

AFRICAN SCHOOLS FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP GUIDELINES

2023-24 SEASON

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INTRODUCTION

1. The African Schools Football Championship is a Confédération Africaine de Football (CAF) football programme exclusively organised under the umbrella of the African Schools Programme.
2. The African Schools Football Championship takes place every year. As a rule, every association affiliated to CAF may participate in the African Schools Football Championship.
3. Participation in the Program is free of charge.
4. The African Schools Football Championship consists of a National, Zonal and Continental phase.
5. The African Schools Football Championship Guidelines (Guidelines) govern the rights, duties and responsibilities of all the Member Associations taking part in the African Schools Football Championship and of the Organising Association by forming an integral part of the Hosting Agreement.
6. The Guidelines, directives, and circulars issued by CAF are binding on all parties participating and/or involved in the preparation, organisation, and hosting of the African Schools Football Championship.
7. Any rights that are not ceded by these Guidelines to the Organising Association or any Participating Member Association shall remain with CAF.

DEFINITIONS

1. **Championship** - is the event contested under certain specific rules and played between school teams, in different phases. It takes place annually, starting in March and ending in March of the following year. Depending on the phase, the Championship can be managed by Member Associations for the National Phase and by CAF for the Zonal Phase and Continental Phase.
2. **Member Association:** an association located and organised in a specific country which supervises the promotion and the practice of football, and which is recognised by and affiliated to the Confédération Africaine de Football (CAF).
3. **School:** a public or private learning institution registered and recognised by the Ministry of Education of the domicile country, and which has fulfilled the requirements demanded by the present Guidelines.
4. **Student** - One who is enrolled in a school that has fulfilled all requirements to participate in the African Schools Football Championship as demanded by the guidelines herein. For the avoidance of doubt, the learner must not have been registered in another learning institution other than the one they seek to represent in the African Schools Football Championships within the school year of their domicile country. By the end of the calendar year in which the finals of the Championship is played, the students must be aged between 12 and 15 years old.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. CAF shall organize every year a football programme called the African Schools Football Championship (Championship) for boys and girls. The Championship shall be split into the following age categories:
 - a. An under 15 girls' competition to be played between girls aged 12 to 15 years old;
 - b. An under 13 boys' competition to be played between boys aged 12 to 13 years old; and
 - c. An under 15 boys' competition to be played between boys aged 14 to 15 years old
2. The Championship shall be organized in three (3) phases:
 - a. **National phase** to be organized by the Member Associations in the country of the registered Member Association. The schools taking part in this competition must all be registered and based in the same country as the Member Association.

- b. **Zonal phase** to be organized by the CAF Zonal Unions within each of the six (6) CAF Zonal Unions - African Schools Football Championship- Zonal Phase.
 - c. **Continental phase** to be organized by CAF - African Schools Football Championship Finals.
This phase will consist of the national teams that finished first in the Zonal Phase.
3. The National Phase shall be held during the school calendar year of each respective country.
 4. The Zonal Phase shall be played from August to December.
 5. The Continental shall be played in April of the following year.
 6. Unless otherwise decided by CAF, the same periods shall apply for the other editions. CAF reserves the right to amend the dates of any of the phases.
 7. The Championship shall be organized in two categories. A category for boys and a category for girls. Mixed teams will not be allowed to take part in the Championship.

ELIGIBILITY

1. Member Associations:

A Member Association that wishes to take part in the Championship must meet the following criteria:

- a. Register for the competition using the forms sent by the CAF.
- b. Submit all information requested by the CAF.
- c. Organize the National Phase with a minimum of eight (8) teams, with each team playing a minimum of fourteen (14) matches. CAF reserves the right to make decisions based on the inability of participating Member Association to meet the set criteria on a case-by-case basis.
- d. Register all Schools, students and officials participating in the National Phase, on FIFA CONNECT.
- e. Register students and officials on CAF CMS.
- f. Appoint two (2) Safeguarding Officers (one male and one female).
- g. Integrate the School Football Programme in their respective Technical Department.
- h. Organise at least any of the following two (2) courses with the support of CAF and ensure that each course has 50% male and 50% female representation:
 - i. Young Referee's Course
 - ii. Young Reporter's Course
 - iii. Safeguarding Course
 - iv. CAF Level D Coaching Course

2. Schools:

- 1) Schools that wish to take part in the Championship must complete a registration form accepting to participate in the National Phase and submit it to its Member Association. During the registration process, schools must clearly indicate the name and contacts (phone, mobile number and/or email) of:
 - a. The Coach in charge of each team.
 - b. The Officer responsible for safeguarding and protecting the children. (Teacher)
 - c. The Team Director.
 - d. The school Director.
- 2) The School must follow up with their Member Association to ensure that all students designated to participate in the Championship as well as the officials are registered on the FIFA Connect Database.
- 3) All the players registered to participate in the Championship must be receiving full time education within the School.
- 4) For the girls' teams, the School must submit a list of only female officials who will be responsible for the teams.

