

**WORLD SEVENS FOOTBALL**  
**SPORTING AND DISCIPLINARY REGULATIONS**  
(these **Regulations**)

**1. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

- 1.1 These Regulations govern each tournament (a **Tournament**) organized as part of the World Sevens Football Series (a global professional women's football 7 v 7 competition) (the **Series**), featuring current professional female football players who are subject to the rules and regulations of FIFA and their respective national associations.
- 1.2 The Series and each Tournament is hosted, organized and operated by J4S7, LLC (the **Tournament Organizer**).
- 1.3 References to **Match** or **Matches** shall mean matches which are played during a Tournament.
- 1.4 By participating in a Tournament, all **Teams** (meaning each of the football clubs participating in a particular Tournament) and **Participants** (meaning **Players** (as defined at Regulation 2.1 below), team manager, team coach, team officials and any other relevant support personnel of a Team who are participating and/or involved in that Tournament) agree to abide by these Regulations and to have submitted to the authority of the Tournament Organizer to enforce these Regulations.
- 1.5 The overriding purpose of these Regulations is to protect and maintain the integrity and competitive balance of the Tournament, and to set out the minimum standards to be expected of all Participants.
- 1.6 These Regulations shall apply to, and be binding upon, all Participants. By participating in the Tournament, all Participants expressly and unconditionally agree to comply with, and be bound by, these Regulations (as amended by the Tournament Organizer from time to time) and any other rules, policies or codes of conduct introduced, and brought to his or her attention, by the Tournament Organizer.

**2. PLAYER AND TEAM ELIGIBILITY**

- 2.1 Only professional female football players registered in accordance with the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players and the regulations of the participating Team's domestic national association who are registered for Domestic First Team Squad of a Team (**Players**) are eligible to participate in any Tournament.
- 2.2 A Team's **Domestic First Team Squad** shall mean the squad list which has been submitted to the Team's domestic national association in respect of the current (or, in the event the relevant domestic season has concluded, the immediately preceding) domestic football season for that Team.
- 2.3 Teams must provide proof of valid registration for Players with their Team's domestic national association at the time of registering their Traveling Squads (as defined in Regulation 2.5 below).
- 2.4 Any ineligible player who is found to have participated in a Match may be the subject of disciplinary proceedings and/or sanctions against the Team and/or relevant individual player, which may include expulsion from the relevant Tournament, amendment of result or other sanctions the Tournament Disciplinary Committee and/or Tournament Organizer deems appropriate in its sole discretion in accordance with these Regulations.

Players and Player Registration

- 2.5 Teams shall register a minimum of fourteen (14) eligible Players, but are permitted to register up to a maximum of twenty-five (25) eligible Players, for each Tournament it is participating in (the **Traveling Squad**). Details of the Traveling Squad must be provided to the Tournament Organizer in writing no less than 14 days prior to the scheduled start date of the Tournament. Teams shall also comply with earlier deadlines in respect of immigration and other compliance matters, if required by applicable laws and/or regulations. In the event of illness or injury of a Player, a Team may substitute eligible Players within the Traveling Squad on written notice to the Tournament Organizer, provided that no more than twenty-five (25) eligible Players are named in the Traveling Squad at any time.

- 2.6 Teams are permitted to register up to a maximum of fourteen (14) eligible Players from the Traveling Squad for each Match (the **Playing Squad**). Details of the Playing Squad must be provided to the Tournament Organizer no later than 60 minutes prior to the start of the Match.
- 2.7 Concurrently with Player registration, Teams shall register performance staff members who they desire to have sit on the Team bench during Matches. The number of performance staff members allowed on the Team bench will be strictly in accordance with the guidelines of the Tournament venue.

