



CONIFA

Internal Regulation

Membership admission

Approved by the Annual General meeting, 30th January 2021

1. Eligibility:

A Football Association may be eligible to apply for Association Membership of CONIFA if it, or another Association representing the same entity, is not a full member of FIFA and satisfies one or more of the following criteria:

- 1) The Football Association is a Member of one of the six Continental Confederations of FIFA. ¹
- 2) A National Olympic Committee, representing the same entity as the applicant, is recognized either by the IOC or by one of the IOC-recognized Continental Associations of National Olympic Committees. ²
- 3) A Sport Federation representing the same entity is a full member in any of the IOC recognized International Federations that is a member in AIOWF, ARISF or ASOIF. ³
- 4) The entity represented by the Football Association is listed in the ISO 3166-1 with an own country code. ⁵
- 5) The entity represented by the Football Association is a de-facto independent territory. ⁶
- 6) The entity represented by the Football Association is a non-self-governing territory according to the United Nations. ⁶
- 7) The entity represented by the Football Association is included in the directory of countries and territories of the Travelers Century Club (TCC). ⁷
- 8) Any organization representing the entity represented by the Football Association is a member of UNPO or FUEN. ^{8,9}
- 9) The entity represented by the Football Association is a minority included in the World Directory of Minorities and Indigenous People of the Minority Rights Group International. ¹⁰





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10) The entity represented by the Football Association is a linguistic minority, the language of which is included on the ISO 639.2 list. ¹¹

11) The entity represented by the Football Association is a territory or people defined by an ethnic, regional or historical cultural identity and which has formed through ethnical, historical and/or regional specializations. This category is for the Football Associations, representing people who may not qualify under the first ten criteria but their cultural identity is widely known and acknowledged by the AGM.

2. Governing regulations

Should an Association apply for CONIFA membership that claims to represent an entity that either overlaps or is identical to an entity that is already represented by an existing CONIFA Member, the CONIFA General Secretariat shall mediate to achieve that:

- 2.1 Both Associations do agree to redefine the entity they represent in a way that they do not overlap anymore.
- 2.2 Both Associations agree to merge to be a single common Member of CONIFA. In this case, they shall keep the name of the already CONIFA member and share their rights and obligations, including but not limited to financial obligations and voting rights at AGMs and EGMs. In this case, the two Associations shall sign a Memorandum of Understanding to legally clarify how both legal persons will act independently from each other and without interfering with each other.
- 2.3 Both Associations fully merge into a single legal entity, which then remains a member of CONIFA.
- 2.4 Should such mediation not be successful, the existing Association Member shall remain a Member of CONIFA. The General Secretariat shall then invite both Associations to the next AGM or EGM to present their case. The AGM or EGM will then finally vote which Association they deem to better represent the entity in question.





3. Definitions

In 1. and 2., the wording „same entity” shall express that two entities, A and B, are entirely identical. In particular, that means that every player that would qualify to represent entity A would be eligible to represent entity B and vice-versa.

- 3.1. Subsequently, two Associations representing the same entity might either organize different forms of football, such as beach soccer, futsal, etc, or organize football for only one gender, a specific age group or only players with or without certain disabilities.
- 3.2 In 1. and 2., the wording “overlapping” entities shall refer to two Football Associations that represent non-disjoint entities. In particular, that means that a significant subset of all players that would qualify to represent entity A would also be eligible to represent entity B or vice-versa.

¹ The six continental confederations of FIFA are: [AFC](#), [CAF](#), [CONCACAF](#), [CONMEBOL](#), [OFC](#), [UEFA](#)

² [International Olympic Committee](#)

³ [Association of IOC recognized international sports federations](#)

⁴ [International Organization for Standardization](#)

⁵ [ISO 3166-1 country codes](#) are 2-digit codes for countries and nations

⁶ A territory is considered de facto independent if it meets all of the following criteria: (a) a well-defined territory; (b) a permanent population; (c) an autonomous government, and (d) diplomatic recognition by at least one [member state of the United Nations](#).

⁷ [Travelers' Century Club: List of Countries](#)

⁸ [Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization](#)

⁹ [Federal Union of European Nationalities](#)

¹⁰ Maintained and published by [Minority Rights Group International](#)

Here 'minority' means that the particular language is not the majority language of the country in which the prospective member association is based. If the association represents a supranational entity, then the language shall not be the major language in any of the countries within that entity.

¹¹ Maintained by the [International Organization for Standardization](#) and published by the [Library of Congress](#)

For all of the above-mentioned external organizations, lists, and directories, the versions correct as of January 2021 will be considered to be definitive until further notice is given by the Executive Committee, which will decide annually whether or not to update this definition.

