



IFCPF
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF
CP FOOTBALL

Competition Rules

2025

Updated December 2024



Introduction

The 'International Federation of CP Football' (IFCPF) is the international governing body for the sport of CP Football. Officially formed in January 2015, CP Football became an independent sport after 37 years under the 'Cerebral Palsy Sport and Recreation Association' (CPISRA).

IFCPF is responsible for the leadership, management and governance of CP Football, with a governing Board elected by our membership, and Management Team appointed by the Board to oversee day-to-day operations of the organization.

Our organisation is a 'Recognised International Sport Federation' by the International Paralympic Committee (IPC). CP Football (Football 7-a-side) was a Paralympic sport since the 1984 New York (and Stoke Mandeville) Paralympic Games.

This Document

This document states the IFCPF Competition Rules which are applicable in all IFCPF sanctioned tournaments for CP Football. The IFCPF Competition Rules should be read in conjunction with the current issue of the IFCPF Modifications to the Laws of the Game.

All matches must be played in accordance with the current IFCPF Modifications to the Laws of the Game which are available at www.ifcpf.com

For further guidance please visit www.ifcpf.com or contact the International Federation of CP Football info@ifcpf.com

2025 Updates

Please note that all updates for 2025 are underlined and marked in yellow.

Women's CP Football

CP Football is the name of our sport, therefore Women's CP Football refers specifically to the format played with further modifications for the development of the game for women players. IFCPF have chosen to implement modifications to the CP Football sport rules with the aim to grow women's participation, with the ultimate objective that all CP Football players will play to the same sport rules.

Please note that all additional modifications for the development of Women's CP Football are underlined and marked in blue.



01 Participating Members

Each participating team automatically undertakes to comply at all times with (and shall ensure that every player, coach, manager, official, media officer, representative, guest and any other person carrying out duties on behalf of the participating team (each a "Delegation Member") complies with these regulations.

In addition, every team must:

- be members of IFCPF in good standing, including up-to-date membership paid in full and any other outstanding payments.
- be the only national team permitted from any country to participate in any competition.
- have paid the Competition Entry Fee and other associated costs of entering the competition in full prior to the first day of competition.
- confirm their participation in the competition and any other required documentation as communicated by IFCPF and/or the Local Organising Committee (LOC)

02 Replacement

If any member withdraws or is excluded from the competition, IFCPF shall decide on the matter at its sole discretion.

03 Eligibility of Players

Age:

Players must be 15 years of age on 1st January in the tournament year.

Women's CP Football

Players must be 14 years of age on 1st January in the tournament year.

IFCPF Age Dispensation Policy:

- Please see IFCPF Age Dispensation Policy, available at www.ifcpf.com
- Member nations may apply for dispensation for players who are younger than the minimum age for a specific competition

Under 21 Competition:

In Under 21 competition players must:

- be 14 years of age on 1st January in the competition year and;
- under 21 years of age on 1st January in the competition year.



Mixed Gender:

To support the development of CP Football opportunities for female players, mixed gender (male and female) participation is allowed in all IFCPF sanctioned competition at Participation and International Development level. At World and Regional level (Paralympic Games, World Championships, World Cup and Regional Championships) all national team competition shall be separate for male and female players. The same rules also apply for Under 19 competition.

Athlete Nationality Policy:

Please see IFCPF Athlete Nationality Policy, available at www.ifcpf.com

The appropriate evidence that a competitor is a national of any country will generally be that he or she holds an official passport issued by the respective country. The concepts of 'nationality' and 'residence' or 'domicile' are separate and distinct.

04 Classification

As a signatory of the International Paralympic Committee's (IPC) Athlete Classification Code, the IFCPF Classification Rules are adopted and implemented in accordance with our responsibilities under the IPC Code, and in furtherance of IFCPF's continuing efforts to minimise the impact of impairment on sport performance.

Players must have an eligible impairment and meet the respective Minimum Impairment Criteria (MIC) to be eligible for CP Football competition, in accordance with the current IFCPF Classification Rules and Regulations.