#### Team Eligibility

- 2.8 To ensure the integrity of any particular Tournament, no Team (or its Participants) may, either directly or indirectly: i) hold or deal in the securities or shares of any other Team; and/or ii) be involved in any capacity whatsoever in the management, administration and/or sporting performance of any other Team.
- 2.9 All Teams shall respond within a reasonable timeframe to any reasonable request by the Tournament Organizer for information to verify compliance with Regulation 2.8. Failure to cooperate with such reasonable requests of the Tournament Organizer shall be deemed a breach of these Regulations and may result in disciplinary action in accordance with these Regulations.
- 2.10 If any Team is not admitted to, is excluded from or withdraws from the Tournament once the Tournament has started, the Tournament Disciplinary Committee may impose additional disciplinary measures, taking into account, in particular, the timing of a possible withdrawal, the severity of any breach leading to non-admission or exclusion, possible mitigating factors as well as any other relevant circumstances. Disciplinary sanctions may include the expulsion of the Team concerned from subsequent Tournaments, the Series and/or the replacement of the Team in question by another club.

### **3. SPORTING REGULATIONS**

#### Technical Rules

- 3.1 The following pitch dimensions shall be used by the Tournament Organizer:
- Length: 45m to 70m.
  - Width: 30m to 50m.
  - Penalty Area: 12m to 14m from the goal line, extending 20m to 25m wide (depending on the width of the pitch).
  - Penalty Mark: 8m to 10m.
- 3.2 The dimensions of the goal shall be 2m (height) x 5.5m (width) or such other dimensions appropriate for 7 a side football as the Tournament Organizer shall determine in its sole discretion.
- 3.3 The playing surface shall be grass, whenever possible.
- 3.4 Throw-ins shall be taken by hand.
- 3.5 There shall be no offsides.

#### Playing Rules

- 3.6 Matches shall have a duration of thirty (30) minutes, which shall be separated into two fifteen (15) minute halves. Between halves, there shall be a five (5) minute rest period. The Teams will determine which end they are shooting towards with the flip of a coin carried out by the Match Referee and Teams alternate ends during the five (5) minute rest period.
- 3.7 The clock shall not be stopped except in the following circumstances: (i) to determine the end of each half and the end of the Match, (ii) if a goal is scored, and (iii) if a corner kick, a free kick or a penalty kick is awarded and, in the case of (ii) and (iii), the clock shall restart once play resumes upon kick off. The clock may be stopped in case of injury if medical assistance enters the pitch. If the player refuses medical assistance, to avoid the loss of time, the Match Referee shall require their immediate incorporation into the game or that they be treated off the field.

- 3.8 Players shall not delay when taking a throw-in or a goal kick. The Team in possession has seven (7) seconds to release the ball after being ready to play (i.e., when they have control of the ball and can take the throw-in or goal kick). It is at the sole discretion of the Match Referee to determine whether the 7-second rule has been broken. In the event a throw-in is not taken within 7 seconds, the Match Referee may award the throw-in to the opposing Team. In the event a goal kick is not taken within 7 seconds, the Match Referee may award a corner kick to the opposing Team.
- 3.9 Each Match shall finish with a winner and there shall be no draws. In the event that, at the conclusion of regular time, the two Teams are tied on the number of goals scored, the Match will progress to a final five (5) minutes of additional time which is played at the conclusion of regular time (**Added Time**). Added Time shall commence no later than three (3) minutes after the conclusion of regular time, during which period Teams shall change ends and Players are permitted a water break. Teams shall start Added Time with no more than five (5) players on the field. The Team that scores the next goal will win the Match. If no goals are scored within the five (5) minutes of Added Time, the winner of the Match shall be determined using 'sudden death' penalties. The first Team to lead the scores after a round of one (1) sudden death penalty each per Team will win the Match<sup>1</sup>. Only those Players on the pitch at the end of Added Time shall be allowed to take the penalty kicks. If, after each Player from the two Teams has taken a penalty kick, the two Teams are tied on the number of goals scored, the same Players in the same order will continue to take penalty kicks until a winner is determined.

#### Players and Substitutions

- 3.10 Subject to Regulation 3.9 above, a maximum of seven (7) players from the Playing Squad are permitted on the field for a Team at any given time, which shall include a goalkeeper. In the event that a Team has more than seven (7) players on the field at any time, the Match Referee may impose a sanction of a one goal reduction to that Team's score or more depending on the severity of the breach.
- 3.11 Substitutions shall follow rolling substitution rules, with no limit to the number of substitutions per Team per Match.