3. Student Eligibility:

- 1) Students that wish to take part in the Championship must meet the following requirements:
 - a. **U15 Girls competitions**
 - a. All students must be a maximum of 15 years old by the end of the calendar year in which the finals of the Championship is played (i.e. all players of the teams were born on or after 1 January 2009).
 - b. All students must be at least 12 years old by the end of the calendar year in which the final of the Championship is played. (i.e. all players of the teams were born on or before 31 December 2012).
 - b. **U15 Boys competitions**
 - a. All students must be a maximum of 15 years old by the end of the calendar year in which the finals of the Championship is played (i.e. all players of the teams were born on or after 1 January 2009).
 - b. All students must be at least 14 years old by the end of the calendar year in which the final of the Championship is played. (i.e. all players of the teams were born on or after 31 December 2010).
 - c. **U13 Boys competitions**
 - a. All students must be a maximum of 13 years old by the end of the calendar year in which the finals of the Championship is played (i.e. all players of the teams were born on or after 1 January 2011).
 - b. All students must be at least 12 years old by the end of the calendar year in which the National of the Championship is played. (i.e. all players of the teams were born on or after 31 December 2012).
- 2) To be eligible to participate in the three phases of the Championship, a student must submit the following documents to CAF:
 - a. A certified copy of their school Identification Card for the National Phase,
 - b. Proof of their first registration within the school system,
 - c. A certified copy of their birth certificate,
 - d. The consent form sent by CAF,
 - e. Their school report cards of the last three (3) years,
 - f. Proof of registration on the FIFA Connect database.
 - g. A certified copy of their passport (Zonal and Continental phases)

4. Eligibility to participate in the Zonal and Continental Phase

- 1) Only students that took part in the National Phase shall be eligible to participate in the Zonal and Continental Phase.
- 2) The teams taking part in the Zonal and Continental Phase can only field students who are registered in the FIFA CONNECT.
- 3) Member Associations shall be responsible for organising and preparing their respective teams to participate in the Zonal and Continental Phase

5. Teams Delegation

- 1) Schools participating in the National Phase shall be composed as follows:
 - a. 30 players
 - b. 1 Coach
 - c. 1 Team manager / Director
 - d. 1 Safeguarding Officer
 - e. 2 Assistants (must be students)
 - f. 1 Medical Staff

The competition in the National Phase will be between the teams / Schools registered in the Competition this year.

- 2) Teams participating in the Zonal and Continental Phase shall be composed as follows:
 - a. Boys team - 20 players
 - b. Girls team - 15 players
 - c. 1 Coach
 - d. 1 Team manager
 - e. 1 Safeguarding Officer
 - f. 1 Member Association Representative (if possible, a Technical Director or a Medical Staff)
 - g. 1 Medical Staff
 - h. 1 Young Referee (same gender as the team) – only for the Zonal Phase

All Member Associations must field boys' and girls' teams.

6. Team Safeguarding Officer

- 1) Each Participating Member Association shall appoint a designated Team Safeguarding Officer to act as a focal point for all matters related to the safeguarding and well-being of the players and team delegation.
- 2) This role must be exclusive and should be assigned to a teacher in the school. It is a mandatory requirement that the designated Team Safeguarding Officer complete the FIFA Guardians Safeguarding Essentials online course (<https://safeguardingsport.fifa.com/>).
- 3) The role of the Team Safeguarding Officer is to:
 - a. act as the first point of contact and lead for all safeguarding matters within the team delegation during the African Schools Football Championship.
 - b. take all reasonable steps to ensure that the students' mental and physical well-being is prioritised.
 - c. liaise with the Championship Safeguarding Manager and the CAF Event Safeguarding Manager should a concern or an allegation of harassment or abuse (be it psychological, physical, or sexual, or neglect) arise; and
 - d. know the specific safeguarding measures for the African Schools Football Championship and the avenues available for reporting concerns.

COMPETITION

1. Registration

- 1) A Member Association wishing to participate in the “African Schools Football Championship” must formulate its request to CAF. CAF will provide the Member Associations with the specific application forms and will fix the application deadline.
- 2) A School wishing to participate in the “African Schools Football Championship” shall formulate its request to its respective Member Association. Each Member Association shall inform CAF of the Schools registered to participate. CAF will provide the Member Associations with the application forms and fix the deadline for submitting the application.
- 3) Each participating School will be required to submit the final list of players for each category to their Member Association, who will in turn submit all the lists of players online on the FIFA Connect competition system.
- 4) The teams shall be composed of thirty-six (36) members as follows: ((i) thirty (30) students and (ii) six (6) officials.
- 5) Schools have the right to register up to thirty (30) students on the FIFA Connect Database. Only players that have been registered in the same school shall be eligible.