- Each team must field at least one (1) class FT1 player on the field of play at all times during a match, or the team will play with one (1) less player. Each team may have a maximum of one (1) class FT3 player on the field of play at all times during a match.
- If a class FT1 player is dismissed, the team is not required to replace another player on the field of play for a class FT1.
- If the class FT3 player is dismissed, an available FT3 substitute may be substituted onto the field of play for a class FT1 or FT2 player, if the team has an available substitution and substitution moment, however each team must still field at least one (1) class FT1 player.
- The 4th official (where appointed) shall make checks during substitutions that each team meets the criteria above. Final and full responsibility is, however, on the team management to ensure this rule is fully adhered to at all times.

Intentional Misrepresentation (IM)

It is a disciplinary offence for an Athlete to intentionally misrepresent (either by act or omission) his or her skills, abilities, the degree or nature of Eligible Impairment, during the Athlete Evaluation and at any other point after the allocation of a Sport Class. A suspension of an Evaluation Session may be subject



to a further investigation into possible Intentional Misrepresentation.

A disciplinary offence may have consequences such as disqualification, and sanctions ranging from one (1) to four (4) years for a period of time to an athlete or athlete support personnel. Intentional Misrepresentation presents a major threat to the integrity of Classification and Para sport, therefore, IFCPF is concerned to protect their athletes and sports integrity where information is crucial to ensure a fair playing field for all. Any potential incident shall be investigated and, if clear evidence is available, disciplinary action shall be taken.

For the latest version of the IFCPF Classification Rules, visit www.ifcpf.com/about_classification

05 Competition Entry

In all IFCPF sanctioned competition, the tournament officially begins on the first day of classification. All teams must arrive by the 1st day of the tournament, unless officially communicated by IFCPF.

Each participating member shall be responsible for applying for any required visas in good time from the consulate or embassy of the host country; if necessary, the assistance of the Local Organising Committee (LOC) and IFCPF is to be sought as early as possible.

Pre-Competition:

Teams must submit a Medical Diagnostics Form (MDF) to IFCPF (Annex 2 of the IFCPF Classification Rules and Regulations), upon completing the registration of an Athlete. The MDF must be received eight (8) weeks prior to the beginning of the Athlete's first international classification, that is, players with New (N) status or those in Review (R) or Review with Fixed Date (RFD) that did not provide the MDF in previous competitions. MDF forms must be sent to info@ifcpf.com.

Four (4) weeks before the start of an IFCPF sanctioned international tournament, teams must provide a 'Final List' with a maximum of 14 players. Only players on the 'Final List' that is approved by IFCPF can take part. The Final List must be sent to info@ifcpf.com

Women's CP Football

For an IFCPF sanctioned international women's tournament, teams must provide a 'Final List' with a maximum of 10 players.

After the four (4) week deadline and before the start of a tournament, changes to the Final List of players are only accepted in exceptional cases and must be approved by IFCPF in conjunction with the Local Organising Committee (LOC). Changes must be sent to info@ifcpf.com and the LOC with an explanation of the reason(s).



In Competition:

After the start of a tournament, no changes will be accepted.

A team 'Start List' must be presented to the Technical Delegate at least 75 minutes before the start of the match by each of the competing teams. In addition to players' names, a maximum of 5 staff members are allowed to be included on the team 'Start List'. Only staff members whose names are included on the Start List' are permitted to be in the Technical Area of the Field of Play from the end of team warm-up until the final whistle, inclusive of any stoppages in play. Outside of this period, only accredited team officials may enter the Field of Play area.

Only accredited team officials may enter the Dressing Rooms. Any player(s) or team official(s) who are suspended for the match are not permitted to enter the Field of Play area or Dressing Rooms at any time.

A maximum of five (5) players shall warm up at the same time (with a maximum of one (1) team official). Both teams shall warm up in the designated area beside their own respective substitute bench at least 1 meter away from the field of play to allow for proper assistant referee performance.

06 Team Kit and Sponsorship

Sponsorship on match clothing is allowed. Any sponsorship logos other than the Manufacturer Identification (MI) and Product Technology Identification (PTI), must be forwarded to IFCPF at least 4 weeks in advance of the tournament for approval. IFCPF reserves the right to refuse sponsorship logos.