#### Tournament Format (as also set out in the Match Schedule)

- 3.12 Each Tournament shall consist of at least eight (8) Teams.
- 3.13 Each Tournament shall comprise a three-day event and shall take place on dates and at times determined by the Tournament Organizer, subject to the terms of the Participation Agreement between the relevant Team and the Tournament Organizer and/or any Invitation Notice in respect of the relevant Tournament.
- 3.14 The first stage of the Tournament will be the Group Stage, with two brackets of four (4) Teams (bracket formation to be determined by the Tournament Organizer). Each Team in the bracket will play the other three (3) Teams. One (1) point shall be awarded to the Team that wins each Match in the Group Stage. No points will be awarded to the loser of a Match in the Group Stage.
- 3.15 The two (2) Teams in each bracket that score the highest number of points following the conclusion of the Group Stage shall progress to the Semi Final Stage. In the event that two Teams have scored an equal number of points following the conclusion of the Group Stage, the Team which has scored the greatest number of goals during the Group Stage shall be awarded the higher position in the bracket. In the event of a tie in the number of goals scored during the Group Stage, the Team with the better head-to-head record shall be awarded the higher position in the bracket. In the event that three (3) Teams have scored an equal number of points following the conclusion of the Group Stage, the two Teams to progress to the Semi Final Stage shall be determined by applying the following criteria:
- a. Most goals scored;

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<sup>1</sup> For example, if Team A and Team B are drawing the Match 2-2 at the conclusion of regular time, they will play Added Time. In Added Time both Team A and Team B will play with five (5) players. If Team A scores a goal during Added Time, the score will be 3-2 and they will win the Match. However, if no goals are scored in Added Time and the score remains 2-2 at the conclusion of Added Time, the winner of the Match will be determined using 'sudden death' penalties.

- b. Head-to-head results;
  - c. Goal differential;
  - d. Fewest goals allowed;
  - e. Least disciplinary points accumulated (i.e. yellow card = 1 point; red card = 3 points); and
  - f. Penalty kicks<sup>2</sup>.
- 3.16 The winners of each Match in the Semi Final Stage shall progress to the Final.
- 3.17 The losers of each Match in the Semi Final Stage shall progress to a Third-Place Match.
- 3.18 All Teams shall play all of their Matches until eliminated.
- 3.19 In the case of a Match being abandoned after it has already kicked off, if the Match is capable of being resumed the Match shall recommence at the minute at which play was interrupted with the same scoreline, rather than being replayed in full. If the Match cannot resume:
- a. In the Group Stage, each Team shall be awarded 0 points for the Match;
  - b. In the Semi Final Stage or Third-Place Match, the Teams shall flip a coin to determine the winner.
- 3.20 The Tournament Organizer has the right to cancel, reschedule or relocate (within the geographical location of the continental governing body of the original Tournament) one or more Matches (or the entire Tournament) for any reason at its sole discretion, including as a result of force majeure or due to health, safety or security concerns.

#### Referees

- 3.21 There shall be three (3) Match Officials: the Match Referee and two (2) Assistant Referees. All Match Officials shall be qualified, English-speaking officials. The Match clock will be managed and controlled by an off-field referee.
- 3.22 The Match Referee has the authority to take disciplinary action from entering the field of play until leaving the field of play after the Match ends (including, if applicable, penalties).
- 3.23 In the event of misconduct on the pitch, the Match Referee may sanction a player as follows:
- a. Yellow card: the player is on a warning.
  - b. Red card or two yellow cards: the player is expelled immediately from that Match and may not play in the following Match in that Tournament (if any).
- 3.24 The Tournament Disciplinary Committee may, at the request of the sanctioned Team, review on-field misconduct and/or yellow and/or red cards with a view to either upholding the decision of the Match Referee, withdrawing a sanction, or sanctioning misconduct which has not previously been sanctioned on-field by imposing such sanctions referred to in Regulation 3.22.
- 3.25 The Match Referee's decisions are final.

#### Prize Money

- 3.26 Details of the prize money (including any allocation to the Team and Players) shall be determined, and communicated to the Teams, by the Tournament Organizer in advance of each Tournament. The Teams shall distribute any prize money in accordance with such communication.

