

Member Associations Division

CAF®

IMPACT

Newsletter

March 2026, Edition 1



WELCOME TO OUR NEWSLETTER

We are delighted to have you with us as we launch this new platform dedicated to keeping our football family informed, connected, and inspired.

The Member Association Division was established under the leadership of the CAF President, at the heart of our work is a clear mandate—to support our 54 Member Associations and 6 Zonal Unions with the tools, guidance, and resources needed.

Through this newsletter, we aim to strengthen dialogue and transparency across our 54 Member Associations. In this and future editions, you can expect strategic updates on key football development initiatives, insights into upcoming events and programmes, and inspiring success stories from our Member Associations and Zonal Unions.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Together, we will continue to build strong foundations for a dynamic future for African football.

Enjoy the read!



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CAF IMPACT Programme: Refresher Webinar for 54 Federations



Following the launch of the CAF IMPACT Programme in later 2025, CAF hosted a CAF IMPACT refresher webinar series on March 3 and 4, 2026, targeting General Secretaries and Finance Managers across all 54 Member Associations. These sessions were designed to provide hands-on guidance on the CAF IMPACT Programme's reporting requirements and financial safeguards.

This initiative follows the successful Strategic Roundtable Workshop held in August 2025, in Kampala, Uganda and Nairobi, Kenya. This historic event marked the first time Presidents and General Secretaries from across the continent gathered in a single forum hosted by CAF to align on governance and operational excellence. The workshop established the groundwork for the IMPACT Programme's mission: transforming African football through disciplined financial management and impactful community outreach.

CAF disbursed the second tranche of IMPACT Programme funds in January 2026. In accordance with Article 6.1.b.ii of the programme regulations, each Member Association received up to USD 200,000 to support their ongoing footballing initiatives. This timely disbursement reflects CAF's commitment to providing the necessary resources to fuel the sustainable growth of the Member Associations.

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Beyond the Pitch: CAF Young Reporters – Internship at CANAL +



The CAF African Schools Football Championship has evolved into a premier educational and social platform, far exceeding the boundaries of the pitch on the Continent.

Following the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between CAF and CANAL+ in January 2025, CAF is pleased to announce the successful conclusion of the Young Reporters Internship in partnership with CANAL+. The four best aspiring journalists from Ghana recently completed an elite training program in Paris at the CANAL + Headquarter. This initiative transforms the tournament into a classroom, providing youth with the “real-world” skills needed to lead Africa’s sports journalism and broadcasting future.

The programme continued with advanced training sessions focusing on professional preparation before major matches. The participants learned how journalists build research files, organise key information, and prepare commentary notes. For the four selected, this was their first international professional exposure, proving that the CAF African Schools Football Championship serves as a life-changing bridge between the field of play and global career opportunities.

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CAF Football Management Executive Programme concludes in Cape Town



CAF has successfully concluded the second edition of its CAF Football Management Executive Programme in partnership with the University of Cape Town. A graduation ceremony held on January 30, 2026, marked the completion of the five-month course, which serves as a central pillar of CAF’s strategy to professionalize football administration across the continent.

A total of 35 participants from all six Zonal Unions graduated from the intensive program, gaining expertise in strategic planning, commercial development, and organizational leadership. Led by a faculty of international industry experts, the curriculum was specifically designed to equip Member Associations with the advanced skillsets required to navigate the complexities of modern sports governance.

CAF Director of Member Associations, Sarah Mukuna, described the initiative as a “strategic investment in the future of African football.” By empowering leaders with the knowledge to meet global standards, CAF aims to build a sustainable and credible football ecosystem supported by competent, high-level administration across all its member nations.

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Launch of the CAF Safeguarding Toolkit - Liberia



The CAF Safeguarding programme has reached a major milestone with the much-anticipated official rollout of the CAF Safeguarding Toolkit, as part of the CAF IMPACT Programme and launched under the “Protect The Dream” initiative. Designed to establish a consistent framework for protection across African football, the toolkit provides federations, clubs, and academies with essential guidance on risk prevention, reporting mechanisms, and the protection of children, women, and vulnerable persons.

To kick off the implementation, Liberia hosted a successful two-day pilot workshop involving over 35 participants from local clubs and academies. The training sessions focused on integrating safeguarding practices into every level of the game, from grassroots and women’s football to high-level administration and competition management.

Liberia Football Association President Mustafa Raji closed the event by reinforcing that robust safeguarding is not just a moral obligation, but a cornerstone of professional growth and institutional development within the sport.

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New Leadership for CECAFA: President Paulos Weldehaimanot Elected unopposed



The Council of East and Central Africa Football Associations (CECAFA) has entered a new chapter following the election of Paulos Weldehaimanot Andemariam as Zonal Union President for a four-year term.