Team Uniforms:

Manufacturer Identification (MI)

- Trademark of item's manufacturer
- Maximum size of 30 cm² when worn by the athlete

Product Technology Identification (PTI)

- Trademark of any fabric technology (e.g. Dri-Fit, Climacool)
- Maximum size of 10 cm² when worn by the athlete
- Placement o One MI and one PTI per item

Accessories:

- One MI and one PTI per item
- Maximum size of 10 cm² when worn by the athlete

Equipment:



- As sold on the retail consumer market

Sponsorship logos

Teams are permitted to carry sponsorship logos on other items..

- Maximum size of 300 cm²

For other tournaments such as the Paralympic Games, different requirements may apply.

Shirt Numbers:

Throughout the competition, players shall wear the number assigned to them on the final list. Players shall wear set numbers between 1 and 99. If number 1 is used, it shall be reserved exclusively for one of the goalkeepers.

Such National team playing kits shall have numbers shall be displayed on the front and back of the playing shirts and the front of the playing shorts.

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

Team Uniform Colours

Teams are required to have two full playing kits, with distinctive and contrasting colours, for their first choice and alternative team kits. In addition, two full goalkeeper playing kits. Each goalkeeper must wear colours that are distinguished from the other players and the match officials. , with distinctive and contrasting colours from each other as well as the first choice and alternative team kits.

If a replacement shirt or shorts are required, they must display the same playing number or a number not used by any other player within the squad.

IFCPF Approval

Four (4) weeks before the start of an IFCPF sanctioned international tournament, countries must provide team playing kit colours and player shirt numbers to info@ifcpf.com for approval. Only these colours and numbers, once reviewed and approved by IFCPF may be worn during matches.

07 Competition Format and Scoring

IFCPF, in conjunction with the LOC, will determine the details of each tournament considering factors such as the number of teams competing and the format to be used.



The tournament format may be decided by drawing lots or using a ranking system. IFCPF reserves the right to take into account the geographical location of participating teams. The final decision will be the responsibility of IFCPF.

Tournaments will be held on a group system with the following:

Group matches: Each team plays one match against each other in the same group, with points to be awarded as follows:

- Win = 3 points;
- Draw = 1 point;
- Loss = 0 points.

The ranking in each group is determined as follows:

- Greatest number of points obtained in all group matches;
- Goal difference in all group matches;
- Greatest number of goals scored in all group matches.

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

- Greatest number of points obtained in the group matches between the teams concerned;
- Superior goal difference resulting from the group matches between the teams concerned;
- Greatest number of goals scored in all group matches between the teams concerned.

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

- superior goal difference in all group matches;
- greatest number of goals scored in all group matches;
- highest team conduct score (players and team officials) relating to the number of yellow and red cards obtained:
 - yellow card: minus 1 point
 - indirect red card (as a result of two yellow cards): minus 3 points
 - direct red card: minus 4 points
 - yellow card and direct red card: minus 5 points

Only one of the above deductions shall be applied to a player or team official in a single match. The team with the highest number of points shall be ranked highest.

- drawing of lots by IFCPF.

Goal Differential

In all tournaments, a maximum differential of 10 goals scored will be allowed to be counted for the



purposes of 'goal difference' including: 'goals scored' and 'goals against' in any single match. However, the final result in any single match shall be recorded with all goals scored.

e.g. A score of 10-0, the winning team receives 10 goals scored, 0 goals conceded, and a goal difference of 10 goals in the table.

e.g. A score of 11-1, the winning team receives 11 goals scored, 1 goals conceded, and a goal difference of 10 goals in the table.

08 Extra Time and Penalties

In matches where the tournament structure requires a winning team; if the score between teams is level at the end of normal playing time, , extra time shall be played.

Extra time shall consist of two (2) periods of ten (10) minutes, with an interval of five (5) minutes at the end of normal playing time, but not between the two (2) periods of extra time. . The players shall remain on the field of play during both of these intervals.

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- Two (2) periods of eight (8) minutes extra time will be played.

Teams may continue to make substitutions during Extra Time. If a match goes into extra time, each team may use up to four (4) opportunities in play, provided that at least one (1) of these opportunities occurs in extra time. Each team may use up to six (6) substitutes, provided that at least one (1) of these substitutes is used in extra time.