2. Format

1) National Phase

- a. Each Member Association shall determine the format of its National Phase taking into consideration the sportive, economical, and geographical specific factors. It is however recommended that the National Phase be played in 4 phases:
 - i. Inter-classes (between the classes of the same School)
 - ii. Inter-Schools (between Schools of the same city or district)
 - iii. Inter-districts (between selected Schools in the city)
 - iv. And final phase which will be the National Phase.
- b. Member Associations must organise a competition for boys' teams and a competition for girls' teams. **They cannot organise for only one gender to the detriment of the other.**
- c. All Member Associations must submit a full competition report within 15 days of the end of the National Phase. The report must contain:
 - i. number of teams
 - ii. format of the Championship
 - iii. dates of competition
 - iv. venue / city(s) where the competition was organised
 - v. workshops organized
 - vi. number of participants in each workshop.

2) Zonal Phase

- a. CAF may invite teams from other confederations to participate in the Zonal Phase.
- b. Each Zone is required to have at least two countries contesting to represent the Zone in the Continental Phase. CAF reserves the right to integrate a zonal team in a different zone's competition in the event that the zone fails to attract more than one country to compete in the zonal phase of the Championships.
- c. In each Zonal Union the Championship shall be played in a group stage and / or knockout stages.
- d. Each Zonal Union shall organize together with the Local Organising Committee (LOC) and CAF a draw to determine the compositions of the groups.
- e. For matches played in group stages, the group standing shall be determined as per the below criteria:
 - i. 3 points for the winner of a match,
 - ii. 1 point for a draw,
 - iii. 0 point for the loser.
- f. In case of points equality between two teams at the end of the group stages, the teams will be ranked according to the following criteria in the order listed below:
 - i. The highest number of points obtained in the match between the two concerned teams.
 - ii. The goal difference in all group matches.
 - iii. The highest number of goals scored in the whole group matches.
 - iv. A drawing of lots conducted by the Organizing Committee of the Zonal Union.
- g. 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:
 - i. The greatest number of points obtained in the matches between the concerned teams.
 - ii. The best goal difference in the matches between the concerned teams.
 - iii. The greatest number of goals scored in the matches between the concerned teams.

- iv. A drawing of lots conducted by the Organizing Committee of the Zonal Union.

3) Continental Phase

1. Eight (8) teams shall be qualified for the Final Tournament.
 - a. Only the winning team of the National Phase of the Association organising the Final Tournament – Continental Phase, is automatically qualified.
 - b. Six (6) teams are the winners of the respective Zonal Phase.
 - i. Host Country – one (1) team qualified.
 - ii. North Zone – one (1) team qualified.
 - iii. West Zone A– one (1) team qualified.
 - iv. West Zone B– one (1) team qualified.
 - v. Central Zone – one (1) team qualified.
 - vi. Central East Zone – one (1) team qualified.
 - vii. South Zone – one (1) team qualified.

If the team from the host country is the Champion at the Zonal Phase, the runner-up at the respective Zonal Phase will be the representative of the Zonal Union at the Continental Phase.
 - c. Defending Champions from the previous season of the African Schools Football Championship.
 - d. If the CAF decides so, it may invite other teams from other confederations to participate in the Continental Phase.
2. In Continental Phase the Championship shall be played in a group stage and knockout stages.
3. CAF shall organize together with the Local Organising Committee (LOC) a draw to determine the compositions of the groups.
4. For matches played in group stages, the group standing shall be determined as per the below criteria:
 - a. 3 points for the winner of a match,
 - b. 1 point for a draw,
 - c. 0 point for the loser.
5. In case of points equality between two teams at the end of the group stages, the teams will be ranked according to the following criteria in the order listed below:
 - a. The highest number of points obtained in the match between the two concerned teams.
 - b. The goal difference in all group matches.
 - c. The highest number of goals scored in the whole group matches.
 - d. A drawing of lots conducted by the Organizing Committee of the Continental Phase.
6. 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:
 - a. The greatest number of points obtained in the matches between the concerned teams.
 - b. The best goal difference in the matches between the concerned teams.
 - c. The greatest number of goals scored in the matches between the concerned teams.
 - d. A drawing of lots conducted by the Organizing Committee of the Continental Phase.

3. Format and Organization of the matches

- 1) U15 Girls Championship matches shall be played on a 8-a-side football format, with each team fielding eight (8) players.
- 2) U13 Boys Championship matches shall be played in an 8-a-side football format, with each team fielding eight (8) players.
- 3) Under 15 Boys Championship the Matches shall be played in an 11-a-side football format, with each team fielding eleven (11) players.