#### Kit and Equipment

- 3.27 The Teams shall play in their home and away current domestic league kit, being the kit used for the current (or, in the event the relevant domestic season has concluded, the immediately preceding) domestic football season for that Team. The Tournament Organizer shall confirm ahead of each

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<sup>2</sup>Team A and Team B will each select one Player to shoot on Team C, then the selected Player from Team B and a Player selected by Team C will shoot on Team A, and then the Players selected by Team C and Team A will shoot on Team B. The Team with the fewest goals scored will be knocked out. If there is a tie, subsequent rounds of penalty kicks (following the same Team rotation with a new Player selected by each Team) will be held until it is determined the two Teams that advance.

Match which kit (i.e. home or away) the Team shall play in. The Teams shall in any case bring both their home and away kits to each Match.

- 3.28 The Tournament Organizer shall provide the Series logo to the Teams who shall affix it on the right-hand sleeve of each playing shirt.
- 3.29 The official Tournament footballs shall be provided by the Tournament Organizer.
- 3.30 Teams and Participants shall comply with the reasonable instructions of the Tournament Organizer as to all operational aspects of the Tournament.

#### **4. DISCIPLINARY**

- 4.1 All disciplinary matters (including both on-field offenses and off-field misconduct) shall be handled in accordance with these Regulations and any alleged breaches will be determined by the Tournament Disciplinary Committee.
- 4.2 Participants shall respect and adhere to all anti-doping, anti-corruption, and safeguarding regulations and policies which are set out in or incorporated as part of these Regulations. Any breaches of the relevant Regulations shall be subject to the disciplinary process set out in this Regulation 4.
- 4.3 Participants shall conduct themselves with professionalism, respect, and integrity at all times. Abusive language, harassment, or unsporting behaviour towards officials, opponents, teammates, or spectators is strictly prohibited.

##### On-Field Matters

- 4.4 Accumulation of three yellow cards across a Tournament shall result in a one-Match suspension.
- 4.5 A straight red card shall result in an automatic suspension for the next Match, with further suspensions from future Matches at the discretion of the Tournament Disciplinary Committee.
- 4.6 The Tournament Disciplinary Committee may review, only on request by the Team within twelve (12) hours after the Match in question, straight red cards imposed by the Match Referee with a view to either upholding the Match Referee's decision or withdrawing the sanction.
- 4.7 The Tournament Disciplinary Committee may review, at the request of a Team, serious alleged breaches of these Regulations which were not sanctioned on-field by the Match Referee.
- 4.8 The Tournament Disciplinary Committee may exercise its discretion to impose sanctions for on-field matters, including without limitation any of the following:
  - a. Deliberate wasting of time;
  - b. Simulation of a foul;
  - c. Dangerous or foul play;
  - d. More than seven players being on the field for a Team at any time during a Match; and/or
  - e. Unsporting behaviour towards Match Officials.

#### **5. ANTI-DOPING**

- 5.1 The Tournament Organizer enforces a zero-tolerance policy on doping.
- 5.2 All Players and other relevant Participants remain subject to the rules and regulations of FIFA, WADA and domestic governing bodies. Players are bound to comply with the World Anti-Doping Code and domestic anti-doping legislation. Players may therefore be subject to doping controls in accordance with the relevant established doping programmes, including those of FIFA and/or WADA.
- 5.3 The Tournament Organizer agrees to respect any anti-doping sanctions imposed by FIFA and/or WADA and/or the relevant domestic governing body and will automatically apply such sanctions for the relevant Tournament as soon as it is notified. In the event that the sanctions are revoked, annulled or modified by the relevant competent authority (such as the Court of Arbitration for Sport), they will be identically revoked, annulled or modified by the Tournament Organizer.

