

## COMPETITION RULES

### 1. ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

The MIC - Mediterranean International Cup is organized by AE MICFootball and will be governed by the rules of play and regulations of the RFEF – Real Federación Española de Fútbol and FCF – Federació Catalana de Futbol.

This regulation outlines the modifications to the previously detailed rules and regulations, adapting them to the MICFootfem'26 competition.

### 2. CATEGORIES

U19 | (F-11) Players born after 01.01.2007  
U16 | (F-11) Players born after 01.01.2010  
U14 | (F-7) Players born after 01.01.2012  
U12 | (F-7) Players born after 01.01.2014  
U10 | (F-7) Players born after 01.01.2016

### 3. EXCEPTIONS

It is allowed to register a maximum of 1 player born in the year prior to the respective F-7 category. In the U16 (F-11) it is allowed to register a maximum of 2 players born in the year prior. In the U19 (F-11) category, there will be no age exceptions.

### 4. DOCUMENTATION

Before the start of the competition, all players and technical staff must be duly accredited and registered on the competition platform.

During the competition, only team members who are properly accredited may be in the assigned technical area.

Registration or modification of players and technical staff is not possible once the competition has begun.

The person in charge of each team will receive copies of the player list from the organization. Thirty minutes (30') before each match, one of these lists must be handed over to the field director or assistant director, indicating the jersey numbers that the players will wear during the match. All players must identify themselves with ID card or passport.

All teams are required to carry documentation for all team members that verifies their identity (ID card or passport) for each match.

The corresponding document review will take place before the start of the competition, although the organization may repeat it at any other time if circumstances require it.

## **5. NUMBER OF PLAYERS & LINEUP**

There is no maximum limit on the number of players registered for each match.

A player may be lined up on different teams from the same club as long as the team where the player is lined up is from a different and higher category. Under no circumstances may a player be lined up on another team from the same category or a lower category than the one they are registered with, regardless of their age.

To be correctly lined up, there must be a 5-hour gap between the end of one match and the start of another, always with prior authorization from the organization. The minimum number of players to register in 7-a-side is 9 and 11-a-side is 14.

Under no circumstances may a player participate in the competition with two different clubs or two teams from the same club competing in the same category.

## **6. SUBSTITUTIONS**

Substitutions are free and do not require stopping the game, always with prior authorization from the field director or referee.

The game will only be stopped if the substituted player is the goalkeeper, or if the referee or field director deems it necessary.

Any substituted player may re-enter the game.

All substitutions must be made from the center of the field. The player entering the field must do so once the director or assistant director has given approval.

## **7. FACILITIES & PLAYING FIELDS**

All fields are made of high-quality artificial turf.

The use of metal-studded footwear is prohibited on playing surfaces with artificial grass.

## **8. BALLS**

All F-7 matches will be played with balls approved by FIFA (Football-7 categories, size number 4). All F-11 matches will be played with balls approved by FIFA (Football-11 categories, size number 5).

The organization will not provide balls for warm-up before the matches. Teams are advised to bring their own balls.

## **9. EQUIPMENT**

Each club is required to bring at least two numbered game uniforms or one uniform and a set of numbered bibs. All shirts must be properly numbered, and the numbers must match those in the match report. It is recommended that the player wear the same number throughout the competition.

Teams will wear the official first kit designated by the club before the start of the competition. If both teams' kits are the same colour or if the referee determines that confusion may arise, the visiting team (mentioned second in the competition schedule) will change their kit. All players participating in the match are required to wear shin guards.

Players warming up during the match must be in the area established beforehand by the Field Director, using a bib/jersey that does not match the colour of either team in play.

## **10. MATCH SCHEDULE**

The organizing committee reserves the right to make changes to the match schedule regarding both times and playing fields. Information about changes will be communicated to the team manager.

## **11. DURATION OF MATCHES**

All matches F-7 will consist of two halves of 15 minutes each. All matches F-11 will consist of two halves of 20 minutes each.

