



GUIDANCE MANUAL & AGREEMENT

WFSGI PLEDGE FOR THE
FIFA QUALITY PROGRAMME

FOOTBALLS
MAY 2026

Preamble

The World Federation of the Sporting Goods Industry (WFSGI), as the global organization representing the sporting goods industry, works to promote fair, ethical, and environmentally responsible trade and working conditions. FIFA, as world football's governing body, is committed to "building a better future for all through football." Both organizations share the same core values: fairness, honesty, mutual respect, and high ethical standards in the factories that manufacture sporting goods. These values reflect the fundamental principles of sport itself.

To support these shared goals, WFSGI and FIFA have created the WFSGI Pledge for the FIFA Quality Programme. By signing this Pledge, companies commit to eliminating poor working conditions in the production of FIFA certified products. By signing the Pledge Form, both the FIFA Licensee (Applicant) and the Manufacturer confirm that they have read, understood, accepted, and agree to fully comply with all requirements set out in the WFSGI Code of Conduct.

In addition to submitting a completed Pledge Form, the FIFA Licensee (Applicant) must provide an audit report that is no older than 12 months. This report must be issued by an internationally recognized and experienced auditing company that is a member of the Association of Professional Social Compliance Auditors (APSCA). The audit must contain sufficient verified information to demonstrate full compliance of the factory with the WFSGI Code of Conduct.

To ensure ongoing monitoring of labor conditions, the WFSGI Pledge must be renewed every year by the FIFA Licensee in cooperation with the Manufacturer.

Please note that WFSGI acts solely as the administrative and handling agent for FIFA. As a result, WFSGI's responsibilities and liabilities are limited to the scope described in Section 6 below.

1. Initial Parties

- 1.1. **World Federation of the Sporting Goods Industry**, hereafter ("WFSGI"); and
- 1.2. **The FIFA Licensee** (Applicant).

2. Third Parties

- 2.1. **Manufacturer**, which is used by the FIFA Licensee (Applicant) for the production of FIFA Basic, FIFA Quality and FIFA Quality PRO footballs.
- 2.2. **Subcontractor(s)**: Company(ies)/manufacturer(s) under contract of the Manufacturer for taking care of a part of the football production (including stitching centres).
- 2.3. **Trading Company**: Company that acts as an intermediary between FIFA Licensee (Applicant) and its Manufacturer.
- 2.4. **International Federation of Association Football**, hereafter ("FIFA").

3. General Terms

3.1. Service

- 3.1.1.** WFSGI shall in its role as handling and administrating agent on behalf of FIFA provide guidance, gather the necessary evidence, verify audit reports, conduct research and finally provide a Pledge Approval Letter to the FIFA Licensee (Applicant) in accordance with the terms and conditions of this WFSGI Guidance Manual and Agreement, hereafter ("Service").

3.2. Delivery of the Service

- 3.2.1.** Start date: The WFSGI shall commence with its services on the date the FIFA Licensee (Applicant) contacts the WFSGI.
- 3.2.2.** Completion date: The date of completion will be reached when the FIFA Licensee (Applicant) has proven its Manufacturer's compliance with the WFSGI Code of Conduct and is in accordance with all the terms and conditions of this WFSGI Guidance Manual and Agreement.

3.3. Service Fee

- 3.3.1.** The fee for the provision of the Service by the WFSGI is CHF 1,500 (one thousand five hundred Swiss Francs).
- 3.3.2.** WFSGI Members: The fee for the provision of the Service by the WFSGI is CHF 1,000 (one thousand Swiss Francs).
- 3.3.3.** The fee has to be paid by the FIFA Licensee (Applicant) for each submitted Pledge application, and is applicable annually as long as the Pledge is renewed, respectively as long as a FIFA licensing agreement is in force.

