

**COALITION OF AFRICAN COMMUNITIES – PHILADELPHIA**  
**(A F R I C O M)**  
**9th ANNUAL HEALTH FAIR SOCCER TOURNAMENT 2009**

**RULES AND REGULATIONS**

**INTRODUCTION:**

The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual African and Caribbean Health Fair, organized by Coalition of African Communities – Philadelphia (AFRICOM), will be held on August 9, 2009. Each year, to increase participation and provide some entertainment at the Health Fair, a friendly soccer tournament is staged during the health fair. It is to be emphasized that although the soccer tournament is competitive in nature, it is unquestionably a recreational event. All participants must abide by this principle.

The 2009 AFRICOM Soccer Tournament will be played between Saturday, August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009 and Sunday, August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009, depending on the number of registered teams. If more than six (6) teams are registered, then the tournament may be played over a two day period, i.e., on Saturday and Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of August 2009. If more than eight (8) teams are registered, then the tournament may be played over a two week period, i.e., on Saturdays and Sundays, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of August 2009. The location of the matches shall be determined later. However, the Semi-Final and Final matches shall be played at the location of the health fair, Kingsessing Recreational Center, 49<sup>th</sup>/50<sup>th</sup> Streets (between Chester and Kingsessing Avenues) in west Philadelphia. The Tournament format will be both round-robin style (qualifying group games) and elimination styles (Semi-Final and Final games)

**TEAMS AND REGISTRATION FEE:**

The AFRICOM Soccer Tournament 2009 is open to any teams, most especially teams representing African and Caribbean countries or teams consisting of African and Caribbean players. Each team will consist of a maximum of 11 players on the field at any one time. A match may be started with no less than 7 players. Teams cannot consist of more than 20 members on the roster. A player may be registered on one team only. Players registered in more than one team will be disqualified from the tournament. If a team insists on using a disqualified player then the whole team will be disqualified. Only registered players may be allowed to take part in the competition. Registration of teams must be done by using AFRICOM Soccer Tournament 2009 official registration form (attached).

**Each team must provide a registration fee of Seventy Five Dollars (\$75.00) and a roster of players to reach AFRICOM Soccer Tournament official no later than 31<sup>st</sup> of July, 2009. Registration fees may be accepted after 31<sup>st</sup> of July, 2009 on the discretion of the AFRICOM Soccer Tournament Committee.** Check or Money order should be made payable to AFRICOM and dropped off or mailed to:

**AFRICOM  
4020 Market Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19104**

**OFFICIALS:**

Referees will abide by the "Rules of the Game as issued by FIFA," except as specifically modified by the Tournament Committee. The decision of the officiating officials will be final. Objections and petitions may be lodged with the AFRICOM Soccer Tournament Committee, whose decision shall be final and binding to all parties (teams/players/referees).

**UNIFORMS:**

All players of a team must have identical uniforms. Jerseys must be numbered. Teams should indicate their jersey color(s) on the AFRICOM Soccer Tournament official registration form. In case of a clash in colors in jerseys, the home team or higher-seeded team will be required to change jersey for the away team or lower-seeded team. No player will be allowed on the field without a numbered jersey. Players are also required to wear shin guards of appropriate size.

**GAME BALLS:**

Each team is required to provide two (2) balls for its games. Team is responsible to take back their balls at the end of its game.

**SUBSTITUTIONS:**

Unlimited substitutions will be allowed. All substitutions must be authorized and recorded by field official prior to taking place.

**MATCHES:**

Teams must report through their manager or captain at least 15 minutes before starting time, and at least 30 minutes prior to its first scheduled match. Matches will begin promptly at their scheduled times.

Teams reporting later than 10 minutes after the scheduled game time will lose by "forfeit." A minimum of 7 players is required in order to start a game. Each game will be 30 minutes halves, with a 5 minutes half time period.

## **TENTATIVE SCHEDULES AND TOURNAMENT FORMAT:**

All teams will be placed in 2 to 4 groups. A random process will be used to draw the teams into groups. Registered/interested teams are invited to attend the planning meeting, where the drawing will take place. Qualifying group games will follow a round-robin style (i.e., each team will play against all other teams in its group). Semi-Final and Final games will be played in single elimination style. If the tournament takes place over two days, the round-robin games will be played on Saturday, while the Semi-Finals and the Finals will be played on Sunday.

