AFC 36TH CONGRESS

VANCOUVER 2026

ACTIVITY REPORT

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VANCOUVER 2026

ACTIVITY REPORT

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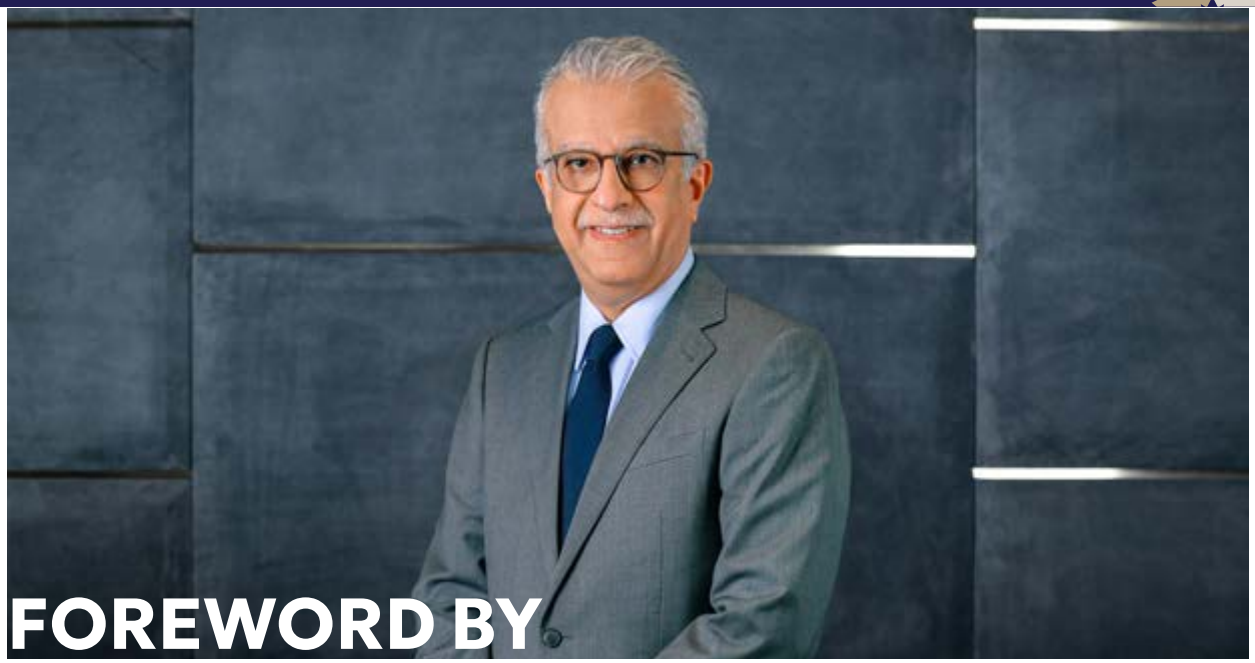
AFC 36TH CONGRESS
VANCOUVER 2026

1 INTRODUCTION



FOREWORD BY THE AFC PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

I am delighted to endorse the Confederation's Activity Report to the 36th AFC Congress, which represents another year of remarkable progress both on and off the field for Asian football.

Reflecting on the past 12 months, the most fitting word to describe our journey is 'transformative' and this is best exemplified by the delivery of the most successful edition ever of the AFC Women's Asian Cup™ and the completion of the inaugural season of the AFC's revamped club competitions, both of which marked significant milestones in our proud history.

In every way, the AFC Champions League Elite 2024/25™ surpassed all our expectations, achieving an 83% increase in sponsor partnerships compared to the 2023/24 season whilst registering cumulative TV audiences of 258 million and 1.5 billion impressions on the AFC's digital channels, which represent increases of 48% and 15%, respectively.

Similar successes reverberated across the landmark AFC Women's Champions League™, the AFC Champions League Two™ and the AFC Challenge League™, and none of this could have been achieved without the determination displayed by all of our clubs.

When we launched our club competition reforms, our ambitions were clear: to improve the technical performance of our clubs, drive the commercial value of our competitions, and strengthen our engagement with sponsors and the passionate fans of Asian football.

In just one season, the impact has been immediate and profound. I am delighted to note that our Member Associations (MAs) have successfully delivered on all our objectives, so I would like to record my sincerest gratitude to them for their dedication towards elevating the standards of our club competitions.

Similarly, the AFC Asian Qualifiers – Road to 26™ also broke all records with cumulative broadcast reaching 4.1 billion worldwide and digital engagement exceeding 1.3 billion impressions, as Jordan and Uzbekistan created history by sealing their first-ever spots at the FIFA World Cup in a fiercely competitive qualifying campaign that clearly demonstrated the narrowing gap amongst all our teams.

These milestones are not just numbers – they are a testament to the power of our collective unity and ambition driven by all our Participating MAs and as we shift our focus to the FIFA World Cup later this year, we wish all our teams the very best of success.

It is our hope that they will draw inspiration from the dominance showcased by so many of our Asian

teams and match officials, who continue to succeed on the world's biggest stages, embodying the bold aspirations outlined in our Vision and Mission.

We celebrated DPR Korea's global triumph once again after they clinched a record-extending fourth FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup title in November last year shortly after Al Hilal SFC reached the Quarter-final at July's FIFA Club World Cup, where an AFC trio of match officials were appointed to oversee the Final of the global club showpiece.

Similarly, Asia's influence as the epicentre of the global game continues to grow as the Philippines proudly staged the inaugural FIFA Futsal Women's World Cup, and Qatar hosted the FIFA U-17 World Cup as well as the second edition of the FIFA Arab Cup where Jordan reached the coveted Final. These tournaments didn't just emphasise our passionate fanbase; they demonstrated Asia's unmatched reliability and world-class hosting capabilities on the global stage.

Building on these solid foundations, the AFC's future has never looked more promising, and through tailored and targeted investments, we have seen spectacular growth throughout our MAs and Regional Associations (RAs) off the field.

In addition to the game-changing AFC Enhance Programme, the landmark AFC Equal Pitch Programme and Policy were introduced to enhance not only the development of football infrastructure in Asia but also foster the growth of grassroots and community-level football.

And earlier this year, we also empowered our five RAs to organise their qualifying competitions as the pathway to the AFC U17 Asian Cup™ Finals in a move that underscores our wholehearted recognition of our RAs for all their efforts in organising youth competitions over the years as we seek to transform our ecosystems for our Continent's most promising talent.

Supporting this pillar, the scope of the Confederation's virtual, physical events and panel meetings in the key area of Technical development has continued to create a profound legacy amongst our MAs, who remain resolute in renewing and upgrading their endorsement levels across the breakthrough elite youth, grassroots and coaching schemes.

Likewise, the world-renowned AFC Referee Academy has seen an impressive total of 345 men and women referees from 45 MAs impacted from its all-inclusive curriculum since its launch in 2017, and whilst 58 alumni now form the Elite Panel, perhaps most encouraging of all is the growing pool of referees already taking their pride of place amongst the best in world football.

All this, of course, is underpinned by the pillars of Good Governance and Integrity and the AFC's resolve to advancing these cherished principles were brought to bear with the introduction of the Guidelines on Principles of Good Governance for Regional Associations' Statutes, which has been designed to promote the adoption of best practices and uplift the operations across the AFC's five RAs.

It is the continued support and solidarity of the MAs and RAs which has also enabled the AFC to create a more meaningful difference across the Continent through the power of football. Having had the honour of opening the inaugural AFC Dream Asia Foundation (ADAF) Conference 2025 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, in October last year, I am confident that the strategic relationships we have built will play a pivotal role in enhancing the delivery of our social responsibility programmes in the coming years.

We extend our sincere appreciation to the Saudi Arabian Football Federation for hosting the ADAF Conference and several marquee AFC events, including the acclaimed AFC MAs and RAs Presidents' and General Secretaries' Conference 2025, and our gratitude also goes to all host associations that facilitated our centralised finals and qualifiers over the past twelve months.

There is no denying that the AFC's strength has consistently been derived from its members. The unity and solidarity we have shown is not only a source of great pride but also the foundation from which we have built our collective rise. As we move forward in the next chapter, let us build on our achievements to unlock new opportunities for greater success and solidify Asia's position as a global leader in football.

Thank you all for your unwavering commitment to the excellence of Asian football.

HE Shaikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa
AFC President

REPORT BY THE AFC GENERAL SECRETARY

Dear Friends,

As we look back on the past year in the coming pages, I want to express my sincerest appreciation to each and every one of our MAs and RAs for your incredible support and unity, on behalf of the AFC Administration.

We ushered in 2025 with a strong focus on delivering our Vision and Mission and fittingly the AFC delivered a total of 16 competitions, comprising both Qualifiers and Finals, showcasing our dedication and expertise in staging world-class tournaments for our members across all levels.

We were able to herald the much-anticipated return of the AFC Women's Futsal Asian Cup China 2025™ from a seven-year hiatus, before Asia further reinforced its world-class hosting capabilities by staging the first-ever FIFA Futsal Women's World Cup Philippines 2025.

Equally significant was the conclusion of the historic maiden seasons of the revamped AFC club competitions, where the crowning of first-time champions across the AFC Champions League Elite™, AFC Women's Champions League™, AFC Champions League Two™ and the AFC Challenge League™ reflected both the incredible depth of our club landscape and the elevated competitive platforms that these redesigned tournaments now provide.

Significant strides continued to be made in our technical developmental goals, with advancements across all five pillars: Coach Education, Women's Football, Youth Development, Grassroots, and Futsal & Beach Soccer. Milestones included the expansion of the Pro Level Membership of the AFC Coaching Convention, rollout of the Triple-A Project and the AFC Children's Coach Certificate, as our MAs continue to lay strong foundations for future generations to thrive.

The volume and variety of the AFC's courses and sessions increased to serve the ever-changing needs of both our members and in response to the need to stay up to date with the latest best practices, while participants also benefited from technical conferences and panel meetings.

Meanwhile, involvement in the annual AFC Grassroots Football Day and AFC Women's Football Day remains heartening, and we also recognised the heroes who are often behind the scenes with the annual AFC Special Grassroots Awards and AFC Special Elite Youth Football Awards.

The AFC's match officials proved their abilities once again on the global stage, having been appointed in significant numbers across FIFA tournaments, including the FIFA Club World

Cup, the FIFA U-17 and U-20 World Cups, the FIFA Women's Futsal World Cup and the FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup, demonstrating their quality, professionalism, and worldwide recognition. Top-class talent continues to be nurtured through the landmark AFC Referee Academy, which welcomed new batches and also expanded programmes, such as the maiden Futsal Referee Academy, ensuring a consistent long-term pipeline.

Off the pitch, the AFC strengthened support for our MAs and RAs with tailormade initiatives to enhance governance and developmental aspects. The rollout of the AFC Enhance Programme 2025–2028 provided a more robust regulatory and financial framework, while the AFC League Development Programme offered support for domestic league advancement. These programmes underscore our unwavering commitment to building capability, sustainability, and excellence across all levels of Asian football administration.

Our social responsibility efforts also reached new heights through the AFC Dream Asia Foundation. The inaugural Dream Asia Foundation Conference in Riyadh expanded safeguarding efforts as well as humanitarian support in communities affected by crises, while new mental health and inclusivity initiatives underscored the power of football to educate, uplift, and unite. With its five pillars—Child Safeguarding, Education, Inclusion, Sustainability and Health & Wellbeing—the Foundation continues to embody the spirit of 'Football Cares'.

The groundbreaking AFC Academic Centre of Excellence (ACE), which represents our continuous commitment to enriching the expertise of the Continent's football leaders, unveiled its latest education-based initiative, the AFC Club Management Programme (ACMP), further expanding the suite of professional development offerings that aim to maximise the potential of our MAs and RAs.

Of the current ACE roster, the AFC Certificate in Football Leadership concluded its third edition, while over 400 and 140 participants have respectively graduated from the AFC Certificate in Child Safeguarding and AFC Certificate in Strategy and Planning. Close to 400 have also benefited from the AFC Certificate in Football Administration and Management (ACFAM), with a further 40 doing so from a bespoke hybrid version of the ACFAM that was held once each in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic, and Jakarta, Indonesia.

A deserved celebration of the year's triumphs was brought to bear at the AFC Awards Riyadh 2025 as the Continent's cream of the crop was feted in a starry night, with the ceremony adopting a new name as well as dazzling updated trophies that complemented the acclaimed new brand identity that kickstarted 2025.

As we reflect on these remarkable accomplishments that have been cast in the spotlight of this Activity Report, it is undeniably clear that none of it would have been possible without your steadfast backing, collaboration, and passion.

The unity of our MAs and RAs continues to be our greatest strength, enabling the AFC to drive meaningful progress across all areas of football in our vast Continent.

I am certain that we can continue to count on your admirable dedication and support, and together as one Asian football family, we will build on these achievements and forge an even brighter future.

Datuk Seri Windsor John
AFC General Secretary

AUSTRALIA
BAHRAIN
BANGLADESH
BHUTAN
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM
CAMBODIA
CHI
INDONESIA
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN
IRAQ
JAPAN
JORDAN
KOREA REPUBLIC
KU
MALDIVES
MONGOLIA
MYANMAR
NEPAL
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OMAN
PAK
SRI LANKA
SYRIA
TAJIKISTAN
THAILAND
TIMOR-LESTE
TURKMEN

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MEMBER ASSOCIATION AND REGIONAL ASSOCIATION DEVELOPMENT

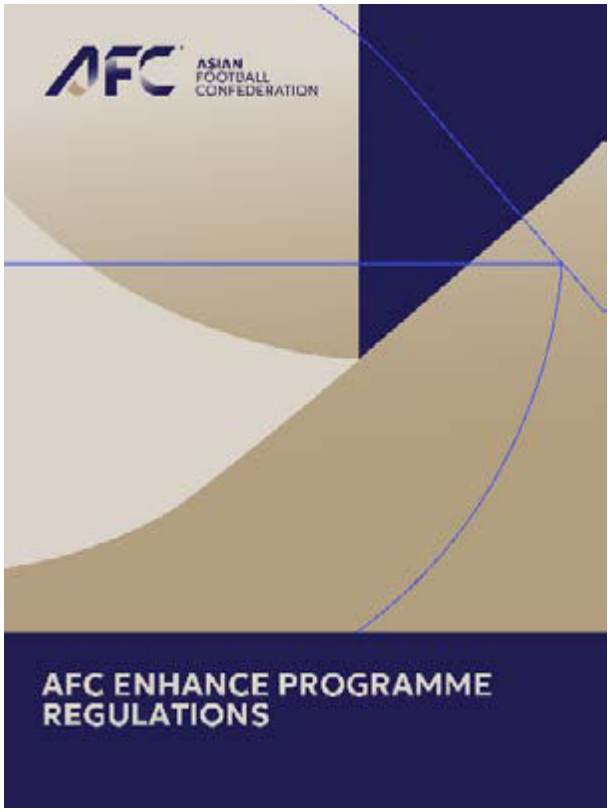
INTRODUCTION

The year 2025 marked the commencement of the new AFC Enhance Programme funding cycle (2025–2028) and represented a transition year focused on the implementation of revised regulations, strengthened governance frameworks, and the expansion of key development programmes across Asia.

Building on the lessons learned from the previous cycle (2021–2024), the AFC Member Association (MA) Division prioritised regulatory clarity, financial accountability, inclusivity, and sustainable football development for both MAs and Regional Associations (RAs).

In parallel, several complementary development initiatives – including the League Development Programme, the AFC Equal Pitch Programme and the AFC Financial Management Manual for Regional Associations – were rolled out in 2025.

Collectively, these initiatives reflect the AFC's commitment to MA and RA Development with a focus on long-term capacity and capability-building at all levels of the football ecosystem.



DEVELOPMENT

AFC ENHANCE PROGRAMME (2025–2028)

Overview

The AFC Enhance Programme for the 2025–2028 cycle came into force in early 2025 following the approval by the AFC Executive Committee in late 2024. The first year of a funding cycle is critical, as it establishes the foundation upon which the entire cycle is built and determines the effectiveness of programme implementation in the years ahead.

For the AFC Enhance Programme 2025–2028 funding cycle, the initial year is significant because it allows the Beneficiary Member Associations (BMAs) and the Beneficiary Regional Associations (BRAs) to align their strategic priorities, development plans, and operational capacities with the objectives and requirements of the AFC Enhance Programme from the outset.

Early utilisation and sound planning in the first year enable stakeholders to identify implementation challenges, refine project scopes, and ensure compliance with regulatory and financial frameworks at an early stage.

This proactive approach facilitates smoother execution in subsequent years, maximises the long-term impact of the allocated funds, and ensures that the BMAs and the BRAs are well-positioned to fully benefit from the programme throughout the entire funding cycle.

AFC ENHANCE PROGRAMME – IMPLEMENTATION IN 2025

In 2025, BMAs and BRAs actively engaged with the new cycle, submitting applications across all eligible categories. Particular emphasis was placed on:

- Early planning and timely submission of applications.
- Alignment of projects with approved strategic and operational plans.
- Strengthened financial documentation and reporting standards.

The AFC Administration continued to provide advisory support to ensure compliance with the revised Regulations and to facilitate smooth implementation.

AFC ENHANCE PROGRAMME – REVISION OF THE REGULATIONS

A significant milestone in 2025 was the revision of the AFC Enhance Programme Regulations 2025–2028. The importance lies in providing the BMAs with a clearer, more consistent, and predictable regulatory framework at the very start of the cycle.

This enables the BMAs and BRAs to plan and execute development projects with greater confidence, improved governance, and stronger financial discipline.

The streamlined and comprehensive nature of the Regulations supports more effective project delivery, reduces administrative inefficiencies, and strengthens accountability, thereby enhancing the long-term development and impact of the programme across all BMAs and BRAs.

KEY CHANGES IN THE AFC ENHANCE PROGRAMME REGULATIONS (2025-2028)

The principal changes introduced under the AFC Enhance Programme Regulations (2025–2028) include:

1. MAs:

- A full-time General Secretary must be physically present in the country and serve as the authorised signatory for all AFC Enhance Programme payments.
- Submission of the Statutory Audit Report for the previous year is required, whereby the annual total income must not exceed Five Million United States Dollars (USD 5,000,000), excluding revenues received from FIFA, the AFC, and the RA, in order to be eligible to receive the funding.
- Removal of the clause referring to funding of USD 50,000 per year per eligible BMAs to be utilised for activities or projects under Extra-Time.
- Unutilised funds under Advantage shall only be carried forward to the next year for use in Stadium upon approval of the AFC Administration.
- Enhance Funds cannot be used to pay daily allowances to players and team officials as part of specific match/competition expenses under Pass and Volley categories.

2. RAs:

- A maximum of 50% of the allocated funds for Corner can be utilised for the following activities in the same calendar year, in case the BRA does not utilise or decides not to pursue or to utilise the maximum allocation of funds:

a) Backroom – hiring of additional staff; Employing full-time administrative staff in

addition to the list of staff mentioned in the Regulations.

b) Equaliser – purchase of office assets; Purchasing office assets in addition to the list of expenses mentioned in the Regulations.

The Regulations were further simplified to remove ambiguities identified, with clearer definitions, timelines, and procedural requirements for applications, implementation, and reporting.

AFC LEAGUE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

In line with the AFC's mission of providing tailormade support for its MAs and to further grow and develop the football leagues across the Continent, the Confederation launched the AFC League Development Programme (LDP) in 2025 with the aim of helping the leagues to enhance their professionalism, competitiveness and sustainability.

The LDP is part of the AFC's broader goal to enhance the competitiveness and overall development of football in the MAs by helping to improve their domestic leagues. The programme aims to provide modern and up-to-date solutions and support, addressing the current challenges faced by football leagues today.

This initiative helps both football leagues and clubs, enabling them to succeed both on and off the field. The focus is on equipping the leagues with the tools and resources needed to thrive in the competitive world of football, ensuring they perform at their best while also fostering long-term growth and sustainability.

The key highlights of the AFC LDP include:

1. Solid Fundamentals

a) League Long Term Strategy Development
b) Improved League Operations
c) Open Advisory Legal Support
d) Improving League Governance and Support
e) Fair Play and Financial Sustainability

2. The Business of Football

a) The National Football Summit
b) Club Management Programmes
c) Open Advisory Legal Support
d) Building the League's Strategic Long-Term Commercial Model
e) League and Clubs Commercial & Communications Programmes

3. Capacity Building and Mentoring

a) Capacity Building Workshops & Training
b) Personalised Mentoring
c) League Exchange Programme

The Programme is implemented through a defined implementation structure:

STEPS	METHOD
STEP 1: Assessment Phase	Via Questionnaire and Online Interviews
STEP 2: Evaluation Visit	Via physical visits and meetings with related parties
STEP 3: Findings Report + Alignment of Support	Online Meetings with Leagues to define findings and suggested support Programme and timelines
STEP 4: League support Programme delivery	Physical and Online Support Programme

For 2025, five (5) MAs were shortlisted as pilot projects:

1) Bhutan Football Federation (BFF) - Assessment Visit (May 9 to 11, 2025)

2) All Nepal Football Association (ANFA) - Assessment Visit (June 2 to 4, 2025)

3) Tajikistan Football Federation (TFF) - Assessment Visit (August 19 to 21, 2025)

4) Chinese Taipei Football Association (CTFA) – Assessment Visit (October 28 to 30, 2025)

5) Football Association of Brunei Darussalam (FABD)

Each participating MA was entitled to receive a maximum of USD 50,000 per project for implementing the AFC LDP activities to accomplish objectives stated in the agreed-upon plan.