If the score is still level at the end of extra time, a penalty shootout shall be taken to determine the winner in accordance with the procedure specified in the IFAB Laws of the Game.

3 penalty kicks taken from the penalty mark. If, after both teams have taken 3 penalty kicks, the scores are level, penalty kicks continue until one team has scored a goal more than the other from the same number of penalty kicks.

09 Yellow and Red cards

The referee has the authority to take disciplinary action from entering the field of play for the pre-match inspection until leaving the field of play after the match ends (including penalties (penalty shoot-out)). If, before entering the field of play at the start of the match, a player or team official commits a sending-off offence, the referee has the authority to prevent the player or team official from taking part in the match; the referee will report any other misconduct.



Offence Codes, Fines, and Suspensions

In consideration of the wide range of potential offences and the varying degree of seriousness that applies to any incident, a comprehensive list cannot be created. The guidelines below set out the Standard Minimum Penalty:

Code	Offence	Minimum Fine	Minimum Suspension
C1	Unsporting Behaviour – further defined as: N/A - <ul style="list-style-type: none">• AA Adopting an aggressive attitude• DI Simulation• DP Dangerous Play• FT Foul Tackle• GC Goal Celebration• HB Handball• RP Reckless Play• SP Pushing or Pulling an opponent• TR Tripping• UB Unspecified Behaviour	N/A	-
C2	Dissent	N/A	-
C3	Persistently infringing the Laws of the Game	N/A	-
C4	Delays the restart of play	N/A	-
C5	Fails to respect the required distance at a restart	N/A	-
C6	Enters or re-enters the field of play without the referee's permission	N/A	-
C7	Deliberately leaves the field of play without the referee's permission	N/A	-
S1	Serious foul play	€50	1
S2	Violent conduct – further defined as: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Head to head• Elbowing• Kicking• Stamping• Striking• Biting• Other unspecified behaviour	€50	<u>2</u>



S3	Spitting	€50	3
S4	Denies the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball.	€50	1
S5	Denies an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards the player's goal by an offence punishable by a free kick or a penalty kick	€50	1
S6	Use of offensive, insulting or abusive language	€50	1
S7	Receives a second yellow card in the same match	€50	1

Single yellow cards in the competition will be cleared at the end of the stage. Any player or team official who receives two (2) cautions (yellow cards) during two different matches within a stage of the competition, will automatically be suspended from their team's next match. Stages will be clearly communicated in the first Technical Meeting.

Any player or team official who receives a direct red card during the tournament, will automatically be suspended from their team's next match. In addition, further sanctions (e.g. additional suspensions, a fine, etc.) may be imposed.

Any player(s) or team official(s) who are suspended for the match are not permitted to enter the Field of Play area or Dressing Rooms at any time.

Where communicated in the first Technical Meeting, all cautions shall be cleared at the end of the group stages although any outstanding suspensions shall carry over into the next stage of the competition.

All fines must be paid within 24 hours of formal communication to the IFCPF Technical Delegate or Local Organising Committee.

Any fines not paid within the 24-hour period will incur an additional 25 EUROS for every 24-hour period the fine is not paid.

Unserved suspensions:

Match suspensions not served during the competition in which they were awarded (i.e. due to elimination or in the last match in the competition) shall be carried over to the representative team's next official match in an IFCPF sanctioned event.



10 Disciplinary Matters

An IFCPF appointed Discipline Committee shall be responsible for hearing all disciplinary matters at tournaments; including before, during and after matches.

Outside of tournaments, all disciplinary matters shall be dealt with by the IFCPF Board.

The Disciplinary Committee shall be formed of:

- One (1) Match Officials representative (who was not the match referee)
- One (1) Local Organising Committee representative
- One (1) IFCPF Technical Delegate representative

The committee members will have no significant relationship with the affected party, will have had no involvement with the decision being appealed, and will be free from any other actual or perceived bias or conflict.

The Discipline Committee has the power to levy further suspensions in cases of excessive misconduct, before and after the match.

Timeline:

A representative from each nation shall collect copies of match record sheets 60 minutes after the final whistle. This shall be available from the tournament admin office at the venue or as communicated in the Technical Meeting.

