

## CONIFA World Football Cup Qualification Guidelines

1. **Summary** As the Confederation of Independent Football Associations (CONIFA) is a non-profit NGO with high ethical standards, qualification for CONIFA tournaments shall be possible for all its members, regardless of geographic position, financial position or ability to host matches or tournaments. Following this guideline, the qualification for all CONIFA tournaments is based on different kind of “tickets” to a tournament. CONIFA members which receive a ticket will be invited to attend and play a tournament. Should any invited team withdraw from the tournament, the CONIFA Executive Committee will have the right to freely re-issue that ticket to another team, based on Point 4.

2. **CONTINENTAL QUOTAS** CONIFA members are split into 6 continental zones: Africa, Asia, Europe, Oceania, North America and South America. Each continental zone should be represented by its quota of current CONIFA members. To ensure that rounding does not result in too many issued tickets, the tickets for a certain continent will be calculated for the least represented to the most represented continent in that order. In the most represented continent the surplus tickets will be cut.

*Example: As of Jan. 2017, 2 of the 42 CONIFA members are from Oceania. This means 4.76% of all CONIFA members are from Oceania. In a 12 team tournament, this means that  $0.0476 * 12 = 0,57$  tickets will go to teams from Oceania. Rounding results in 1 ticket going to Oceania. North America, analogously, will receive 1 ticket. 7 out of 42 CONIFA members are from Africa. This equals 16,67% and results in 2 tickets for African teams. The 9 Asian teams represent 21,42% of all CONIFA members and shall receive 2,57 tickets, which is rounded up to 3. The 22 European CONIFA members represent 52,38% of the CONIFA members and shall receive 6,29 tickets. However, as 7 tickets are issued to other continents already, Europe will only receive the remaining 5 tickets.*

3. **TYPES OF TICKETS** There will be 4 different type of tickets, which are defined and issued as follows:

a. **HOST TICKET(S)** The host(s) shall receive one or multiple tickets. If a single host organizes the tournament, it shall receive one ticket. If multiple CONIFA members want to host a tournament together, they shall each receive a ticket, as long as at least 10 tickets remain available for guests. If less than 10 tickets remain available for guests, the number of host tickets will be calculated by:

Total number of tickets – 10 = Number of host tickets

In that case the hosts need to clarify which hosting organization will receive the hosting tickets in the official bidding document for the World Football Cup.

*Example: If 3 CONIFA members bid to host a 12 team World Football Cup together, they can only receive 2 host tickets and need to clarify, which 2 of the 3 hosts will receive a host ticket. This clarification might either be naming the 2 host ticket holder in the bidding document or by defining a transparent system how they will be determined later, for example by playing a 3-team tournament.*

b. **WORLD CHAMPION TICKET** The current CONIFA World Champion shall receive a ticket for the following World Football Cup.

*Example: County of Nice won the 2014 World Football Cup in Östersund. This qualified the County of Nice for the following 2016 World Football Cup in Abkhazia.*