The LDP continues to serve as a key pillar in enhancing the professionalism, sustainability, and commercial viability of domestic leagues across Asia.

AFC EQUAL PITCH PROGRAMME

The AFC Equal Pitch Programme is a flagship initiative designed to enhance football infrastructure and support grassroots and community-level football development across Asia by:

- Increasing the number of quality mini football pitches for grassroots development.
- Improving existing full-size pitches to meet FIFA/AFC standards.
- Supporting MAs with funding, technical guidance, and sustainable project management.

Under the programme, mini football pitches (40m x 20m) are constructed with artificial turf, high-quality futsal goals, strong fencing, solar-powered floodlights, clubhouses with changing rooms, and AFC branding. Existing full-size pitches are upgraded to international standards, including improvements to playing surfaces, drainage, sub-base, and the provision of maintenance equipment. Staff training and educational workshops are also provided to ensure proper long-term maintenance and sustainability of the facilities.

The programme provides AFC MAs with financial support of up to USD500,000 per year for construction of mini pitches and USD700,000 per year for full-size pitch improvements, along with technical guidance to ensure sustainable and high-quality facilities.

Each project is executed by the appointed AFC Equal Pitch Partner, ensuring consistency in quality and adherence to programme standards.

The AFC Equal Pitch Programme focuses on providing a strategic platform for MAs to develop football equitably, enhance infrastructure, and leave a lasting legacy in their regions, supporting the AFC's mission to grow the game across Asia. In the longer-term, it aims to empower MAs to:

- Increase the number of quality mini football pitches for grassroots development.
- Expand access to quality football facilities at grassroots and community levels.
- Promote sustainable growth and long-term use of infrastructure.
- Strengthen relationships with football stakeholders and local communities.

AFC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT MANUAL FOR REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

A key financial governance milestone in 2025 was the introduction of the Financial Management Manual for the AFC Regional Associations. The Manual was drafted to provide a standardised framework for financial governance across all AFC RAs. It addresses the need for transparency, accountability, and prudent financial management in the administration of funds.

The Manual is essential for:

- Defining clear roles, responsibilities, and internal controls or financial operations.
- Standardising budgeting, revenue recognition, expenditure, and asset management processes.
- Ensuring compliance with the AFC, FIFA, and local statutory requirements.
- Promoting ethical conduct, risk management, and accountability, strengthening stakeholder confidence.

Some of the key provisions addressed in the Financial Management Manual include:

1) Governance & Financial Oversight
2) Budgeting & Planning
3) Revenue & Funding Management
4) Expenditure & Procurement Controls
5) Payroll, Assets & Risk Management
6) Reporting & Compliance

The Manual provides a comprehensive framework to guide financial operations, promote transparency, and strengthen accountability across all RAs.

By standardising procedures for budgeting, revenue management, expenditure, and reporting, the Manual ensures that resources are managed efficiently and ethically, in full compliance with the AFC, FIFA, and local regulations. Its implementation supports sound governance, risk mitigation, and sustainable development of football in the region, reinforcing confidence among stakeholders and enabling RAs to operate with integrity and financial discipline.

By providing a uniform set of policies and procedures, the Manual helps the RAs manage resources efficiently, make informed financial decisions, and operate sustainably, supporting the development of football in the region.

GOVERNANCE AND OVERSIGHT

CENTRAL AUDITS

In line with the AFC's commitment to accountability and transparency, Central Audits for both MAs and RAs continued to be conducted in 2025. These audits assessed compliance with the AFC Enhance Programme Regulations and verified the appropriate use of allocated funds.

AFC ENHANCE PROGRAMME

USD500,000 PER MA

BENEFICIARY MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS (BMAs) FOR 2025

ASEAN

- Football Australia (FA)
- Football Federation of Cambodia (FFC)
- Football Association of Indonesia (PSSI)
- Lao Football Federation (LFF)
- Football Association of Malaysia (FAM)
- Myanmar Football Federation (MFF)
- Philippine Football Federation (PFF)
- Football Association of Singapore (FAS)
- The Football Association of Thailand (FA Thailand)
- Federação Futebol de Timor-Leste (FFTL)
- Vietnam Football Federation (VFF)

CENTRAL

- The Kyrgyz Football Union (KFU)
- Tajikistan Football Federation (TFF)
- Football Federation of Turkmenistan (FFT)
- Uzbekistan Football Association (UFA)

EAST

Chinese Football Association (CFA)

Chinese Taipei Football Association (CTFA)

Guam Football Association (GFA)

The Football Association of Hong Kong, China Limited (HKFA)

Japan Football Association (JFA)

Macau Football Association (AFM)

Mongolian Football Federation (MFF)

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association (NMIFA)

SOUTH

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF)

Bhutan Football Federation (BFF)

All India Football Federation (AIFF)

All Nepal Football Association (ANFA)

WEST

Bahrain Football Association (BFA)

Iraqi Football Association (IFA)

Jordan Football Association (JFA)

Lebanese Football Association (LFA)

Oman Football Association (OFA)

Palestine Football Association (PFA)

Qatar Football Association (QFA)

AFC ENHANCE PROGRAMME: ADVANTAGE

USD150,000 PER MA

BENEFICIARY MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS (BMAs) FOR 2025

ASEAN	CENTRAL	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
Football Federation of Cambodia (FFC)	The Kyrgyz Football Union (KFU)	Guam Football Association (GFA)	Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF)	Lebanese Football Association (LFA)
Lao Football Federation (LFF)	Tajikistan Football Federation (TFF)	Macau Football Association (AFM)	Bhutan Football Federation (BFF)	Palestine Football Association (PFA)
Myanmar Football Federation (MFF)	Football Federation of Turkmenistan (FFT)	Mongolian Football Federation (MFF)	All Nepal Football Association (ANFA)	
Philippine Football Federation (PFF)		Northern Mariana Islands Football Association (NMIFA)	Football Federation of Sri Lanka (FFSL)	
Federação Futebol de Timor-Leste (FFTL)				

AFC ENHANCE PROGRAMME: EXTRA-TIME

USD50,000 PER MA

BENEFICIARY MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS (BMAs) FOR 2025

ASEAN	CENTRAL	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
Football Federation of Cambodia (FFC)	Tajikistan Football Federation (TFF)	Guam Football Association (GFA)	Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF)	Lebanese Football Association (LFA)
Lao Football Federation (LFF)	Football Federation of Turkmenistan (FFT)	Macau Football Association (AFM)	Bhutan Football Federation (BFF)	Palestine Football Association (PFA)
Philippine Football Federation (PFF)		Mongolian Football Federation (MFF)	All Nepal Football Association (ANFA)	
Federação Futebol de Timor-Leste (FFTL)		Northern Mariana Islands Football Association (NMIFA)		

AFC ENHANCE PROGRAMME

USD500,000 PER RA

BENEFICIARY REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS (BRAs) FOR 2025

ASEAN Football Federation (AFF)	Central Asian Football Association (CAFA)	East Asian Football Federation (EAFF)	South Asian Football Federation (SAFF)	West Asian Football Federation (WAFF)

AFC CENTRAL AUDITS FOR AFC ENHANCE PROGRAMME

MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

Central Audits for the AFC Enhance Programme for the Financial Year 2024 were conducted for the following BMAs:

MEMBER ASSOCIATION	FINANCIAL YEAR 2024
Football Australia	Completed
Bahrain Football Association (BFA)	Completed
Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF)	Completed
Bhutan Football Federation (BFF)	Completed
Football Association of Brunei Darussalam (FABD)	Completed
Football Federation of Cambodia (FFC)	Completed
Chinese Football Association (CFA)	Completed
Chinese Taipei Football Association (CTFA)	Completed
Guam Football Association (GFA)	Completed
The Football Association of Hong Kong, China Limited (HKFA)	Completed
All India Football Federation (AIFF)	Completed
Football Association of Indonesia (PSSI)	Completed

MEMBER ASSOCIATION	FINANCIAL YEAR 2024
Japan Football Association (JFA)	Completed
Jordan Football Association (JFA)	Completed
The Kyrgyz Football Union (KFU)	Completed
Lao Football Federation (LFF)	Completed
Lebanese Football Association (LFA)	Completed
Macau Football Association (AFM)	Completed
Football Association of Malaysia (FAM)	Completed
Football Association of Maldives (FAM)	Completed for FY2023
Mongolian Football Federation (MFF)	Completed
Myanmar Football Federation (MFF)	Completed
All Nepal Football Association (ANFA)	Completed
Northern Mariana Islands Football Association (NMIFA)	Completed

MEMBER ASSOCIATION	FINANCIAL YEAR 2024
Oman Football Association (OFA)	Completed
Palestine Football Association (PFA)	Completed
Philippine Football Federation (PFF)	Completed
Qatar Football Association (QFA)	Completed
Football Association of Singapore (FAS)	Completed
Football Federation of Sri Lanka (FFSL)	Completed

MEMBER ASSOCIATION	FINANCIAL YEAR 2024
Tajikistan Football Federation (TFF)	Completed
The Football Association of Thailand (FA Thailand)	Completed
Federação Futebol de Timor-Leste (FFTL)	Completed
Football Federation of Turkmenistan (FFT)	Completed
Uzbekistan Football Association (UFA)	Completed
Vietnam Football Federation (VFF)	Completed

REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Central Audits for the AFC Enhance Programme for the Financial Year 2024 were conducted for the following BRAs:

REGIONAL ASSOCIATION	FINANCIAL YEAR 2024
ASEAN Football Federation (AFF)	Completed
Central Asian Football Association (CAFA)	Completed
East Asian Football Federation (EAFF)	Completed

REGIONAL ASSOCIATION	FINANCIAL YEAR 2024
South Asian Football Federation (SAFF)	Completed
West Asian Football Federation (WAFF)	Completed

ACADEMIC CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE (ACE)

AFC CERTIFICATE IN FOOTBALL LEADERSHIP

In 2025, the AFC delivered the third edition of the AFC Certificate in Football Leadership (ACFL) programme to enhance the ever-growing pool and capabilities of future Asian football decision-makers.

As part of the Confederation's landmark, the AFC Academic Centre of Excellence (ACE)'s expanding repertoire of online programmes, the six-month-long initiative saw 23 decision-makers from AFC MAs, RAs and other football stakeholders follow in the footsteps of the graduates of the previous two editions, to further elevate the standards of football leadership on the Continent.

The ACFL comprises six comprehensive modules designed by the AFC that focus on increasing the leadership capabilities of participants via applicable perspectives, skill sets and tools:

Graduates will utilise their newfound skills and perspectives to overcome challenges on and off the pitch, manage circumstances and leverage opportunities to lead their respective organisations to new heights of excellence.

AFC CERTIFICATE IN CHILD SAFEGUARDING

The AFC Certificate in Child Safeguarding (ACCS) programme was introduced to bolster the welfare of children and to bring to life one of the key pillars of the AFC's social responsibility efforts.

Developed exclusively by the AFC, the ACCS aims to raise awareness on child safeguarding and equip participants with the knowledge and skills to keep children safe from harm when engaged in all football activities. The ACCS is delivered online in six different languages – English, Arabic, Mandarin, Japanese, Persian and Russian – and comprises three different courses: Insights, Fundamentals and Essentials.

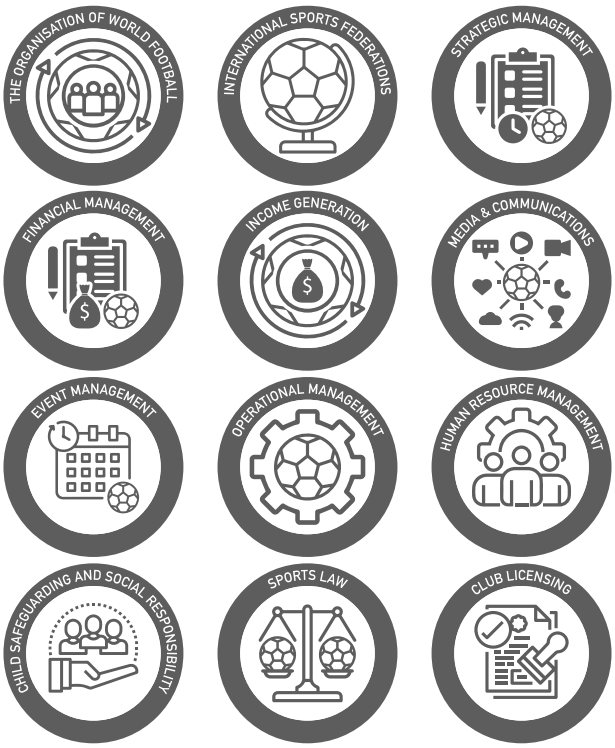
The Insights course has seen 179 participants graduate; the Fundamentals course had 135 graduates and Essentials 122 graduates as of December 31, 2025.

AFC CERTIFICATE IN FOOTBALL ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT

Since the launch of the AFC Certificate in Football Administration and Management (ACFAM), 393 participants from across the globe have benefited from the programme as of December 31, 2025.

Designed to equip aspiring leaders with relevant strategic and administrative competencies as well as football-specific skillsets and tools, the ACFAM is catered to managers and administrators of all levels, from MAs and RAs, as well as independent stakeholders. The self-paced programme is delivered asynchronously to provide participants with the opportunity to learn at their own convenience.

The progress of the participants is assessed by a series of online quizzes, and at the conclusion of the ACFAM, they will be able to understand key football management and administration concepts, analyse industry challenges and prospects, and develop and strengthen managerial and operational skills.



AFC CERTIFICATE IN STRATEGY AND PLANNING

The AFC expanded its range of educational initiatives with the launch of the AFC Certificate in Strategy and Planning (ACSP), its latest offering from the landmark ACE. A three-month curriculum designed for leaders of the AFC's MAs, RAs and other football stakeholders, the ACSP aims to equip them with the necessary strategic planning skills, processes and tools to meet the growing standards, expectations and needs of their respective organisations, and the ever-evolving football ecosystem.

Some of the key topics that are covered include understanding strategic planning theory, designing and managing strategic plans, identifying success factors, using strategic planning tools, resource allocation and budgeting.

The ACSP resources, which include pre-recorded video lectures, interactive modules and reading materials, are accessible through an online learning platform. This not only offers ease of access but also gives participants the flexibility to follow the programme at their own pace. All these comprehensive components are delivered via strategic planning theory, practical examples and hands-on activities. To meet organisational goals, the ACSP emphasises the importance of the planning process over the document itself, ensuring clarity, focus and continuous refinement to adapt to changing circumstances.

Since the launch of the AFC Certificate in Strategy and Planning (ACSP), 143 participants from across the globe have benefited from the programme as of December 31, 2025.

AFC CERTIFICATE IN FOOTBALL ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT HYBRID PROGRAMME

The AFC Certificate in Football Administration and Management (ACFAM) continues to strengthen the professional capabilities of football administrators across Asia through its innovative hybrid learning format, combining self-paced online modules with interactive in-person workshops delivered in collaboration with MAs.

In 2025, the ACFAM Hybrid Programme was implemented in multiple MAs, including in the Kyrgyz Republic and Indonesia, enabling local football administrators to benefit from the milestone initiative and obtain AFC-certified training without the need for extensive travel. Each delivery has demonstrated strong engagement, improved knowledge transfer, and strengthened capacity within national football structures.

Following the successful rollout of the hybrid programme, the ACFAM celebrated its maiden cohort of graduates, marking an important milestone in expanding accessible, high-quality football education across the region.

As many as 40 participants (in the Kyrgyz Republic and Indonesia) completed an integrated learning journey that blended digital coursework with practical, instructor-led sessions designed to enhance real-world administrative competencies.

AFC CLUB MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

Following the continued demand for high-quality capacity-building initiatives across the Continent, the AFC expanded its commitment to strengthening club governance by introducing the latest edition of the AFC Club Management Programme (ACMP). As part of ACE's suite of professional development offerings, the programme equips club executives with the essential knowledge and capabilities required to elevate operational and strategic standards within Asian club football.

The programme comprises 10 core modules delivered over a nine-month period, combining expert-led sessions, case studies and applied learning to enhance club sustainability, competitiveness and long-term organisational development, while also fostering collaboration among MAs, RAs and key football stakeholders. Applications closed on November 28, 2025, and the ACMP commenced on January 19, 2026, further strengthening the professional competencies of club leaders across Asia and supporting the Confederation's broader objective of building a stronger and more future-ready football ecosystem.

AFC MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS AND REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS PRESIDENTS' AND GENERAL SECRETARIES' CONFERENCE 2025

Building on the momentum from previous years, the 2025 edition of the AFC MAs and RAs Presidents' and General Secretaries' Conference once again reinforced the Confederation's commitment to uniting and uplifting Asian football through collaboration, innovation, and leadership.

Hosted in Riyadh by the Saudi Arabian Football Federation from October 17 to 19 2025, the three-day event convened top executives from the AFC MAs and RAs — alongside global football leaders, industry experts, and key stakeholders — under the banner of shared vision and collective progress.

The Conference featured a distinguished line-up of keynote speakers and panel discussions designed to address the critical themes of organisational excellence, governance, innovation, and sustainable growth in Asian football. Presentations ranged from the business dynamics of football to emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), showcasing forward-looking strategies to steer the sport into a new era.

A highlight of the gathering was the thematic panel sessions on the first and second days, which facilitated open exchange of insights and best practices among participants. This collaborative platform underscored the shared responsibility of all MAs and RAs to uphold high standards, drive reform, and adapt to the evolving global football landscape.

As the Conference concluded, its outcomes reaffirmed the AFC's determination to deliver measurable progress — strengthening institutional capacity, enhancing governance, and unifying the football community across Asia under a common mission for excellence.

As the Conference concluded, its outcomes reaffirmed the AFC's determination to deliver measurable progress — strengthening institutional capacity, enhancing governance, and unifying the football community across Asia under a shared mission of excellence.

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AFC 36TH CONGRESS
VANCOUVER 2026

3

SUCCESSFUL ASIAN TEAMS

TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT

The year 2025 marked a period of significant advancement for the AFC in its mission to elevate football development across Asia. Through a comprehensive and integrated approach, the Confederation strengthened its technical frameworks, expanded educational pathways, and reinforced strategic initiatives across five key pillars: Coach Education, Women's Football, Youth Development, Grassroots Football, and Futsal & Beach Soccer.

The continued growth of the Coaching Convention, Elite Youth Scheme, and Grassroots Charter, complemented by innovative projects like the Triple-A Initiative and enhanced collaboration with the various stakeholders, underscore the AFC's commitment to shaping the future of football through inclusivity, technical excellence, and sustainable development.

COACHING EDUCATION

AFC COACHING CONVENTION

Although the total number of Convention Members remained steady at 43, the year 2025 and early 2026 witnessed significant progress within the AFC Coaching Convention. Notably, the Pro Level Convention Membership expanded from 20 to 25, reaching a major halfway milestone. In March 2025, the Oman Football Association successfully progressed from the B to Pro Level.

Later in the year, the Bahrain Football Association and the Lao Football Federation were promoted from A Level in November, followed by the Tajikistan Football Federation in December 2025 and by the Football Association of Hong Kong, China Limited in February 2026. The assessment visits to the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kyrgyz Republic and Myanmar are still to be scheduled, where the trio are aiming to upgrade from the A to the Pro Level.

During this period, the Chinese Football Association, the Japan Football Association, and the Korea Football Association all renewed their Pro Level Convention Memberships. Meanwhile, renewal applications were received from Football Australia, the Bangladesh Football Federation, the Qatar Football Association, the Football Association of Singapore, and the Uzbekistan Football Association.

Four MAs advanced from A to Pro Level, while the Myanmar Football Federation, the Afghanistan Football Federation, and the Federação Futebol de Timor-Leste moved from B to A Level. The number of MAs endorsed at A Level now stands at 13. Football Association of Brunei Darussalam, All Nepal Football Association, and the Football Association of Maldives are actively seeking A Level membership, and the Philippine Football Federation is slated for an evaluation renewal.

The Football Federation of Sri Lanka and the Guam Football Association are pursuing entry into the Convention at the B Level, which currently comprises five MAs.

