

May 2023

## WORLD MEDICAL FOOTBALL FEDERATION (WMFF)

### General aspects and regulations

#### 1. Background

In 1995 Dr Ferran Morell created the World Medical Football Championship (WMFC). The city of Barcelona hosted the first event where a number of International Teams of Medical Doctors shared a week of football competition together with scientific and experiential exchange among colleagues.

For 10 years the event took place in Barcelona and experienced a constant rise in the number of teams and the quality of the organization by the team Galens-Catalonia. The Scientific Symposium on Medicine, Health and Sport consolidated as a key part of the event, together with an increasingly competitive football tournament.

At the end of WMFC 2004, the team Brazil-Sao Jose, led by Dr Carlos Figueiredo, proposed to organize the tournament at Rio de Janeiro in 2005, and the name Ferran Morell Cup was adopted as a homage to the founder. The following year Dr Clemens Vogel from Germany hosted the 2006 edition in Mainz. At that time, a relevant change was proposed and accepted: to modify the structure of the tournament as to imitate the FIFA World Cup, including the decision to invite only one team per Nation and to rotate the hosting country. Since then, the WMFC has been hosted by several countries and the number of participating teams increased year after year.

At WMFC 2014 in Natal another relevant change was introduced: the creation of the Masters tournament, a 7-aside football competition addressed to players over-45 and running in parallel to the 11-aside traditional tournament. From then, the Masters took the name Clemens Vogel Cup while the traditional Open kept the name Ferran Morell Cup.

At WMFC 2019 in Cancun, Mexico, a new category was created: the Carlito Cup, a 7-aside football competition addressed to players over-60. Currently the number of players and teams is reduced, but increasing.

In the last years the WMFC has dramatically increased the number of teams, the competitiveness in the fields and the complexity of the organization. The present document has the aim to establish some guidance to teams and especially to organizers of future editions of WMFC in order to protect the original values of WMFC: **To share sport, friendship and to exchange experiences among international medical doctors.**

#### 2. What we are (Mission)

We are a virtual non-profit international organization devoted to the organization and preservation of the World Medical Football Championship, a yearly international event where Medical Doctors of different countries are invited to share football games, scientific exchange of knowledge and social activities in a spirit of friendship.

### 3. Who we are

#### 3.1- Core WMFF: Permanent members

Constituted by the medical teams that have ever organized the WMFC, represented by their respective captains. Core WMFF are considered as permanent members. A list of current members is provided in annex 1.

#### 3.2- Participants: Non-permanent members

Other medical teams that have ever participated at WMFC are considered as non-permanent members of WMFF.

New medical teams are welcome, provided they fulfill and respect the rules and the spirit of WMFF.

#### 3.3- Communication

Nations must appoint one representative (captain) as the responsible for communications with the Board, the local organizers and the other teams. Nations taking part in the 2 competitions (Morell and Vogel Cups) may choose to nominate 2 representatives (1 for either team).

An e-mail distribution list (WMFF Distribution List) with all representatives is the general communication way during the year.

A WhatsApp chat with all representatives may also be used for adequate topics.

During a championship, the hosting nation takes care of communications related to the event, so should make sure that all relevant aspects arrive to representatives well before, during and after the championship. The use of a website and/or social media is recommended.

#### 3.4- Board

Constituted by a reduced number of representatives of traditional teams, involved for at least 10 years in the tradition of WMFC.

The Board is the highest authority, in charge of the relevant decisions for the management of the WMFF.

Their aim is to preserve the original spirit of WMFC whilst adapting to new circumstances and to provide guidance to organizers.

Role and operation is detailed in the chapter 4 "the Board". Current members are provided in annex 2.

#### 3.5- National Medical Teams

It is in the spirit of WMFF to have Nations represented by Medical Teams.

Players are expected to be citizens or be working and living in that territory, and may only represent 1 Nation in the championship. Only one team per Nation can participate in a particular edition of WMFC. Any player wishing to change team must apply to the Board at least 2 months before the tournament date.

Nationality rules to be less strict in the Vogel and Carlito Cups, so in order to reduce the competitiveness and to encourage the spirit of friendship some reasonable exchange of players is allowed between nations.

Players in the teams are exclusively Medical Doctors in human medicine (MD). This is a fundamental feature of our organization, as it ensures:

-a certain level of education (facilitating fair-play and friendship)

-a common interest in human medicine (allowing exchange of knowledge and experiences)

-a fair competition (with likely similar level of skills and training)

The definition of MD, for the purpose of WMFC, includes all the following aspects:

3.5.1 holding a University Degree from an official Medical School

3.5.2 working (or being entitled to work) as medical doctor in their country (including the legal capabilities to diagnose and treat sick human beings, to prescribe drugs and to sign medical certifications)

3.5.3 able to demonstrate basic medical knowledge under request by organizers

For historic reasons, the following exception is accepted:

3.5.4 Non-medical players who participated in editions of WMFC before 2006 (Mainz).  
Only one of such players is allowed per team (and he should be over 45)

### 3.6 WMFF database

Data from all teams and players are collected in a database

Data should be adequately protected against unwanted access.

