

FOOTBALL

TECHNICAL RULES AND REGULATIONS



2026



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GENERAL

The purpose of the “ISF Football Technical Rules and Regulations” is to provide standardized rules and regulations for all Football competitions. This document is set up in accordance with the ISF Statutes, the ISF Sport Policy and the ISF General Competition Regulations.

This document is intended to ensure that all matters related to competitions are conducted in a fair and orderly manner. The specific objectives of this document are to:

1. Define and specify the **general conditions** under which participants can take part in the ISF Football events;
2. Determine the **delegation composition**;
3. Determine the **sport program**;
4. Determine the **technical rules**;
5. Set the **draw** procedure;
6. Set **protests and appeals** procedure.

Please note that the technical rules and regulations are applicable to Football events.

1.GENERAL CONDITIONS

The competition will be run according to the ISF rules and regulations and FIFA (Fédération Internationale de Football Association) technical rules under the direction of the ISF Technical Commission of Football. Any decisions over matters not mentioned in the present document will be taken by the ISF Technical Commission.

- The ISF Football events are open to teams.
- The competition is categorized as: boy categories, girls categories.
- Mixed teams are not allowed.
- The composition of each delegation, the number of teams, and the final sport events that each ISF Football event is accepting will be defined for each event accordingly.

AGE CATEGORY

Year	U18 YEAR OF BIRTH
2026	2008-2009-2010-2011

2. DELEGATION COMPOSITION

Each delegation will consist of:

- Head of delegation - mandatory
- Student athlete(s) - mandatory
- Team officials - mandatory
- Field of Play Officials (referees/umpires/judges) - mandatory
- Additional adults - optional
- Safeguarding officer - optional

HEAD OF DELEGATION (HOD)

- There is a mandatory amount of one (1) head of the delegation per registering delegation.
- The head of the delegation shall be the sole intermediary between the delegation and the Local Organising Committee, and the ISF.
- He/she may not combine the function with any other official role (i.e., coach, referee, etc.).

ATHLETES

- All student-athletes must be enrolled as full-time students
- All student-athletes must attend schools that provide general education, or an alternative form of general education approved by the relevant Ministry of Education in their respective country.
- Only athletes, registered on the team's list handed in at the accreditation, are authorized to take part in this competition.
- Each team consists of a minimum of 16 and a maximum of 20 athletes.

The following are not eligible to participate:

- Attendees of vocational schools that only attend a school as a complement to their vocational training and are not full-time students with a segment of general education.
- Students enrolled at schools that provide sports training without any general education.
- Part time students
- Students receiving home education

TEAM OFFICIALS

COACHES

- The presence of a coach is mandatory.
- Teams cannot participate in the competition without the presence of a coach.
- Each delegation shall enter a minimum of one (1) coach per team.



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OTHER TEAM OFFICIALS

- The function of other team officials can be: doctor, trainer, physiotherapist, statistician, team manager etc.
- The presence of the other team officials is not mandatory.
- The function of the other team officials must be specified during the registration process.
- Any person not specified during registration or exceeding the limit will not be considered part of the team.

FIELD OF PLAY OFFICIALS

- Each delegation shall enter one field of play official (referee) per team registered.
- The field of play official (umpire) cannot combine their position with other positions, such as head of delegation, team officials or additional adults.
- Umpires shall have a FIFA certification or when this is not possible at least a national certification level.
- The Level of qualification can be described in the events bulletins.
- He will be used as referee or/and assistant.
- The qualification will be reviewed and approved by the ISF Football technical commission.
- Delegations must provide certificates for umpires during the registration process.
- Failure to provide the required number of umpires will lead to a fine of 900€ (per umpire) payable to the organiser prior to the competitions.
- He cannot sit on the bench of his team.

ADDITIONAL ADULTS

- The function of additional adults can be: interpreter, security personnel, ministry representatives, media, etc.
- The presence of additional adults is not mandatory.
- The function of each additional adult must be specified during the registration process.
- Any other additional persons not specified during registration or exceeding the limit specified in this document will not be considered part of the official delegation and will not be accredited by the LOC.

SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

The role of the safeguarding officer is to provide support to the delegation in any situation related to safety.

3. SPORT PROGRAM

EVENTS

- **Boys and Girls**
 - Team

4. TECHNICAL RULES

- ISF competitions are organized by the rules and regulations of FIFA.
- Competitions are organized for the entire ranking to allow competitors to compete until the end of the Event
- Teams from the same country cannot compete against each other for the medal ranking in finals. They have to play against each other in the QF.
- A minimum number of 8 teams from 3 countries is required per category for each event.