LIST OF ENDORSED MAs

PRO–LEVEL

Football Australia

Bahrain Football Association (BFA)

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF)

Bhutan Football Federation (BFF)

Chinese Football Association (CFA)

The Football Association of Hong Kong, China Limited (HKFA)

All India Football Federation (AIFF)

Football Association of Indonesia (PSSI)

Iraqi Football Association (IFA)

Japan Football Association (JFA)

Jordan Football Association (JFA)

Korea Football Association (KFA)

Kuwait Football Association (KFA)

Lao Football Federation (LFF)

Football Association of Malaysia (FAM)

Oman Football Association (OFA)

Qatar Football Association (QFA)

Saudi Arabian Football Federation (SAFF)

Football Association of Singapore (FAS)

The Football Association of Thailand (FA Thailand)

Tajikistan Football Federation (TFF)

Football Federation of Turkmenistan (FFT)

United Arab Emirates Football Association (UAE FA)

Uzbekistan Football Association (UFA)

Vietnam Football Federation (VFF)

A–LEVEL

Afghanistan Football Federation (AFF)

Football Federation of Cambodia (FFC)

Chinese Taipei Football Association (CTFA)

Football Federation Islamic Republic of Iran (FFIRI)

The Kyrgyz Football Union (KFU)

Lebanese Football Association (LFA)

Macau Football Association (AFM)

Mongolian Football Federation (MFF)

Myanmar Football Federation (MFF)

Palestine Football Association (PFA)

Philippine Football Federation (PFF)

Syrian Football Association (SFA)

Federação Futebol de Timor-Leste (FFTL)

B-LEVEL

Football Association of Brunei Darussalam (FABD)

DPR Korea Football Association (DPRK FA)

Football Association of Maldives (FAM)

All Nepal Football Association (ANFA)

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association (NMIFA)

LIST OF MAs WITH AFC GOALKEEPING (GK) DIPLOMA COURSES

AFC GK A

Football Australia

Bahrain Football Association (BFA)

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF)

Bhutan Football Federation (BFF)

All India Football Federation (AIFF)

Football Association of Indonesia (PSSI)

Football Federation Islamic Republic of Iran (FFIRI)

Japan Football Association (JFA)

Jordan Football Association (JFA)

Korea Football Association (KFA)

Kuwait Football Association (KFA)

The Kyrgyz Football Union (KFU)

Lebanese Football Association (LFA)

Football Association of Malaysia (FAM)

Football Association of Maldives (FAM)

Mongolian Football Federation (MFF)

Oman Football Association (OFA)

Saudi Arabian Football Federation (SAFF)

United Arab Emirates Football Association (UAE FA)

Vietnam Football Federation (VFF)

AFC GK B

The Football Association of Hong Kong, China Limited (HKFA)

Iraqi Football Association (IFA)

Lao Football Federation (LFF)

All Nepal Football Association (ANFA)

Palestine Football Association (PFA)

Football Association of Singapore (FAS)

Tajikistan Football Federation (TFF)

The Football Association of Thailand (FA Thailand)

Uzbekistan Football Association (UFA)

AFC COACH EDUCATION PANEL MEETINGS (TERM 2024 – 2025)

The AFC Coach Education Panel convened its third and fourth meetings for the 2024–2025 term virtually on March 6, 2025, and September 11, 2025.

During the third meeting, panel members discussed strategies aimed at advancing coach education and technical development across the Continent. The agenda included comprehensive reviews of the AFC Coaching Convention, progress in tutor courses, and updates regarding the AFC-UEFA Coaching Diploma Equivalence agreement.

A notable highlight was the presentation of the Triple-A Project, an innovative initiative established by the AFC to strengthen technical development pathways throughout Asia. Centred on the principles of Analysis, Advice, and Accreditation, the project is designed to facilitate Technical Summits with MAs and provide tailored support based on specific requirements.

Additionally, the panel evaluated the advancement of The Hub initiative—a collaborative effort with the Japan Football Association—to expand opportunities for female coaches pursuing AFC Pro-Diploma certification, particularly those from MAs with limited access to such programmes.

The panel was also informed of recent endorsements under the AFC Coaching Convention, which now includes 43 MAs, underscoring its pivotal role in shaping coaching standards throughout the region.

Further updates were provided regarding coach education activities, notably the AFC Coach Education Conference 2025, which was held in June.

At the fourth meeting, discussions encompassed the expansion of the AFC Coaching Convention, enhancements to ongoing collaborations, and assessments of current courses within various AFC MAs.

Deliberations also reflected on the outcomes of the AFC Coach Education Conference in June, where coach educators from across Asia shared perspectives on equipping tutors with the skills, knowledge, and practical expertise required for contemporary football challenges.

Prior to adjournment, participants engaged in a dynamic Q&A session, reaffirming their collective commitment to furthering coach education initiatives across Asia.

The necessity to prepare coaches for the evolving football landscape was emphasised, with particular attention given to integrating new modules such as leadership studies, computer literacy, media training, artificial intelligence, and emotional intelligence into coaching curricula to ensure adaptability alongside developments in the sport.

Updates were also provided concerning the AFC-UEFA Coaching Diploma Equivalence agreement, FIFA's technical development efforts in Asia, and the AFC–Japan Football Association Women's Pro Diploma Course introduced in 2024 to foster technical proficiency and leadership among elite female coaches in the region.

Furthermore, the panel considered additional measures to enhance pathways for women coaches, including mentoring programmes and specialised courses, thereby reinforcing the AFC's ongoing commitment to maximising member potential through inclusive and targeted opportunities.

5TH AFC COACH EDUCATION CONFERENCE

The 5th AFC Coach Education Conference was successfully organised from June 17 to 19, 2025 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia with the MAs' technical leaders attending.

This milestone event further underlined the AFC's determination to drive the success of Asian teams on the global stage.

Spanning three days, the conference featured a dynamic programme of insightful lectures that addressed a wide array of topics critical to the growth and development of coach education programmes across the Confederation's MAs.

Under the overarching theme "Shaping the Future of Coach Education", proceedings commenced with a keynote address by AFC Technical Director Andy Roxburgh, titled "Tomorrow's Coaches". This address set the tone for the event, sparking a lively and engaging discussion among participants about the evolving requirements for football coaches in the region.

The second day began with a thorough presentation on the membership requirements of the UEFA Coaching Convention. Topics included the organisation of national coaching courses and strategies to increase the percentage of female tutors within the MAs' coach education systems.

Participants subsequently engaged in spirited discussions, sharing the specific needs and challenges faced by their respective MAs. The conversations also highlighted the importance of reality-based learning, explored different leadership styles, and considered ways to adapt coach education to rapid technological advancements.

This milestone event further underlined the AFC's determination to drive the success of Asian teams on the global stage.

A notable highlight of the conference was a panel discussion focused on the "Emotions in Football" project featuring Fahad Abdullah Al Zarraa of the Qatar Football Association, Maria Ruiz de Ona from the Aspire Academy, AFC Grassroots and Youth Football Development Consultant Robin Russell, and Mark Milton, Founder of the Education 4 Peace Foundation. The discussion emphasised the significance of prosocial responsibility within the context of football.

In an engaging session titled "Talking Points", participants reviewed key learnings from major tournaments, including the AFC U20 Asian Cup China 2025™, AFC Champions League Elite™, and AFC Women's Champions League™. These discussions covered tactical trends and highlighted standout individual performances observed during the competitions.

The conference also provided an essential platform for coach tutors to receive updates on the AFC–Japan Football Association Women's Pro Diploma Course.

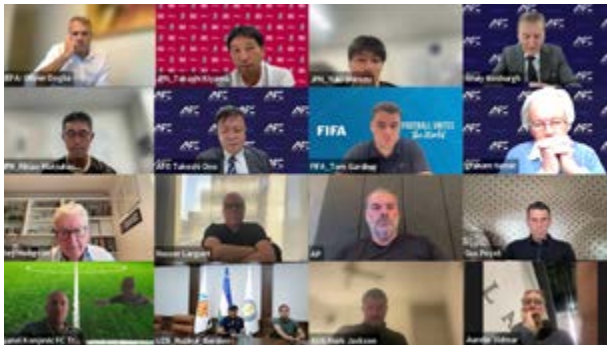
On the final day, delegates heard presentations from Saudi Arabian Football Federation Technical Director Nasser Larguet and Football Association of Ireland Head of Coach Education Niall O'Regan. Both shared valuable insights into the structure and success of their coach education programmes, prompting another round of lively exchanges and knowledge-sharing among conference participants.

AFC ELITE CLUB COACHES ONLINE FORUM

On September 3, 2025, the 10th AFC Elite Club Coaches Forum was held online, bringing together top coaches, technical staff, and global football experts. Presenters like Ange Postecoglou, Roy Hodgson, Tom Gardner, and Olivier Doglia discussed challenges such as rising competition intensity, growing global audiences, and financial pressures, emphasising adaptability and innovation for clubs.

The forum highlighted the AFC's revamped men's club tournament structure and the launch of the inaugural AFC Women's Champions League™ in 2024/25. Key technical trends—including high-intensity pressing and set-piece tactics—were reviewed through case studies, notably the AFC Champions League Elite™.

Participants also compared AFC competitions with UEFA and FIFA formats, aiming to improve development strategies and enhance Asian football's international standing.



AFC COACH EDUCATION ONLINE SESSION – GOALKEEPING

The AFC reaffirmed its dedication to advancing technical development by organising the AFC Coach Education Online Session 2025 on November 4, which focused on the rapidly changing responsibilities of goalkeepers in the modern game, bringing together key figures and experts to discuss emerging trends and best practices.

The virtual programme was attended by 102 coach educators and goalkeeping specialists. Participants had the opportunity to hear from internationally renowned experts, including former Celtic FC and Republic of Ireland goalkeeper Patrick Bonner and Pascal Zuberbühler, who has represented prominent European clubs such as Fulham, West Bromwich Albion, and FC Basel, and has played in both Euro and FIFA World Cup tournaments.

Bonner, UEFA Technical Advisor, discussed how the modern goalkeeper's role now extends beyond shot stopping to include team tactics and match strategy. Research from UEFA's Goalkeeper Advisory Group highlighted trends such as goalkeepers initiating attacks and maintaining possession under pressure, making technical skills and tactical awareness crucial.

The session fostered active discussion among AFC MAs, encouraging them to apply these insights to enhance Asian teams' competitiveness and global profile.

AFC FITNESS COACHING TUTORS ONLINE SESSION

The AFC Fitness Coaching Tutors Online Session 2025 was conducted on November 6, emphasising the importance of fitness education in football. The virtual event brought together fitness tutors and coaches from Asia to discuss the evolving role of fitness coaches as the game's intensity increases. Key topics included enhancing performance, injury prevention, and optimising recovery.

UEFA Fitness for Football Advisor Paul Balsom presented insights on integrating fitness into UEFA's coaching curriculum, outlining the UEFA Fitness Programme's guidance for national associations. He stressed on understanding the physical demands of various positions, different playing styles, and managing training and match loads.

The session also explored trends such as increased high-speed intensity, workload management during congested schedules, and technological advancements including data analysis, tracking devices, and AI for player readiness and injury prediction.

Interactive Q&As enabled participants to share regional perspectives and practical strategies for applying global best practices locally.

The session also explored trends such as increased high-speed intensity, workload management during congested schedules, and technological advancements including data analysis, tracking devices, and AI for player readiness and injury prediction.

AFC COACH EDUCATION TUTORS COURSE FOR PRO LEVEL CONVENTION MEMBERS

The AFC held the Coach Education Tutors Course 2025 in Kuala Lumpur from December 1 to 5, bringing together educators from Pro Level Convention Members. Over five days, 20 tutors shared insights and learned new methods to elevate AFC Pro Licence courses.

Led by Wim Koevermans, AFC Principal Coaching Consultant, and Ruud Dokter, UEFA Senior Coach Educator developer, the programme mixed theory with practice to improve coaching standards and address modern football needs.

Participants explored course structure, coach educator competencies, elite football trends, and management of 11-a-side matches. The event included match analysis, training sessions, and feedback, all aimed at enhancing mentoring skills and contemporary methodologies for ongoing development.

AFC FITNESS COACHING COURSES 2025

The AFC Fitness Coaching Certificate Courses conducted in several MAs in 2025 were as follows:

NO.	COURSE	NO. OF COURSES
1	AFC Fitness Coaching Certificate Course - Level 1A	12
2	AFC Fitness Coaching Certificate Course - Level 1B	8
3	AFC Fitness Coaching Certificate Course - Level 2A	5
4	AFC Fitness Coaching Certificate Course - Level 2B	4

WOMEN'S FOOTBALL

In 2025, the AFC further reinforced its commitment to advancing women's football across Asia through a comprehensive and integrated approach encompassing grassroots participation, elite competitions, coach education, and targeted strategic development support.

AFC WOMEN'S FOOTBALL DAY

The AFC Women's Football Day returned for its 11th edition in 2025, reaffirming the Confederation's commitment to celebrating progress and promoting participation in women's football across Asia. Observed in conjunction with International Women's Day, the initiative engaged close to 24,000 participants from 42 MAs.

Eight MAs marked their 11th consecutive participation, reflecting sustained commitment at the national level. Activities ranged from grassroots festivals and school-based awareness programmes to exhibition matches and charity initiatives, notably in India, Singapore, and Iraq.

The 2025 edition also highlighted broader continental achievements, including the success of Asian youth national teams and the launch of the AFC Women's Champions League™, reinforcing the positive momentum of the women's game and the vital role played by MAs in driving long-term growth.

AFC WOMEN'S ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME (WAP)

As part of the AFC WAP, a three-day visit was conducted in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic from April 3 to 5, 2025, to support the strategic development of women's football at the national and grassroots levels.

Led by the AFC Head of Women's Football, the visit focused on relationship building with The Kyrgyz Football Union (KFU), technical assessment of existing programmes, and identifying tailored development pathways.

Key activities included observation of the U17 women's national team training, technical exchanges with coaching staff, attendance at competitive and friendly matches, and participation in a "Football for All" women's amateur tournament aimed at inclusivity.

The AFC also provided expert guidance in drafting a preliminary strategic plan to support the KFU's ambition to qualify for the AFC Women's Champions League™ and strengthen performances across future AFC women's competitions.

AFC WOMEN'S FOOTBALL ONLINE SESSIONS 2025

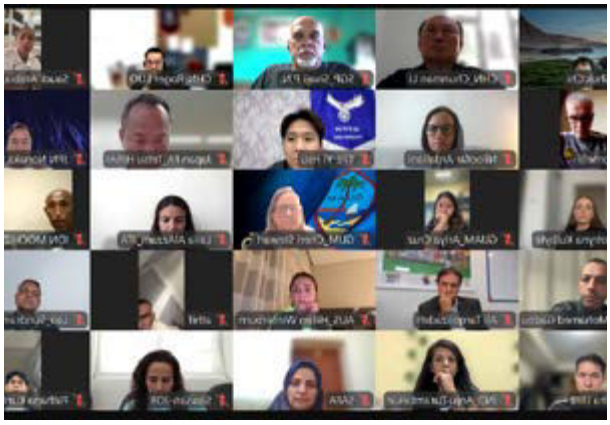
Two online sessions were conducted specifically for Women's Football on June 10, 2025, and on December 9, 2025.

The first online session brought together over 90 women's football stakeholders from 41 MAs, maintaining consistent engagement despite geographical constraints. The session provided technical updates on the AFC–JFA Women's Pro Diploma Course, with particular emphasis on the Emotions Model and its application in elite coaching environments.

Participants were also presented with a detailed technical and digital review of the inaugural AFC Women's Champions League™ (AWCL), including tactical trends, performance statistics, and fan engagement metrics that recorded millions of impressions and video views.

The interactive format encouraged open discussion among Technical Directors, coaches, and women's football leads, supporting knowledge exchange and reinforcing the AFC's commitment to coach education and evidence-based development.

The second online session, meanwhile, was a strategic platform for reflection and forward planning as the women's football calendar moved towards major milestones, including the AFC Women's Asian Cup Australia 2026™. Attended



by approximately 100 coaches and technical staff, the session reviewed recent successes such as the inaugural AWCL and DPR Korea's continued dominance at the youth level, and heard from FIFA Football Performance Insights Lead Tom Gardner, who provided a global performance trend of the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup Morocco 2025.

Discussions focused on strengthening developmental pathways through youth academies, grassroots participation, and coach education, alongside preparations for upcoming national team and age-group tournaments. The session concluded with a forward-looking dialogue on addressing persistent challenges, including increasing girls-only competitions and expanding domestic opportunities for elite female players.

AFC WOMEN'S CHAMPIONS LEAGUE™ 2024/25 – TECHNICAL REPORT

The publication of the AFC Women's Champions League™ 2024/25 Technical Report marked another significant milestone in the professionalisation of women's club football in Asia. The comprehensive 70-page report captured the technical, tactical, and organisational learnings from the historic inaugural edition, featuring in-depth match analyses, team profiles, goalscoring trends, and refereeing insights.

The competition itself concluded with Wuhan Jiangda Women's FC securing the inaugural title in front of a capacity home crowd, symbolising both competitive excellence and growing fan engagement. The report now serves as a reference resource for coaches, technical experts, and MAs, supporting the continued evolution of women's club football across the Continent.

AFC–JFA PRO DIPLOMA COURSE (ELITE FEMALE COACHES)

The AFC–JFA Women's Pro Diploma Course, which started in October 2024, concluded its fourth and final module in Osaka, Japan, further strengthening the coaching ecosystem for elite women's football in Asia.

The programme brought together 20 female coaches from across AFC MAs, combining classroom learning, match analysis, and on-field practical sessions in collaboration with local clubs.

Participants were assessed through written and practical examinations designed to test tactical understanding, game analysis, and leadership capabilities.

The Modules of the course were as follows:

i) Module 1: October 18 – 26, 2024, Japan
ii) Module 2: January 17 – 23, 2025, Japan
iii) Module 3: May 18 – 25, 2025, China PR
iv) Module 4: October 26 – November 2, 2025, Japan

The course represented a landmark collaboration between the AFC and the JFA, directly contributing to the Confederation's long-term objective of increasing the number and quality of female coaches operating at the highest professional level.

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YOUTH FOOTBALL

AFC ELITE YOUTH SCHEME

The AFC Elite Youth Scheme continued to consolidate and expand its footprint across the Confederation, further strengthening its network of MAs and academies dedicated to elite youth football development. During the reporting period, the following key developments were recorded:

- In June 2025, the Uzbekistan Football Association (UFA) was awarded the renewal of its three-star status under the AFC Elite Youth Scheme. In addition, two-star memberships were conferred upon the Bunyodkor FC Academy and Nasaf FC Academy, while the Andijan Academy was granted one-star status.

- Also in June 2025, the Philippine Football Federation's continued commitment to the structured development of youth football was formally recognised with the award of a one-star membership under the AFC Elite Youth Scheme.

- In September 2025, the Myanmar Football Federation's sustained efforts to enhance its youth development programmes were acknowledged through the renewal of its one-star membership under the Scheme, along with the endorsement of the Myanmar Football Academy (Yangon) and the Myanmar Football Academy (Mandalay) at the one-star level.

- In December 2025, the Football Federation of Cambodia was endorsed at the one-star level. During the same period, the Lebanese Football Association, together with Athletico Football Club Academy, received the renewal of their one-star status, while one-star memberships were also awarded to the Safa Football Club Academy and Beirut Football Academy in Lebanon.

As of December 2025, the AFC Elite Youth Scheme comprised 28 MAs, all of which are actively engaged in the development of elite youth football talent in accordance with the Scheme's standards and objectives.

LIST OF ENDORSED MAs

3–STAR

Football Australia

Japan Football Association (JFA)

Korea Football Association (KFA)

Qatar Football Association (QFA)

The Football Association of Thailand (FA Thailand)

United Arab Emirates Football Association (UAE FA)

Uzbekistan Football Association (UFA)

Vietnam Football Federation (VFF)

2–STAR

Chinese Football Association (CFA)

All India Football Federation (AIFF)

Jordan Football Association (JFA)

Football Association of Malaysia (FAM)

Oman Football Association (OFA)

Saudi Arabian Football Federation (SAFF)

Tajikistan Football Federation (TFF)

1-STAR

Bahrain Football Association (BFA)

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF)

Bhutan Football Federation (BFF)

Football Federation of Cambodia (FFC)

Guam Football Association (GFA)

The Football Association of Hong Kong, China Limited (HKFA)

The Kyrgyz Football Union (KFU)

Lebanese Football Association (LFA)

Football Association of Maldives (FAM)

Mongolian Football Federation (MFF)

Myanmar Football Federation (MFF)

Philippine Football Federation (PFF)

Football Association of Singapore (FAS)

AFC YOUTH PANEL MEETINGS (TERM 2024-2025)

During the term 2024–2025, the AFC Youth Panel convened via video conference for its third and fourth meetings on March 3 and September 18, 2025, respectively.

At the third meeting, the Panel concentrated on strategies for improving existing programmes for youth footballers aged 16 to 19. Discussions emphasised the importance of developing not only technical skills but also mental resilience and providing increased opportunities for competitive match experience. These aspects are regarded as vital for guiding young athletes on their pathway to professional football.

The Panel also underscored the necessity for coaches to possess specialised skills to mentor elite youth players and highlighted the need for regular exposure to competitive matches to foster talent development.

Panel members were informed about significant AFC initiatives. These included the Triple-A Project, designed to foster meaningful engagement with MAs through structured summits, and an ongoing research collaboration with the University of Tsukuba, which aims to strengthen elite youth football ecosystems across Asia.

Further updates covered forthcoming technical activities, notably the publication of the inaugural AFC Elite Youth Bulletin. This resource is intended as a handbook for youth football development across Asia, featuring exemplary initiatives from various AFC MAs to serve as models for developing programmes.