- c. **CONTINENTAL CHAMPION TICKET** If a CONIFA Continental Football Cup was organized since the last World Football Cup was carried out, the Continental Champion of the concerned continent shall receive a ticket for the following World Football Cup.
- Example: Padania won the 2015 European Football Cup in Debrecen. As this Continental Football Cup was carried out after the 2014 World Football Cup in Östersund, it resulted in a Continental Champion Ticket for the 2016 World Football Cup in Abkhazia for Padania.*
- d. **QUALIFICATION TOURNAMENT TICKET** Every CONIFA member has the right to host an official CONIFA Qualification Tournament for the following World Football Cup. Such a tournament has to be played between the first of January of the year of the last World Football Cup and the 31<sup>st</sup> of December of the year before the next World Football Cup. Furthermore, only tournaments with at least 3 CONIFA members participating can be considered as qualification tournaments. For any tournament fulfilling the above mentioned requirements, a host of the tournament can request the CONIFA Executive Committee in written form to grant the tournament a qualification status. This request must be submitted at least 2 months before kickoff. If a simple majority of the Executive Committee members vote in favor of granting the tournament qualification status, the winner of the tournament will win a Qualification Tournament Ticket to the next CONIFA World Football Cup. The CONIFA Executive might reject the issuance of the qualification ticket, if the tournament is not documented properly. To ensure a proper documentation the tournament host shall follow the “CONIFA match documentation guidelines”.
- Example: In August 2016 the Hungarian city Szarvas hosted a qualifying tournament with the CONIFA members Szekely Land, Felvidek, Delvidek and Karapatalya. Felvidek won the tournament and thus qualified for the 2018 World Football Cup.*
- e. **QUALIFICATION POINTS TICKET** All CONIFA members earn qualification points with every properly documented match they play between the first of January of the year of the previous World Football Cup and the 31<sup>st</sup> December of the year before the next World Football Cup. Only the first two played friendly matches between identical oppositions are considered within this period. Should two teams meet a third time within the qualification period, but in a tournament (competitive or friendly), the match shall be considered as well.
- The Qualification points are calculated for every single match and added up over the whole period. The points for a single match are calculated with the following formula:
- Points for a single match = (Opposition Factor) \* (Result Factor)
- Hereby the Opposition Factor is 4 for CONIFA members, 2 for any other international team and 1 for any other opposition. The Result Factor is 3 for a win, 2 for a draw and 1 for a loss.
- Matches in World Football Cups and Continental Football Cups are not considered for the calculation of the points of a team.
- Example: Tamil Eelam played a total of 3 matches in the period between 01.01.2016 to 31.12.2017 until now (January 2017). The team won 4:1 vs. the Romani People, a CONIFA member, earning  $4*3=12$  points for this match. They went on winning vs. Barawa and the Chagos Islands, both CONIFA members, earning another 2 times 12 points each. In total, Tamil*

*Eelam earned 36 points.*

- f. **SUPPORTERS CHOICE TICKET** In the December before the World Football Cup, CONIFA will conduct an online popular vote, to issue a ticket to the most requested CONIFA member. The CONIFA member which gets the most popular votes online, will be invited to the World Football Cup in the following year.
  - g. **WILD CARD TICKET** The CONIFA Executive Committee will issue one Wild Card to a CONIFA member, which is not yet qualified, in the December of the year before the World Football Cup.
4. **DISTRIBUTION OF TICKETS** The Continental Split of tickets is determined on the first of January in the year before the World Football Cup. The General Secretary calculates the continental split and publishes the result before the Annual General Meeting of that year. As soon as the host of the World Football Cup is determined, the host ticket(s) will be granted and the number of issued tickets will be subtracted from the number of tickets of the continental zone the host is located in. Analogously, the World Champion ticket will be issued immediately and subtracted from the overall number of tickets left in the particular continental zone. As soon as a Continental Champion is crowned, the Continental Champion ticket will be issued to this CONIFA member and the number of tickets for the particular continental zone left will be reduced by one. As soon as any CONIFA member wins an official qualification tournament, a qualification tournament ticket will be issued and the number of tickets left in the continental zone of the winner will be reduced by one. If the winner of a qualification tournament does already have a ticket for the next World Football Cup, the ticket will not automatically be given to the follow-up team of the tournament. All tickets left will be issued on the Annual General Meeting of the year of the concerned World Football Cup. Here, the General Secretariat will firstly award tickets to the Wild Card and Supporters Choice Tickets. All tickets left will be issued according to the final position of the CONIFA members of the respective continent in the qualification point system. If two or more CONIFA members do have the same amount of qualification points, the current World Ranking will act as a tie-breaker. If the World Ranking of the concerned teams is equal as well, a drawing of lots will determine a ranking of those teams. The full ranking of all CONIFA members, following the above described procedure, will also determine the positioning of all CONIFA members on the reserve lists for each continent. Whenever a qualified CONIFA member withdraws from participating in the next World Football Cup, the ticket will be issued to the best positioned CONIFA team on the determined list in the same continental zone. For the safety of CONIFA and the host(s) of the World Football Cup, all teams that did not pay the membership fees for the year of the World Football Cup before the end of the Annual General Meeting, will be deleted from the rankings and their tickets will be withdrawn, should they possess one.