

Review May 2023

WORLD MEDICAL FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS (WMFC)

COMPETITION RULES

1-General Aspects

1. The *World Medical Football Championship* is intended for medical teams only.
Medical condition: Players must hold a University Degree in Human Medicine and be working (or entitled to work) as a human medical doctor in their country, plus be able to prove a basic medical knowledge under requirement of organizers and/or other teams.
Exceptions to this rule
 - 1.1- Non-medical players who participated in WMFC editions previous to Mainz 2006: only one of such players per team is allowed and he must be over 45 and wear a distinctive armband.
2. Team representatives are fully responsible for the medical condition of players. Documents (passports, medical degree, other documents and pictures) must be submitted by representatives to organizers well in advance of WMFC. The hosting team will check all documents and may request further evidence if any doubts on the medical status of a player.
3. Team representatives must also submit a team sheet with picture, name, age (birthdate), shirt number and medical specialty of each player.
4. The WMFC is structured in 3 competitions, running in parallel:
 - 4.1- Ferran Morell Cup (Open Trophy): Players are only requested to be male medical doctors and at least 25 years of age at tournament initiation.
 - 4.2- Clemens Vogel Cup (Masters Trophy): Players are also requested to be at least 45 years of age at tournament initiation. Female players over 25 are also eligible.
 - 4.3- Carlito Cup. Players are also requested to be over 60 years of age. Female players welcome
5. For a particular WMFC edition, a nation may register a maximum of one team in each competition
6. On-site medical tests: At the end of the match, the captains must select 2 players from the opponent team to answer a questionnaire based on fundamental medical topics. The on-field Delegate is responsible of the fair execution of the tests and should report the outcomes to the organizers. Results of on-field tests will be published, so that same players are not tested again in the following days. In case of unclear medical status of a player, he will be challenged by the Organizing Committee. If any player refuses to undertake the test, his team will automatically forfeit the match, resulting in a 3-0 win awarded to the opposition. The Organizing Committee will disqualify any team for the rest of the championship if it is proved that there is a non-medical player on the field at any time. And the Board will exclude such team for at least the following 2 editions of the WMFC.
7. Changes or updates to these rules must be communicated at least one month prior to the start of the WMFC. After that, a change to existing rules can only be made under

exceptional circumstances by a unanimous decision of the Board and communicated as soon as possible to all teams.

8. The Competition:

Results and Tournament standings will be made available daily by the Organizing Committee.

8.1- The WMFC shall begin with a league among the teams composing one group.

The number of groups will depend on the total number of teams enrolled. The composition of the groups will be determined by drawing a lot at the opening ceremony.

8.2- The players must be dressed in their team strip 30 minutes before the match begins. All teams should have an alternative colored team strip to avoid a clash of colors. In this case, the visiting team (listed second in the draw) will change team strip.

8.3- Substitutions are limitless and reversible, i.e. any replaced player can substitute for another player later on in the match. The replaced player must have left the field before the substitute player may enter. Substitutions can only be made within 5 m of the halfway line, at the side of the team managers. Play must not have to stop. No need to warn referees.

8.4- Any other rules of international soccer apply, unless stated otherwise.

8.5- In case of a situation that has not been covered by these rules, the host Organizing Committee will have the final decision. In case of any disagreement, the Board remains the highest authority.

8.6- Preliminary Round Stage and Team Ranking:

8.6.1- Scoring:

- A. 3 points are awarded to a team that wins a match
- B. 1 point is awarded to each team in the event of a drawn match
- C. In the event of a walkover, the opposing team will be awarded 3 points and the match result will be recorded as 3:0.

8.6.2- Playoff Criteria:

- A. If there is a final draw on two teams, decision of qualification is by the following order:

A.1- The result of the direct confrontation will decide first

A.2- Obtaining of the highest balance of goals in the stage

A.3- Obtaining the highest number of goals in the stage

A.4- Suffering the lowest number of goals in the stage

A.5- Lowest number of red cards in match between teams

A.6- Lowest number of yellow cards in match between teams

A.7- If there is still a draw the results will be decided by the toss of a coin

- B. If there is a final draw on three teams, the order is:

B.1- The points obtained between the three teams is considered first

B.2- Obtaining of the highest balance of goals in the matches among themselves in the stage

B.3- Obtaining of the highest number of goals in the matches among themselves in the stage

B.4- Suffering the lowest number of goals in the matches among themselves in the stage

B.5- Lowest number of red cards in matches among themselves

B.6- Lowest number of yellow cards in matches among themselves

B.7- If there is still a draw the results to be decided by lot

8.6.3- Knockout Stages:

A. No extra time will be played; a series of penalty kicks will decide the result in the event of a drawn match

B. A penalty shoot out will begin with series of 5 penalties. In the event of a tie, penalties will be taken on a sudden death basis.

8.6.4 Discipline (Yellow and Red Cards):

A. Yellow cards are cumulative. When a player incurs two yellow cards, he will be penalized and disqualified for the following match.