In the fourth meeting, the Panel received a summary of the AFC Elite Youth Scheme, with a reminder of its benefits and its comprehensive criteria. Achieving these criteria is projected to significantly enhance youth football development among MAs.

The discussion outlined the advantages of Scheme participation, such as elevating playing standards, supporting club licensing requirements, and increasing access to AFC bilateral support. The Panel also noted that achievements within the Scheme are recognised through awards, and that membership can facilitate the securing of sponsorship and governmental support.

Priorities for elite youth development in 2026/27 were set forth, which included increasing support for MAs to participate in annual AFC youth competitions, expanding membership in the Elite Youth Scheme, providing more direct support and information to club academies, researching and promoting club academy competitions, and increasing the number of MAs offering AFC Elite-Youth Diplomas (A & B).

The panel heard about the AFC Survey Report on Youth and Grassroots Football Among Member Associations in Asia, which witnessed the participation of 42 MAs. The findings, drawn from various youth football competitions and grassroots football programmes, will be used as a basis for future discussions and to support continuous development.

In closing, it was reaffirmed that the AFC is committed to establishing pathways of excellence for the Continent's future stars with the primary priority being in investing in elite youth football and continuously striving to elevate the standard of football throughout Asia.

AFC YOUTH ONLINE SESSIONS 2025

As part of the AFC's ongoing commitment to keeping youth football stakeholders informed of recent developments, two online sessions were held on June 12, 2025, and December 11, 2025.

The first session, attended by almost 120 participants from 41 MAs, focused on the status of the acclaimed AFC Elite Youth Scheme, enhancing elite youth development programmes across Asia and supporting academies and youth coaches in nurturing and managing talented young players.

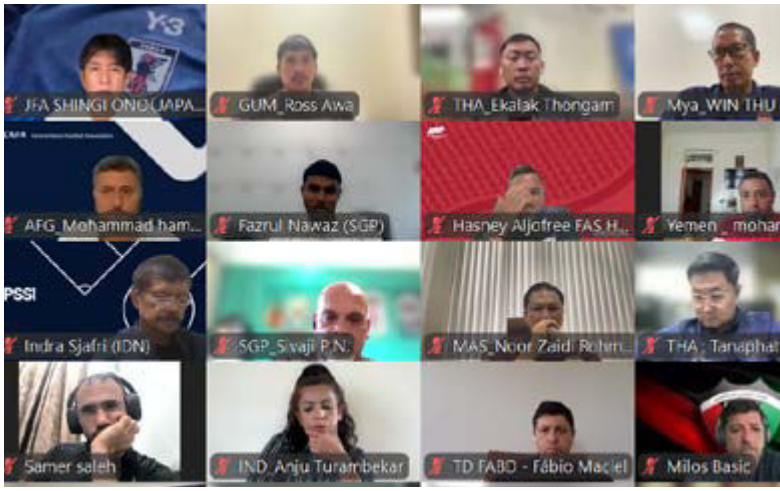
In light of Australia's triumph at the AFC U20 Asian Cup China 2025™, the programme featured an engaging dialogue with Trevor Morgan, Head Coach of the title-winning side, who shared insights into the strategies and principles that underpinned their success, which ranged from his coaching philosophy to training preparation leading up to the competition.

With the Young Socceroos also securing the tournament's Fair Play Award, the 54-year-old touched upon topics such as player discipline, fostering group cohesion, tailoring communication to resonate with the younger generation, and handling emotional demands that come with high-pressure competitions.

The dialogue with the Australian paved the way for the next segment of the evening with Aspire Academy's Maria Ruiz de Ona, who highlighted the need for youth coaches to develop emotional awareness and empathy and sharpen communication skills.

Supporting the earlier presentations, Qatar Football Association's Fahad Abdulla Al Zarraa, then reiterated the need to embed emotional intelligence into the heart of coach education in order to promote positive player-coach relationships, which was followed by the participants engaging in a lively Q&A session.

The second virtual event not only focused on the performances of Asia's youth teams in key FIFA competitions in 2025 but also provided highlights on the 2025 editions of the AFC U17 and U20 Asian Cups, where Uzbekistan and Australia



claimed the respective titles. The tangible results of sustainable investment in youth football were also highlighted, with Uzbekistan and Jordan serving as prime examples, both having achieved historic milestones by qualifying for the FIFA World Cup for the first time, underscoring the key role of long-term planning and structured youth development pathways.

Participants also had the opportunity to hear from FIFA Team Lead, Football Performance Analysis, Arron Ackerman, who shared key findings from the FIFA U-17 World Cup Qatar 2025 as well as the FIFA U-20 World Cup Chile 2025.

Through a comparative review of the previous editions, Ackerman highlighted key trends observed during the competition, ranging from effective use of wing play and clever set-piece strategies to the growing prevalence of high pressing and effective counterattacking.

The highly informative presentation paved the way for the AFC's perspective on the Qatar-based FIFA U-17 World Cup whilst the AFC U23 Asian Cup Saudi Arabia 2026™, followed by the AFC U17 Asian Cup Saudi Arabia 2026™, were also promoted.

Throughout the session, the participants had the opportunity to exchange ideas and insights, further reinforcing the AFC's ambitions to ensure the success of Asian teams on the world stage.

AFC SPECIAL ELITE YOUTH FOOTBALL AWARDS 2025

The AFC Special Youth Awards 2025 ceremony was held on November 11, 2025, on the sidelines of the 4th AFC Grassroots Conference 2025, recognising the continued commitment of the AFC MAs towards the development of elite youth football across Asia.

The Youth Academy of the Year (Boys) award was presented to Kitchee Academy (Hong Kong, China), a two-star member of the AFC Elite Youth Scheme, in recognition of its holistic development approach, robust recruitment systems, and its contribution to national age-group teams and the Hong Kong Premier League. The Youth Academy of the Year (Girls) accolade was awarded to JFA Academy Fukushima (Japan), the first women's academy to receive a three-star endorsement under the AFC Elite Youth Scheme, acknowledged for its high-performance programmes, strong educational environment, and its significant contribution to Japan's national teams, including the Olympic squad.

The Youth Coach of the Year (Male) award was conferred upon Trevor Morgan (Australia), recognising his extensive contribution to youth football development and his success in guiding Australia to the AFC U20 Asian Cup™ title in 2025, ending a decade-long trophy drought. The Youth Coach of the Year (Female) award was presented to Zohreh Jafari (Islamic Republic of Iran), in recognition of her long-standing dedication to youth and grassroots football development, including her achievements at club and academy levels.

The Youth League of the Year award was presented to the U19 Championship (Uzbekistan), acknowledged for its role in strengthening the country's youth-to-professional pathway, providing regular competitive opportunities, and contributing to Uzbekistan's recent Continental successes.

AFC ELITE-YOUTH BULLETIN 2024

The AFC Elite-Youth Bulletin, the Confederation's latest technical resource which aims to provide guidelines and support to the Confederation's MAs in their efforts to enhance player development, both at the national and club levels, was launched on April 30, 2025.

The inaugural edition offers a fascinating glimpse into the coaching philosophy of Japan's Yoshiro Moriyama, who led Japan to back-to-back AFC U17 Asian Cup™ titles in 2018 and 2023.

The publication further emphasised the salient features of the AFC Elite-Youth Scheme, providing the latest updates and progress made by the AFC's MAs while also covering various activities such as virtual sessions conducted over the past year and a brief overview of the AFC Special Elite Youth Football Awards 2024.

Finally, with the AFC Elite-Youth Bulletin serving as a handbook for youth football development in Asia, it features two key segments – MAs' Good Practices in Elite Youth Football Development and Youth Academies in Asia, showcasing standout initiatives from the AFC's MAs as a guide and reference for developing MAs to follow in their quest to elevate their respective programmes.

GRASSROOTS FOOTBALL

AFC GRASSROOTS CHARTER

The latest balance sheet of the AFC Grassroots Charter reflects a total of 44 endorsed MAs, with 12 MAs in the Gold Level, 11 MAs in the Silver Level and the remaining 21 MAs in the Bronze Level. Recent developments have contributed significantly to the growth and impact of the Charter:

- The Football Federation Islamic Republic of Iran was ratified at the Gold Level, while the Tajikistan Football Federation successfully upgraded its membership to the same level, further strengthening the group.
- The applications of the Lao Football Federation and the Syrian Football Association for an upgrade to Silver Level were endorsed.
- The Korea Football Association successfully renewed its endorsements, maintaining its position at the Gold Level.
- The Macau Football Association, Myanmar Football Federation, and Northern Mariana Islands Football Association reaffirmed their commitment to fostering a lifelong passion for the beautiful game through the renewal of their Bronze Level memberships.

These updates underscore the continued expansion and strengthening of the AFC Grassroots Charter, reflecting growing engagement and commitment from MAs at all levels of grassroots football development. The list of endorsed MAs is as follows:

LIST OF ENDORSED MAs

GOLD LEVEL

Football Australia

Chinese Football Association (CFA)

The Football Association of Hong Kong, China Limited (HKFA)

Football Federation Islamic Republic of Iran (FFIRI)

Japan Football Association (JFA)

Korea Football Association (KFA)

Qatar Football Association (QFA)

Saudi Arabian Football Federation (SAFF)

Football Association of Singapore (FAS)

Tajikistan Football Federation (TFF)

United Arab Emirates Football Association (UAE FA)

Uzbekistan Football Association (UFA)

SILVER LEVEL

Bhutan Football Federation (BFF)

Guam Football Association (GFA)

All India Football Federation (AIFF)

Jordan Football Association (JFA)

Football Association of Malaysia (FAM)

Mongolian Football Federation (MFF)

Lao Football Federation (LFF)

Palestine Football Association (PFA)

Philippine Football Federation (PFF)

Syrian Football Association (SFA)

The Football Association of Thailand (FA Thailand)

BRONZE LEVEL

Afghanistan Football Federation (AFF)

Bahrain Football Association (BFA)

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF)

Football Association of Brunei Darussalam (FABD)

Football Federation of Cambodia (FFC)

Chinese Taipei Football Association (CTFA)

Football Association of Indonesia (PSSI)

Iraqi Football Association (IFA)

Kuwait Football Association (KFA)

The Kyrgyz Football Union (KFU)

Lebanese Football Association (LFA)

Macau Football Association (AFM)

Football Association of Maldives (FAM)

Myanmar Football Federation (MFF)

All Nepal Football Association (ANFA)

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association (NMIFA)

Oman Football Association (OFA)

Football Federation of Sri Lanka (FFSL)

Federação Futebol de Timor-Leste (FFTL)

Football Federation of Turkmenistan (FFT)

Vietnam Football Federation (VFF)

AFC GRASSROOTS PANEL MEETINGS (TERM 2024-2025)

The third and fourth meetings of the AFC Grassroots Panel were held virtually on June 3 and November 10, 2025, respectively, reaffirming the Confederation's unwavering commitment to enhancing grassroots development across Asia.

Following the welcome and introduction, the panellists received an update on the latest endorsements under the acclaimed AFC Grassroots Charter.

With fostering a love for the game among young children being a major principle of grassroots football, the panel members underscored the importance of creating a positive and safe environment for youngsters, with a special focus on children under the age of eight.

Another highlight of the event was the endorsement of the AFC Children's Coach Certificate; the Confederation's latest initiative aimed at equipping grassroots coaches with knowledge and skills that align with the AFC Coaching Convention. Equivalent to a D-Licence in some MAs, the new introductory course is aimed at parents, teachers, students and other volunteers.

The experts also touched upon the newly introduced Triple-A Project, built on the pillars of Analysis, Advice, and Accreditation, which is designed to enhance engagement between the AFC and its MAs through periodic summits.

Additionally, the participants reviewed the latest findings of a survey conducted in collaboration with the University of Tsukuba in Japan, to strengthen grassroots and elite youth competition structures and identify areas of improvement.

Finally, the panel was updated on the Confederation's grassroots football events, including the publication of the latest edition of the AFC Grassroots Review and the commemoration of the 12th AFC Grassroots Football Day in May, which was held in conjunction with FIFA's World Football Week.

Taking place on the eve of the 4th AFC Grassroots Football Conference, the fourth meeting saw the panel review the year's progress, exchanged ideas, and identify key areas of focus for the near future.

After the updates on the AFC Grassroots Charter, evaluations of the latest milestones achieved by MAs under the Charter followed, during which the panel assessed applications for membership renewal and upgrades in line with the AFC's standards and guidelines.

The discussions then turned toward the key challenges faced by MAs at the foundational level, with panel members sharing insights on topics such as promoting and organising grassroots competitions, improving data collection systems, expanding coaching pathways through licensing courses, and creating more opportunities for girls-only teams and competitions.

Building on these discussions, the experts further examined the findings of a recent survey conducted on grassroots and elite youth developmental programmes in Asia, which underscored the importance of sustaining player participation beyond youth levels, encouraging greater volunteer involvement, strengthening social inclusion initiatives, and amplifying awareness of football's health benefits.

In closing, the panel received an overview of the AFC Grassroots Football Conference 2025, including the presentation of the AFC Special Awards 2025.

AFC GRASSROOTS FOOTBALL DAY 2025

The AFC's undeterred efforts to expand the reach of the beautiful game across the Continent were once again underlined as 42 MAs joined in celebrating the 12th AFC Grassroots Football Day.

The 2025 edition of the event saw more than 31,000 participants commemorate the occasion, bringing to life the AFC's philosophy of offering every individual, regardless of age, physical ability, or social circumstances, the opportunity to experience the power of football.

Traditionally celebrated on May 15, the 2025 event marked a shift, taking place on May 23 in alignment with FIFA's World Football Week, enabling the AFC to further contribute to the United Nations' "Football for the Goals" initiative and the advancement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

In the ASEAN region, the Football Association of Singapore (FAS) partnered with the Safe Sport Commission Singapore to host United Through Football – A Day of Play & Safe Sport, aimed at creating a safe, inclusive, and supportive football ecosystem.

The event not only raised awareness among parents but also featured football clinics for children, particularly from the FAS Girl Cubs programme and other non-profit organisations, promoting greater access to sport for underprivileged youth.

Meanwhile, in the Kyrgyz Republic, the day was celebrated in Bishkek and six surrounding regions, where hundreds of children engaged in interactive activities ranging from taking part in 3v3 games to learning drills in football stations.

Furthermore, across the Continent, several other MAs celebrated with football festivals featuring workshops, small-sided games, and mini tournaments, among other enjoyable activities.

AFC GRASSROOTS ONLINE SESSION 2025

The Grassroots Online Session for 2025 was held on June 3, and the importance of fostering a conducive coaching environment was brought into focus.

Underlining the commitment of the Confederation to expand the reach of the beautiful game across Asia, the virtually hosted programme focused heavily on the impact of emotions in grassroots football and key qualities that make for an ideal coach.

The session was attended by more than 120 participants from across AFC MAs and featured a line-up of grassroots experts, including Football Australia's Head of Member Federation Relations and Community, Will Hastie, Education 4 Peace Foundation Founder Mark Milton, FIFA Regional Technical Consultant Chokey Nima, Guam Football Association Executive Director Cheri Stewart and AFC Grassroots and Youth Football Development Consultant Robin Russell.

Covering a wide range of topics, the experts emphasised the creation of a safe and inviting environment in grassroots football and highlighted the various factors that lead to children quitting the sport.

Against the backdrop of such challenges, the panellists discussed the pivotal role played by coaches in shaping a child's early football experience as well as ways for them to handle emotions among the children.

Yet another highlight of the programme was the dialogue on the AFC Children's Coach Certificate, which aims to equip grassroots coaches with the knowledge and tools needed to work with youngsters, while staying in alignment with the AFC Coaching Convention.

With grassroots coaching comprising individuals from diverse walks of life, the initiative seeks to provide guidance on safeguarding, teaching methods, player development, and other key areas that go beyond technical instruction and instead create a safe and secure environment for children to thrive.

4TH AFC GRASSROOTS CONFERENCE 2025

The 4th AFC Grassroots Football Conference was successfully organised from November 11 to 13, 2025 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, aimed at ushering a new era for grassroots football development across Asia.

Bringing together more than 100 grassroots managers and specialists from across the AFC MAs, the conference opened with a keynote address that underscored the importance of ensuring access for all, emphasising key tenets such as safety, health, and happiness, while cautioning against common challenges such as creating premature competitive environments and early exposure to 11v11 formats.

The following day featured a series of engaging sessions, including UEFA Technical Advisor Frank Ludolph's presentation on UEFA's strategic vision for the future.

Focusing on long-term vision and best practices, Ludolph outlined the various ways in which UEFA supports its MAs, ranging from forging meaningful partnerships with key stakeholders to assisting associations in meeting the core requirements of the UEFA Grassroots Charter.

Meanwhile, in the spirit of the programme's theme, "Grassroots Football in Asia: The Next Chapter," AFC Grassroots Consultant Robin Russell provided participants with insights into innovative approaches to addressing key challenges such as player dropout, shortage of volunteers, and inadequate infrastructure, while also touching upon the advent of technological advancements and the emerging importance of artificial intelligence.

The conference also featured an informative session on coaching guidelines at the foundational stage, which explored recommended playing formats and developmental goals tailored to specific age groups.

The highlight of the final day was an overview of the collaborative research project between the AFC and the University of Tsukuba, one of Japan's most distinguished institutions, whose alumni include Brighton & Hove Albion striker Kaoru Mitoma and Sint-Truiden centre-back Shogo Taniguchi. Drawing on data collected from youth and grassroots models across the Continent, the project aims to study and deliver tailored solutions to enhance the overall landscape of youth football through region-specific support.

Additionally, the programme comprised multiple breakout sessions, where participants engaged enthusiastically in a range of themes, including imparting essential life skills through the expansion of the beautiful game across Asia.

AFC PRESIDENT'S RECOGNITION AWARDS FOR GRASSROOTS FOOTBALL 2025

The AFC President's Recognition Awards for Grassroots Football 2025 honoured three MAs for their outstanding commitment to grassroots football development and were presented during the AFC Awards Riyadh 2025 on October 17, 2025. The United Arab Emirates Football Association (Gold) was recognised for its large-scale expansion of grassroots competitions and festivals, engaging tens of thousands of participants from diverse backgrounds, strengthening partnerships, and enhancing infrastructure and social responsibility initiatives nationwide.

The Football Association of Malaysia (Silver) was acknowledged for the continued growth of its nationwide Liga Suparimau platform, strong public–private partnerships, social impact programmes, and stakeholder capacity-building initiatives. The Bangladesh Football Federation (Bronze) was commended for significantly increasing grassroots competitions and participation, while promoting education, safeguarding, and social inclusion through diverse programmes that improved accessibility to football for communities of all abilities.

AFC SPECIAL GRASSROOTS AWARDS 2025

The AFC Special Grassroots Awards 2025 ceremony was held on November 11 in conjunction with the 4th AFC Grassroots Conference 2025, recognising outstanding contributions to the development and promotion of grassroots football across Asia. The awards highlighted exemplary leadership and impactful initiatives that use football as a platform for social inclusion, youth development, and community empowerment.

Award recipients included Tan Jie (China PR) as Best Grassroots Leader for transforming Sanhe Village into a thriving rural football hub; Sports for Life (Hong Kong, China) and the Tata Steel Foundation (India) as Best Grassroots Projects for advancing social integration, gender equality, and large-scale youth development; Future Stars Football Training (Myanmar) as Best Grassroots Club for providing inclusive football opportunities to thousands of children; and the Flying Green Sprout League (China PR) as Best Grassroots Competition for its rapid expansion, life-skills focus, and innovative digital engagement. Collectively, these initiatives underscore the AFC's continued commitment to growing grassroots football and delivering lasting social impact across the Continent.

AFC GRASSROOTS REVIEW 2024

Published on April 30, 2025, a major highlight of the 2024 edition of the AFC Grassroots Review is the Big Interview, which featured an in-depth conversation with Pi Shuangshuang, President of China PR's Tianjin Pengcheng Football Club, as she presented readers with insights into the club's inspiring trajectory, commitment to grassroots football and plans for the future.

The publication also included an overview of the latest updates to the acclaimed AFC Grassroots Charter, detailing activities undertaken by members as well as their endorsement status.

Other activities celebrating the grassroots game, such as the AFC Grassroots Football Day 2024, AFC President's Recognition Awards for Grassroots Football, and the AFC Special Grassroots Awards, were also captured in the publication as part of a comprehensive read on the Confederation's ongoing efforts to expand the reach of the beautiful game across the Continent.

FUTSAL AND BEACH SOCCER

Building on the growing momentum since the last AFC Congress, the AFC continued its activities in 2025 to support the development of futsal and beach soccer in Asia, with sustained active engagement from MAs, as reflected in activities and course requests.

Furthermore, women's futsal continued its ascendency with the hosting of the AFC Women's Futsal Asian Cup China 2025™ and the FIFA Futsal Women's World Cup Philippines 2025, while beach soccer featured the AFC Beach Soccer Asian Cup Thailand 2025™ and the FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup Seychelles 2025.

