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SOCCER



CHAPTER 19 - SOCCER

1. TEAM COMPOSITION

- 1.1. A team shall be composed of a minimum of fourteen (14) participants and a maximum of eighteen (18) participants. One (1) additional spot may be awarded to teams with a qualified coach to a maximum of nineteen (19) participants.
- 1.2. Each base/wing (for Regionals) and region (for Nationals) may enter one (1) Men's and one (1) Women's soccer team in the CAF Soccer Championship. The regional team shall be declared champion at the CAF Regional Championship.
- 1.3. The Regional Men's team may augment three (3) players from another B/W/U within the region who have the approval of their Commanding Officer.
- 1.4. The Regional Women's team may augment five (5) players from another B/W/U within the region who have the approval of their Commanding Officer.

2. OFFICIALS

- 2.1. A four (4) person official system will be used throughout the entire championship.

3. RULES

- 3.1. Play shall be conducted in accordance with the current rules of the [Federation of International Football Association \(FIFA\) Laws of the Game](#), with the exception of [para 7](#) listed below.
- 3.2. This paragraph relates to the match format for the CAF Soccer Championships where:
 - a. There shall be a maximum of five (5) substitutions per match with unlimited substitutions at half time.
 - b. If a match goes into extra time teams are permitted an additional two (2) substitutions.

Note: [3.2.b](#) is only applicable to matches of 90 minutes.

4. SUSPENSIONS & PENALTIES

- 4.1. The minimum suspensions listed below will be applied when the following infractions occur during a Championship:

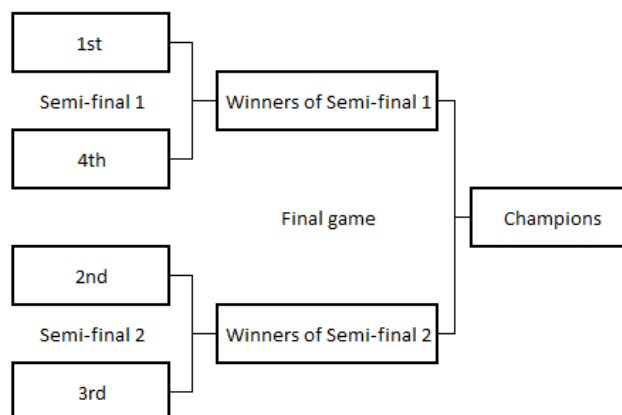
Rule	Description	Minimum of
4.1.1	Any player, substitute, substituted player or team official receiving a second yellow card in the same match for any cautionable offence, which is a dismissal. <i>Except: when a player receives two consecutive yellow cards for the same offence in which a player acts in a Reckless manner with disregard to the danger to, or consequence for, an opponent and must be cautioned, pg 103. and/or using dissent by word or action;</i>	1 st offence – Red Card (1 Match) 2 nd offence – Red Card (3 Matches) 3 rd offence – Red Card (Remainder of the tournament with a review by the disciplinary board for possible further suspension(s)).