- 4) The matches shall be played over two halves of 20 minutes, with a 10-minute break.
- 5) In case of a draw after the end of the regular time, the winner shall be determined by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in compliance with the Laws of the Game.
- 6) Minimum requirements per match:
 - a. Under 15 Girls Championship: match shall not start if either team has less than five (5) players.
 - b. Under 13 Boys Championship: match shall not start if either team has less than five (5) players.
 - c. Under 15 Boys Championship: match shall not start if either team has less than seven (7) players.
- 7) The matches shall be played according to the laws decided by the International Football Association Board and promulgated by FIFA.
- 8) All substitutes must be used in all the group matches so that each player is given an opportunity to play. There is no limit on the number of substitutions, however the substitution must be performed when the ball out of the field of play or stopped by the referee.
- 9) The matches are played in the territory of each Member Association for the national phase and in each Zonal Union for the zonal phase in conformity with the dates fixed by the Member Associations and Zonal Unions and approved by CAF. CAF reserves the right to amend the dates, kick-off times or the venues of the matches.
- 10) Each Zonal union is responsible for the process of selecting the host country for the Zonal Phase and shall submit its choice for CAF's prior approval.
- 11) Matches are played in daylight or under floodlights.

4. Match Officials

- 1) At each phase of the Championship, a General Coordinator (GC) may be appointed to oversee the good organization and the smooth running of the match. He is particularly in charge of:
 - a. Ensuring that the officials and teams comply with the rules.
 - b. Ensuring the compliance with CAF commitments in matters related to marketing, advertising, and audio-visual retransmissions,
 - c. Ensuring the compliance or respect of the set schedules and of the match protocol.
 - d. At the end of the match, he/she shall send a detailed report on the specific form provided.
- 2) The Member Association through its head of Refereeing shall appoint the Referees and Assistant Referees for the National phase. The young referees should have approximately the same age as the players.
- 3) The young referees shall be selected from the list of the "CAF Young Referees' Programme" and cannot be from the schools involved in the match in question.
- 4) The decisions of the Referees' and the Refereeing Committee are final and without appeal.
- 5) CAF or the Zonal Union may appoint a referee inspector/observer for the evaluation of the refereeing. The inspector/observer is a match official and must be received and treated as such. He shall collaborate with the appointed referees and attend the match in the official tribune where a seat in the first row shall be reserved for him.
- 6) CAF or the Zonal Union may appoint a security officer to oversee security in the stadium in collaboration with the General Coordinator. He should be provided with any needed support and assistance and will engage the stadium's officials responsible for security.

5. Balls

- 1) CAF shall provide an allocated number of balls to each Member Association at the beginning of each Championship year.
- 2) The provided balls shall be the official balls at each stage of the Championship and shall be imprinted with **Play Now by CAF**.
- 3) The balls shall be distributed by the Member Association and used in the National Phase.

6. Equipment:

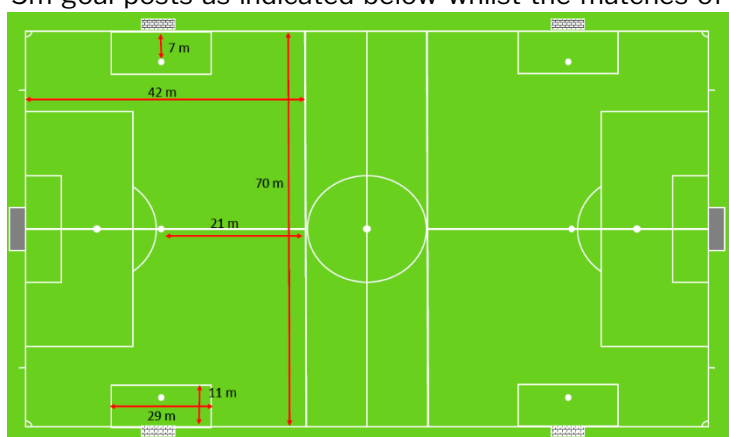
- 1) During the Championship, each School is responsible for coming to the Championship in their full uniform (shirt, shorts, and socks).
- 2) In the National Phase, in case one of the participating teams does not have the required equipment, the matches shall be played in the bibs provided by CAF.
- 3) Each School shall communicate to the Member Association, a month before the kick-off of the National Phase, the main colours, and the reserve colours of its equipment.
- 4) Each Member Association shall communicate to Zonal Union (Zonal Phase) and CAF (Continental Phase), a month before the kick-off of the Championship, the main colours, and the reserve colours of its equipment.
- 5) The numbering on the jerseys must be from 1 to 30. The numbers 1 and 12 are reserved for the goalkeepers. Players must keep the same number during all phases of the Championship.