These competitions highlighted to MAs the significant potential for the continued development of women's futsal and beach soccer. In respect of the AFC competitions, Technical Reports were published, delivering key trends and insights to highlight ongoing development.

AFC FUTSAL TECHNICAL WORKSHOPS 2025

A pair of AFC Futsal Technical Workshops was held from March 31 to April 4, 2025, in Japan and in Kuala Lumpur from December 15 to 19, 2025.

These workshops were aimed at updating the education and training syllabus for the AFC Futsal Coaching Certificate Course Level 3 and to prepare for the transition to the AFC Coaching Convention.

Leading futsal experts from Asia participated in the workshops, sharing insights to shape the updates of the course syllabus by incorporating current trends and best practices.

AFC FUTSAL COACHING TUTORS SEMINAR

The AFC Futsal Coaching Tutors Seminar was held from October 27 to 31, 2025 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, bringing together Continental experts, including female tutors who will be expected to play an increasingly prominent role in the future.

The seminar provided further education on the delivery of Futsal Coaching Courses, specifically on the updated syllabus of the AFC Futsal Coaching Certificate Course - Level 1, reinforcing the Confederation's commitment to supporting its MAs.

The programme combined a broad-based curriculum with interactive presentations, peer feedback, and practical group activities, providing participants with hands-on experience in effective instruction, communication, and session design.

AFC FUTSAL & BEACH SOCCER COURSES

Since the last AFC Congress, MAs have significantly expanded the number of AFC Futsal & Beach Soccer Courses conducted, reflecting a strong commitment to technical development and capacity building. In response to this growth, the AFC has initiated the development of a new and updated syllabus for the AFC Futsal Coaching Courses. A diverse range of AFC Futsal Courses were successfully conducted, further strengthening the foundation for futsal and beach soccer coaching excellence across the Continent. The breakdown of courses conducted from January to December 2025 is tabled below:

NO.	COURSE	NO. OF COURSES
1	AFC Futsal Coaching Certificate Course - Level 1	79
2	AFC Futsal Coaching Certificate Course - Level 2	20
3	AFC Futsal Coaching Certificate Course - Level 3	6
4	AFC Futsal Fitness Coaching Certificate Course - Level 1	3
5	AFC Futsal Goalkeeping Coaching Certificate Course - Level 1	2
6	AFC Beach Soccer Coaching Certificate Course - Level 1	4

OTHERS

AFC EMOTIONS IN FOOTBALL PROJECT

The 12th and 13th AFC Emotions in Football Project Working Group meetings were held via video conferencing on May 13 and December 3, 2025, respectively.

At the 12th meeting, the group reviewed progress on making Emotions in Football a key topic in coach education, including its inclusion in the online sessions for Women's, Grassroots, and Elite Youth Football, as well as at the AFC Coach Education Conference in June 2025.

Meanwhile, at the 13th meeting, the Working Group reflected on the various activities on Emotions in Football over the five years that led to the successful promotion of its importance on both the individual and team successes.

Possible future projects were also discussed, including the use of artificial intelligence in aiding the education of coaches.

AFC TRIPLE-A PROJECT

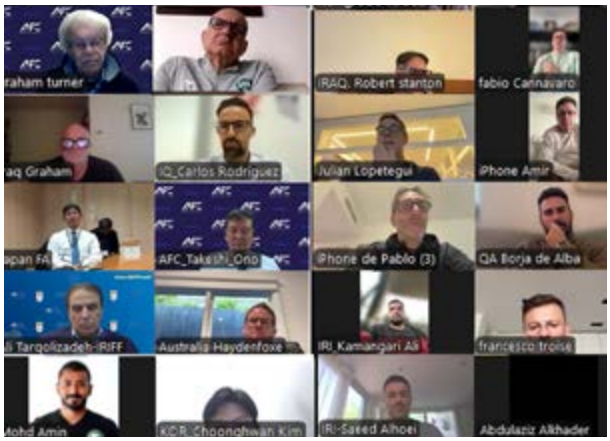
The Triple-A Project is a new technical development initiative designed to enhance collaboration between the AFC and its MAs. This programme leverages Technical Summits, hosted by MAs, as platforms for evaluating ongoing technical development efforts and providing expert guidance. The achievements of MAs may be formally acknowledged and assessed, while individual goals can be shared and tailored solutions considered.

As part of its implementation strategy, the AFC conducted two Pilot Technical Summits in collaboration with the Japan Football Association on August 27, 2025, and the Qatar Football Association on October 21, 2025. Both summits received Triple-A accreditation, signifying highly advanced technical development programmes. Approximately 10 MAs are scheduled to participate in technical summits in 2026.

FIFA WORLD CUP 2026 – ASIAN REPRESENTATIVES ONLINE SESSION

As part of its commitment to supporting the Asian teams that have qualified for the FIFA World Cup 2026 in June and to the FIFA Play-off Tournament in March 2026, the AFC organised the FIFA World Cup 2026 – Asian Representatives Online Session on December 22, 2025.

Attended by head coaches and technical staff of the teams of Australia, Iraq, IR Iran, Japan, Jordan, Korea Republic, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Uzbekistan, the virtual session included discussions on major challenges in team preparation planning, the AFC's support, and the sharing of FIFA World Cup experiences.



TECHNICAL PUBLICATIONS

The following publications were produced and are accessible on the AFC website:

- AFC Beach Soccer Asian Cup Thailand 2025™
- AFC Champions League Elite 2024/25™ Technical Report
- AFC Coaches Circle Editions 13 & 14
- AFC Elite Youth Bulletin 2024
- AFC Grassroots Review 2024
- AFC U20 Asian Cup China 2025™ and the AFC U17 Asian Cup Saudi Arabia 2025™ Technical Report (Combined)
- AFC Women's Champions League 2024/25™ Technical Report
- AFC Women's Futsal Asian Cup China 2025™ Technical Report

REFEREES

AFC MATCH OFFICIALS ON THE WORLD STAGE

FIFA ARAB CUP QATAR 2025

REFEREES	ASSISTANT REFEREES	VIDEO ASSISTANT REFEREE
Abdulrahman Al-Jassim (QAT)	Taleb Al-Marri (QAT)	Khamis Al-Marri (QAT)
Ahmed Al-Kaf (OMA)	Saud Al-Maqaleh (QAT)	Abdullah Al-Shehri (KSA)
Ma Ning (CHN)	Abu Bakar Al-Amri (OMA)	Jumpei Iida (JPN)
Adham Makhadmeh (JOR)	Rashid Al-Ghaiti (OMA)	Sivakorn Pu-Udom (THA)
	Zhou Fei (CHN)	
	Zhang Cheng (CHN)	
	Mohammad Al-Kalaf (JOR)	
	Ahmad Al-Roalle (JOR)	

A total of 16 match officials were appointed to the FIFA Arab Cup Qatar 2025, consisting of four referees, eight assistant referees and four Video Match Officials (VMOs).

A total of eight matches were officiated by an AFC referee with Adham Makhadmeh from Jordan whistling the Quarter-final between Algeria and United Arab Emirates.

FIFA FUTSAL WOMEN'S WORLD CUP PHILIPPINES 2025

REFEREES
Liang Qingyun (CHN)
Zari Fathi (IRN)
Kana Saito (JPN)
Gelareh Nazemi (IRN)
Mari Yamamoto (JPN)
Nurul Janah (MAS)
Reem Al-Bishi (KSA)
Panadda Khotsenaphattra (THA)

The inaugural FIFA Futsal Women's World Cup Philippines 2025 was held from November 21 to December 7 and featured eight AFC referees. Having all officiated at the AFC Women's Futsal Asian Cup™ in May 2025 and participated in the AFC Elite Futsal Referees Seminar in August, the AFC's representatives had a high level of preparation and match practice prior to the tournament, including with the VS system, which was implemented for the full duration of the competition.

While AFC referees featured in a total of 13 matches throughout the competition, seven matches featured a full AFC officiating team (five match officials).

The highlight appointments were Reem Al-Bishi from Saudi Arabia being appointed as the timekeeper in the Final between Portugal and Brazil, and China's Liang Qingyun, who was also appointed as timekeeper for the third-place contest between Argentina and Spain.

FIFA U-17 WORLD CUP QATAR 2025

With the FIFA U-17 World Cup expanding to 48 teams, 15 AFC match officials were appointed to the competition. All five of the selected referees were the first graduates from the AFC Referee Academy, highlighting the success of the AFC's refereeing development programmes. With 20 of the 104 total matches officiated by AFC referees, the competition culminated in Choi Hyun-jai taking charge of the third-place match between Brazil and Italy. Choi also took charge of a quarter-final match while three AFC referees officiated in the Round of 16 – marking a high level of AFC representation in the knockout stages of a global finals.

REFEREES
Faisal Al-Balawi (KSA)
Mohammed Al-Shammari (QAT)
Choi Hyun-Jai (KOR)
Hiroki Kasahara (JPN)
Rustam Lutfullin (UZB)

ASSISTANT REFEREES
Faisal Al-Qahtani (KSA)
Ibrahim Al-Dakhil (KSA)
Khaled Khalaf (QAT)
Faisal Al-Shammari (QAT)
Bang Gi-yeol (KOR)
Cheon Jin-hee (KOR)
Takeshi Asada (JPN)
Satoshi Michiyama (JPN)
Sanjar Shayusupov (UZB)
Akmal Giyosov (UZB)

FIFA U-20 WORLD CUP CHILE 2025

A total of nine AFC match officials were appointed for the FIFA U-20 World Cup Chile 2025. The tournament featured the Football Video Support (FVS) system as well as Semi-automated Offside Technology (SAOT) for the first time at a FIFA U-20 World Cup. The AFC's involvement culminated in Khalid Al-Turais officiating the Round of 16 match between Colombia and South Africa.

REFEREES
Khalid Al-Turais (KSA)
Nazmi Nasaruddin (MAS)
Ahmed Al-Kaf (OMA)

ASSISTANT REFEREES
Mohammed Al-Bakry (KSA)
Abdulrahman Al-Shammari (KSA)
Zairul Khalil Tan (MAS)
Mohamad Mu'Azi Zainal Abidin (MAS)
Abu Bakar Al-Amri (OMA)
Rashid Al-Ghaiti (OMA)

FIFA CLUB WORLD CUP 2025

The first edition of the expanded format of the FIFA Club World Cup began in June 2025 with a total of 15 AFC match officials appointed to the global club showpiece.

A total of eight matches were officiated by the three AFC refereeing trios during the competition, which culminated in Alireza Faghani taking charge of the final between Chelsea and Paris Saint-Germain.

Faghani was officiating in his third FIFA Club World Cup, having officiated at the 2013 and 2015 editions of the competition under its previous format. It was also the Australian's second time officiating in a final match, having whistled the decider of the FIFA Club World Cup 2015 between River Plate and FC Barcelona.

REFEREES	ASSISTANT REFEREES	VIDEO ASSISTANT REFEREES
Alireza Faghani (AUS)	Anton Shchetinin (AUS)	Khamis Al-Marri (QAT)
Salman Falahi (QAT)	Ashley Beecham (AUS)	Shaun Evans (AUS)
Ilgiz Tantashev (UZB)	Ramzan Al-Naemi (QAT)	Fu Ming (CHN)
	Majid Al-Shammari (QAT)	Mohammed Obaid Khadim (UAE)
	Timur Gaynullin (UZB)	
RESERVE REFEREES	Andrey Tsapenko (UZB)	
Omar Al Ali (UAE)		
Ma Ning (CHN)		

FIFA BEACH SOCCER WORLD CUP SEYCHELLES 2025

Four AFC match officials were selected to officiate at the FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup Seychelles 2025, which took place from May 1 to 11.

The 2025 edition marked Yuichi Hatano's fourth appearance at the global showpiece, having first officiated at the 2017 FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup. UAE's Ibrahim Alraeesi made his second appearance at the world level, whereas Uzbekistan's Nayim Kosimov and Fallah Al Balushi from Oman were making their debuts at the competition.

Japan's Hatano and the UAE's Alraeesi were appointed to the semi-final match between Belarus and Senegal, appointed as Referee 1 and Referee 2, respectively. Kosimov was appointed as the Third Official in both the semi-final encounter between Portugal and Brazil and the third-place playoff between Senegal and Portugal.

REFEREES
Fallah Al Balushi (OMA)
Ibrahim Alraeesi (UAE)
Yuichi Hatano (JPN)
Nayim Kosimov (UZB)

AFC NATIONAL TEAM AND CLUB COMPETITIONS

AFC FUTSAL ASIAN CUP INDONESIA 2026™

A total of 22 match officials were appointed for the competition from 21 MAs, showcasing the strength in depth of AFC futsal match officials across the Continent.

The full implementation of the Video Support (VS) technology resulted in a total of 41 reviews from 31 matches; an average of 1.14 per match. This was a marked decreased compared to the previous edition which saw 52 challenges from 32 matches; an average of 1.49 reviews per match.

The use of the VS system resulted in the following statistics:

- 18 reviews were for penalty area incidents
- 11 were for direct red cards/possible direct red card offences
- Seven were for goals or events leading up to a goal
- Four reviews were for a chronometer check to ensure the accuracy of the clock

AFC U23 ASIAN CUP SAUDI ARABIA 2026™

A total of 56 match officials were appointed to the AFC U23 Asian Cup Saudi Arabia 2026 including 12 dedicated Video Match Officials (VMOs). A supporting cast of eight referee technical instructors and two referee fitness instructors provided the match officials with the best possible training and preparation prior to, and throughout, the competition. Out of the 56 match officials, 10 referees were graduates of the AFC Referee Academy while two women referees were included in the delegation.

A three-day preparatory course was conducted prior to the competition kick-off, featuring theoretical sessions in the classroom, practical training on the field featuring MVAR & instant feedback, VAR simulator sessions, and comprehensive fitness preparation. Training continued throughout the competition, ensuring that all match officials were kept in peak mental and physical shape in order to perform at the highest level.

AFC CHAMPIONS LEAGUE ELITE (ACLE) FINALS JEDDAH 2025™

The AFC's club competitions came to a head in May 2025 with the centralised ACLE Finals Jeddah 2025 in Saudi Arabia. As many as 33 match officials, including three dedicated video match officials, were appointed, with Qatar's Abdulrahman Al-Jassim taking charge of the final match between Al Ahli Saudi FC and Kawasaki Frontale. Supported by fellow countrymen Taleb Al-Marri and Ramzan Al-Naemi as assistant referees and Khamis Al-Marri as VAR, the match brought the curtain down on the AFC's premier club competition for the 2024/25 season.

AFC WOMEN'S FUTSAL ASIAN CUP CHINA 2025™

The AFC Women's Futsal Asian Cup™ took place in China PR in May 2025, with a total of 20 match officials appointed for the competition. The delegation featured 15 women and seven men referees, along with four technical instructors and one fitness instructor on hand to support and guide the match officials during the tournament.

With the inaugural FIFA Women's Futsal World Cup Philippines 2025 on the horizon, the match officials had to ensure a high level of performance in every match with each PMA's qualification hopes at stake. After an impressive competition by the AFC's match officials, a total of nine referees were subsequently appointed to the aforementioned global showpiece, with the AFC leading the way as the confederation with the most match officials appointed.

AFC U17 ASIAN CUP SAUDI ARABIA 2025™

In April 2025, the AFC's quest to uphold the highest standards of officiating reached a significant milestone with a record 11 graduates from the AFC Referee Academy being appointed for the AFC U17 Asian Cup Saudi Arabia 2025™. The appointed officials were selected across the batches of 2017, 2018 and 2019, further highlighting the Academy's sustained impact since its inception.

The 20th iteration of the competition also marked a major milestone with the appointment of women officials for the first time in the tournament's history. Among the four appointed women, China PR's Dong Fangyu, also a graduate of the AFC Referee Academy, and Korea Republic's Kim Yu-jeong served as referees, whereas Bao Mengxiao of China PR and Thailand's Nuannid Dornjangreed took on the role of assistant referees.

A total of 16 MAs were represented from a total of 31 appointed match officials, showcasing the strength of refereeing talent across the Continent.

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AFC BEACH SOCCER ASIAN CUP THAILAND 2025™

The AFC Beach Soccer Asian Cup Thailand 2025™ took place in March 2025, with a total of 22 match officials appointed to the competition, hailing from 14 MAs. Supported by five technical instructors and one fitness instructor, a five-day preparatory course was held to ensure the referees' preparedness for the competition.

The course served as an opportunity for the referees to refresh their knowledge on the latest Beach Soccer Laws of the Game, as well as focusing on theoretical topics such as Tactical Fouls, Handball and Scissor Kicks. Further activities were conducted on the sand, allowing the referees to focus more on positioning and movement, as well as honing their technical knowledge in a real-life practical match environment.

AFC U20 ASIAN CUP CHINA 2025™

A total of 31 AFC match officials were appointed to the AFC U20 Asian Cup China 2025™, alongside five referee technical instructors and two fitness instructors for the competition in Shenzhen. The competition was another milestone for the AFC Referee Academy as six match officials were graduates from the AFC's flagship refereeing development programme – four referees featured in the inaugural Batch 2017 with a further two match officials taking part in Batch 2018.

The strength of the AFC Referee Academy was highlighted by the appointment of graduates to both semi-final matches and the final of the competition, with Japan's Hiroki Kasahara taking charge of the decider match between Australia and Saudi Arabia.

Both semi-finals and the final match featured VAR implementation for the first time in an AFC U20 competition, further showcasing the quality of the AFC's pool of elite match officials.

AFC DECENTRALISED COMPETITIONS

Alongside the ACL Two and AFC Challenge League™ competitions, a total of 1,435 referee appointments were made throughout the 2024/25 season with VAR implemented fully from the group stage in the ACLE, from the knockout stage onwards in ACL Two, and in the final match of the AFC Challenge League™.

The final 36 matches of the AFC Asian Qualifiers – Road to 26™ were held in 2025, which, along with the eight subsequent playoff matches, featured a total of 264 match official appointments.

Further competitions involving AFC match official appointments include the AFC Women's Futsal Asian Cup China 2025™ Qualifiers, the AFC Women's Asian Cup Australia 2026™ Qualifiers, the AFC U20 Women's Asian Cup Thailand 2026™ Qualifiers, the AFC U23 Asian Cup Saudi Arabia 2026™ Qualifiers, the AFC Futsal Asian Cup Indonesia 2026™ Qualifiers, the AFC U17 Women's Asian Cup China 2026™ Qualifiers, the AFC U17 Asian Cup Saudi Arabia 2026™ Qualifiers, as well as other regional competitions.

AFC REFEREEING DEVELOPMENT

AFC VIDEO MATCH OFFICIALS (VMO) SELECTION

The AFC Referees Department conducted the AFC VMO Selection in the Malaysian capital city of Kuala Lumpur from January 20 to 24, 2025. Spanning five days, the course was attended by a total of 34 participants, 17 of whom were recently added to the FIFA International List as VMOs.

With the AFC Women's Asian Cup Australia 2026™ featuring the VAR technology across all 25 matches, a notable highlight was the substantial number of women officials who attended the course in order to ensure maximum readiness ahead of the Continental showpiece.

The programme commenced with the match officials being tested on their knowledge through video tests as well as an examination of their understanding of the Laws of the Game. Over the subsequent days, the course, curated to include both theoretical and practical activities, focused on

enhancing the officials' ability to follow protocols, communicate effectively, and make precise decisions.

The course included VAR simulator sessions as well as full 90-minute matches which allowed the participants to make use of the Mobile Video Assistant Referee (MVAR) system and engage in real-time evaluation.

AFC WOMEN REFEREES & ASSISTANT REFEREES SELECTION COURSE

The AFC Women Referees & Assistant Referees Selection 2025 was conducted from February 10 to 13. The programme, spanning four days, brought together 20 representatives from 17 MAs, providing them with a platform to enhance their refereeing expertise through a carefully curated curriculum designed to evaluate their theoretical knowledge, practical application, and physical fitness.

The match officials were thoroughly examined in a number of areas such as knowledge of the Laws of the Game, match incident analysis, report-writing skills, and proficiency in English. The emphasis then shifted to on-field activities, where the referees underwent the FIFA Interval Test and the Repeated Sprint Ability Test, while the assistant referees were also evaluated on the Change of Direction Ability (CODA) test. The intensive fitness tests were all aimed at assessing the participants' speed, endurance, and agility.

In the subsequent days, a series of practical matches were organised for the candidates in order to gauge their expertise in game management, and decision-making skills in real-game scenarios as well as their positioning and application of the Laws of the Game in high-pressure situations.

Finally, before the selection course drew to an end, the participants and instructors took part in a dynamic feedback session to further elevate the curriculum, reinforcing the Confederation's ongoing commitment to enhancing refereeing standards across Asia.

AFC REFEREE ASSESSORS CERTIFICATION 2025

Designed to strengthen the existing pool of AFC referee assessors and ensuring participants meet the Confederation's standards, the first ever AFC Referee Assessors Certification was held in July 2025. The new initiative saw 69 participants from 21 MAs evaluated on their theoretical knowledge, understanding, and competency in discharging their duties as referee assessors.

The event commenced with a keynote address from International Football Association Board (IFAB) Technical Director David Elleray, who shed light on the latest amendments to the Laws of the Game for the 2025/26 season.