## **6. ANTI-CORRUPTION & MATCH-FIXING**

- 6.1 Each Tournament and the Series enforces a zero-tolerance policy on Match-manipulation, bribery, and betting-related offenses and is committed to protecting the integrity of football.
- 6.2 All Participants are strictly prohibited from engaging in betting on or being involved in the manipulation of any Tournament Matches or any other aspect of any Tournament.
- 6.3 Participants shall not accept, give, offer, promise, receive, request or solicit any personal or undue pecuniary or other advantage in order to obtain or retain business or any other improper advantage to or from anyone within any Tournament and/or the Series, including the Tournament Organizer. Such acts are prohibited regardless of whether carried out directly or indirectly through, or in conjunction with, third parties. In particular, Participants shall not accept, give, offer, promise, receive, request or solicit any personal or undue pecuniary or other advantage for the execution or omission of an act that is related to their official activities and is contrary to their duties or falls within their discretion in respect of any Tournament and/or the Series.
- 6.4 Any suspected corruption-related activity shall be investigated, and those found guilty shall face disqualification and legal consequences, including reporting by the Tournament Organizer to the relevant legal and sporting authorities. All breaches of this Regulation 6 shall be considered Category 3 offenses (as referred to in Regulation 9.4) for the purposes of proceedings before the Tournament Disciplinary Committee.

## **7. ANTI-DISCRIMINATION CODE**

- 7.1 Discrimination of any kind, including but not limited to race, gender, sexual orientation, disability, religion, or nationality, is strictly prohibited. Each Tournament shall implement an inclusive and diverse environment, ensuring equal opportunities for all Participants.
- 7.2 Any Participants found liable of discriminatory behaviour shall be subject to immediate disciplinary action, which may include playing suspensions or expulsion from a Tournament, in accordance with the disciplinary process outlined in Regulation 9.

## **8. SAFEGUARDING & PLAYER WELFARE**

- 8.1 The Tournament Organizer is committed to ensuring a safe and inclusive environment for all Participants, with strict adherence to safeguarding best practice.
- 8.2 All Participants must refrain from all forms of physical or mental abuse, all forms of harassment, and all other hostile acts intended to isolate, ostracise or harm the dignity of a person.
- 8.3 Any reports of harassment, abuse, or misconduct shall be investigated thoroughly by the Tournament Organizer or its appointed representative, with protective measures taken and/or sanctions imposed where appropriate.
- 8.4 Each Team shall designate a Safeguarding Officer to oversee player welfare and compliance with safeguarding best practice. Each Team agrees to comply with the Tournament Organizer's Safeguarding Policy available on its website.

## **9. RESOLUTION MECHANISM FOR DISCIPLINARY ISSUES**

- 9.1 If the Tournament Organizer considers that, following an investigation, any Participant has breached these Regulations, it shall commence a disciplinary process against that Participant in accordance with this Regulation 9.
- 9.2 The Tournament Organizer or its appointed representative may commence an investigation into any alleged breach of these Regulations. That investigation may include interviews with the accused, interviews with witnesses, review of documents or such other evidence as may be available (such as

video footage). Participants shall cooperate with an investigation and, if they fail to do so, may be deemed to have breached these Regulations.

- 9.3 If the Tournament Organizer, or its appointed representative, considers that a Participant has breached these Regulations, it will notify the Participant as soon as possible in writing. In cases where the Participant is a Player, the Team's manager or head coach (as applicable) shall also be notified.
- 9.4 Disciplinary matters shall be categorized according to their severity, the sanctions for which may include any one or combination of the following, to be imposed at the sole discretion of the Tournament Disciplinary Committee and/or Tournament Appeal Committee (as appropriate):
- a. Category 1 offenses: Verbal or written warning, suspensions (Participants) up to a maximum of one Match. As guidance only, it is anticipated that the majority of (minor) on-field offenses, including those set out in Regulation 4.8, would be deemed Category 1 Offenses.
  - b. Category 2 offenses: Verbal or written warning, suspensions (Participants) up to a maximum of four Matches. Category 2 Offenses are more serious offenses and, as guidance only, should be considered the starting point for offenses such as breaches of Regulation 7 (the Anti-Discrimination Code).
  - c. Category 3 offenses: Expulsion from a Tournament (Participants or Teams), removal from consideration for any future Tournament (Participants or Teams), referral to relevant legal authorities. Category 3 Offenses are the most serious offenses. As guidance only, match-fixing offenses under Regulation 6 or serious breaches of the Safeguarding Policy and/or Regulation 8 would be deemed Category 3 Offenses.
- 9.5 The Tournament Organizer will appoint a Tournament Disciplinary Committee, consisting of one (1) legal representative as Chair and two representatives of the Tournament Organizer, to be selected by the Tournament Organizer. The Tournament Disciplinary Committee shall review and adjudicate all disciplinary cases. The burden of proof shall be on the Tournament Organizer and the standard of proof shall be the balance of probabilities.
- 9.6 Appeals may be submitted to the Tournament Appeal Committee, an independent body made up of representatives from a panel of individuals, appointed by the Tournament Organizer following consultation with Clubs, within 12 hours of the disciplinary decision. The Tournament Appeal Committee's decision is final and binding.