B. Two yellow cards obtained in the same match will result in the player receiving a red card and being sent from the field of play. The player will be disqualified for the following match.

C. If a player receives a red card during a match, the player will be sent from the field of play. The player will be disqualified for the following match.

D. Cards recorded in previous matches are erased before the semifinal (so a player does not miss the final if he obtains only one yellow card in the semi-final)

E. In the case of serious misconduct (aggressive and abusive behavior, inconsiderate attitude towards the referee or other players, etc.) the Organizing Committee along with the Referees Coordinator will decide on the punishment. The Organizing Committee may decide to expel the offending player or team from the WMFC.

F. The referees are aware of the amateur nature of the WMFC and will be very strict regarding violent or reckless play.

2. Ferran Morell Cup (FMC): particular aspects:

FMC is a 11-a side Football Competition based on FIFA rules with the following exceptions:

1- Duration of games:

80 minutes, divided in 2 halves of 40 minutes each. Resting time between halves is 10 minutes

2- Substitutions:

Unlimited and reversible (a player may re-enter the match after leaving).

No need the game to be stopped nor referees to be warned.

Player must leave the field (by central line, on managers side) BEFORE substitute can enter.

3- Age rules (real birthdate to account)

3.1- All players must be at least 25 by the first match of the tournament

3.2- For outfield players (so not applying to goalkeepers): At all times for the duration of the match, there should be playing at least:

2 players over the age of 35 AND 2 players over the age of 40.

3.3- To display their status, these 4 players should wear a distinguishing arm band whilst on the field of play.

3.4- Should a team not comply with this rule, one goal will be awarded against the team for each player over the age of 35 or 40 who is not playing. Once this goal is awarded, the team must correct the error. If any player on the field has forgotten to wear the correct arm band, he will be punished by a yellow card for not wearing the arm band. A team may choose to play with less than 10 outfield players to avoid receiving a penalty.

3.5- If a player from the over 35 or over 40 age group are sent off, then the team must maintain that 2 players over 35 and 2 players over 40 are on the pitch, and if they cannot, they must lose another player.

4- Number of players

Teams participating in FMC may register up to 25 players.

Technical staff may also be registered with the team (no need for them to be medical doctors)

3- Clemens Vogel Cup (CVC) and Carlito Cup (CC): particular aspects

CVC is a 7-a-side football competition intended for male medical doctors over the age of 45. Female players over the age of 25 holding a Human Medicine University Degree are also eligible to play in this tournament.

CC is also a 7-a-side football competition, intended for male or female medical doctors over the age of 60.

General FIFA rules apply for the games, with the following exceptions:

1- Duration of games:

60 minutes, divided in 2 halves of 30 minutes each. Resting time between halves is 10 minutes

2- Substitutions:

Unlimited and reversible (a player may re-enter the match after leaving).

No need the game to be stopped nor referees to be warned.

Player must leave the field (by central line, on managers side) BEFORE substitute can enter.

3- Age rules (real birthdate to account)

Male players must be at least 45 and female players must be at least 25 by the first match of the tournament.

4- Field dimensions

Surface: Natural grass or high quality artificial grass

Length: 60 ± 5 m

Width: 40 ± 5 m

Goal: 6 x 2m (interior of posts)

Penalty Area: 9 x 24m

Penalty spot: 9m

Double penalty spot: 12m

5- Off-side

No off-side rule to be used during games

6- Referees

Ideally 1 field referee plus 1 table referee.

If not possible, the field referee should be ready to count fouls and times of exclusion to players

7- Fouls

All fouls by each team will be counted during each half-time, by the table (or the referee).

When, after a foul, the referee decides to play advantage, the foul should still be counted. In that case the referee warns the teams by shouting "foul accumulated, play on"

If a team commits the 5th foul in a half-time, the referee will warn the team by shouting "5th FOUL" and showing his open hand.

Any further foul committed by the team in the same half-time means a DOUBLE PENALTY awarded to the opponent team.

For the second half-time, the count of fouls starts at zero for both teams.

8- Double Penalty

Free kick from the 12m spot.

Goal keeper should be on the goal line.

All other players from both teams must remain behind the ball line and further than 6m from the ball, until the kick is produced

9- Free kicks

Opponent players must remain no closer than 6m from the ball, until the kick is produced

10- Disciplinary actions

The referees are aware of the amateur nature of the WMFC, and will be very strict regarding violent or reckless play, including an excessive use of force.

Yellow card: Communicates a caution and the involved player is excluded for 2 minutes. Another player can replace him immediately. The involved player is free to rejoin the game after the exclusion period.

Red card: Communicates the sending-off to the involved player for the rest of the match. Another player can take his place after 2 minutes (so the team remains 1 less during 2 minutes)

A second yellow card to the same player implies a red card.

11- Teams participating in CVC or CC may register up to 20 players.

Technical staff may also be registered with the team (no need for them to be medical doctors)