing.

93.8 The qualified teams will receive prize money based on their ranking in the Final Tournament and in accordance with the CAF Grid.

## **Article 94**

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

94.1 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.

94.2 The necessary installations, the international signal and sound towards the satellite as well as the indispensable technical personnel to ensure the live and regularly terrestrial transmission of matches. In return, the Organising countries

shall be allowed to transmit live all the matches inside their territory and for which they had provided all the above facilities.

### Article 95

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 on their territory.

### Article 96

The symbol and the mascot of the Final Tournament shall be proposed by the holder of the publicity rights at least twelve (12) months before the opening date of the Final Tournament. They shall not be given a final recognition until CAF, in consultation with the Organising Country has approved them.

### Article 97

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 tickets prices of different categories for the Final Tournament matches. The Finance Committee may, if it deems it necessary, recommend the organising association, the modification of the prices of the match tickets.

### Article 98

The Organising Association of the Final Tournament has the obligation to cover the following expenses:

98.1 State taxes, provincial or municipal, if actually paid,

98.2 The sojourn expenses of the teams of the participating– teams for a maximum of 28 persons per team, starting from three (3) days before the first match of every team up to two (2) days after its last match, exception made due to the absence of regular flight service.

98.3. The expenses of economy class flight, sojourn and daily indemnity of 150 US\$ for referees and assistant referees and VAR referees for a maximum of 20 days.

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

98.5 The expenses of travel, sojourn and daily indemnity of 100 US \$ (one hundred US dollars) for:

- 98.5.1 The members of the organizing committee,
- 98.5.2 The Deputy Secretary General of CAF,
- 98.5.3 The general coordinators and their assistants,
- 98.5.4 Honorary members,
- 98.5.5 The members of the Disciplinary and Appeal Boards,
- 98.5.6 The members of the Referees' Committee,
- 98.5.7 The members of the Medical Committee.

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 return to their country. A daily amount shall be allocated by the Host association to the members of CAF for food expenses.

98.6 The quotas of the tickets are determined for each match as follows:

- 50% capacity of each of the following categories (Presidential box, VVIP, VIP and Premium)
- 200 tickets for the stands (Category 1) next to the presidential box
- 300 ticket for the stands (Category 2) 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 added to the tickets of the partners and sponsors mentioned in the Marketing and Media circulars, regulations and OAA.

98.7 Reserves are made for cases of exceptional expenses, which are to be definitely decided by the Executive Committee.

### Article 99

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 100

100.1 The payment provided for in these regulations must be made according to the official rate of exchange on the day. They are made without restrictions or special taxes.

100.2 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 101

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

## **Chapter 39 – Government Engagements for the Organisation of CAF Women Champions League**

### Article 102

The national associations organising the competition shall give a written engagement of its government assuring that:

102.1 All the members of CAF and the affiliated associations shall obtain the necessary entry and sojourn visas for the whole duration of the event.

102.2-The Statutes and Regulations of CAF shall be strictly observed, particularly the financial regulations.

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

## Chapter 40 - Engagement of the Participating teams

### Article 103

The National Associations and their clubs taking part in the CAF Women's Champions League (qualifying and final phases) undertake formally to fully observe the Regulations of the competition, the marketing and media 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 unreservedly.

### Article 104

Each participating team is responsible of:

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

104.2 the obligatory health insurance, accidents and voyage for all the members of the delegation;

104.3 the payment of flight tickets of their delegation and all additional expenses caused by the members of its delegation during the sojourn at the Final Tournament;

104.4 obtaining in good time, of the necessary visas near the diplomatic missions of the organizing country.

104.5 its duty to attend the press conferences as well as any other official media activity organized by CAF.

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

## Chapter 41 - Responsibilities of the organizing Association

### Article 105

The obligations and responsibilities of the host association relative to the final competition are stipulated in the terms of reference which should be signed by CAF and the organizing association . The latter is responsible of:

105.1—maintaining law, order and security, in particular on the way to the stadiums, in the stadiums, and their accesses, as well as the smooth running of the matches;

105.2—maintaining the law, order and security in the surroundings of the hotels and training fields of participating teams;

105.3 the subscription, in agreement with CAF, of an insurance policy covering the whole of the risks relative to the organization and the running of the Final Tournament, particularly the adequate civil responsibility insurance of the stadia and the spectators, the local organization, its members and those of the local organizing committee, the employees, the volunteers or any other person participating in the organization of the Final Tournament.

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

### Article 106

The host associations discharge CAF of any responsibility and renounce any complaint against the latter and the members of its delegation for any damage resulting from any act or omission in relation to the organization and the running of CAF Women Champions League.

### Article 107

107.1 The host associations will be responsible for the provision of an adequate number of places and necessary installations for the local and foreign press

representatives (press, radio, television and internet). Conditions to be fulfilled by the host association concerning the installations for the media and the technical equipment are specified in the terms of reference.

107.2 The host associations shall be responsible of ensuring that journalists, photographers, TV and radio commentators and 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 108**

The host country of CAF Women Champions League 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 42 - Copyright**

### **Article 109**

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 43 - Language**

### **Article 110**

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

## Chapter 44 - Matters not provided for

### Article 111

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

## Chapter 45 - Adoption and Implementation of the Regulations

### Article 112

The present Regulations have been adopted by the Executive Committee on 10 December 2020 and shall come into force immediately.

The President  
Ahmad Ahmad



Acting Secretary General  
Abdel Bah