## **10 TOURNAMENT ORGANIZER DISCRETION**

- 10.1 The Tournament Organizer reserves the right to amend these Regulations from time to time upon written notice to Participants and Teams and any such amendments shall be automatically binding upon the Participants.

## **11 DATA PROTECTION**

- 11.1 By participating in the Tournament, each Participant hereby consents to the Tournament Organizer:
- a. processing their personal data;
  - b. disclosing their personal data to third parties for the purposes of running and operating the Tournament;
  - c. using their name in promotional materials or marketing activity in connection with the Tournament; and
  - d. transferring their personal data outside of the European Economic Area in connection with the Tournament;

in each case, if and solely to the extent necessary to organize and operate the Tournament in accordance with these Regulations, the terms of the Participation Agreement between the relevant Team and the Tournament Organizer, and/or any Invitation Notice in respect of the relevant Tournament.

## **12 FINAL PROVISIONS**

- 12.1 English language shall be authoritative. Any matter not covered by these Regulations shall be determined by the Tournament Organizer.
- 12.2 Nothing in these Regulations limits any liability which cannot legally be limited, including liability for death or personal injury caused by negligence, or fraud or fraudulent misrepresentation.
- 12.3 If any of the provisions of the Regulations shall be found to be void or unenforceable, such provisions shall be deemed to be deleted from these Regulations and the remaining provisions of these Regulations shall continue in full force and effect and the Tournament Organizer shall use its reasonable endeavours to procure that such provision is replaced by a provision which is valid and enforceable and which gives effect to the spirit of the Regulations.
- 12.4 These Regulations and any disputes or differences arising in connection to them shall be governed in all respects by English law. Any disputes shall be resolved in accordance with the terms of the Participation Agreement between the relevant Team and the Tournament Organizer.



## APPENDIX

### MATCH SCHEDULE

#### Group 1

A – Kansas City Current  
B – Flamengo  
C – Tigres  
D – AFC Toronto

#### Group 2

E – Club Nacional De Football  
F – San Diego Wave  
G – Club America  
H – Deportivo Cali

Match Day 1 - December 5th		TEAM 1	TEAM 2	
1	5:00 PM	Team A	Team B	
2	6:00 PM	Team H	Team F	
3	7:00 PM	Team C	Team D	
4	8:00 PM	Team G	Team E	
Match Day 2 - December 6th		TEAM 1	TEAM 2	
5	11:30 AM	Team B	Team D	
6	12:30 PM	Team A	Team C	
7	1:30 PM	Team E	Team H	
8	2:30 PM	Team F	Team G	
3:30 - 4:30 PM - Interim Break				
9	4:30 PM	Team A	Team D	
10	5:30 PM	Team B	Team C	
11	6:30 PM	Team F	Team E	
12	7:30 PM	Team H	Team G	
Match Day 3 - December 7th				
Semifinals				

13	11:30 AM	Group 1 Winner v. Group 2 Runner-up
12:30 - 1:00PM - Interim Break		
14	1:00 PM	Group 1 Runner-up v. Group 2 Winner
2:00 - 3:00PM - Interim Break		
<b>3rd Place Match</b>		
15	3:00 PM	Loser SF 1 v. Loser SF 2
4:00 - 4:30PM - Interim Break		
<b>Championship</b>		
16	4:30 PM	Winner SF 1 v. Winner SF 2
<b>5:30 - 6:00PM - Awards Ceremony</b>		