7. Trophy and medals

- 1) The winner of each continental edition will receive a trophy provided by CAF. The same shall apply for the Zonal phase.
- 2) In all phases of the Championship, there will be the following trophies:
 - a. Trophy for the Champions
 - b. Fair Play Team
 - c. Medals 1st place
 - d. Medals 2nd place
 - e. Medals 3rd place
 - f. Medals for the young Referees
 - g. Trophy for top scorer
 - h. Trophy for best goalkeeper
 - i. Trophy for best player
- 3) Participation Certificates shall be provided to all participants.
- 4) For the Zonal and Continental phases, the Champion's trophy will be provided by the CAF.

FIELD OF PLAY AND STADIUMS

1. The matches of the U15 girls and U13 boys, shall be played on a field of 70 m x 42 m with 2m x 5m goal posts as indicated below whilst the matches of the U15 boys, shall be played on a regular field.



Zonal Phase and by the Member Association for the National Phase. In the first two cases, the Zonal Union and the National Association shall make the decision in consultation with CAF.

DISCIPLINARY MATTERS

1. Disciplinary infringements are dealt with in compliance with the CAF Disciplinary Code in force as well as with all relevant circulars and directives, with which the Participating Member Associations and Delegation Members undertake to comply.
2. CAF may introduce new disciplinary rules and measures for the duration of the African Schools Football Championship. Such rules shall be communicated to the Participating Member Associations before the opening match of the African Schools Football Championship at the latest.
3. Yellow and red cards
 - a. The referee has the authority to take disciplinary action from the moment the participating teams enter the field of play for the pre-match inspection until they leave the field of play after the match ends. 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 (see Laws of the Game, Law 12.3); the referee will report any other misconduct.
 - b. Single yellow cards and pending suspensions as a consequence of cautions in different matches in the preliminary competition organised by the Member Associations and Zonal Unions are not carried over to the African Schools Football Championship Final. Pending match suspensions imposed as a result of a red card in matches in the preliminary Championship organised by the Member Associations and Zonal Unions are carried over to the African Schools Football Championship Final.
 - c. Single yellow cards in the African Schools Football Championship Final will be cancelled after the quarterfinals.
 - d. If a player receives two cautions during two different matches, they will automatically be suspended from their team's subsequent match.
 - e. If a player is sent off because of a direct or indirect red card, they will automatically be suspended from their team's subsequent match. In addition, further sanctions may be imposed in the case of a direct red card.
 - f. Any suspension that cannot be served during the African Schools Football Championship Final will be carried over to the representative team's next official match in the same age group. Where the suspension cannot be served in the same age group, it shall be carried over to the next highest age group.
4. White Card
 - a. The White Card is a pedagogical tool that aims to recognize, stimulate and promote all behaviours of fair play and sportsmanship, practiced by athletes, coaches, officials, public and other officials during the matches; It is applied in all CAF African Schools Football Championship Final matches. The White Card has its own guidelines (annex 1).

SAFETY AND SECURITY

1. The CAF Safety and Security Regulations shall be the only regulations that shall govern all aspects of safety and security during all stages of the Championship Final.
2. During Championships organised within a Member Association the National Safety and Security Officer must be assigned to coordinate all safety and security aspect of the tournaments.
3. During zonal Championships, a CAF safety and security officer must be assigned by the Zonal Union to support in the organisation of safety and security arrangements for the tournament.
4. The CAF accreditation Zonal Unions must be adopted and applied during any of the Championships and at final tournaments.
5. During the final tournaments, CAF shall provide additional safety and security specific requirements to host countries and assign a CAF Safety and Security officer to support the Safety and Security operations.