	<i>gestures which show clear lack of respect for the match official(s), pg 113.</i>	
4.1.2	When a player receives two consecutive yellow cards in the same match for the same type offence in which a player acts in a Reckless manner with disregard to the danger to, or consequence for, an opponent and must be cautioned pg 103.	1 st offence – Red Card (4 Matches) 2 nd offence - Indefinite
4.1.3	When a player, substitute, substituted player or team official receives two yellow card(s) for using dissent by word or action; gestures which show clear lack of respect for the match official(s), pg 113.	1 st offence – Red Card (4 Matches) 2 nd offence - Indefinite
4.1.4	Any player, substitute, substituted player or team official who accumulates three yellow cards during a tournament shall be automatically suspended as follows. <i>Except: when a player accumulates three yellow cards during a tournament for the same offence in which a player acts in a Reckless manner with disregard to the danger to, or consequence for, an opponent and must be cautioned, pg 103. and/or using dissent by word or action; gestures which show clear lack of respect for the match official(s), pg 113.</i>	1 st offence – 1 Match 2 nd offence – 3 Matches 3 rd offence – The remainder of the tournament.
4.1.5	When a player receives three yellow cards during a tournament for the same type offence in which a player acts in a Reckless manner with disregard to the danger to, or consequence for, an opponent and must be cautioned. pg 103.	1 st offence – 4 Matches 2 nd offence - Indefinite
4.1.6	When a player, substitute, substituted player or team official receives two yellow card(s) in the same match or throughout the tournament for using dissent by word or action; gestures which show clear lack of respect for the match official(s), pg 113.	1 st offence – 4 Matches 2 nd offence - Indefinite
4.1.7	Any player, substitute, substituted player or team official who is shown a straight red card (dismissed) during a match shall be automatically suspended as follows. In addition, the incident shall be reviewed by the Disciplinary Committee to determine if additional disciplinary action is warranted. Note: This only applies to the Sending-Off Offences (pg 111) and the seven penal offences (pg 103) when using Excessive Force EXCEPT, Strikes or Attempts to Strike and Kicks or Attempts to Kick at an opponent.	1 st offence – Red Card (1 Match) 2 nd offence – Red Card (4 Matches) 3 rd offence – Indefinite
4.1.8	Any player, substitute, substituted player or team official who Strikes or Attempts to Strike (including head-butt) or Kick or Attempts to Kick at someone shall be sent off (dismissed) and shall be suspended as follows.	1 st offence – The remainder of the tournament. 2 nd offence - Indefinitely
4.1.9	Any player, substitute, substituted player or team official who is sent off (dismissed) for Biting or Spitting at someone or engages in Violent Conduct shall be suspended as follows.	1 st offence – The remainder of the tournament. 2 nd offence - Indefinite
4.1.10	Any player, substitute or substituted player who is sent off (dismissed) for Serious Foul Play shall be suspended as follows.	1 st offence – 4 Matches 2 nd offence - Indefinite
4.1.11	Any player, substitute, substituted player or team official who engages in using offensive language, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures shall be shown a red card, pg 111, and suspended as follows.	1 st offence – 3 Matches 2 nd offence – The remainder of the tournament. 3 rd offence – Indefinitely

- 4.2. All cards will carry through ALL MATCHES, right up to and including the Final Match. Cards received in the final match will be carried over to the following season's base, regional, and/or national program as per [Chapter 5 – Suspensions](#).
- 4.3. All cards will carry through ALL MATCHES, right up to and including the Final Match. Cards received in the final match will be carried over to the following season's base, regional, and/or national program as per [Chapter 5 – Suspensions](#).
- 4.4. The Disciplinary Committee and/or JOA has a duty to review any incident further at their discretion to ensure the appropriate suspension(s) are administered, in all circumstances. This will ensure each situation is dealt on its own merit and that the suspension meets the level of the action which led to the circumstance.
- 4.5. Reference [Chapter 5 – Suspensions](#), for infractions that may be applied to any sport.

5. CHAMPIONSHIP FORMAT

- 5.1. All matches will be conducted in two (2) x forty-five (45) minute halves with a half time that shall not exceed fifteen (15) minutes.
- 5.2. The CAF Soccer Championship shall be conducted first as a single round-robin tournament, followed by a single elimination playoff. Matches in the round-robin will be played to the end of regulation time. Points will be awarded as follows during round-robin play;
 - a. Three (3) points for a win (regulation);
 - b. One (1) point for a tie (shootout win/loss); and
 - c. Zero (0) points for a regulation loss.
- 5.3. Should a tie exist following regulation time in round robin play, kicks from the penalty mark shall be taken immediately following the match to determine the winner of the match. No additional points shall be awarded for winning the shootout; the match will be recorded as a tie and each team shall be awarded one (1) point towards their round robin standings as per [para 5.2.b](#).
- 5.4. All shoot-outs will occur from the Penalty Mark and shall be conducted IAW the [FIFA Laws of the Game, Law 10](#), Determining the outcome of the match, kicks from the penalty mark procedures.
- 5.5. Upon completion of the round-robin, two semi-final matches will be played. The first (1st) place team will play the fourth (4th) place team and the second (2nd) place team will play the third (3rd) place team. The winner of each semi-final match will advance to the final match.
- 5.6. For semi-finals and final matches only, in the event of a tie after the regulation time, extra time will be played to break the tie as per [para 7](#). If a tie still remains, after the extra time, shoot-out will be taken as per [para 5.3](#).



6. EXTRA TIME

- 6.1. Competition/FIFA rules provide for two (2) further equal halves, not exceeding fifteen (15) minutes each in duration to determine the winner. The extra time must be played to completion regardless of how many goals are scored or when. If at the end of extra time the match is a shootout will take place to determine the winner.

7. TIE-BREAKING PROCEDURES

- 7.1. Ties in the final round-robin standings that affect advancement to the playoff shall be broken as follows:

- a. If two (2) teams are tied, the winner of the match played between the two (2) teams during the round-robin play, including the results from a shoot-out, shall advance to and/or be awarded the higher position, , among the tied teams, in the playoff round;
- b. If three (3) or more teams are tied, the team with the best win/loss record, in the round-robin matches played between the tied teams, including the results from a shootout, shall advance to and/or be awarded the higher position, among the tied teams, in the playoff round;

Note: After the completion of step [7.1.b](#), [7.1.c](#) or [7.1.d](#), which determines the seeding/ranking of a team, if necessary, repeat the tie-breaking procedures from [7.1.a](#).