The Discipline Committee will communicate any disciplinary action to teams, where possible by midnight on the day of the match, or as early as possible on the following day.

The Discipline Committee reserves the right to impose sanctions such as point deductions or expulsion from a tournament.

11 Appeals

Nations have the right to appeal over any disciplinary sanction issued or technical protest.

Any appeal should be submitted to the IFCPF Technical Delegate or Local Organising Committee along with the appeal fee of 100 EUROS, in addition to the fine.

Should an appeal be successful, only the fine will be returned unless in the case of an appeal on the



basis of mistaken identity.

Timeline:

- Teams must communicate their wish to appeal within 1 hour of receiving the notification of disciplinary action.
- An appeal must be received by the IFCPF Technical Delegate and Local Organising Committee within 24 hours of the team receiving the notification of disciplinary action.
- Once received, where possible appeals will be heard by 12:00 midday on the following day.
- The outcome will be communicated immediately after the decision has been made. The decision made will be final.

The Appeals Committee shall be formed of:

- One (1) Match Officials representative (who was not the match referee and different from that of the Discipline Committee).
- One (1) Local Organising Committee representative (different from that of the Discipline Committee).
- One (1) IFCPF Technical Delegate representative (different from that of the Discipline Committee).

The committee members will have no significant relationship with the affected party, will have had no involvement with the decision being appealed, and will be free from any other actual or perceived bias or conflict.

Indisputable evidence is required for an official's decision to be overturned. Video footage shall be accepted to support an appeal and should be submitted to the Appeals Committee with the appeal. Any evidence received after the appeal has been made will not be accepted.

The Appeals Committee will deal with discipline and technical protests not covered under the above rules.

12 Insurance

Teams are responsible for ensuring the provision of adequate insurance to cover its team/delegation members and any other persons carrying out duties on its behalf against all risks, including but not limited to injury, accident, disease and travel.

All participating teams shall indemnify, defend and hold IFCPF, the Local Organising Committee, and all of their officers, directors, employees, representatives, agents, and all other auxiliary persons free and



harmless against any and all liabilities, obligations, losses, damages, penalties, claims, actions, fines and expenses (including reasonable legal expenses) of whatsoever kind or nature resulting from, arising out of, or attributable to, participation in the Competition and/or any non-compliance with these Regulations by the participating clubs, their Delegation Members, their affiliates and any third parties contracted to the participating clubs.

13 Medical

Each participating team shall include at least one (1) adequately trained medical team official in its delegation, to be present in the technical area during all matches.

Sudden Cardiac Arrest

A non-contact collapse of a player on the field of play should be treated as a sudden cardiac arrest until proven otherwise. The medical team may enter the pitch immediately and commence resuscitation, without waiting for a signal from the referee. One member of the field-of-play medical team notifies the fourth official of the collapse and need for cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

Concussion

Teams should familiarise themselves with the IFCPF Temporary Concussion Substitution (TCS) Policy.

A player who experiences a suspected concussion during a match must undergo an examination by the team medical doctor. The referee may temporarily suspend play whenever an incident of suspected concussion occurs. The referee may only allow the player to continue playing with the authorisation of the team medical doctor, who shall have evaluated the player and excluded any suspicion of a concussive injury. The team doctor will have the final decision based on a clinical examination. Under no circumstances should a player with suspected concussion return to play.

For the latest version of the IFCPF Temporary Concussion Substitution (TCS) Policy, visit www.ifcpf.com/concussion

14 Safeguarding and Welfare

IFCPF recognises that the welfare and interests of every individual is paramount and they are entitled to live and work in a safe and positive environment that is free from abuse.

IFCPF's Safeguarding & Welfare policy applies to all individuals, teams and organisations involved in the sport of CP Football.



This policy aims to ensure that regardless of age, ability or disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation, socio-economic background, all involved in our sport:

- have a positive and enjoyable experience of CP Football in a safe and positive environment
- are protected from abuse whilst participating in CP Football or outside of the activity.