MARKETING

1. Member Associations are authorized to use the official name and marks of the Championship African Schools Football Championship Final provided they comply with CAF marketing and media regulations and any other CAF's guidelines, directives, and instructions.
 - a. CAF will provide a brand kit to each participating Association with a guideline on how the name and marks of the Championship can be used.
 - b. Member Associations are required to submit mock-ups of any promotional material to be produced for CAF's approval before production.
 - c. Member Associations hosting the continental final will have the right to use a mascot to promote the Championship. The mascot's design must be submitted for CAF's prior approval.
 - d. Sports betting, Gambling, Alcohol and Tobacco partners are prohibited regardless of whether they are a partner of the Member Association.
 - e. Partnerships with political affiliations are prohibited except for governmental institutions e.g., Ministry of Education, Ministry of Sports, Ministry of Youth etc provided that such partnerships do not contravene the CAF regulations or interests.
 - f. Partnerships with religious affiliations are discouraged to maintain an inclusive environment during the Championship.
2. For the National Phase, Member Associations shall inform CAF of the selected partners and which brand activation events they intend to do before the start of their Championship.
 - a. This communication shall be submitted in writing to schoolfootball@cafonline.com and shall be precise.
 - b. Partner or brand activations that will involve direct prizes or awards to participating schools must be communicated to CAF before committing to the partner/brand.
3. The Zonal Unions should submit to CAF for approval, the list of partners and which brand activation events they intend to do before the start of their Championship.
 - a. This communication shall be submitted in writing to schoolfootball@cafonline.com and shall be precise.
 - b. Partner or brand activations that will involve direct prizes or awards to participating schools must be submitted to CAF for approval before commitment to the partner/brand.
4. Publicity for alcohol and tobacco is prohibited.
 - a. All venues hosting the Championship must be free of any publicity marks or promotional messages of sports betting, gambling, alcohol and tobacco brands inclusive of their subsidiaries.
5. The transmission rights of the matches during the national phase are the property of the respective Member Associations.
 - a. The Member Association shall make available, upon request by CAF, the photos and videos from the Championship for use in marketing communication.
6. The transmission rights of all matches for the Zonal and Continental phase are the property of CAF. In accordance with the CAF statutes, CAF may however grant these rights to the Zonal Union (Zonal Phase) subject to the Zonal Union paying an agreed fee.
7. No advertising is allowed on the jerseys of the teams in the Zonal Phase and Continental Phase. The participating teams may print the name of the school, country, region or city and the player's personal name on their uniforms. However, CAF may place the name, brand, or any message of a programme partner on the match shirts. The model, location and formats will be decided by CAF.
8. The objectives of CAF and the indications of the CAF's approved partners regarding advertising must be respected.
 - a. CAF will in a timely manner notify the Zonal Union or Member Association hosting the Final of its partners' wish to advertise or activate their brand during the Championship. This notice shall be submitted in writing.
 - b. Member Associations and Zonal Unions shall at all times only use the Championship equipment provided by CAF to respect CAF's existing partner marketing rights.

- i. Official Match Balls: These must be always used during the Championship by all participating teams.
 - ii. Official bibs: These are the only bibs to be used during the Championship by all participating teams.
9. Member Associations and all participating Schools (including members of their delegation) accept and fully comply with CAF's right to use and/or sub-license the right to use in perpetuity and free of any charge, any of their records, names, photographs and images (including any still and moving representation thereof), which may appear or be generated in connection with their participation in the Championship. To the extent that CAF's right to use and/or sub-license the right to use any of the records, names, photographs and images may fall in the ownership and/or control of a third party, the participating Schools and their team delegation Members shall ensure that such third party waives, pledges and unconditionally assigns and/or transfers to CAF with immediate effect, with full title guarantee in perpetuity and without any restriction, any such rights to ensure CAF's unfettered use as set out above.

MEDICAL

1. Appointment of a Medical Officer is mandatory for all the phases of the Championship.
2. Provision of medical services during the event at the stadium and hotel, available 24 hours a day, including an ambulance, medical staff, and medical equipment.
3. Communication of information with the teams (Doctor's name and contacts and addresses of medical facilities, etc.)
4. First aid and treatment facilities for players and officials at the Stadium:
 - a. First aid and treatment room
 - b. One (1) examination and treatment table.
 - c. Emergency Paramedics
 - d. Ambulance

PROTOCOL

1. The pre-match countdown that is provided to the teams must be strictly respected by the teams.
2. The host country, CAF and FIFA flags shall be hoisted in the stadium at the beginning of each matchday.

FINANCE

1. Each host country shall provide the necessary insurance for the Championship in accordance with its national laws, and in compliance with the provisions of the hosting agreement to be signed before the staging of any phase, and with any other requirements communicated by CAF.
2. Budgets for the Zonal Phases should be submitted to CAF for approval. A budget template will be sent to the Member Associations and Zonal Unions for completion.
3. **Host Association and CAF:** The Host Association and/or CAF shall bear the following costs in accordance with the Host Agreement signed between the parties:
 - a. For the Zonal and Continental phases, boarding and lodging for up to a maximum of 20 Delegation Members from each Participating Member Association. This includes:
 - i. Double rooms or triple rooms or in dormitories (player)
 - ii. Single rooms (Officials);
 - iii. Single rooms for (CAF Officials).
 - iv. 1 meeting room/dining room, together with the other teams.
 - v. 3 meals per day.