3.4. Payment

- 3.4.1.** Once the FIFA Licensee (Applicant) has submitted a duly completed and signed Pledge form and has proven its Manufacturer's compliance with the provisions of the WFSGI Code of Conduct, the WFSGI shall invoice the FIFA Licensee (Applicant).
- 3.4.2.** The fee is payable in full upon receipt of the respective invoice.
- 3.4.3.** The FIFA Licensee (Applicant) who is also a WFSGI Member is required to pay its WFSGI membership fee and all other outstanding invoices before the WFSGI will start to provide this Service.

4. Submission of the Pledge by FIFA the Licensee (Applicant)

4.1. The WFSGI Pledge

- 4.1.1.** The FIFA Licensee (Applicant), in cooperation with the respective Manufacturer, shall apply for the WFSGI Pledge on a yearly basis as long as the FIFA Licensee's Agreement with FIFA is valid and/or as long as the FIFA Licensee is selling any FIFA-certified footballs produced by the respective Manufacturer. The FIFA Licensee (Applicant) has to submit a Pledge for each particular Manufacturer producing FIFA certified footballs.

- 4.1.2. After the FIFA Licensee's (Applicant's) request, the WFSGI shall provide the Applicant with a new, original and uniquely numbered Pledge Form for every following year.
- 4.1.3. The WFSGI shall only accept original or scanned, uniquely numbered, fully completed and duly signed WFSGI Pledge Forms.
- 4.1.4. The WFSGI shall not accept modifications in Pledge Forms or recycled Pledge Forms.

4.2. WFSGI Code of Conduct

- 4.2.1. The WFSGI Code of Conduct version to be complied with throughout the whole duration of the Pledge's validity is the WFSGI Code of Conduct approved by the WFSGI General Assembly in Boston on April 21, 2026, and is subject to changes or amendments at the WFSGI's sole discretion as set forth in Section 8 of this WFSGI Guidance Manual and Agreement.

4.3. Audit report

- 4.3.1. The FIFA Licensee (Applicant) shall provide the WFSGI with an audit report that shows its Manufacturer's compliance with all the provisions of the [WFSGI Code of Conduct](#)
- 4.3.2. The audit report must not be older than one year; calculated from the day the WFSGI Pledge has expired. The audit must be conducted between the date when the last Pledge was issued and the date when the new Pledge will be made. For new applicants, the audit report must not be older than one year, calculated from the day the Pledge Form has been issued by the WFSGI. One and the same audit report can only be used for one single Pledge request.
- 4.3.3. The FIFA Licensee (Applicant) shall use an auditing company, which is a member of the Association of Professional Social Compliance Auditors (APSCA). The audit must also be conducted in line with APSCA's Code and Standards of Professional Conduct. The up-to-date list of all accredited service providers can be found at [APSCA's Official Website](#).
- 4.3.4. In case the social audit report does not include sufficient information to cover all principles outlined in the WFSGI Code of Conduct, additional reports or appropriate supporting documentation will be requested and must be submitted to the WFSGI to verify full compliance with all provisions of the WFSGI Code of Conduct.
- 4.3.5. The audit report submitted to the WFSGI must be owned by the FIFA Licensee (Applicant) or its Manufacturer. The WFSGI shall not accept audit reports owned by any other third parties.
- 4.3.6. The audit report must be issued in English.
- 4.3.7. The audit report submitted to the WFSGI must contain a confirmation from the auditing company that the Manufacturer does not use any subcontractors (including football stitching centres) for any part of the football production. If the Manufacturer intends to use a subcontractor, the FIFA Licensee (Applicant) must notify the WFSGI at the earliest possible date in advance and provide a separate audit report for each subcontractor prior to starting production of any FIFA certified footballs there.
- 4.3.8. In case the Manufacturer uses stitching centres, they are subject to the same requirements outlined in Section 4.3 above, and the FIFA Licensee (Applicant) must provide a separate audit report for each stitching centre used for production of FIFA certified footballs prior to starting production there.

4.4. Audit Fatigue

- 4.4.1.** There is no need to conduct a new audit if an audit report, which fulfills the requirements set forth in this Guidance Manual and Agreement (Sect. 4.3), is already available. In any case of doubt please contact the WFSGI.