The election took place during the CECAFA Elective General Assembly held in Djibouti on 7 February. President Paulos, who also serves as President of the Eritrean National Football Federation, was elected unopposed, reflecting broad confidence in his leadership among the region's Member Associations.

In his acceptance address, President Paulos outlined a forward-looking vision focused on strengthening governance and sustainability. He committed to upholding accountability and integrity while actively pursuing new sponsorship opportunities to elevate football development across East and Central Africa.

The newly elected Executive Committee brings together a diverse and experienced leadership team. Ali Abdi Mohamed (Somalia) assumes the role of Vice President, joined by Francis Amin Michael (South Sudan) and Shema Ngoga Fabrice (Rwanda) as members of the Executive Committee. Their appointment comes at a strategic moment for CECAFA, as the region prepares for major upcoming competitions.

The General Assembly was further honoured by the presence of representatives from FIFA and Confédération Africaine de Football, who reaffirmed their full support for the new administration.

With a clear mandate from its 11 Member Associations, the new CECAFA leadership is set to drive institutional growth, reinforce professional standards, and advance football development throughout the region.

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ZONAL UNION IN SPOTLIGHT: UNIFFAC welcomes new Executive Director



We are pleased to announce the appointment of Hassan Bala Korei as the new Executive Director of UNIFFAC. A Swiss national originally from Chad, Mr. Bala Korei brings nearly fifteen years of expertise in football development, sports governance, and project management across both Africa and Europe.

His impressive career spans technical leadership at the club level, strategic advisory roles for national federations, and the coordination of major humanitarian football initiatives with international organizations. This appointment signals a powerful commitment from CAF and UNIFFAC to elevate competition standards and drive sustainable, long-term football growth across Central Africa.



ZONAL UNION AFFAIRS

COMPETITIONS: Upcoming March & April 2026



UNAF

- **CAF U17 AFCON Qualifiers**
24 March – 5 April 2026, Benghazi, Libya
- **UNAF U20 Girls Tournament**, 9 - 19 April, Algeria or Tunisia



UNIFFAC

- **CAF African Schools Football Championship**
2 – 8 March 2026, Gabon
- **CAF U20 AFCON Qualifiers**
27 April – 15 May, Chad, Cameroon, or DRC

WINNERS FROM LAST COMPETITIONS



COSAFA

- COSAFA Women's Championship, South Africa (**Winner: Namibia**)



UNAF

- CAF African Schools Football Championship, Egypt (**Winner Boys: Morocco, Winner Girls: Morocco**)
- UNAF U16 Tournament, Tunisia (**Winner: Tunisia**)



UNIFFAC

- CAF U17 AFCON Qualifiers, DRC (**Winner: Cameroon**)

WORKSHOPS: Upcoming March & April 2026



COSAFA

- Women Leadership Course: 3 - 5 March 2026, South Africa
- IPSO Scouting Course, 3 - 6 March, South Africa



UNAF

- Women Football Security and Safeguarding Workshop, 7-9 April, Tunisia



UNIFFAC

- Workshop for Academies, Training Centres and Grassroots, 19 – 21 April, Congo
- C License Women Coaches Workshop, 19 – 26 April, Chad
- Workshop for Academies, Training Centres and Grassroots, 24 – 26 April, Chad



WAFU A

- Women Football Workshop, 9 - 10 March, online
- Protocol Workshop, 13 - 14 March, online
- VAR Workshop, 23 - 27 March, Senegal
- VAR workshop, 13 - 17 April, Senegal
- Competition Workshop, 23 - 25 April, Sierra Leone
- Medical Workshop, 23 - 24 April, Sierra Leone



WAFU B

- Young Referees Course, 21 – 25 March, Ghana
- VAR Training Course, 5 – 10 April 2026, Abidjan

MA IN SPOTLIGHT: The ZIFA Roots Impact Programme Launched



The Zimbabwe Football Association (ZIFA) has launched the Roots Impact Programme, a groundbreaking initiative designed to formalize football at its foundational level. By introducing the nation’s first standardized junior league structure, the programme establishes a clear progression route for young talent while embedding essential governance and safeguarding frameworks.

ZIFA is prioritizing long-term development by integrating safeguarding, anti-doping awareness, referee training, and CAF D coaching courses specifically for educators.

Strategic partnerships are the engine of this movement, specifically the collaboration between ZIFA and the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education. This synergy ensures that talent identification and technical training are woven into the fabric of daily student life, backed by ZIFA’s ongoing technical guidance and capacity-building support.

ZIFA President Nqobile Magwizi noted, “This is about rebuilding Zimbabwean football by design, not by chance. For too long, our youth football ecosystem has been fragmented. The Roots Impact Programme brings structure, governance and clarity. They ensure that a talented child, whether from an urban suburb or a rural community, has a fair and visible pathway into the national football system.”

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