- b. These rooms shall be available starting maximum three nights prior to each team's first match and ending one day after its last match. CAF may make exceptions in the event of unforeseen circumstances resulting from transport difficulties.
- c. Laundry service for a set of match or training kits for 20 people per participating team per day, starting four days prior to each team's first match and ending one day after its last match.
- d. Any Domestic travel (road, rail or air) within the host country for 20 people per participating team after arrival of the participating team at the final destination.
- e. Buses will be provided for the exclusive use of each participating team during the period commencing, maximum three days prior to each team's first match and until one day after its last match.
- f. Training pitch for the participating teams.

4. Costs borne by each Participating Member Association

- a. International travel (air, land, sea) to the host country for all the members of the delegation.
- b. adequate insurance cover for its Delegation Members, including medical insurance, civil and public liability insurance.
- c. Board and lodging during the African Schools Football Championship in excess of the amounts paid by CAF, the Zonal Union, or the Host Association specified above.
- d. all incidental hotel costs.
- e. any costs associated with additional members more than the 20 Delegation Members covered.
- f. costs for any additional equipment and/or items not covered by CAF in the team meeting rooms and/or the team dressing rooms.
- g. costs for any additional menu items other than those agreed between CAF and the team hotels.
- h. Any expenses other than those stipulated in these Guidelines and explicitly outlined to be borne by CAF or the Host Association shall be borne by the relevant Participating Member Association.

PROTEST

1. All disputes in connection with the African Schools Football Championship shall be promptly settled by mediation (except for those falling under art. V DISCIPLINARY MATTERS, Point 1. and 2. and art XI Point 3).
2. Should the mediation be unsuccessful, the dispute may be referred to the Member Association for the National Phase, to the Zonal Union for the Zonal Phase, and to the CAF African Schools Football Championship Department for the Continental Phase. The decisions rendered by the said bodies shall be final and binding.
3. A protest regarding the eligibility of players who take part in the Championship matches must be made to the disciplinary department of the relevant Member Association (for the National phase) of the Zonal Union (for the Zonal phase), and of the CAF African Schools Football Championship Department (for the continental phase) as the case may be. The procedure for filling the protest shall be as follows:
 - a. It must be preceded by a nominal and motivated protest formulated before the match on the proper form of the match by the Director of the protesting team and communicated to the captain of the opposing team who will countersign it.
 - b. It must be confirmed by a registered letter, by fax or email, sent to the Member Association for the National Phase, to the Zonal Union for the Zonal Phase, and to the CAF African Schools Football Championship Department in the final tournament 48 hours after the match at the latest.
 - c. It must be accompanied by the payment of a protest fee of 1.000 US\$ (one thousand US dollars). This amount will be returned to the protesting team if the protest is upheld.
4. Other protests are to be communicated to the Member Association for the National Phase, to the Zonal Union for the Zonal Phase, and to the CAF African Schools Football Championship Department in the final tournament within the 48 hours following the match by fax or email, registered mail, or express courier.

5. A protest fee, up to a maximum of USD 1,000 (one thousand US dollars) shall be paid to the Member Association for the National phase, to the Zonal Union for the Zonal phase, and to CAF for the continental phase before the protest can be admitted. This amount will be refunded if the protest is upheld.
6. Decisions taken by the referee on the field of play are final.
7. A protest on a caution, or a sending-off from the field of play after two cautions is admissible only if the referee's error was to mistake the identity of the player.
8. In cases of serious misconduct, disciplinary action may be taken even if the referee and his assistants did not see the event in question and were therefore unable to take any action.

APPEAL

1. An appeal can be addressed to the Appeal Committee of the Member Association for the National phase, to the Appeal Committee of the Zonal Union for the Zonal Phase, and to the CAF Appeal Committee for the Continental Phase but not against those decisions stipulated as final.
2. The appeal fee is fixed at \$2,000 (Two Thousand US Dollars) which will be returned to the School or Member Association concerned if the appeal is upheld.
3. The appeal must reach the Member Association for the National phase, the Zonal Union for the Zonal phase, and CAF Appeal Committee by fax or email within three days following the dispatch by email, registered mail or express courier of the first instance decision.
4. An appeal shall have no suspension effect except in financial matters and for fines.
5. During the Continental Phase, all decisions taken by the Organizing Committee / Department and/or the disciplinary board, except for those reporting the application of disciplinary measures pronounced based on reports of match officials are final and without appeal.
6. Any appeal to a decision that may be appealable can be filed by the appellant, its Member Association, or by its (their) duly appointed representative (s).
7. When the appeals body is called upon by the concerned person or his association, the disputed penalty may not be aggravated.

UNFORSEEN MATTERS

1. Unexpected matters in the present Guidelines shall be decided by the CAF African Schools Department or CAF Secretariat.

LANGUAGE

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

ANNEX 1

WHITE CARD GUIDELINES

INTRODUCTION

These Guidelines establish the terms and rules necessary for the introduction of the White Card in the African Schools Football Championship. The White Card and the Fair Play Awards were instituted for the African Schools Football Championship with the objective of promoting Fair Play and with the ambition of contributing to a space of values within African football.