For the latest version of the IFCPF Safeguarding and Welfare Policy, visit www.ifcpf.com/safeguarding-and-welfare

Designated Team Safeguarding/Welfare Officer

Each participating team shall appoint a designated Team Safeguarding/Welfare Officer to act as a focal point for all matters related to the safeguarding and well-being of their players and team delegation. This role does not have to be exclusive and can be assigned to the team medical doctor or other trained member of the accredited team delegation. It is recommended that the designated Team Safeguarding/Welfare Officer complete the FIFA Guardians™ Safeguarding Essentials: Open Learners online course.

The role of the Team Safeguarding/Welfare Officer is to:

- act as the first point of contact and lead for all safeguarding matters within the team delegation during the Competition;
- take all reasonable steps to ensure that the players' and Delegation Members' mental and physical well-being is prioritised;
- liaise with the Competition Designated Safeguarding Lead and the IFCPF Designated Safeguarding Lead should a concern or an allegation of harassment or abuse arise; and
- know the specific safeguarding measures for the Competition and the avenues available for reporting concerns.

15 Clean-Sports

As a signatory of the World Anti-Doping Association's (WADA) Anti-Doping Code, the IFCPF Anti-Doping Rules are adopted and implemented in accordance with our responsibilities under the WADA Code, and in furtherance of IFCPF's continuing efforts to eradicate doping in sport.

Doping is strictly prohibited. The IFCPF Anti-Doping Code and all other relevant IFCPF Anti-Doping regulations apply to all CP Football competition.

During CP Football competition, every player may be subject to in-competition testing and out-of-competition testing at any time and place.



For the latest version of the IFCPF Anti-Doping Code, visit www.ifcpf.com/ifcpf-clean-sports

16 Match Manipulation

Promotion of integrity and the protection of football matches and competitions means promoting integrity internally and to the public at all times, as well as protecting football matches and competitions against match manipulation as far as possible and under all circumstances.

A common definition of match manipulation defines it as an:

"intentional arrangement, act or omission aimed at an improper alteration of the result or the course of a sport competition in order to remove all or part of the unpredictable nature of the aforementioned sport competition with a view to obtaining an undue advantage for oneself or for others."

For the latest version of the IFCPF Match Manipulation Policy, visit www.ifcpf.com/tournaments/match-manipulation

17 Team Meetings

A representative from each competing team must attend all team meetings. Any competing team not attending shall be subject to disciplinary action.

18 Match Day Countdown

The 'Match Day Countdown' will be communicated to all teams in the first Technical Meeting.

Teams must comply with the timings indicated in the 'Match Day Countdown'. Any teams found not complying with the 'Match Day Countdown' or delaying the start or restart of play shall be subject to disciplinary action.

19 Respect

Everyone involved in the sport of CP Football, must be committed to promoting equality and inclusivity, and to eliminating all forms of discrimination.



In accordance with the IFAB Laws of the Game and to maintain the highest standards of sportsmanship and respect, the following Code of Conduct applies to all players and team staff participating in IFCPF competitions.

- All players and team staff are expected to behave in a manner that promotes the integrity, fairness, and spirit of the game.
- Respect for match officials, opponents, teammates, and spectators is mandatory at all times.
- Discriminatory, abusive, or threatening language or behavior will not be tolerated under any circumstances.
- Online activity, including posts, comments, and messages on social media or other digital platforms, must reflect the values of respect, integrity, and inclusivity, avoiding any form of harassment, defamation, or inappropriate conduct.

Any breaches of IFCPF Sport Rules and Regulations will be addressed by the match officials during the game, using the appropriate disciplinary measures outlined in the Laws of the Game (e.g., warnings, yellow cards, red cards). All matters outside of the match (and those not witnessed by the match officials) shall be addressed by an IFCPF Discipline Committee.

Further disciplinary measures, including suspensions or fines, may be imposed by an IFCPF Discipline Committee following a review.

Any allegations of discriminatory behavior brought to the attention of IFCPF shall be fully investigated. Any individual/team found guilty shall be subject to disciplinary sanctions. For a minor offence, the sanctions of a formal warning or a fine shall be given to a team. For re-offenders or for serious incidents, sanctions such as point deductions or expulsion from a tournament shall be given to a team.

Furthermore, any person (player, official, match official, etc.) who commits such an offence shall be subject to disciplinary action.

