

Cayman Islands Football Association

2026-2027 Senior Football Competitions Regulations

Regulations to govern the Cayman Islands Football Association (CIFA)

2026-27 Senior Football Season



1 – Women's Premier League (WPL), Cayman Premier League (CPL), Men's First Division (MFD) and Men's Second Division (MSD) starting dates

- a) Charity Shield Matches: 20 September 2026 – Annex Field
- b) MSD 1st Match-day: 25 Sep. 2026 - Various venues across Grand Cayman.
- c) WPL 1st Match-day: 26 Sep. 2026 - Various venues across Grand Cayman.
- d) CPL 1st Match-day: 4 Oct. 2026 - Various venues across Grand Cayman.
- e) MFD 1st Match-day: 14 Nov. 2026 - Various venues across Grand Cayman and Cayman Brac.

2 – Players and Team Officials' Registration - FIFA Connect

- a) Please note that the online registration is mandatory for all team officials and players to be eligible to participate in the CIFA matches, note the below following deadlines.
- b) Please note that for the Women's Premier League will be managed by the FIFA Competitions Management System (CMS), this means that all players and team officials participating in the matches must be registered in the CIFA Connect for the related roles and their profiles updated.

3 – WPL, CPL, MFD and MSD Participants

- a) Deadline to have a minimum of 15 players registered for each team and be eligible to play the first match (players must have all documents provided and approved by CIFA) by Tuesday, 11 September 2026.
- b) Players with incomplete or outstanding documents will not be cleared by the system and will not be added to the team sheet.
- c) CIFA also requires a minimum of 5 business days to clear a player to play after the registration is submitted to the CIFA via Connect Platform, the CIFA reserves the right to approve registration in a shorter period of time, if the time allows.

4 – Registration and Transfer Windows

- a) For men and women's senior competitions (WPL, CPL, MFD, MSD and any other senior competitions), the registration deadline for local players (not needing international transfer), and for players needing international transfer (players that require International Transfer Certificate - ITC) is 31 October 2026. Note that the timeframe for approvals may vary and CIFA does not have control over the ITCs' clearance as it depends on other national associations.
- b) Players that left CIFA Member Clubs on ITC will only be considered as a valid international transfer if the player has played at least one official match abroad for the FIFA Member Association for the purposes of the item #5 below.
- c) The mid-season domestic and international transfers and registrations window for men and women's senior competitions (WPL, CPL, MFD, MSD and any other senior competitions) is from 1 January 2027 to 31 January 2027.
- d) For any CIFA senior competitions, new players registration, domestic or international transfers will not be accepted at any circumstance outside the registration and transfer windows as the system will be locked for these transactions.
- e) Players and team officials can access the FIFA Connect Platform/CIFA Portal for registrations and downloading documents by following the below link:

<https://www.caymanislandsfa.com/registration.html>

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5 – Eligibility to Play Senior Competitions

5.1 Maximum Roster

- a) A maximum of thirty-five (35) players may be registered for each senior men's and women's teams for the entire season.
- b) Except for players leaving the team on transfer (international or domestic) to another club during the registration and transfer windows, no replacements will be allowed, replacements must be done during the transfers and registrations' windows.

5.2 Foreign Players Rule

- a) A maximum of ten (10) foreign players may be registered per senior men's team per competition level (CPL, MFD and MSD) however, only ten (10) players can be selected to play for a senior men's combined team competition, therefore, for the cup matches, only 10 foreign players can be selected.
- b) Male players born on 2006 or after are not to be considered foreign players therefore they will not be counted towards the limit of maximum of 10 foreign players.

5.3 Under 20 Players Exemption

- a) Male players born on 2006 or after can be registered to any CPL, MFD and/or MSD at the same time, however they will be counted towards the limit of 35 players per CPL and MFD.

5.4 Limits for New Players from Other Clubs

5.4.1 Player Movement Restrictions – Senior Women's Competitions (WPL):

- a) For the Women's Premier League (WPL), the following restrictions shall apply for the 2026–27 season to female players who participated in at least one match during the 2024–25 and/or 2025–26 seasons:
- b) A team may register on the team sheet no more than five (5) players in total who have transferred from any other CIFA clubs during the season.
- c) Within the above limit, a club may register on its team sheets no more than three (3) players from the same CIFA club.
- d) If a club releases or transfers more than five (5) players to other CIFA clubs during the same season, only five (5) of those departing players may be registered on the team sheet of other clubs for participation in the senior women's competitions. Any additional players beyond the five (5) limit may transfer to the club but shall not be eligible to be rostered (i.e., included on team sheets) for league matches during the current season and will be under the restrictions for the following season.