Then, under the guidance of the AFC-appointed experts, the participants engaged in a range of activities and assessments designed to evaluate their theoretical knowledge, analytical skills, and ability to assess refereeing performances accurately.

The assessors underwent a series of tests that examined their understanding of the Laws of the Game and VAR protocols, while also demonstrating their ability to evaluate match performance using the Refereeing Performance Management platform – a dedicated match analysis tool that enables users to review video footage, assess referee performance, decision-making accuracy, and consistency in applying the Laws of the Game.

The assessors were subsequently assigned an additional match for analysis, during which their ability to conduct a comprehensive post-match debriefing and deliver objective, constructive feedback in line with the AFC's refereeing development framework was evaluated.

AFC ELITE REFEREES SEMINAR 2025

Taking place simultaneously in the West and East regions, the five-day AFC Elite Men Referees Seminar 2025 was the 15th edition and was organised in collaboration with the Qatar Football Association (QFA) and Korea Football Association (KFA).

More than 150 match officials from across the Continent gathered in a bid to arm themselves with the latest tools and insights ahead of the upcoming season. In the West, 83 participants benefitted from high-level instruction and state-of-the-art facilities in Doha while, in the East, the seminar extended an invitation to officials and instructors from the Oceania Football Confederation (OFC), reiterating the Confederation's wider commitment to the beautiful game.

Alongside the four representatives from OFC, 11 AFC Women Referees were also involved in the seminar, in order to provide the candidates for the upcoming FIFA Women's World Cup the chance

to gain additional expertise and instruction alongside their male counterparts.

Across both venues, the participants gained comprehensive updates on the latest amendments to the Laws of the Game, along with in-depth discussions on topics such as challenges, penalty-area incidents, handball, offside, tactical fouls and game management. The match officials also engaged in holistic practical sessions, including MVAR simulations, penalty area movement drills, and fitness assessments.

AFC ELITE FUTSAL REFEREES & INSTRUCTORS SEMINAR 2025

The AFC Elite Futsal Referees & Instructors Seminar 2025 took place from August 16 to 22 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia bringing together futsal instructors and referees from across the Continent to guide them in enhancing fitness and staying abreast of the latest technological advancements.

The first three days of the programme were exclusively designed to meet the requirements of the AFC Futsal Instructors, focusing primarily on the amendments to the Laws of the Game and teaching methodologies.

The seminar then shifted its focus to the Continent's referees, who explored multiple avenues to hone their skills through both theoretical sessions and intensive physical activities.

With the FIFA Futsal Women's World Cup Philippines 2025 featuring the use of the VS system, the match officials were involved in practical sessions in order to familiarise themselves with the technology, with the aim of ensuring that Asian futsal referees are fully aligned with global standards.

In the classroom, one of the key highlights of the programme was the study of the AFC Futsal Asian Cup Thailand 2024™, which provided excellent case studies to further explore the VS technology along with match incidents from various AFC competitions.

The successful seminar highlighted the Confederation's continuous efforts to provide resources to its MAs to reach their maximum potential.

AFC WOMEN'S ASIAN CUP™ REFEREES SEMINAR 2025

The AFC Referees Department conducted a refereeing seminar from December 1 to 5, 2025, for match officials appointed to the Continent's premier women's national team competition. Held in Bangkok, in partnership with The Football Association of Thailand, the participants were put through their paces with multiple theoretical and practical sessions.

Hailing from 20 MAs, the 45-strong cast comprised 16 referees and 18 assistant referees, including two standby officials for each position, as well as 11 VMOs, making it the largest-ever contingent of match officials in the competition's history.

As it was the first edition to implement VAR from the group stage, the five-day seminar was designed to prepare participants in using the technology effectively while also honing their technical knowledge, physical fitness and match-management competencies ahead of the Continental contest.

A holistic fitness programme was conducted during the seminar led by the AFC's top refereeing fitness instructors, to ensure that all of the match officials had a high level of fitness and were suitably prepared.

AFC REFEREE ACADEMY

The AFC Referee Academy by numbers:

- 45 MAs have participated in the programme since its inception.
- 58 referees added to the AFC Elite Panel
- 37% of Elite Panel referees have graduated from the AFC Referee Academy
- 104 participant referees have been registered on the FIFA International List
- Seven graduate referees have participated in a global FIFA competition

AFC REFEREE ACADEMY EDUCATORS WORKSHOP

The AFC Referee Academy held two educators workshops in February and December 2025 bringing together specialists from across Asia to review the existing curriculum, identify areas for improvement and create a blueprint for the optimal delivery of referee education programmes for the AFC's MAs.

Across the workshops, the experts engaged in in-depth discussions on shaping the next generation of Asian match officials. This included exploring contemporary teaching methodologies, fostering effective learning environments, and establishing a balance between theoretical knowledge and practical, match-related application, while also aligning course content across the various levels of the Referee Academy pathway.

In December, the workshop included a visit to Malaysia's national sports institution, Institut Sukan Negara (ISN) to explore collaborative opportunities, followed by a comprehensive overview of the Academy's curricula for the participants.

The programme also emphasised the use of technological tools, such as the new Learning Management System (LMS), which will support structured, blended learning through a combination of online and onsite delivery.

As well as focusing on technical aspects of refereeing in the curriculum, the workshop also sought to ensure the participants could reach the elite level by benchmarking professional standards, reinforcing the importance of conduct, professionalism, and responsibility both on and off the field.

FUTSAL REFEREE ACADEMY BATCH 1

The year 2025 also saw the introduction of futsal referees to the landmark AFC Referee Academy, in a groundbreaking move that ensures that Asian match officials continue to remain at the forefront of the five-a-side game.

With online introductory sessions beginning in October, the first onsite module took place from November 3 to 7, 2025, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Through a balanced mix of classroom instruction, fitness assessments, and on-court activities, the week-long programme equipped participants with the necessary knowledge, physical conditioning, and mental discipline required to manage the modern demands of futsal refereeing.

Classroom sessions involved several interesting theory-based activities, where, under the expert guidance of the AFC's futsal referee instructors, participants examined various aspects of officiating such as managing penalty area incidents, establishing authority, and mastering conflict resolution.

Complementing the theoretical learning, practical sessions were designed to test the participants' ability to meet the challenges that come with the fast-paced environment of futsal.

The on-court activities saw the officials undergo tests focusing on speed, agility, and endurance, while on the final day, the programme featured live matches for the referees to showcase their learnings from the past week in real time.

Additionally, the programme placed significant focus on personal development through segments that encouraged the participants to reflect on individual aspirations, while promoting the importance of good communication, teamwork, and leadership values.

COACHES ACADEMY

With onsite modules taking place in October for Batches 5, 6, and 7, the AFC launched their newest Referee Academy initiative with the first participants of the AFC Coach Academy attending.

The pilot project is designed to give future referee instructors the opportunity to gain hands-on experience in mentoring, once again underlining the Confederation's commitment to maximising the potential of its members.

COMPETITION EXPOSURE

Further complementing their learning, 14 selected referees from Batch 5 were appointed to officiate in the Liga Super Football Association of Selangor Competition, which took place from October 25 to 26.

Having signed a Memorandum of Understanding in 2024, the partnership between the AFC and FAS provides valuable exposure and opportunities to the AFC Referee Academy participants, allowing them to execute the theoretical learnings covered during the module in a competitive match environment.

BATCH 7 INTAKE

With Batch 4 completing their final module in January 2025, Batch 7 became the largest cohort to date - 62 match officials from across the Continent, including the first-ever participants from the Lao Football Federation.

Introduced to increase the number of world-class referees from Asia and extend development support to AFC MAs, the Academy's role in nurturing Asia's best refereeing talent has been tangible, with 20 current Academy referees registered on the FIFA International List, as well as 57 alumni already part of the Elite Panel.

Adding further value, the programme was attended by the Project Lead of the FIFA Refereeing Academy, who visited to observe and learn how the AFC Referee Academy works and operates.

OTHER INITIATIVES

AFC STAR PROGRAMME VISITS

The acclaimed AFC Refereeing STAR programme continued in 2025 with the successful conclusion of two programmes – with the Football Federation of Cambodia (FFC) and the Bhutan Football Federation (BFF) - marking yet another milestone in the AFC's commitment towards establishing the highest officiating standards on the Continent.

In April, a four-day programme was conducted in Thimphu, Bhutan, which featured a comprehensive curriculum designed specifically for the BFF, based on observations of referees' performances in the previous season. Then, in August, a similar edition in Phnom Penh was developed following discussions with the FFC.

Led by the Confederation's experts, both visits saw participants gain insights into the latest amendments to the Laws of the Game while also discussing several aspects of game management, such as controlling the game, identifying and managing fouls, and ensuring player safety and game flow.

In the practical sessions, the participants were tested on their position and decision-making skills, which were complemented by extensive fitness assessments, including the CODA test, the FIFA Interval Test, and the Repeated Sprint Ability Test, designed to evaluate speed, endurance, and agility.

U23 ASIAN CUP
KELME
AFC U23
ASIAN CUP
SAUDI ARABIA 2026

AFC 36TH CONGRESS
VANCOUVER 2026

4 TOP LEVEL COMPETITIONS

INTRODUCTION

Having introduced significant reforms to its club and national team competitions in 2024, the AFC reaffirmed its commitment to uplifting the standards of Asian football in 2025. Key decisions were undertaken at various committee meetings after thorough deliberations, while a series of insightful workshops, briefings, seminars and courses honed capabilities and enhanced knowledge among the AFC's MAs and RAs.

SHAPING ASIA'S FUTURE

Staying true to the mission of strengthening the professional standards of the continental club game, the AFC Professional Football Committee approved several amendments to the AFC Club Competitions – Entry Regulations (Edition 2023) and also approved the AFC Club Competitions – Entry Regulations (Edition 2025) at its meeting in February, following observations and insights that were gleaned from the highly-successful inaugural campaigns of the three revamped men's club competitions in 2024/25.

Covering issues such as slot allocations, club licensing criteria and the intricacies of organising a professional football league, the AFC Club Competitions – Entry Regulations (Edition 2023): Amendments came into force from the 2025/26 season and the AFC Club Competitions – Entry Regulations (Edition 2025) will be applicable for the 2026/27 Sporting Season. The Committee also discussed the establishment of the AFC Professional Football Strategy, which aims to drive the professional standards of Asian club football in the coming years.

The AFC Competitions Committee continued to play a vital role in shaping the future of the Asian game and, following two constructive briefings among its members in February and April, the AFC Competitions Calendar 2026-2030 was determined at a meeting in May. The meeting in Jeddah also saw Saudi Arabia recommended as the host of the annual AFC U17 Asian Cup™ from 2026 to 2028, while the Regulations for the 2026 edition was approved at the same time.

Additionally, the Committee approved the AFC Equipment Regulations (Edition 2025), amendments to the Competitions Regulations of the AFC U23 Asian Cup Saudi Arabia 2026™, the AFC Champions League Two 2025/26™ and the AFC Challenge League 2025/26™, specifically addressing the provisions on concussion substitutions. Furthermore, amendments to the AFC Champions League Elite 2025/26™ Competition Regulations, specifically the updated provisions to determine the final ranking of participating clubs in the event of withdrawals, were approved along with the provision of draw principles for the Finals Stage.

WOMEN'S FOOTBALL CONTINUED RISE

On the eve of the AFC Women's Asian Cup Australia 2026™ Final Draw in Sydney in July, the AFC Women's Football Committee held its fifth meeting, where it reiterated its conviction in the potential of the 21st edition of Asia's flagship women's national team competition to serve as a catalyst in unlocking the promise of the women's game across the Continent.

Enhancements to the women's club game were made at the meeting, key among them being the approval of the principles of the titleholder slot in the AFC Women's Champions League™ for the 2026/27 and 2027/28 seasons i.e. moving forward, the winners will be granted a direct slot in subsequent editions.

At the same time, it was decided that the AFC Women's Club Competitions Ranking of the 2024/25, 2025/26 and the 2026/27 seasons—published at the end of each edition—will determine the slot allocation for the 2026/27, 2027/28 and 2028/29 seasons respectively, with the same principles to apply moving forward.

Updates were provided on the status of the AFC Club Licensing Regulations Roadmap, which includes the proposed women's club licensing criteria and aims to ensure that women's clubs across Asia are given sufficient time to familiarise with the club licensing requirements.

Furthermore, the Competition Regulations for the 2027 and 2028 editions of the AFC U17 Women's Asian Cup™ were approved.

The best-ever edition of the AFC Women's Asian Cup™ from March 1 to 21, 2026 was followed by the Knockout Stage of the landmark AFC Women's Champions League™, which is amidst its second season following a groundbreaking and successful inaugural 2024/25 campaign.

Enhancements to the women's club game were made at the meeting, key among them being the approval of the principles of the titleholder slot in the AFC Women's Champions League™ for the 2026/27 and 2027/28 seasons i.e. moving forward, the winners will be granted a direct slot in subsequent editions.

FUTSAL & BEACH SOCCER ENJOY SPOTLIGHT

As the popularity of beach soccer and futsal continues to grow, the AFC Futsal & Beach Soccer Committee reinforced its commitment to help both sports flourish at its third meeting in Pattaya, Thailand in March.

Established with the core overarching principles of maximising the use of the international match calendar to benefit player release and welfare, taking into consideration the AFC and MAs' hosting capacity and resources, and ensuring the best possible promotion of each competition, the Committee approved the Competitions Calendar 2026-2028.

The main highlight among the new dates was the next edition of the AFC Beach Soccer Asian Cup™ to be held in the year preceding the FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup. The decision, which sees the 2026 edition being staged in November, was taken to optimise the preparation period for Asian teams and ease the congestion of a packed calendar.

Other competition schedules that were determined include the AFC Beach Soccer Asian Cup 2026™ Qualifiers, AFC Futsal Asian Cup

2028™ Qualifiers and Finals, AFC Women's Futsal Asian Cup 2028™ Qualifiers and Finals, and the AFC Beach Soccer Asian Cup 2028™ Qualifiers and Finals.

Notably, the Committee also endorsed the decision to establish the AFC Futsal Asian Cup™ as a stand-alone competition from the 2030 edition onwards, with a separate qualification competition to be created for the FIFA Futsal World Cup from 2031.

Discussions centred around the return of the AFC Futsal Club Championship format were held during the meeting, while the Committee also approved the AFC Futsal Asian Cup Indonesia 2026™ Regulations.

REFINING CAPABILITIES

The AFC MAs were provided with an important opportunity to furnish feedback regarding the AFC Competitions Calendar 2026-2030 during a briefing in March. The Competitions' Directors and League CEOs from across the MAs received updates as well as clarity on the principles and rationale in determining the calendar; their input proved vital to the finalisation of the Calendar, which was confirmed in May.

The Asian football family was then brought together at the AFC Champions League Elite (ACL Elite) Finals Jeddah 2025™ Celebration Night to commemorate the inaugural season of its revamped club competitions, on the eve of the inaugural ACL Elite Final between Al Ahli Saudi FC and Kawasaki Frontale.

Over 200 guests, including representatives from the AFC's MAs, all clubs participating in both men's and women's club competitions, and CAF and Concacaf representatives, enjoyed dinner, performances and a presentation from UEFA, before attending the thrilling Final the next evening.

The month of August saw two key events hosted in Kuala Lumpur, with the first being the AFC Match Commissioner (MC) Seminar 2025. Taking place from August 12 to 15, 51 existing and 63 aspiring MCs from across the Continent gathered to gain a comprehensive understanding of their responsibilities over four days.

The Confederation's most renowned and experienced MCs shared valuable insights, while participants also took part in useful interactive case study sessions and practical scenarios.

Additionally, they were introduced to new tools, such as a mobile application to enable real-time recording of match events and a pre-match information platform designed to provide essential details on host MAs, to aid them in discharging their duties with the highest standards of professionalism. Fourteen participants aced their written assessments to become the AFC's newest MCs, expanding the pool to 146 as of November 2025.

This was followed by the AFC Professional Football Seminar 2025, which took place between August 26 and 28, and served as a vital platform for Asia's professional football stakeholders to exchange expertise and explore pathways to further strengthen the professional game across the Continent.

Guest speakers from FIFA, CONCACAF, Qatar Stars League, J.LEAGUE, Cambodian Premier League, and the UAE Pro League shared case studies from their respective league development initiatives and club licensing systems to the 106 participants, who also delved into in-depth analyses of the various pillars of professional football development as well as the professionalisation of women's football.

They also took in updates on AFC Club Licensing standards, Entry Regulations and the AFC Club Competitions 2024/25 Benchmarking Report, while long-serving club licensing managers from across Asia were honoured.

To raise the standards of club licensing across Asia, remote and onsite compliance audits were conducted throughout the year to provide the clubs with detailed reports about their compliance levels. A total of 39 clubs across 24 MAs went through the remote compliance audit process, while on-site audits were conducted at one club each in Bhutan and Oman. Results from the compliance audits indicate notable improvements as compared to the previous audit cycle.

In September, the capabilities of the AFC's Local General Coordinators (LGC), Local Media Officers (LMO) and Local Security Officers (LSO) were further refined at their respective seminars. Comprising 50 LGCs, 47 LMOs and 46 LSOs, with a mix of both existing and new candidates for each, the seminars were held physically for the first time since the pandemic. Participants were able to benefit from the tailored programmes, which aimed to maximise their potential and allow them to better understand—and in turn execute—their responsibilities.

DRAW CEREMONIES AND TEAM WORKSHOPS/BRIEFINGS

A series of Official Draw ceremonies were held in conjunction with team and club workshops as well as briefings throughout 2025 to ensure that Participating MAs received all the relevant competition-related information as well as timely updates to facilitate their preparations for the respective tournaments.

The full list of draws, workshops and briefings that were conducted is below:

DATES	VENUE	EVENT
January 7, 2025	Online	AFC Challenge League 2024/25™ Knockout Stage Online Club Briefing
January 8, 2025	AFC House	AFC Women's Champions League 2024/25™ Knockout Stage Draw & Online Club Briefing
January 21, 2025	Online	AFC Beach Soccer Asian Cup 2025™ Team Briefing
January 23, 2025	AFC House	AFC U17 Asian Cup Saudi Arabia 2025™ Final Draw
February 4, 2025	Online	AFC U17 Asian Cup Saudi Arabia 2025™ Team Briefing
February 6, 2025	Hohhot, CHN	AFC Women's Futsal Asian Cup China 2025™ Final Draw
March 11, 2025	Online	AFC Women's Futsal Asian Cup China 2025™ Team Briefing
March 17, 2025	AFC House	AFC Champions League Elite Finals Jeddah 2025™ Draw & Club Workshop
March 27, 2025	AFC House/ Online	AFC Women's Asian Cup Australia 2026™ Qualifiers Draw & Team Briefing
April 28, 2025	AFC House	AFC U20 Women's Asian Cup Thailand 2026™ Qualifiers Draw
May 29, 2025	AFC House	AFC U23 Asian Cup Saudi Arabia 2026™ Qualifiers Draw

DATES	VENUE	EVENT
June 26, 2025	AFC House	AFC Futsal Asian Cup Indonesia 2026™ Qualifiers Draw
July 3, 2025	AFC House	AFC Women's Champions League 2025/26™ Preliminary Stage Draw
July 17, 2025	AFC House	AFC Asian Qualifiers – Road to 26™ Playoffs Draw & Team Briefing
July 29, 2025	Sydney, AUS	AFC Women's Asian Cup Australia 2026™ Final Draw & Team Briefing
August 7, 2025	AFC House	AFC U17 Asian Cup Saudi Arabia 2026™ Qualifiers Draw AFC U17 Women's Asian Cup China 2026™ Qualifiers Draw
August 14, 2025	Kuala Lumpur, MAS	AFC Champions League Elite 2025/26™ Club Workshop
August 15, 2025	Kuala Lumpur, MAS	AFC Champions League Two 2025/26™ Club Workshop & Group Stage Draw AFC Champions League Elite 2025/26™ League Stage Draw
August 28, 2025	AFC House	AFC Challenge League 2025/26™ Group Stage Draw
September 11, 2025	Kuala Lumpur, MAS	AFC Women's Champions League 2025/26™ Club Workshop and Group Stage Draw
October 2, 2025	AFC House	AFC U23 Asian Cup Saudi Arabia 2026™ Final Draw
November 5, 2025	Jakarta, IDN	AFC Futsal Asian Cup Indonesia 2026™ Final Draw
November 10, 2025	Bangkok, THA	AFC U20 Women's Asian Cup Thailand 2026™ Final Draw
November 19, 2025	Online	AFC Women's Asian Cup Australia 2026™ Team Workshop
November 20, 2025	Online	AFC Futsal Asian Cup Indonesia 2026™ Team Briefing
November 25, 2025	Online	AFC U23 Asian Cup Saudi Arabia 2026™ Team Briefing
December 30, 2025	AFC House	AFC Champions League Two 2025/26™ Knockout Stage Draw & Club Workshop

FOOTBALL TECHNOLOGY & EFOOTBALL COME TO PLAY

The AFC marked another milestone in match officiating with the introduction of the Semi-Automated Offside Technology (SAOT) system at the ACL Elite Finals Jeddah 2025, which was the technology's maiden implementation at club competition level.