The White Card is a pedagogical tool that aims to recognize, stimulate and promote all behaviours of fair play and sportsmanship, practiced by athletes, coaches, officials, public and other officials during the matches.

ARTICLE 1 - AMBIT

It is applied in all African Schools Football Championship matches, regardless of whether the match is played in the national, zonal, or continental phase.

ARTICLE 2 - RESPONSIBILITY

It is the exclusive responsibility of the referee to show the White Card during matches whenever an action or behaviour is observed that merits it. It may also be shown to various actors involved.

ARTICLE 3 – WHITE CARD EXHIBITION

- The White Card shall be shown immediately after a match is interrupted, for any reason within the laws of the game.
- Should an act or conduct deserving a white card take place before the start of a match or at half-time, the card shall be shown at kick off or upon resumption of the match, whichever the case may be.
- If an act or a conduct deserving a white card take place after the match, the card must be shown immediately.
- The showing to spectators, when merited, is done at the end of the match.

3.1. Players

1. A player shall be shown the White Card when he or she:
 - a. Apologises to the opponent sincerely and with remorse after inappropriate conduct.
 - b. Acknowledges in a public and dignified manner an offence he has just committed, assisting the referee in controlling the match.
 - c. Publicly and voluntarily restores the truth if the referee has made a mistake, assisting the referee in clarifying dubious situations.
 - d. Assists the opponent in a situation where he urgently needs help.
 - e. Respects the more dubious referee's decisions.
 - f. Encourages and motivates teammates when they fail at important moments of the match.
 - g. Respects others, even when provoked, ensuring the wellbeing of all.
 - h. Recognizes the value of the opponent and congratulates him after an important move, raising the spirit of the game.
 - i. Maintains humility and simplicity in victory
 - j. Verifies that there is a problem with the opponent's equipment and provides his own
 - k. Takes the initiative to play on an equal footing even when the rules and code of conduct are in their favour.

- l. demonstrates a set of important values for life, on and off the field.
- m. Promotes a healthy atmosphere with opponents before and after the match.
- n. Integrates and sets a good example (conduct) to the younger.
- o. Others.

3.2. Coaches

1. The White Card may be shown to coaches when, namely, the following behaviours are observed:
 - a. When they encourage their athletes to help their opponents whenever they need it;
 - b. When they demonstrate outstanding behaviour of respect for their professional colleagues, officials, spectators and other agents.
 - c. When recognising the value of the opponents, congratulating them and maintaining humility and simplicity in victory;
 - d. When they denounce fraud or manipulation of results, the use of prohibited substances or take other relevant attitudes in defence of sporting truth.

3.3. Officials

1. The White Card may be shown to officials when, namely, the following behaviours are observed:
 - a. When they has an attitude of Fair Play of relief towards other officials.
 - b. When they encourage his athletes to help their opponents whenever they need it;
 - c. When they promote Fair Play and the values of respect for the opponents.
 - d. When they denounce fraud or manipulation of results, the use of prohibited substances or take other relevant attitudes in defence of ethics and truth in sport.

3.4. Spectators

1. The White Card may be shown to spectators, individually or collectively, when the following behaviours, namely, are verified:
 - a. When they show a healthy and relevant personal and sporting relationship between themselves and with the other sporting stakeholders.
 - b. When they support both teams positively and with fair play.
 - c. When they denounce fraud or manipulation of results, the use of prohibited substances or take other relevant attitudes in defence of sporting truth.

ARTICLE 4 - REGISTRATION AND REPORT

A referee who issues a white card will make express reference to it in his/her report, describing the attitude that justified it in such a way that it is perfectly clear who the parties involved were and all their behaviour, in order to allow correct subsequent evaluation for the purposes of the awards.

ARTICLE 5 - FAIR PLAY AWARDS

1. At the end of each phase of the African Schools Football Championship, Fair Play Awards will be presented to the teams. The criteria for the awards shall be:
 - a. To the team that has received the most white cards;
 - b. If there is a tie, the tie-breaker criterion will be the number of cards sampled to the spectator group of the teams in question.
 - c. If the tie persists after the criteria of the previous sub-paragraph, the organizing entity will decide the winner;
2. The organizing entity may also, at its will wish, award, individually, a player, coach, manager or match official, for a behaviour during the Championship.

ARTICLE 6 - LANGUAGE

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

ARTICLE 7 - UNEXPECTED MATTERS

Unexpected Matters in the present guidelines shall be decided by the Organising entity (Member Association for the national phase, Zonal Union for the zonal phase, and CAF for the continental phase).

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