5.4.2 Player Movement Restrictions – Senior Men's Competitions (CPL, MFD and/or MSD):

- a) For the Cayman Premier League (CPL), Men's First Division (MFD), and/or Men's Second Division (MSD), the following restrictions shall apply for the 2026–27 season to male players who participated in at least one match during the 2024–25 and/or 2025–26 seasons:
- b) A team may register on the team sheet no more than five (5) players in total who have transferred from any other CIFA clubs during the season.
- c) Within the above limit, a club may register on its team sheets no more than three (3) players from the same CIFA club.
- d) If a club releases or transfers more than five (5) players to other CIFA clubs during the same season, only five (5) of those departing players may be registered on the team sheet of

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other clubs for participation in the CPL, MFD and/or MSD competitions. Any additional players beyond the five (5) players' limit may transfer to the club but shall not be eligible to be rostered (i.e., included on team sheets) for league matches during the current season and will be under the restrictions for the following season.

5.5 Minimum Age Requirement for Men's Competitions

- a) To participate in the Cayman Premier League, the Men's First Division, the Men's Second Division and/or any senior men's cup matches, players must be at least 15 years of age, players under 15 years of age (born in 2011) can be registered during the transfer and registration periods however they will only be eligible to play after their 15th birthday.

5.6 Calendar - Seasons

- a) The above limit for inclusion in the respective competitions' team sheets consider the entire calendar as follows:
 - a. Season 2022-2023 – from 1 August 2022 to 31 July 2023
 - b. Season 2023-2024 – from 1 August 2023 to 31 July 2024
 - c. Season 2024-2025 – from 1 August 2024 to 31 July 2025
 - d. Season 2025-2026 – from 1 August 2025 to 31 July 2026
 - e. Season 2026-2027 – from 1 August 2026 to 31 July 2027

6 – CIFA Administrative Fees

6.1 For Players' Movement Between Clubs

- a) CIFA will charge an administrative fee of \$400.00 which 75% will be paid to the former club upon completion of the process.

6.2 For Protests and Appeals

- a) For any protests and appeals lodged at CIFA, an administrative fee of \$400.00 will be required to move the complaint forward. Non-payment of the administrative fee by the deadline of the protest or appeal will cause the complaint to be nullified.

6.3 Administrative Fees' Payment

- a) All administrative fees must be paid to the Cayman Islands Football Association by EFT as indicated in the invoice. The process will only be moved forward after the payment is received by CIFA.

7 – Competitions' Format

7.1 FIFA Rules

- a) All FIFA rules, FIFA regulations and the FIFA Laws of the Game apply to all CIFA senior competitions matches except for the below if they differ.

7.2 Technical Bench

- a) The maximum number of players in the bench for all senior competitions is 12 and the maximum number of team officials in the bench for all senior competitions is 7.

7.3 Women's Premier League Format

- a) The WPL will be played in triple round-robin format, every team will play against each other 3 times.
- b) The maximum number of substitutions is 7 in a maximum of 4 stoppages.

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- c) Concussion substitutions' protocol will be implemented.

7.4 Men's Premier League – CPL

- a) The CPL will be played in double round-robin format, every team will play against each other 2 times.
- b) The last 3 positioned teams will be automatically relegated to the 2027-28 MFD, there will not be promotion/relegation knock-out match at the end of the season.
- c) The maximum number of substitutions is 5 in a maximum of 3 stoppages.
- d) Concussion substitutions' protocol will be respected.

7.5 Men's First Division - MFD

- a) The MFD will be completed in 2 rounds, every team will play against each other 2 times.
- b) The MFD winner will be automatically promoted to the 2027-28 CPL.
- c) The maximum number of substitutions is 7 in a maximum of 4 stoppages.
- d) Concussion substitutions' protocol will be respected.

7.6 Men's Second Division - MSD

- a) The MSD will be completed in 2 rounds; every team will play against each other 2 times.
- b) The maximum number of substitutions is 7 in a maximum of 4 stoppages.
- c) Concussion substitutions' protocol will be respected.