The system's debut at the AFC Asian Cup Qatar 2023™ saw the AFC become the first Confederation in world football to apply it at the continental men's national team level and in Jeddah, the SAOT complemented the Video Assistant Referee (VAR) system at all seven matches between April 25 and May 3.

In November 2025, the AFC became the first to participate in FIFA's Extended Trial of Football Video Support (FVS), which saw its implementation in the AFC Women's Champions League 2025/26™ throughout the Group Stage. A cost-effective alternative to the VAR system, the FVS system is designed for competitions with a limited number of cameras while retaining the same objective of assisting referees in reviewing and rectifying clear and obvious errors in crucial match situations. Furthermore, the AFC was invited to attend the FVS Trials - Experience Exchange, Qatar 2025 to exchange knowledge with other confederations, member associations and competition organisers.

Additionally, the VAR system was implemented for the first time in the AFC Women's Champions League™, AFC Champions League Two™, AFC Challenge League™, AFC U17 Asian Cup™ and AFC U20 Asian Cup™.

The Football Technology & eFootball Department also successfully trialled remote VAR over internet connectivity, using the AFC House as a VAR Remote Centre and leveraging secure IPsec VPN tunnels. The offline tests were conducted across four ACL Elite 2025/26 League Stage matches in November 2025. This initiative demonstrated the potential for future scalable, cost efficient VAR deployments across a wider range of AFC competitions.

These initiatives reflect the AFC's determination to embrace the latest technological advancements and further underlines its commitment towards improving accuracy and integrity of decision-making by its match officials, as well as remaining at the forefront of world refereeing.

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The full list of competitions where VAR, FVS and SAOT were utilised is below:

COMPETITION	NUMBER OF MATCHES
AFC Champions League Elite 2024/25™ League Stage and Round of 16	39 (1 cancelled) – VAR
AFC Champions League Elite Finals Jeddah 2025™	7 – VAR and SAOT
AFC Champions League Elite 2025/26™ League Stage	72 – VAR
AFC Champions League Two 2024/25™ Knockout Stage	29 – VAR
AFC Challenge League 2024/25™ Final	1 – VAR
AFC Women's Champions League 2024/25™	3 (From Semi-finals onward) – VAR
AFC Women's Champions League 2025/26™ Group Stage	18 – FVS
AFC Asian Qualifiers – Road to 26™	44 – VAR
AFC U20 Asian Cup China 2025™	3 (From Semi-finals onward) – VAR
AFC U17 Asian Cup Saudi Arabia 2025™	7 (From Quarter-finals onward) – VAR
AFC U23 Asian Cup Saudi Arabia 2026™	32 – VAR
AFC Futsal Asian Cup Indonesia 2026™	31 – VS
AFC Women's Asian Cup Australia 2026™	27 – VAR

With an increasing number of AFC competitions adopting VAR, it is imperative that the AFC's MAs remain up to speed with the latest advancements. To ensure that tailored support is provided on a consistent basis, the AFC VAR Information Officer (VIO) Workshop 2025 was organised in August for 56 participants, comprising 32 existing VIOs and 24 newly nominated officials from across 23 MAs, to refresh and enhance their knowledge ahead of the 2025/26 season.

The two-day programme featured detailed discussions on the current state of VAR technology, with speakers from across the globe sharing their insights on best practices in executing responsibilities as VIOs.

These entailed valuable insights from FIFA, UEFA and CONMEBOL experts as well as two System Technology Providers. Following the conclusion of the workshop, the pool of VIOs was increased to 60.

Building on the remarkable success of the AFC eAsian Cup that took place in Doha during the AFC Asian Cup Qatar 2023™, the AFC unveiled its latest venture in the digital realm with the inaugural AFC eChampions League Elite (eACL Elite), which took place from April 24 to 28, 2025, in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

The eACL Elite 2025, featuring the eFootball console, brought together 16 ACL Elite clubs,

represented by 29 professional players, who competed across 71 matches over five match days. Hosted at the King Abdullah Sports City Sports Hall, the event ran alongside the ACL Elite Finals Jeddah 2025 and was contested in a 1v1 format.

Exclusive to clubs participating in the ACL Elite 2024/25, the tournament mirrored the official competition structure, including a draw ceremony for the knockout stage, further reinforcing alignment between digital and traditional football.

ITEM	DETAILS
Competition	AFC eChampions League Elite (eACL Elite) 2025
Dates	April 24 – 28, 2025
Host City	Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
Venue	King Abdullah Sports City (KASC) Sports Hall
Participating Clubs	16 (from AFC Champions League Elite 2024/25™)
Match Format	1v1 (Console)
Played On	Konami eFootball
Total Matches Played	71
Champion	Al Nassr Club (KSA)
Runner-up	Persepolis FC (IRN)

Saudi Arabia's Al Nassr Club were crowned champions after defeating Persepolis FC in the Final.

The event generated strong digital engagement, recording 462,000 views across the AFC's official YouTube platforms.

In parallel, the AFC strengthened its digital ecosystem with the launch of a dedicated eFootball section on the AFC website, serving as a centralised hub for AFC Football esports.

The successful delivery of the eACL Elite 2025 marked an important step in the AFC's digital football strategy, enhancing club integration and fan engagement, and supporting the continued development of esports.

COMPETITIONS REVIEW

AFC FUTSAL ASIAN CUP INDONESIA 2026™

The AFC Futsal Asian Cup Indonesia 2026™ was held from January 27 to February 7, 2026.

Matches were played at the Indonesia Arena and Jakarta International Velodrome.

Islamic Republic of Iran emerged as champions for a record-extending 14th time, defeating Indonesia 5-4 on penalties with the Final ending 5-5 after extra-time.

GROUP STAGE

GROUP A
Indonesia and Iraq led from the start in Group A, with the hosts finishing top on goal difference after both accumulated seven points.

Indonesia defeated Korea Republic 5-0 and Kyrgyz Republic 5-3 before playing out a 1-1 draw with Iraq. Iraq beat Kyrgyz Republic 4-2 and edged Korea Republic 3-2.

GROUP B
Thailand were the dominant team in Group B, winning all three matches in convincing fashion.

They kicked off with a 2-0 defeat of Lebanon and produced an emphatic performance to silence Kuwait 6-1.

Top spot was confirmed with a 1-0 win against Vietnam, who also advanced to the Quarter-finals thanks to their earlier wins against Kuwait (5-4) and Lebanon (2-0).

GROUP C
Four-time champions Japan took control of Group C from the start, cruising to a 6-2 win in their opening match against Australia.

A 3-0 win against Tajikistan and come-from-behind 2-1 victory over Uzbekistan confirmed them as the group winners.

Uzbekistan also advanced, having drawn with Tajikistan 0-0 and defeating Australia 4-2.

GROUP D
IR Iran were in a class of their own in Group D, opening their title defence with a 4-1 win against Malaysia.

A 2-0 victory against Saudi Arabia followed, with the top spot confirmed after an impressive 5-2 win against Afghanistan.

They were joined in the Quarter-finals by Afghanistan, who beat Saudi Arabia 3-0 and Malaysia 7-0 to finish as the runners-up.

QUARTER-FINALS

INDONESIA 3-2 VIETNAM

Indonesia added another chapter to their AFC Futsal Asian Cup™ history after defeating Vietnam 3-2 in the Quarter-finals. The win saw Indonesia reach the Semi-finals for the first time in 11 appearances.

Indonesia took the lead from a kick-in in the fourth minute, Firman Adriansyah setting up Brian Lindrey for a strike that took a deflection off Nhan Gia Hung and wrongfooted goalkeeper Pham Van Tu.

Vietnam fell further behind in the 11th minute after Rio Pangestu and Ardiansyah Nur exchanged passes to shift Vietnam's defence side to side before the gap eventually opened for the latter to sweep home.

Vietnam applied pressure after the break as they looked for a way back into the game and halved the deficit in the 25th minute, Nguyen Da Hai slotting home after receiving the ball from Chau Doan Phat.

Indonesia, however, wasted little time in restoring their two-goal lead, an unmarked Yogi Saputra cutting the ball back for Reza Gunawan to sidefoot it into the top corner.

Vietnam made it an interesting final few minutes when Da Hai struck again on 36 minutes, but Indonesia held firm to keep their fantastic run going.

JAPAN 6-0 AFGHANISTAN

Japan burst into life in the second half to defeat Afghanistan 6-0 in their Quarter-final, as the former champions netted five goals after the break.

Their first goal came in the fifth minute when skipper Kazuya Shimizu exploited a poor clearance by Reza Hosseinpoor to smash the ball past goalkeeper Javad Safari.

Afghanistan tried to turn up the heat in the second half, but Shimizu turned the game back in Japan's favour in the 26th minute when his low drive slipped out of Safari's grasp to double their lead.

Shunta Uchida then extended their advantage when he stuck his foot out in the 26th minute to direct Kokoro Harada's cross past the goalkeeper, and Tomoki Yoshikawa secured goal number four barely a minute later when he pounced on a poor back pass by Akbar Kazemi, and with Safari in Japan's half, steered the ball into an empty goalmouth.

As Afghanistan pushed forward in their attempt to get back into the match, Japan took advantage of their defensive gaps and an out-of-position Safari for Ryuji Izu to float the ball home from his own half in the 35th minute before Shimizu completed his hat-trick with an almost identical goal just before the end.

THAILAND 2-4 IRAQ

Iraq stayed on track for a first title after they defeated Thailand 4-2 to reach the Semi-finals,

making a return to the last four stage for the first time since 2018.

Iraq grabbed the opening goal in the eighth minute thanks to a surging solo run by Salim Kadhim from inside his own half before teeing up Mustafa Ihsan for a toe poke finish beyond Nuttapong Yeemarep.

Thailand got themselves back on level terms one minute later when a melee in Iraq's penalty area saw the ball reach Panut Kittipanuwong, who squared for Muhammad Osamanmusa for a simple tap-in.

Iraq restored their lead two minutes after the interval with Kadhim's pace again causing trouble for Thailand, racing away from his markers on the right flank before finding Ihsan, who placed the ball into the bottom corner with a low shot.

Thailand's hopes of a comeback were dashed in the 33rd minute as Kadhim exchanged passes with Ihsan before slamming home Iraq's third.

Iraq made sure of the win in the 37th minute as goalkeeper Ibrahim Ahmed saved Osamanmusa's shot before firing the ball into an empty Thailand goalmouth, with Chaowala Sriarwut netting a consolation for Thailand in the 40th minute.

IR IRAN 7-4 UZBEKISTAN

IR Iran came from two goals down to defeat Uzbekistan 7-4 in their Quarter-final.

Uzbekistan were awarded a penalty after a Video Support review within the first minute when Iran goalkeeper Bagher Mohammadi barged into Ikhtiyor Ropiev, with the latter firing into the left corner past the flat-footed custodian.

Elbek Tulkinov extended their lead in the fifth minute when he slipped past his marker on the left and slammed the ball from the edge of the semi-circle into the top right corner.

In response, IR Iran piled on the pressure as Saeid Ahmad Abbasi collected a pass from Mehdi Mehdikhani and sending a low drive that deflected off Ilkhomjon Khamroev and past a rooted Abbos Elmurodov for an own goal in the seventh minute.

They levelled in the ninth minute through Abbasi who, from a long throw by his goalkeeper, chested the ball and produced an acrobatic volley from the edge of the circle that bounced off the floor and past Elmurodov.

Elmurodov made a fine save to deny Abbasi moments later, but was caught off-position in the 12th minute when Behrooz Azimihematabadi came down the right and fed the ball to Mohammadhossein Derakshani, who lashed his shot into an empty goal.

Mohammadi palmed away Ropiev's rising shot in the 18th minute, and the next IR Iran attack saw Hossein Sabzi come from behind the Uzbekistan defence on the right and slip the ball past Elmurodov for goal number four.

Uzbekistan went into overdrive after the break, Mohammadi working hard to make consecutive saves from Eldor Nigmatov's close-range effort and one from distance by Anaskhon Rakhmatov.

Their hopes were dealt a blow in the 23rd minute when a Khamroev handball saw IR Iran awarded a penalty, with skipper Hossesin Tayebibidgoli duly converting to send his side further ahead.

Sunatalla Juraev, however, brought Uzbekistan back into the game three minutes later with a stiff drive from the left that zipped past both Mohammadi and midfielder Khalilvand

Somehsoflam and came to rest in the far-right corner.

Their joy was short-lived as Elmurodov was sent off in the 31st minute when he handled the ball outside the circle, with Azimihematabadi tapping in from the left past stand-in goalkeeper Shavkat Ibragimov from the resulting free-kick.

Uzbekistan again bounced back, this time through Muzaffar Akhadjonov, whose stinging shot from just past the centreline gave Mohammadi no chance at all but Sabzi sealed the match in the closing seconds to send IR Iran into the Semi-finals.

SEMI-FINALS

INDONESIA 5-3 JAPAN
(A.E.T)

Indonesia stormed into the Final by stunning former champions Japan 5-3 after extra-time in their Semi-final.

Both sides started strongly, with Japan's Shoto Yamanaka forcing a save from goalkeeper Ahmad Habiebie in the third minute and Ryoto Kai shooting wide a minute later.

The hosts stood firm, Yogi Saputra testing goalkeeper Hiroshi Tabuchi from the left flank in the sixth minute and Samuel Eko doing the same moments later.

As play swung from end to end, both sides created minimal opportunities, Kokoro Harada striking the left post in the eighth minute and finding the side netting soon after, while Indonesia's offence tried their luck from distance.

Eko got the fans on their feet, however, in the 12th minute when he picked up a loose ball from a goalmouth scramble, spun and fired from outside the semi-circle through Tabuchi's legs into the bottom right corner.

The East Asian side's efforts to get back in the game saw skipper Kazuya Shimizu rattle the left post and Ahmad saving from both Harada and Tomoki Yoshikawa before palming away Takehiro Motoishi's stinging strike in the 18th minute.

Eko again made Tabuchi sweat when he muscled his way through and pushed the goalkeeper into a full length save, with his attempt closing out the action in the first half.

Indonesia skipper Mochammad Iqbal had the home fans roaring again after the break when he latched onto a pass from Israr Megantara but an alert Tabuchi denied his point-blank shot.

Ahmad then struck out a leg at the opposing end to keep out a shot from Shunta Uchida before Indonesia added to Japan's woes in the 23rd minute when an under-pressure Motoishi turned the ball into his own net from an effort by Ardiansyah Nur.

Israr and Brian Lindrey both came close to putting Indonesia further ahead if not for an alert Tabuchi, with Yusei Arai then striking the post off a free-kick as Japan intensified their efforts.

Motoisihi gave his side a lifeline in the 31st minute when Ahmad fumbled his low drive from outside the semi-circle, with the ball slipping under the goalkeeper after he initially managed to get his hands on it.

Tabuchi made crucial saves from Firman Adriansyah and Eko to keep his side in the game before Shimizu leveled the score in the 35th minute when he sent a blistering shot from the left that had Ahmad completely beaten.

Firman thought he had struck Indonesia's winner a minute before the end when he booted home from outside the semi-circle, but Japan turned the game on its head in the dying seconds when they were awarded a penalty after a handball by Iqbal, with Shimizu driving his shot past a rooted Ahmad.

Indonesia, however, were not to be denied as Reza Gunawan put them ahead in the last minute of first-half extra-time when he latched onto a stray pass by Arai and let fly from outside the semi-circle with Rizki Amanda then taking advantage of another wayward pass to seal the match three minutes into the second half.

IRAQ 2-4 IR IRAN

IR Iran twice came from behind to defeat Iraq 4-2 in their Semi-final.

An even start saw the sides trading attempts, Iraq going close through Mustafa Ihsan and Harith Saad with IR Iran responding through Mohammadhossein Derakhshani's header which bounced off the crossbar.

Ihsan then used his physical strength to turn Salar Aghapour in the sixth minute but saw his effort blocked by Bagher Mohammadi.

Iraq gained the advantage in the 10th minute, opening the scoring through Salim Kadhim who robbed Saeid Ahmad Abbasi of the ball on the halfway line before surging forward to find the bottom corner.

The lead, however, only lasted a minute with Abbasi redeeming himself with a perfect reverse pass to Derakhshani, who swept home from close range with Iraq custodian Ibrahim Ahmed rooted.

Iraq restored their advantage in the 13th minute after Ghaith Riyadh's free-kick found Kadhim, who had his initial effort blocked by Mohammadi but stuck out his leg while still on the ground to flick home the rebound.

IR Iran, yet to trail at half-time in the tournament, ensured they kept the run going as they equalised through a stunning Behrooz Azimihematabadi strike from range three minutes from the break. There were chances at both ends after the interval with Kadhim slicing an effort wide before attempts from Azimi, Aghapour and Amirhossein Gholami failed to beat Ahmed.

Ahmed then did well to tip away Medhi Mehdikhani's shot in the 26th minute but conceded from the ensuing corner as Hossein Tayebibidgoli arrived first to the ball to flick past the Iraq custodian.

Iraq were denied an equaliser in the 30th minute when Derakhshani came to the rescue of IR Iran, blocking on the goal line to stop Kadhim's strike after Mohammadi had been caught out of position.

IR Iran then spurned an opportunity to widen the gap four minutes later after they were awarded a penalty for Tareq Zeyad's foul on Mahdi Karimi but Tayebidigoli's shot was foiled by Ahmed.

Aghapour, however, struck in the 40th minute to end Iraq's hopes and take his team into the Final.

FINAL

INDONESIA 5-5 IR IRAN
(A.E.T, IR IRAN WON 5-4 ON PENALTIES)

IR Iran emerged as champions of the AFC Futsal Asian Cup Indonesia 2026™ with a 5-4 penalty shootout win after the thrilling Final ended 5-5 after extra-time.

In a hugely entertaining decider that had the fans at the Indonesia Arena on their feet throughout, IR Iran came from behind three times to lift the trophy for a 14th time.

Rio Pangestu kicked off Indonesia's bid for glory in the third minute when he was set up by Ardiansyah Nur, his shot forcing Bagher Mohammadi to hurriedly palm the ball away.

IR Iran, however, made their first look at goal count seconds later when Hossein Tayebibidgoli sliced his shot from inside the semi-circle beyond a diving Ahmad Habiebie.

They fluffed a chance to go further ahead when Saeid Ahmad Abbasi, with only Habiebie in his way, drove the ball past the left post, and then sent his shot into the side netting moments later.

Indonesia then raised the roof in the seventh minute when Reza Gunawan pounced on a rebound and poked his shot past a rooted Mohammadi.

Israr Megantara added a second just a minute later when he rounded Mohammadi before calmly slotting the ball home. He picked up his second goal in the ninth minute, coming down the left and smashing the ball beyond the goalkeeper to double Indonesia's advantage.

The fired-up hosts threatened again in the 13th minute, with Firman Adriansyah charging down the middle following a fast break only to shoot straight at a waiting Mohammadi and then seeing his attempt from the left again denied by the goalkeeper.

IR Iran thought they had pulled one back in the 16th minute through Abbasi but the goal was disallowed after it was determined that the ball had crossed the sideline, with Salar Aghapour's free-kick, a result of Indonesia's accumulated fouls, blocked by an alert Ahmad moments later.

Mahdi Karimi, however, did put his side back in the game in the 18th minute when Aghapour, off a free-kick on the edge of the circle, rolled the ball to him, with the midfielder side-footing his shot past the Indonesia wall and into the back of the net.

IR Iran went on the offensive immediately after the break and levelled three minutes in off a kick-in from the right of the semi-circle via Abbasi, whose shot deflected off Samuel Eko and past Ahmad.

Parity, however, lasted mere seconds as Indonesia again pulled ahead through Eko, who redeemed himself when he let loose from the edge of the circle past a helpless Mohammadi.

Having to chase the game again, IR Iran intensified their efforts with Aghapour hitting the post in the 33rd minute, Mohammadhossein Derakshani rattling the crossbar from the left two minutes later and Tayebibidgoli then shooting wide of the right post.

They were eventually rewarded as Karimi came to the rescue with the equaliser when, in a power play move, he powered the ball home past Ahmad in the 37th minute to take the game into extra-time.

The Central Asian side dominated the first half, but failed to find the target despite their best efforts.

Replacement goalkeeper Muhammad Nizar was Indonesia's hero in the second, making crucial saves to keep his side in contention.

The stadium then erupted when Israr, off a quick corner by Ardiansyah Nur, put the ball past Mohammadi in the 49th minute.

IR Iran, however, stunned the home fans into silence when they equalised seconds later after Abbasi chested in from close range following Aghapour's powerful strike, sending the match to penalties.

Indonesia's Nizar saved Masoud Yousef's first spot-kick with goalkeeper Mahdi Rostami Ha denying Rizki Amanda's fourth for the hosts before Israr sent Indonesia's sixth kick wide of the post. Hossein Sabzi then coolly converted to give IR Iran the amazing win.

IR Iran's Abbasi was named the Most Valuable Player, Indonesia's Ahmad took the Best Goalkeeper honour while Thailand's Muhammad Osamanmusa was the Top Goalscorer with six goals.