The tournament committee is authorized to alter the duration and schedule if circumstances require it. During the halftime of matches, there will only be a change of ends, except in the final, which will have a 3-minute break.

## **12. PUNCTUALITY**

Teams must arrive at the field between 1 hour and 30 minutes before the scheduled start of the competition. Thirty minutes (30') before the match begins, the team must be ready on the playing field.

## **13. COMPETITION SYSTEM**

In the "Qualification Phase," teams play against each other in a single round-robin format. All groups will consist of 4 teams.\*

The teams that finish in 1st and 2nd positions will advance to the "Final Phase," while those finishing in 3rd and 4th positions will compete in the "Consolation Phase," except for some third-place teams from the categories indicated in the schedule, which may compete in the final phase. \*

Matches in the "Final Phase" and "Consolation Phase" will be played in a knockout system (elimination) and will be decided without extra time, by penalties, according to IFAB rules and FIFA regulations.

\*The competition system may vary depending on the number of participating teams.

## **14. POINTS FOR THE QUALIFICATION PHASE LEAGUE**

- Match won: 3 points
- Match drawn: 1 point
- Match lost: 0 points

## **15. CLASSIFICATION CRITERIA**

In case of a tie between two teams:

1. Head-to-head goal difference.
2. Overall goal difference.
3. Number of goals scored.
4. Younger team.

In case of a tie among more than two teams\*:

1. Points earned in matches played between the involved teams.
2. Goal difference in matches played between the involved teams.
3. Number of goals scored in matches played between the involved teams.
4. Overall goal difference.

5. Number of goals scored in the overall group classification.

6. Younger team.

\*If the tie among more than two teams becomes a tie between two teams at any point, it will be considered a "tie between two teams" and will be resolved according to the appropriate criteria.

## **16. PENALTY SHOOTOUTS TO BREAK TIES IN PLAYOFFS**

This will be conducted according to FIFA rules. Teams will take turns shooting penalties, one at a time, alternately (3 in the Football-7 categories and 5 in the Football-11 category).

If the tie remains, it will proceed to sudden death. Teams will take turns shooting until one scores and the other misses.

Only players on the field at the end of the match can participate in the penalty shootout. Each penalty will be taken by a different player. Only after each team member has taken a penalty (including the goalkeeper) can players take a second penalty.

## **17. RULES FOR A PENALTY SHOOTOUT**

A goalkeeper who suffers a clear and evident injury, confirmed by the medical team of the organization present at the field, during the penalty shootout and is unable to continue playing may be substituted.

Any eligible player may change positions with the goalkeeper at any time during the penalty shootout.

If, at the end of the match and before the penalty kicks begin, one team has more players than its opponent, it must reduce its number to match that of its opponent. The team manager must inform the field director and the referee of the name and number of each excluded player.

Thus, any excluded player may not participate in the penalty shootout.

All available players, according to the rules, who will execute the penalty shootout must be positioned at the center of the field, except for both goalkeepers and the player taking the penalty. The rest of the players and coaching staff must remain in the assigned technical area.



## **18. MICFOOTFEM COMPETITION COMMITTEE**

The Competition Committee will be appointed by the organizing entity of MICFootfem'26.

This committee will be made up of four members, including two members from the organizing entity, one member from the Technical Referees Committee, and one member from the Catalan Football Federation.

Matters related to protests and claims will be processed by the Competition Committee, and its written resolutions may not be appealed or changed.

## **19. SANCTIONS**

If a team lines up a player who is suspended or does not meet the requirements set by the regulations, it will lose the match in question by 3-0.

If a player commits an offense that warrants a warning or expulsion, they will be penalized according to the nature of the incident as reported by the referee and under the sanction parameters detailed in the regulations and rules of play.

A yellow card will be used to communicate a warning. A player who accumulates two yellow cards in the same match will be expelled and will not be allowed to participate further in that match.

A red card will be used to communicate an expulsion.

During the course of the competition, the blue card will not be in effect or valid. Expulsions that have been verified and reviewed by the Competition Committee will not incur penalties in the following cases:

Be expelled for handling the ball to prevent a goal or to deny a clear goal-scoring opportunity (except in the case of the goalkeeper within their own penalty area).