7.7 Untie Criteria for Senior Leagues

- a) The untie criteria for all senior competitions are:
 - I. Points in all games
 - II. Points in head-to-head (all teams with the same points)
 - III. Goals difference in head-to-head (altogether if more than 2 teams are tied on a and b)
 - IV. Goals difference in all games
 - V. Goals scored in all games
 - VI. Fewer red cards
 - VII. Fewer yellow cards
 - VIII. Untie match

7.8 Cup Matches Restrictions and Other Provisions for Cups

- a) Transferred players are not eligible to play cup competition for the new club if the player has already played for another club in the same cup competition in the same season.
- b) CPL players only are eligible to play the Men's President's Cup for their respective club.
- c) Clubs playing CPL and MSD, can combine players to play in the Men's FA Cup
- d) Clubs playing MFD and MSD, can combine players to play in the Men's FA Cup
- e) The maximum number of substitutions in the Men's FA Cup and Men's President's Cup is 5 in a maximum of 3 stoppages during the regular 90'. If the cup final match goes to extra time, teams are entitled to one additional substitution and use the remaining substitutes in 2 stoppages regardless of if the 3 stoppages did not occur during the 90' regular time.
- f) The maximum number of substitutions in any women's cup matches is 7 in a maximum of 4 stoppages during the regular 90'. If a women's cup match final goes to extra time, teams are entitled to one additional substitution and use the remaining substitutes in 2 stoppages regardless of if the 4 stoppages did not occur during the 90' regular time.
- g) All cup matches untie will go to straight penalty shoot outs, no extra time will be played except for cup final matches that will play two 15' extra time halves and then penalty shoot outs if the match is still tied after the extra time.
- h) Concussion substitutions' protocol will be implemented in all cup matches.

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8 – Exemptions

8.1 Inactive Players for the Past Two Seasons

- a) Players that have not played either as a starting player or as a substitute in any official match on competitions organized by CIFA in the season 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 will be exempted from the limits of registrations for specific competitions set in the item 5.4 above, and the CIFA administrative fee, consequently, the releasing club will not receive the 75% administrative fee.

9 – Other Provisions

9.1 – Failure to fulfil fixtures obligation

- a) Teams failing to fulfil a fixture obligation without informing CIFA 24 hours or more in advance will be fined \$300.00 for the first offense, \$500 for the second or more offenses and will be charged for the match officials fees, venue preparation and any other expenses incurred related to the match (where it applies), the opponent team will be compensated with \$200 for covering their match expenses.

9.2 – Domestic Club Licensing

- a) For the 2027-2028 Season, all participant clubs must have a domestic club license by the deadline set in 2027.
- b) Failure to comply with 2027-2028 Club Licensing will result in forfeiture of any CIFA financial assistance, prizes and in-kind support related to 2026-27 and 2027-28 seasons.

9.3 – Uniform Colours

- a) Teams will be informed of their uniform colours in advance of the match and must use as per advised, if the clubs do not have the chosen colours available and don't inform CIFA 48 hours prior to the match, the club will have to change at the match day regardless of if it is the home or away team.

9.4 – Match Footballs

- a) Home teams must provide at least 4 footballs for their matches.
- b) Only size 5 FIFA Inspected, FIFA Quality or FIFA Quality Pro footballs can be used at the CIFA senior football matches.
- c) The footballs must be provided to the match officials at least 15 minutes before kick-off time for inspection and approval, non-approved footballs must be replaced by the home team before kick-off, the match will be awarded to the opponent team should no replacements are provided.

9.5 – Match Venues

- a) CIFA tries its best to consider home and away venues selection however, it is not a mandatory principle and teams named as “home team” may be scheduled to play in different venue other than the one they consider their “home venue”.

9.6 – Compliance with Policy Documents

- a) All participant teams must abide by the following documents and provide the acceptance declaration Letter by 18 September 2026:
 - 1) CIFA Zero Tolerance Policy Towards Violence Declaration – September 2026
 - 2) CIFA Anti-Doping Policy – September 2026
 - 3) CIFA Safeguarding Policy – September 2026
 - 4) CIFA and CONCACAF Anti-Discrimination Protocol – September 2026

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- 5) CIFA Policy Combating Match Manipulation – September 2026
- 6) CIFA Code of Conduct for Players – September 2026
- 7) CIFA Code of Conduct for Coaches and Administrators – September 2026
- 8) CIFA Code of Conduct for Fans and Stakeholders – September 2026
- 9) CIFA Minimum Requirements for Contracts of Professional Players – September 2026
- 10) Acceptance Declaration Letter – September 2026

- b) Failure to provide the above “9.6 a.10 – Acceptance Declaration Letter – September 2026” document by the deadline of 18 September 2026 will incur of a fine of CI\$500.00 and the club will be referred to the CIFA Competitions and Tournament Committee for deliberation on the club’s participation in the 2026-2027 Senior Football Season.
- c) The participant club is responsible to distribute the above documents, these regulations and any other CIFA document related to its competitions to all members and stakeholders of the club which include but is not limited to players, parents of members under the age of 18 years, sponsors, coaches and administrators.