## **PLAYOFF RULE:**

The modality of selecting the qualifying teams for the playoff will be based on the number of teams registered for the tournament as follows: If two groups are set, then after the round-robin group games, the two top-ranked teams of each group will move automatically to the Semi-Finals. If more than two groups, then the top-four teams by points accumulated will move to the Semi-Finals. A total of four teams will play in the Semi-Finals. Disqualification may result from a team's violent behavior, including fighting.

Ranking will be determined as follows:

- 3 Points awarded for a win
- 1 Point awarded for a tie
- 0 Point awarded for a loss
- 2 Awarded for forfeit

In case of a tie for points, the following tie-breaker sequence applies:

- Goal differential
- Most goals scored
- Least goal allowed
- Coin Toss

## **SEMI - FINAL AND FINAL MATCHES:**

Semi-Finals games are single elimination (knock-out). Winners of the Semi-Final will proceed to the Final Match. If Semi-Final games are tied by the end of regulation time, the winner shall be determined by penalty kicks. No over time period shall be played for the Semi-Final matches.

In the event that penalty kicks are necessary to establish a Semi-Final winner, each team shall be allowed to take five penalty kicks. The higher scoring team shall be assigned the win. If the winner is not decided by the first five kicks, each team shall be allowed one kick until a winner is determined.

In the Final match, if there is a tie by the end of regulation time, an over-time of two ten-minute halves shall be played. If the Final Match is still tied by the end of the over-time period, the winner shall be determined by penalty kicks, as per the Semi Final rules (see above).

## **FOULS AND MISCONDUCT:**

AFRICOM Soccer Tournament Committee stresses the importance of fair play. All teams/players must abide by this principle.

If a player is issued a red card, he will be sent off the field and automatically will be ineligible to play the next game.

Penalty may be imposed for a player's un-sport-man like behavior.

A player that accumulates 2 yellow cards in the tournament will be ineligible to play the following game after the third card is issued.

Fights and other violent behavior will not be tolerated and will be rigorously sanctioned.

If such behavior occurs, games will be suspended immediately and the teams involved in such behavior may be expelled from the tournament, with no refund of registration fees.

AFRICOM reserves the right to deny future registration application based on a team record of misconduct. Aggression or other form of violent actions against game officials is punishable by law. Aggressors will be prosecuted to the extent that the law permits.

## **AWARDS**

Based on the official results at the end of the tournament, recognition and awards will be given to teams and players who achieve the following:

- 1<sup>st</sup> place winner – trophy with \$200 cash
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place winner – trophy with \$125 cash
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place winner - \$75 cash
- Best defensive player - trophy
- Highest goal scorer - trophy

## **RISK AND "RELEASES":**

Participants in tournament do so at their own risk and are fully aware of the hazards associated with the sport. Participants in the Soccer Tournament do so voluntarily, and agree to accept all risks of personal injury and property damage.

As a consideration of being permitted to participate in the AFRICOM Soccer Tournament activities, the teams and all its members:

1. Release AFRICOM, Soccer Tournament organizers, collaborators and sponsors, and all of their officers, directors, members, employees or agents (collectively, the "released") from any and all actions, claims and demands that tournament participants, assignees and legal representatives may have now or in the future, including those for personal injury;

2. Will not make any claims against or sue the "released" with respect to participation in 2009 AFRICOM Soccer Tournament; and

3. Irrevocably consent to the reproduction and use of any photographs, tapes or other ("recordings") made by the "released" or the media, and agree that any reproduction or use of such "recording" will be without compensation to the teams or its members.

**INCLEMENT WEATHER:**

The assumption is that games will be played, rain or shine. When in doubt, call Africom President, Mr. Philip Udo-Inyang, at **(484) 557-7445** for up-to-date information.

**CONTACTS FOR INFORMATION:**

Vincent Ngadi (215) 296-5049  
Philip Udo-Inyang (484) 557-7445

E-mail: [info@fricom-Philly.org](mailto:info@fricom-Philly.org)  
Website: [www.Africom-Philly.org](http://www.Africom-Philly.org)