- c. If a tie remains, each team's total goals scored in the round robin matches between the concerned tied teams shall be divided by their total goals against, excluding goals scored or surrendered during shootouts. The team with the highest quotient shall be awarded the higher position, among the tied teams.
- d. If a tie still remains, each team's total goals scored shall be divided by total goals against during the entire round-robin tournament, excluding goals scored or surrendered during shootouts. The team with the highest quotient shall be awarded the higher position, among the tied teams.
- e. If a tie still remains, the team with the least amount of points received by yellow or red cards by the end of the round-robin tournament shall advance to and/or be awarded the higher position, among the tied teams. Points will be awarded as follows;
 - Yellow Card = One (1) point
 - Red Card (indirect) = Three (3) points (as a result of a second yellow card)
 - Red Card (direct) = Four (4) points

- Yellow Card and Red Card (direct) = Five (5) points
- f. If a tie still remains, a coin toss will determine the team which advances to and/or is awarded the higher position, among the tied teams.

8. EQUIPMENT

- 8.1. The official ball of the championship shall be any ball that meets [Law 2 \(FIFA Laws of the Game\)](#) which includes a FIFA Quality, FIFA Quality Pro, or IMS (International Match Standard) logo on the ball.



- 8.2. All members must wear the following equipment / uniforms listed in the table below:

MANDATORY	RECOMMENDED
Players	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Jerseys must be identified with a jersey number; ▪ A jersey or shirt with sleeves (if undergarments are worn, the colour of the sleeve must be the same main colour as the sleeve of the jersey or shirt); ▪ Shorts (and undergarments to match the uniform as closely as possible); and ▪ Shin guards covered by socks; ▪ Two (2) pairs of socks of different colours (if tape or any material applied or worn externally must be the same colour as that part of the sock it is applied to); ▪ Footwear. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mouth guard; ▪ Protective Eyewear; ▪ Semi-rigid ankle brace; ▪ Shoes with molded cleats or ribbed soles (on Wet field with high grass, shoes with screw-in cleats);
Goalkeepers	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Same as Players above; ▪ Each goalkeeper must wear colours that distinguish him from the other players, the referee and the assistant referees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Protective Eyewear; ▪ Semi-rigid ankle brace; ▪ Shoes with molded cleats or ribbed soles (on Wet field with high grass, shoes with screw-in cleats ▪ Padded shorts/pants; and ▪ Goalie gloves.

- 8.3. Any physical alteration to protective equipment is prohibited.

9. INJURY PREVENTION

- 9.1. It is important that injury prevention strategies are reviewed by all members of the team, coaches, officials, athletic trainers, and organizers. Please refer to [Chapter 6](#) for further injury prevention.

10. AWARDS

- 10.1. At the end of each National Championship match, the Jury of Appeal will select two (2) match MVP's, one (1) from each team.
- 10.2. The winning teams, in both the Men's and Women's competition shall be awarded a banner and a trophy. Individual medals shall be presented to the members of the winning and runner-up teams.
- 10.3. At the end of the Championships, the Jury of Appeal will select a Tournament MVP for each of the Men's and Women's Championships.
- 10.4. At the end of the National Championships, each team will select a Team MVP, for each of the Men's and Women's Championships.
- 10.5. At the end of the National Championship, each team, men and women, will nominate a player that has exhibited the highest level of sportsmanship including ethical & responsible behaviour, fair play, integrity and respect combined with a high standard of playing ability. The Jury of Appeal and/or Chief Official will select the recipients based on the nominations brought forward.
- 10.6. See awards breakdown in the table below;

Awards / Recognition	Quantity	Nationals	Regionals
Trophy	2	✓	TBD by regional constitution
Championship Banner	2	✓	TBD by regional constitution
Gold Medals	38	✓	✓
Silver Medals	38	✓	✓
Tournament MVP	2	✓	✓
Team MVP	8	✓	n/a
Game MVP	2 / game	✓	TBD by regional constitution
Sportsmanship	2	✓	TBD by regional constitution
Officials	17	✓	TBD by regional constitution
Trainers	6	✓	TBD by regional constitution
Jury of Appeal	6	✓	TBD by regional constitution
VIP's / Patrons	2	✓	TBD by regional constitution