For the latest version of the IFCPF Safeguarding and Welfare Policy, visit www.ifcpf.com/medical-health-and-athlete-safety

Only the Captain Guidelines

The "Only the Captain Guidelines" stipulate that during all match proceedings, the referee can initiate the 'only the captain' protocol at any stage, but it is most likely to be used following major decisions and to prevent major confrontations:



- Ensure proper communication: Once initiated, all on-field interactions with referees or other officials will be channelled through the team captain, preventing unnecessary confrontations and improving clarity in decision-making.
- Promote respect for officials: By restricting dialogue to the captain, we foster a more respectful environment where match officials can focus on enforcing the rules without distractions.
- Uphold team discipline: This guideline encourages players to maintain their focus on the game, leaving leadership and communication responsibilities with the captain.

How Will It Be Implemented?

- Pre-match Captain Briefing: Prior to every match, captains will be reminded of their role and responsibilities regarding communication with officials. This briefing will be conducted by the referees.
- Initiating "only the captain" protocol: If the referee feels the need to initiate the "only the captain" protocol, the referee will blow the whistle and verbalise "captains only".
- Enforcement: If one player other than the captain enters the captain-only zone this will result in a warning, and repeated offences may lead to further sanctions, including yellow cards for unsporting behaviour.
- Support for Team Captains: Team captains will receive additional guidance on their role and how to effectively manage communication to ensure smooth match proceedings.

20 Withdrawal, Unplayed Matches and Abandoned Matches and Replacement

All participating teams undertake to play all of their matches until eliminated from the Competition.

Prior to kick-off:

Matches abandoned prior to kick-off being completed will be replayed in full where the tournament schedule allows.

In the case that the tournament schedule does not allow a match to be replayed, the result will be decided by drawing lots.

Once play has commenced:

Abandoned matches after 45 minutes the result and scoreline stands.

Matches abandoned prior to 45 minutes being completed will be restarted at the time of the abandonment until the completion of the full match duration has taken place.

In the case that the tournament schedule does not allow a match to be finished or restarted after abandonment, the score line at the time the match is ended will stand.



In the case of a score line that is level, the result will be decided by drawing lots.

Cautions leading to suspensions will in all circumstances stand, as will yellow cards received during an abandoned match. Players who receive a yellow card prior to the match being abandoned will carry this caution when they re-enter the field of play during the replay. Please note that teams reserve the right to start the replayed match with a different starting line-up than that submitted for the abandoned match.

In the event that a team has a player(s) sent off prior to the match being abandoned they must start the replay with the same number of players as they had on the field when the match was ended.

Match Officials:

If a match is abandoned by the referee due to a consequence of a team's actions, including having less than four (4) players eligible to be on the field, a score line of 10 – 0 will be awarded to the match opponents.

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If a match is abandoned by the referee due to a consequence of a team's actions, including having less than three (3) players eligible to be on the field, a score line of 10 – 0 will be awarded to the match opponents.

In the event that the match official abandoned the match due to both teams' actions, both teams will receive zero (0) points and a deficit of ten (10) goals.

In all cases of abandonment due to negative actions of teams/players, the Disciplinary Committee reserves the right to take further sanctions.

IFCPF has the right to cancel, reschedule or relocate one or more matches (or the entire Competition) for any reason at its sole discretion, including as a result of force majeure or due to health, safety or security concerns.

21 Lightning

The referee may temporarily suspend play if a lightning flash and thunder sound occur within 30 seconds (sight-to-sound time) of each other, as the lightning is considered too close to allow play to continue.



Play will be suspended, and cannot resume until 30 minutes after the lightning and thunder stop occurring within 30 seconds of each other.

The referee will have the final decision.

22 Temperature

Cold Weather:

Cold weather generally is not seen as a barrier to football, as long as the environmental risks are evaluated, the necessary precautions are undertaken and cold-related injuries are constantly anticipated, identified and managed.

Heat Stress:

Where possible, matches will be scheduled for cooler times of the day, at a time when less heat stress and exposure are expected. IFCPF will endeavour to reschedule matches where the heat stress is extreme.

Heat stress will be measured, where possible, by using a wet bulb globe thermometer (WBGT) device consisting of three components:

- Air temperature – measured by a dry bulb thermometer.
- Solar radiation- measured by a black globe thermometer.
- Humidity – measured by a wet bulb thermometer where the air is blown over a wetted wick.