4.5. Non-compliance

- 4.5.1.** In case the social audit report shows non-compliance with the WFSGI Code of Conduct, the WFSGI shall not issue the Pledge Approval Letter.
- 4.5.2.** The FIFA Licensee (Applicant) shall provide a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) with a confirmation from the auditor that all the previously identified cases of non-compliance with the WFSGI Code of Conduct have been resolved.
- 4.5.3.** In case of doubt of non-compliance by one of the parties, random verifications can be made upon request of the WFSGI and shall be delivered by the FIFA Licensee (Applicant) accordingly.

5. Approval of the Pledge by the WFSGI

5.1. Approval Letter

- 5.1.1.** The WFSGI shall approve the WFSGI Pledge submitted by the FIFA Licensee (Applicant) in cooperation with its respective Manufacturer when:
- a)** the Manufacturer is in compliance with all the provisions of the WFSGI Code of Conduct proven by a social audit report and any supporting documentation required by the WFSGI;
 - b)** the FIFA Licensee (Applicant) and its Manufacturer are in accordance with all terms and conditions of this WFSGI Guidance Manual and Agreement by completing and signing the WFSGI Pledge Form; and
 - c)** The receipt of the payment for the Pledge service fee in the WFSGI's bank account has been confirmed by the WFSGI.
- 5.1.2.** The WFSGI shall send the Approval Letter accompanied by the completed WFSGI Pledge Form to FIFA.
- 5.1.3.** The Pledge is valid for one year starting from the issue date stated on the WFSGI Pledge Approval Letter for new Pledge requests, and one year from the previous Pledge expiration date for already existing Pledges.

5.2. Expiration

- 5.2.1.** The FIFA Licensee (Applicant) is solely responsible for renewing the WFSGI Pledge and providing the WFSGI a duly dated social audit report.
- 5.2.2.** The WFSGI shall send an alert 2-3 months prior to the expiration date to remind the FIFA Licensee (Applicant) to renew the WFSGI Pledge on time.
- 5.2.3.** If the WFSGI Pledge is not renewed at the expiration date, the terms and conditions of the FIFA Licensee's (Applicant's) contract with FIFA will apply.

6. Liabilities

- 6.1. **WFSGI** is acting as verification, administrating and handling agent for FIFA only and can therefore not be held liable for any of its activities performed or owed hereunder except for any gross-negligent or deliberate unlawful acts or omissions.
- 6.2. **It is both the FIFA Licensee** (Applicant) and the Manufacturer's duty and liability to ensure that the requirements stipulated in this WFSGI Guidance Manual and Agreement and in the WFSGI Code of Conduct are fully met and complied with throughout the whole validity period of the respective Pledge upon signing of the WFSGI Pledge Form.

7. Governing Law, Place of Venue

- 7.1. **This WFSGI Guidance Manual and Agreement** for the WFSGI Pledge for the FIFA Quality Programme shall be exclusively governed by Swiss Laws.
- 7.2. **Any dispute between the WFSGI and the Licensee** (Applicant) arising of or pertaining to the WFSGI Pledge for the FIFA Quality Programme, which cannot be settled amicably, shall be exclusively dealt with by the civil courts of Berne, Switzerland.
- 7.3. **Any attempt to circumvent** any of the provisions of this WFSGI Guidance Manual and Agreement will be investigated. The WFSGI will notify FIFA and all other relevant parties accordingly. In case of any violation of this Guidance Manual and Agreement the WFSGI has the right to terminate the Pledge for cause with immediate effect and in addition hereto reserves its right to claim damage compensation from the respective FIFA Licensee (Applicant).

8. Changes of the WFSGI Code of Conduct and all other Documents relating thereto, Effective Date

- 8.1. **The WFSGI** reserves its right to modify the present applicable version of its Code of Conduct and of any other documents and forms pertaining to the Pledge application process whenever deemed required in the WFSGI's view at its discretion with the approval of FIFA. Such modified version will then be valid from the next Pledge renewal onward and will fully replace the respective preceding version.
- 8.2. **This version of the WFSGI Guidance Manual** and Agreement shall become effective as of 1st May 2026.