Permanent access should be granted to Board members.

Access (non-permanent) will be provided to Hosting Team during the year previous to the involved WMFC edition.

All teams must submit the following documents from each player:

3.6.1 A picture of their passport where face and birthdate is printed

3.6.2 A copy of their University Degree in Human Medicine

3.6.3 Any other relevant documents to prove the medical status of a player

Also to be recorded in the database:

3.6.4 For every player, the date when they first participated in WMFC.

3.6.5 The registration of the player in the current edition of WMFC (to be recorded by the Hosting Team)

3.6.5A WMFF certification of the medical status, once it has been fully confirmed by the hosting team and endorsed by the Board

### 3.7 Hosting Team

3.7.1- Each WMFC edition is hosted by a National Team, who are fully responsible of the local aspects of the event, including the communications, the financials, the development of the competitions, the scientific symposium and the social activities.

3.7.2- The Hosting Team must follow the tradition and spirit of WMFF whilst adapting to local features and necessities.

3.7.3- The Hosting Team will check the documents from new players, ensure their medical qualifications and update the WMFF database.

3.7.4- The Hosting Team will provide a Delegate to each match. The Delegate ensures that the rules and spirit of the WMFC are fulfilled. He/she reports to Organizers on the circumstances of the game, including

team and supporters behavior and is responsible for the compulsory test on basic medical knowledge to at least 2 players of both teams (chosen by the opponent captain)

3.7.5- The Board will provide advice to the Hosting Team when required.

## 4. The Board

### 4.1. Aims and Roles

- 4.1.1- To preserve the original spirit of WMFC, whilst adapting to new circumstances
- 4.1.2- To issue and review the Rules for WMFC
- 4.1.3- To provide guidance to Hosting Team of WMFC
- 4.1.4- To take any relevant decisions, as the highest authority of WMFF

### 4.2. Members

A reduced number (maximum of 10) of representatives of Core WMFF Teams who:

- 4.2.1- Have been participants in at least 10 editions of WMFC
- 4.2.2- Have been responsible of organizing at least 1 edition of WMFC
- 4.2.3- Are able to participate in discussions in English

### 4.3. How to become a member

- 4.3.1- New members are proposed by any representative of the Core WMFF teams.
- 4.3.2- New members must then be unanimously accepted by the Board

### 4.4. How to discontinue as member

- 4.4.1- By resignation
- 4.4.2- By agreement of  $\frac{3}{4}$  of all other members

### 4.5. Operation

- 4.5.1- Presential meetings during WMFC. Communication through year mainly by email.
- 4.5.2- Practical tasks to be assigned to a member or group of members.
- 4.5.3- Final decisions taken by votation. Only 1 vote per Nation represented in the Board.
- 4.5.4- Members not to participate in voting when their Nation is involved in a conflict.
- 4.5.5- General requirement for decisions is the simple majority.

### 4.6. Tasks

- 4.6.1- To review the WMFC rules when proposed by any Core WMFF members.
- 4.6.2- To decide the hosting Nation of future WMFC events.
- 4.6.3- To accept new teams, following a proposal by the organizers of a WMFC edition or by any team.
- 4.6.4- To allow any exceptions to WMFC rules, when proposed and justified by organizers or by any team.
- 4.6.5- To check and maintain the WMFF database.
- 4.6.6- To consult to Core WMFF members when deemed adequate.
- 4.6.7- To take ultimate decisions related to disciplinary actions involving teams or individuals.
- 4.6.8- To communicate adequately with all teams.
- 4.6.9- Any other task addressed to ensure a fair competition and to maintain the spirit of WMFF.

Annex 1.  
WMFF Core Teams (as of May 2023)

WMFC years	NATION	REPRESENTATIVE
1995-2004 / 2016	Catalonia	Ricard Casamor
2005 / 2014	Brasil	Geovanne Souza
2006	Germany	Clemens Vogel
2007	Australia	Alan Jones
2008	Lithuania	Remigijus Mielinis
2009	South Korea	Michael Lim
2010 / 2017 / 2023	Austria	Simon Sailer, Max Schmidt
2011	UK	Paul Fourie
2012	Sweden	Magnus Brandt
2013	Hungary	Gábor Fazekas
2015	USA	Gautam Nayak
2018	Czech Republic	Vladimir Teplan
2019	Mexico	Enrique Martinez
2022	Argentina	Juan Carlos Climente, Noel Modad

Annex 2  
WMFF Board Members (as of May 2023)

<i>Ferran Morell</i>	<i>CAT</i>	<i>Honorary Member</i>
<i>Carlos Figueiredo</i>	<i>BRA</i>	<i>Honorary Member</i>
Alan Jones	AUS	Regular Member
Clemens Vogel	GER	Regular Member
Gautam Nayak	USA	Regular Member
Geovanni Souza	BRA	Regular Member
Paul Fourie	GBR	Regular Member
Ricard Casamor	CAT	Regular Member
Simon Sailer	AUT	Regular Member
Enrique Martinez	MEX	Regular Member