- Be expelled for a minor offense as the last player in a clear goal-scoring opportunity.
- Receive a second warning in the same match, provided it is a minor offense and without further consequences.

Severe expulsions will be sanctioned by the Competition Committee and may result in suspension for one or more matches in the following cases:

- Serious foul play
- Spitting at an opponent or any other person
- Violent conduct
- Using offensive, insulting, or humiliating language and/or gestures
- Aggressive and/or unsportsmanlike conduct
- Any actions deemed severe by the Competition Committee

All cases of severe expulsion will be reported to the national federation of the affected player's country.

Unsportsmanlike conduct, whether occurring on or off the playing field, may result in the exclusion of a player or team from the competition.

## **20. DISCIPLINARY MATTERS**

All incidents and expulsions that may occur during the competition (on or off the playing field) will be reported to the Competition Committee.

The Competition Committee will be the sole authority responsible for applying the corresponding disciplinary sanctions. At the end of each matchday, the sanctions will be communicated to the affected teams.

Sanctions imposed by the Competition Committee and their written resolutions may not be appealed or changed.

## **21. SUSPENDED MATCH**

If a match is suspended due to any incident and/or occurrence, the Competition Committee will decide on the following parameters, taking into account the reason for the suspension:

- The match will be replayed from the beginning.
- The match will continue from the minute it was suspended.
- The result of the match at the time of suspension will be set as the final result.
- One of the teams will win 3-0.
- Both teams will lose the match (0-3).



## **22. REFEREES**

The referees of MICFootfem'26 belong to National and International Referee Committees and will be appointed by the Territorial Committee of Catalonia. Their decisions are final and may not be challenged under any circumstances.

## **23. CLAIMS**

Protests or claims must be submitted in writing to the Field Director or the Organization Responsible, along with a claim fee of €100, which will be refunded in case of a favourable resolution.

These claims must be submitted within a maximum of 30 minutes after the end of the match in question.

Claims will only be accepted if submitted in writing by the team delegate or manager who is properly accredited.

Claims regarding referee decisions will not be accepted.

Written resolutions from the organizing committee may not be appealed or changed.

## **24. CODE OF CONDUCT**

Delegates are responsible for their players in case of damage to changing rooms, hotels, or other facilities. Silence must be respected in accommodations between 11:00 PM and 8:00 AM. Meal times established by hotel staff must be adhered to. The entry of alcohol or other prohibited substances for minors under 18 years old into the rooms is prohibited.

Failure to comply with any of these rules by any player, coach, or accompanying person may result in expulsion from the tournament.

## **25. RESPONSIBILITIES AND INSURANCE**

All clubs/teams must have insurance coverage for their players both on and off the playing fields. All participants must have a health card, private insurance, or a valid federation registration. AE MICFootball is not responsible for any damages or losses incurred by participants, such as loss of personal belongings (due to theft or other circumstances) or injuries. It will also not be liable for actions taken by public authorities or transportation companies, such as strikes, cancellations, etc. The





club, at the time of registration, affirms that its players are physically fit for the event. The organization disclaims all responsibility for damages that participants may cause to themselves or others during and after the competition.

## **26. DATABASE**

All participants registered on the official tournament platform are required to complete the data protection form, have it signed by their legal representatives, and submit it to the organization before the tournament. By doing so, they consent to the processing of their data. Participation in the event authorizes AE MICFootball to use any graphic reproduction of the participants during the tournament.

Players and/or clubs that do not present the image rights authorization before the start of the competition will not be allowed to participate in MICFootfem'26.

## **27. MODIFICATION**

Any circumstances not covered by the regulations are the sole responsibility of the organizing officials, whose decisions are final. They reserve the right to add, modify, interpret, and apply the rules according to their criteria and the needs of each tournament. AE MICFootball reserves the right to modify these rules in the interest of the competition.

All modifications made to these regulations will be communicated in writing to the responsible person of the participating club/team.