9.7 – Cayman Brac FC matches

- a) As agreed, the Cayman Brac FC matches will be scheduled for Saturdays, 8:00pm in Grand Cayman or in Cayman Brac.
- b) The CIFA will provide a payment of CI\$2,000 for each team travelling to play senior competitions fixtures in Cayman Brac.
- c) Clubs travelling to Cayman Brac to play senior competitions fixtures must provide receipts of at least CI\$2,000 should reimbursements are due.

9.8 – Pre Match Protocol

- a) All teams playing the senior football competitions will be invited to perform the pre match protocol as follows:
 - a. Substitutes and technical staff to occupy their benches before the teams and match officials are ready to walk to the field of play.
 - b. The home team occupies the benches on the left side of the 4th official table.
 - c. The away team occupies the benches on the right side of the 4th official table.
 - d. Starting eleven and match officials line up outside the field off play and follow the central referee walking to the centre line.
 - e. Starting eleven and match officials position side-by-side facing the 4th official bench and greet the public.
 - f. The away team positioned at the left side of the match officials walk to their right side to greet the match officials and opponent team.
 - g. The home team positioned at the right side of the match officials walk to their left side to greet the match officials after being greeted by its opponent team.
 - h. Both teams get to the official photo across their technical bench if applied.
 - i. Both teams’ captains join the central referee for the coin toss.
 - j. Teams line up to start the match.
 - k. The Central referee waits for the signal from the match commissioner to kick off the match.

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10 – 2026-27 CIFA Senior Competitions Prize Monies (CI\$)

Cayman Premier League	PRIZE (CI\$)
Champions	\$4,900.00
Runners Up	\$3,500.00
3rd Place	\$2,100.00
4th Place	\$700.00
Men's President Cup	PRIZE (CI\$)
Champions	\$2,800.00
Runners Up	\$2,100.00
Men's FA Cup	PRIZE (CI\$)
Champions	\$3,500.00
Runners Up	\$2,450.00
Men's First Division	PRIZE (CI\$)
Champions	\$1,750.00
Runners Up	\$1,050.00
3rd Place	\$700.00
4th Place	\$560.00
Promotion Bonus	PRIZE (CI\$)
MFD Qualified Team to the CPL	\$700.00

Women's Premier League	PRIZE (CI\$)
Champions	\$4,900.00
Runners Up	\$3,500.00
3rd Place	\$2,100.00
4th Place	\$700.00
Women's President Cup	PRIZE (CI\$)
Champions	\$2,800.00
Runners Up	\$2,100.00
Women's FA Cup	PRIZE (CI\$)
Champions	\$3,500.00
Runners Up	\$2,450.00

TOTAL PRIZES 2026-2027 SEASON (CI\$)	
CPL	\$11,200.00
MFD	\$4,060.00
Men's President Cup	\$4,900.00
Men's FA Cup	\$5,950.00
MFD Promotion Bonus	\$700.00
WPL	\$11,200.00
Women's President Cup	\$4,900.00
Women's FA Cup	\$5,950.00
TOTAL MEN'S COMPETITIONS	\$26,810.00
TOTAL WOMEN'S COMPETITIONS	\$22,050.00
TOTAL ALL CATEGORIES	\$48,860.00

1. The above figures are in CI\$ (Cayman Islands Dollars).
2. Bonus for MFD Teams' Promotion to CPL:
 - a. The MFD team promoted to the 2027-2028 CPL will receive a bonus of CI\$ 700.00.
3. The participant team qualified to the CFU Club Shield or other pre-season overseas camp will receive an additional CI\$10,500.00 for travel assistance for the 2028 edition of the tournament.
4. The above prize monies will remain the same for the 2027-2028 Season however the Executive Committee reserves the rights to review and make any changes before the start of 2027-2028 Season, as necessary.

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This document is effective from 9 September 2026 and supersedes any other CIFA document for avoidance of doubt.

Grand Cayman, 9 September 2026.



Marcos Tinoco
General Secretary

Cayman Islands Football Association

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