

Internal Regulations

Regulations Governing the Admission of new members

1. Eligibility:

1.1. 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 member of FIFA and satisfies one or more of the following criteria:

1.1.1. The Football Association is a Member of one of the six Continental Confederations (AFC, CAF, CONCACAF, CONMEBOL, OFC, UEFA) of FIFA.

1.1.2. 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 (ANOCA, EOC, OCA, ONOC, PASO)

1.1.3. 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.

1.1.4. The entity represented by the Football Association is listed in the ISO 3166-1 with an own country code.

1.1.5. The entity represented by the Football Association is a de-facto independent territory.

1.1.6. The entity represented by the Football Association is a non-self-governing territory according to the United Nations.

1.1.7. The entity represented by the Football Association is included in the directory of countries and territories of the Travelers Century Club (TCC).

1.1.8. Any organization representing the entity represented by the Football Association is a member of UNPO or FUEN.

1.1.9. 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.

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

2. 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 person, 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. 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.
4. 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.