A wet bulb globe reading will be calculated, with the relative components to heat stress reflected in their weighting in the formula used to calculate the reading. $\text{Index} = (0.1 \times \text{dry bulb}) + (0.2 \times \text{globe temp}) + (0.7 \times \text{wet bulb temp})$.

Ambient dry temperature	Wet Bulb Globe Temperature	Risk of thermal injury
25-31.9°C (77-89.4°F)	24.0-29.3°C (75-85°F)	Moderate
32-38°C (89.6-100°F)	29.4-32.1°C (85-89.9°F)	High
38°C and above (>100°F)	32.2°C and above (>90°F)	Extreme

Cooling Breaks and Drinks Breaks:

Extreme weather conditions may warrant cooling breaks to be implemented during the course of a match in accordance with the protocols established by IFCPF. Extra cooling breaks may be implemented when the WBGT is above 32°C.



Cooling' breaks (90 secs – 3 mins) and 'drinks' breaks (max 1 min).

Such breaks will be considered on a match-by-match basis.

Responsibility for implementing and controlling cooling breaks resides with the referee.

23 Altitude

The risk of developing altitude-related conditions is quite variable between individuals and depends on many factors. The altitude level accepted as being the threshold for the occurrence of Acute Mountain Sickness (AMS) is 2000m and above.

When staging an ascent to altitude, it is recommended that one day of acclimatisation should be spent for every 300m to 500m above 2000m.

24 Sanction Fees

Any breach of these rules shall incur a disciplinary fee as decided upon by the Discipline Committee.

- **Minor infractions shall incur a fine of no less than 100 EUROS**
- **Major infractions shall incur a fine of no less than 250 EUROS**

All fines must be paid within 24 hours of formal communication to the IFCPF Technical Delegate or Local Organising Committee.

Any fines not paid within the 24-hour period will incur an additional 25 EUROS for every 24-hour period the fine is not paid.

Any fines not paid by the end of the tournament will incur an additional fine as a minor infraction. Therefore, the fine that must be paid is the original fine plus 100 EUROS within 30 days from the end of the tournament.

Any fines not paid within 30 days of the tournament will incur an additional fine as a major infraction. Therefore, the fine that must be paid is the original fine plus 250 EUROS.

NOTE: To participate in IFCPF sanctioned competition every team must be members of IFCPF in good



standing, including up-to-date membership paid in full and any other outstanding payments.

The Discipline Committee reserves the right to impose sanctions such as point deductions or expulsion from a tournament.

Any appeal should be submitted to the IFCPF Technical Delegate or Local Organising Committee along with the appeal fee of 100 EUROS, in addition to the fine.

Should an appeal be successful, only the fine will be returned unless in the case of an appeal on the basis of mistaken identity as provided for in section 8 of this document.

25 Matters not provided for and force majeure

No rules can be all-embracing, and it is necessary to honour the intention of the rules as well as their literal interpretation.

Matters not provided for in these 'IFCPF Competition Rules' or cases of force majeure shall be decided by IFCPF.



Further Information

IFAB Laws of the Game

The International Football Association Board (IFAB) are the independent guardians of the football rules of association football, otherwise known as the Laws of the Game.

To view the IFAB Laws of the Game and further information from IFAB, please visit www.theifab.com or scan the QR code on the right side of this page.



IFCPF CP Football Rules and Regulations

To view all the sport rules and regulations for CP Football, please visit www.ifcpf.com/rules or scan the QR code on the right side of this page.



Education Platform – IFCPF Training Ground

Supporting and developing people in all roles of delivering the sport of CP Football, through online education courses.

IFCPF's Training Ground is an online platform that hosts varying levels and lengths of education courses. These courses include 'An Introduction to CP Football', training for national and international classifiers, and a range of other courses developed over time based on feedback from members of the CP Football family.



To visit the IFCPF Training Ground, please visit learn.ifcpf.com or scan the QR code on the right side of this page.

Contact Information

For further guidance please visit www.ifcpf.com
or contact the International Federation of CP Football info@ifcpf.com