SYSTEM OF PLAY

General:

The system of play and the final competition schedule will be determined according to the specific sports rules, following the ISF and FIFA regulations. The system of play will be defined depending on the final number of registered teams/individuals. The system of play will be outlined prior to the event after registration is finalized.

•First part of the competition:

Qualification games in groups (all x all)

•Second part of the competition:

Classification games by a ranking system (all teams play until the final ranking is determined).

SPECIFIC RULES

Duration of the match

- 2 x 40 minutes with a half-time interval of 15 minutes.
- Points shall be awarded as follows (qualification games in groups):

Win = 3 points

Draw = 1 point Match lost = 0 points

During the match, maximum 6 officials can be on the bench and they must behave in a responsible manner, but only one person can stand and is authorized to convey tactical instructions from the technical area.

RANKING SYSTEM AFTER GROUP PHASE

- Points after all matches of group phase.
- Result of games between equal teams.
- Goals difference in all matches of group phase.
- More goals scored- in the case when the difference between the goals scored and received goals is the same.
- Yellow cards (-1 point) and Red cards (-3 points) received in all matches of group phase.
- Draw



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RANKING SYSTEM FOR TEAMS on 2nd, 3rd and 4th place after GROUP PHASE

- Points after all matches of group phase.
- Goals difference in all matches of group phase.
- More goals scored- in the case when the difference between the goals scored and received goals is the same.
- Yellow cards (-1 point) and Red cards (-3 points) received in all matches of group phase.
- Draw

PENALTY KICKS

- If, after the standard time in classification games, a match ends in a draw, kicks from the penalty mark will be taken to determine the winner according to FIFA rules.

SUSPENSIONS

In the match, the rule of showing yellow or red cards will apply, all according to the standard FIFA rules.

- If a player is penalized with two yellow cards during the same match he will be excluded and suspended in the following match of his team.
- If the player gets three yellow cards in three different game, automatically he cannot play in the following match for his team.
- The yellow card count is erased after the round of ⅛ or ¼ if there is no round of ⅛, and unless the third yellow card is shown to a player during the last game before the cards are reset. In that case he cannot play in the next game.
- In case of red card suspension, the player will not play in the next game and the Disciplinary Commission can decide to suspend the athlete for more than one match in the case of a serious offense.

SUBSTITUTIONS

- During the match it is allowed to replace all 9 substitutes, but in a maximum three stops of the game where substitutes made during half time doesn't count.
- If two teams do the substitution at the same time, it counts as 1 stop.



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OTHER RULES

All teams must show up at the competition venue not later than 15 minutes before the scheduled beginning of the match.

- In case a team shows up later than 5 minutes after the scheduled beginning of the match, it will automatically lose the match by 0-3.
- Accreditations are mandatory for all to participate in the match.
- In case a team fails to show up, it will automatically lose the match by 0-3.
- 10 minutes before the beginning of the match, referees shall check players of both teams according to the specified lists.
- Participating teams must bring at least 2 sets (jersey, shorts and socks) of different color.
- Shirt numbers from 1 to 99 shall be used. All players shall wear the same shirt number throughout the whole tournament.
- Participating teams must bring their own bibs (2 different colors).
- The substitutes must wear the bibs during their warm-up.
- Each player must wear shin guards.
- All balls used in matches in an official competition must meet the requirements and bear one of the marks of the FIFA Quality Programme for Football (Official Ball, no replica).
- 6 warm-up balls per team will be provided by the Local Organising Committee (LOC) before the game; teams needing more than 6 warm-up balls must bring their own extra balls.
- During the match, 6 officials can be on the bench (i.e. head coach, assistant coach, head of the delegation, goalkeeper coach, fitness coach, doctor, physio, etc...), but only one can stand in the technical area.

5. DRAW

- The ISF is responsible for establishing the draw criteria and determining the timing of the draw. The draw itself shall be conducted under the responsibility of the ISF Technical Commission.
- The draw will take into account results achieved in previous ISF football competitions and any other information relevant to the ISF.

6. PROTESTS AND APPEALS

Appeals relating solely to competition results or disciplinary sanctions shall be heard by the Appeal Jury.

Any appeal must be lodged within 30 minutes of the incident and submitted in English to the Technical Commission (TC).

A fee of €300 must accompany the appeal and be paid in cash to the LOC. This fee will be refunded only if the appeal is upheld or at the discretion of the Appeal Jury.

In the event of an unsuccessful appeal, the fee will be retained by the ISF.

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