AFC U23 ASIAN CUP SAUDI ARABIA 2026™

The AFC U23 Asian Cup Saudi Arabia 2026™ was held from January 6 to 24, 2026.

Matches were played in the cities of Riyadh and Jeddah, with Japan emerging as champions after defeating China PR 4-0 in the Final at the Prince Abdullah Al Faisal Sports City Stadium in Jeddah.

It was an unprecedented third title for Japan, having also lifted the trophy in 2016 and 2024.

Vietnam clinched third place with a 7-6 penalty shootout defeat of Korea Republic, after the Playoff ended 2-2 following extra-time.

GROUP STAGE

GROUP A

Vietnam topped Group A with a perfect record of three wins, defeating Jordan 2-0, debutants Kyrgyz Republic 2-1 and Saudi Arabia 1-0.

Advancing as the runners-up were Jordan, who beat Saudi Arabia 3-2 and Kyrgyz Republic 1-0 to book their Quarter-final ticket.

GROUP B

Defending champions Japan were peerless in Group C, defeating Syria 5-0, United Arab Emirates 3-0 and Qatar 2-0 to stay on track for a record-extending third title.

Joining them as the runners-up were United Arab Emirates, who sealed their Quarter-final spot with a 2-0 victory against Qatar and 1-1 draw with Syria.

GROUP C

Uzbekistan opened their campaign with a 3-2 win against Lebanon and were then held to a goalless draw by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Chasing a second title, Uzbekistan were back at their best in the Group C decider against Korea Republic, turning on the power in the second half for a 2-0 win that confirmed the top spot.

Korea Republic advanced despite the defeat, with their 0-0 draw with IR Iran and 4-2 defeat of Lebanon enough to take them through.

GROUP D

Australia claimed the Group D top spot with virtually the last kick of the ball as they came from behind to defeat Iraq 2-1 in their concluding match.

Both goals were scored in second-half stoppage time as Australia finished on six points.

China PR took the second Quarter-final spot with five points as the East Asian side advanced to the Knockout Stage for the first time in six attempts.

QUARTER-FINALS

JAPAN 1-1 JORDAN
(A.E.T, JAPAN WON 4-2 ON PENALTIES)

Japan defeated Jordan 4-2 on penalties to advance to the Semi-finals, with the last-eight tie having ended 1-1 after extra-time.

Goalkeeper Rui Araki was the hero, saving two spot-kicks as the defending champions stayed on track for a third title.

Ali Al Azaizeh gave Jordan the lead in the 30th minute with his fourth goal of the tournament.

It was the first goal Japan had conceded in the tournament but the two-time champions had to wait till the 50th minute for the equaliser, with Jordan's Anas Al Khab diverting Shusuke Furuya's grounded effort into his own net.

Both sides failed to find the back of the net for the remaining minutes and in extra-time, with Araki rising to the occasion in the shoot-out – first denying Mohammad Taha's opening spot-kick and then diving the right way to stop Mohammad Al Shatti as Japan took their place in the Semi-finals.

VIETNAM 3-2 UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
(A.E.T)

Vietnam held off a spirited fightback from the United Arab Emirates to advance to the Semi-finals with a 3-2 win after extra-time.

A valiant UAE fought back to level twice, but the tie was finally settled by Pham Minh Phuc in the 101st minute.

After both sides squandered several gilt-edged opportunities, Vietnam opened the scoring in the 39th minute after Nguyen Le Phat tapped home Nguyen Dinh Bac's cross.

It turned out to be a short-lived lead as UAE drew level in the 42nd minute when Junior Ndiaye nodded in from close range after Mansoor Al Memari's initial header had bounced off the top of the bar.

Vietnam restored their lead in the 62nd minute, with Dinh Bac heading Minh Phuc's cross beyond the reach of UAE custodian Khaled Tawhid.

UAE only needed six minutes to equalise again, scoring with a stunning header of their own through Mansoor Al Menhali.

Vietnam upped their tempo but spurned chances to win the tie in the dying minutes of regulation time with Vo Anh Quan's downward header saved by Tawhid before Nguyen Thanh Nhan steered wide from close range as the match went into extra-time.

Vietnam finally put the tie to bed in the 101st minute when Thanh Nhan's waltz into the box was stopped, only for the ball to roll to Minh Phuc, who composed himself before blasting past Tawhid to send his side into the Semi-finals.

UZBEKISTAN 0-0 CHINA PR
(A.E.T, CHINA PR WON 4-2 ON PENALTIES)

Goalkeeper Li Hao starred for China PR as they defeated Uzbekistan 4-2 on penalties to advance to the Semi-finals, with their last eight tie ending in a goalless draw after extra-time.

Li made eight saves during the match, with Uzbekistan having dominated the tie but unable to find a way through despite 28 shots, eight of which were on target.

China PR, who had no shots on goal, proved sharper in the penalty shoot-out, converting four of their five attempts with Li then denying Dilshod Abdullaev's spot-kick to take his team into the Semi-finals for the first time.

AUSTRALIA 1-2 KOREA REPUBLIC

Korea Republic edged Australia 2-1 to book their Semi-final spot, with the winning goal scored in the 89th minute of the pulsating last-eight tie.

Both sides went in search of an early goal, with Korea Republic gradually dominating possession.

The 2020 champions' perseverance paid dividends in the 20th minute, with Baek Ga-on finishing Lee Hyun-yong's cross with a stunning volley.

Australia looked to respond and thought they had earned a penalty in the 38th minute when Kang Min-jun was flagged for a handball but the decision was overturned following a VAR review.

Australia were a different side after the break and their aggressive approach paid off in the 51st minute with Jed Drew setting up Luka Jovanovic, who rounded goalkeeper Hong Seong-min and buried the ball in the net.

Aydan Hammond could have completed the comeback for Australia when he was put clear on goal in the 86th minute, only to drill his effort straight at Hong.

It was to prove costly as Shin Min-ha rose highest three minutes later to power home Kang Seong-jin's corner to seal the win for Korea Republic.

SEMI-FINALS

JAPAN 1-0 KOREA REPUBLIC

Japan held off a strong fightback from Korea Republic to advance to the Final with a 1-0 win.

In a match of two halves, Japan dominated the first 45 minutes with Korea Republic dictating terms after the break.

Japan's Yutaka Michiwaki had the first big chance in the 11th minute after he was sent through by a great pass from defence by Shuto Nagano, but the forward lifted his effort wide of Korea Republic custodian Hong Seong-min's goalmouth.

Michiwaki was again involved in the next Japan chance 13 minutes later, this time running onto Kosei Ogura's through pass but his first touch let him down as Hong safely gathered the ball.

Korea Republic had their first sight at goal two minutes later when Kim Yong-hak got to the end of Kang Seong-jin's free-kick but saw his header clawed away by Rui Araki.

Hong then tipped the ball over following Kaito Koizumi's swerving cross, but it was a momentary reprieve for Korea Republic.

The ensuing corner saw Japan break the deadlock in the 36th minute, with Koizumi tapping home the rebound after Hong could only parry Nagano's header.

It was a different Korea Republic who appeared for the second half with Kang dragging a shot wide from inside the box and Jang Seok-hwan's effort from distance smacking the bar with Rion Ichihara then having to make a last-ditch block to thwart Kim Tae-won.

Goalkeeper Araki then came to Japan's rescue in the 63rd minute, reacting to parry Kang's close range volley after his side failed to clear a corner delivery.

Japan, however, regained their composure and despite Korea Republic's continued dominance, they stayed defensively firm to move within one match of defending their title.

VIETNAM 0-3 CHINA PR

China PR went into overdrive in the second half to beat Vietnam 3-0 and book their place in the Final.

It was a well-deserved victory as China PR dominated the Semi-final, with strikes from Peng Xiao, Xiang Yuwang and Wang Yudong taking them into the Final for the first time.

Vietnam, who had won all four of their preceding matches, went into the Semi-final as the favourites but it was China PR who started on the front foot, with Kuai Jiwen's shot from inside the box blocked by Nguyen Hieu Minh in the fourth minute while Chen Zeshi couldn't get his effort from long range on target.

Another attack saw Vietnam goalkeeper Tran Trung Kien having to go low to deny Xiang's effort from close range in the 15th minute.

Having absorbed the early pressure, Vietnam created a great chance in the 24th minute as Khuat Van Khang forced a brilliant save from Li Hao with his free-kick, with the China PR goalkeeper then having to be at his best to keep out Nguyen Cong Phuong's swiveling shot moments later.

Bao Shengxin wasted a golden opportunity to give China PR the lead in the closing seconds of the first half when he misjudged Yang Xi's cross into the box, with Vietnam almost conceding immediately after the break when Xiang's aggression inside the box almost led to an own goal, with Tran forced to tip Pham Ly Duc's header over the bar.

The ensuing corner, however, saw China PR taking the lead as Peng recovered from being jostled to the ground to nod the ball home past a rooted Vietnam defence.

Boosted by the goal, China PR went in search of a second, with Kuai pulling his effort wide of the left post three minutes later.

The second, however, did arrive in the 52nd minute with Xiang showing composure at the top of the box to control Kuai's pass before wrong-footing three defenders and tucking the ball into the bottom right corner.

China PR thought they had scored their third in the 73rd minute through Peng's deflected effort, only for the goal to be overturned by a VAR review for offside but there was no respite for Vietnam as Pham received a straight red in the aftermath of the disallowed goal.

To their credit, Vietnam kept pushing but it was China PR who scored again in the eighth minute of added time through Wang to advance to the Final in style.

THIRD-PLACE PLAYOFF

VIETNAM 2-2 KOREA REPUBLIC
(A.E.T, VIETNAM WON 7-6 ON PENALTIES)

Vietnam defeated Korea Republic 7-6 on penalties after the third-place playoff ended 2-2 following extra-time.

Vietnam took the lead in the 30th minute when Nguyen Duc Anh intercepted a counter-attack and fed Nguyen Quoc Viet, who played the ball to Nguyen Dinh Bac.

Quoc Viet continued his run and was perfectly placed to receive Dinh Bac's pass to squeeze the ball home from a tight angle past Korea Republic goalkeeper Hwang Jae-yun.

Korea Republic looked sharper after the break and drew level in the 69th after substitute Kim Tae-won picked up a loose ball inside the box and curled his shot past a despairing Cao Van Binh.

Korea Republic's joy was short-lived as Vietnam restored their advantage with Dinh Bac's spectacular free-kick two minutes later, as his strike beat the wall and flew into the bottom right corner of the net.

Dinh Bac, however, endured an early end to the game after he was sent off with four minutes of regulation time remaining for a reckless challenge on Lee Chan-ouk.

Korea Republic looked to capitalise on their numerical advantage and did just that with 15 seconds of added on time remaining when Vietnam failed to deal with a cross into their box, allowing Shin Min-ha time and space to control Lee Hyun-yong's cushioned header to slot the ball into the bottom right corner to force the game into an additional 30 minutes.

Korea Republic, despite dominating possession in extra-time, failed to find the winning goal as the tie went into a penalty shootout.

Both sides converted their first six spot-kicks, with goalkeeper Van Binh then denying Bae Hyun-seo, which allowed Nguyen Thanh Nhan to slam home the winner as Vietnam took third place.

FINAL

CHINA PR 0-4 JAPAN

Japan were at their scintillating best as they cruised 4-0 past China PR in the Final at the Prince Abdullah Al Faisal Sports City Stadium.

A brace from Kosei Ogura and strikes from Yuto Ozeki and Ryunosuke Sato meant Japan became the first team to defend the title and lift the coveted trophy for a third time.

Japan applied pressure from the first blow of the referee's whistle with Brian Nwadike forcing China PR goalkeeper Li Hao into making a save with his strike from close range.

China PR slowly began to see more of the ball but wasted a chance in the seventh minute when Xu Bin sent a cross into the box for Xiang Yuwang, but the forward mistimed his header with the ball falling right into the gloves of Japan goalkeeper Rui Araki.

It was Japan, however, who looked the more threatening and their sustained pressure paid off in the 12th minute when Ozeki converted Shusuke Furuya's cutback, with his powerful drive

deflecting off Peng Xiao and looping over a fully-stretched Li, who was beaten for the first time in the tournament.

Unfortunately for Li, he had to pick the ball out of his net for a second time eight minutes later when China PR failed to deal with Sato's cross, as Ogura pounced on the loose ball and struck it into the bottom left corner.

Japan started the second period with a spring in their step with Ozeki and Kaito Koizumi threatening before China PR conceded a penalty just before the half-hour mark following Liu Haofan's handball, with Sato converting to take his overall tally to four goals.

China PR tried to mount a comeback with Bao Shengxin and Hu Hetao threatening before they had Xiang's 68th-minute effort ruled out for offside, while Wang Yudong squandered another chance, sending the ball over the bar moments later.

In doing so, China PR left the door open in the 76th minute when Yumei Yokoyama's cross into the box fell to Furuya; his miscued attempt was cleared only as far as Ogura, whose shot from distance took a deflection before settling into the bottom right corner as Japan confirmed their victory in style.

Sato was named the Most Valuable Player while teammate Araki picked up the Best Goalkeeper award. Vietnam's Nguyen Binh Dac won the Top Scorer award.

AFC CHAMPIONS LEAGUE ELITE 2025/26™ - PRELIMINARY & LEAGUE STAGE

The AFC Champions League Elite 2025/26™ got underway with the Preliminary Stage on August 12, 2025 before moving on to the League Stage, which was contested between September 15, 2025 and February 18, 2026.

PRELIMINARY STAGE

The first of the two ties in this stage saw Qatar's Al Duhail SC come back strongly after falling behind to Foolad Mobarakeh Sepahan FC, plundering three goals before the break. While the Islamic Republic of Iran visitors managed to pull one back late on, the hosts held on to see out a 3-2 win to progress to the West Region League Stage.

In the East, it was a more straightforward affair as China PR's Chengdu Rongcheng FC eased to a 3-0 victory over Thailand's Bangkok United, with all the goals coming in the second half to seal qualification to the next stage for the Continental debutants.

LEAGUE STAGE

WEST REGION

Al Hilal SFC led a trio of clubs from Saudi Arabia who advanced to the Round of 16 from the League Stage.

For the second consecutive season, Al Hilal topped the West Zone standings, with defending champions Al Ahli Saudi FC finishing second.

A goalless draw with Shabab Al Ahli of the United Arab Emirates denied Al Hilal a perfect record of eight wins.

Al Ahli Saudi had to endure a tougher passage, accumulating 17 points with five wins, two draws and a defeat suffered against UAE's Sharjah FC.

While Tractor FC denied Saudi Arabian sides swept the a top three finish spots last season, they were denied in doing so for the second

consecutive season by Tractor FC, with the Islamic Republic of Iran club finishing level with Al Ahli Saudi but settling for third on goal difference.

Al Ittihad Club overcame a slow start that saw them lose their opening two matches to finish fourth with 15 points.

Al Wahda FC were one of two UAE sides to progress, accumulating 14 points to finish fifth with Shabab Al Ahli three adrift in sixth.

Qatar's Al Duhail SC and Al Sadd SC took the remaining two Round of 16 berths from the West Zone, with both tied on eight points but the latter finishing seventh on superior goal difference.

The Round of 16 saw Al Hilal paired with Al Sadd, Al Ahli Saudi with Al Duhail, Tractor FC with Shabab Al Ahli and Al Ittihad with Al Wahda.

EAST REGION

Japanese clubs flexed their muscles in the East Zone, with all three cruising through the League Stage.

FC Machida Zelvia topped the standings, with the tournament debutants accumulating 17 points from eight matches.

Vissel Kobe finished a point adrift in second, while Sanfrecce Hiroshima completed a top-three sweep with a haul of 15 points.

Buriram United impressed with a fourth-placed finish, with the Thailand champions collecting 14 points.

Melbourne City FC were level on points with Buriram, as the Australian side finished fifth on goals scored difference.

Malaysia's Johor Darul Ta'zim defeated Vissel Kobe 1-0 in their concluding tie to confirm a sixth-place finish.

Korea Republic duo FC Seoul and debutants Gangwon FC took the seventh and eighth spots, with the former garnering 10 points – one more than the latter.

The Round of 16, played in March, saw Machida Zelvia facing Gangwon FC, Vissel Kobe and FC Seoul squaring off, Sanfrecce Hiroshima meeting Johor Darul Ta'zim and Buriram taking on Melbourne City.

AFC CHAMPIONS LEAGUE TWO 2025/26™ – PRELIMINARY STAGE, GROUP STAGE & ROUND OF 16

The AFC Champions League Two 2025/26™ kicked off with the Preliminary Stage on August 13, 2025, while the Group Stage was contested between September 16 and December 24, 2025 and the two-legged Round of 16 played on February 10-12 and February 17-19, 2026.

PRELIMINARY STAGE

Two ties were played in the West Zone, with India's FC Goa defeating Al Seeb Club of Oman 2-1 to advance to the Group Stage, while Turkmenistan's Ahal FC beat FC Regar-TadAZ of Tajikistan 2-1. Over in the East's sole match, Indonesia's Persib Bandung advanced with a 2-1 victory against Manila Digger FC of the Philippines.

GROUP STAGE

Al Wasl FC topped Group A, with the UAE side accumulating 14 points. Joining them as the runners-up were Islamic Republic of Iran's Esteghlal FC, who finished on eight points.

The tightly-contested Group B ended with Qatar's Al Ahli SC and FK Arkadag of Turkmenistan advancing with 10 and seven points respectively.

Al Hussein of Jordan finished with nine points, two ahead of IR Iran's Foolad Mobarakeh Sepahan FC, with both clubs advancing from Group C.

Saudi Arabia's Al Nassr Club topped Group D with a perfect six wins. Iraq's Al Zawraa SC joined them as the runners-up on nine points after finishing ahead of Tajikistan's FC Istiklol on goal difference.

Australia's Macarthur FC topped Group E with 13 points, with Vietnam's Cong An Ha Noi FC five behind in second.

Gamba Osaka of Japan were perfect in Group F with six wins, with Thailand's Ratchaburi FC progressing as the runners-up with nine points – tied with Vietnam's Nam Dinh FC, who were edged on overall goals scored.

Indonesia's Persib Bandung won Group G with 13 points, three ahead of Thailand's Bangkok United.

Singapore's Tampines Rovers FC dominated Group H, finishing on 16 points – three ahead of Korea Republic's FC Pohang Steelers.

ROUND OF 16

FOOLAD MOBARAKEH SEPAHAN FC (IRN) V AL AHLI SC (QAT)

2-2, 0-1 (A.E.T, AL AHLI WON 3-2 ON AGGREGATE)

Qatar's Al Ahli SC edged Foolad Mobarakeh Sepahan SC of the Islamic Republic of Iran 1-0 in extra-time on Wednesday to book their Quarter-final spot.

Tied 2-2 after the first leg, a goalless 90 minutes in the return fixture meant an additional 30 minutes, with Al Ahli finding the winner through Sekou Yansane in the opening seconds of extra-time.

FK ARKADAG (TKM) V AL NASSR CLUB (KSA)
0-1, 0-1 (AL NASSR WON 2-0 ON AGGREGATE)

Al Nassr Club cruised into the Quarter-finals with a 2-0 win on aggregate against Turkmenistan's FK Arkadag.

Abdullah Al Hamddan scored the only goal of the game for the Saudi Arabian side in the first leg, while Abdulrahman Ghareeb netted the winner in the return fixture.

ESTEGHLAL FC (IRN) V AL HUSSEIN (JOR)
0-1, 2-3 (AL HUSSEIN WON 4-2 ON AGGREGATE)

Al Hussein were worthy of their place in the Quarter-finals after triumphing against Islamic Republic of Iran's Esteghlal FC in both legs.

Yousef Abu Jalboush scored the only goal in their 1-0 triumph in the first leg, while strikes from Ali Hajabi, Yousef Abu Al Jazar and Obieda Al Namarnah secured them a 3-2 victory in the return leg.

AL ZAWRAA SC (IRQ) V AL WASL FC (UAE)
3-2, 2-4 (A.E.T, AL WASL WON 6-5 ON AGGREGATE)

Extra-time was needed to settle a thrilling last-16 tie between Al Zawraa SC and Al Wasl FC, with the latter edging to a 6-5 win on aggregate.

Iraq's Al Zawraa SC won the first leg 3-2, with Al Wasl drawing level 5-5 on aggregate through Adryelson's goal in the third minute of second-half added time in the return fixture.
The Brazilian then secured Al Wasl's place in the Quarter-finals with his goal in the 109th minute.

CONG AN HA NOI FC (VIE) V TAMPINES ROVERS FC (SGP)
0-3, 1-3 (TAMPINES WON 6-1 ON AGGREGATE)

Tampines Rovers FC advanced to the Quarter-finals with a 6-1 win on aggregate against Cong An Ha Noi FC.

The Vietnamese side won the first leg 4-0 but were subsequently penalised for fielding two ineligible players, with their Singaporean opponents awarded a 3-0 victory by default.

Tampines then turned on the power in the return leg to cruise to a 3-1 win, helped by a brace from Hide Higashikawa.

RATCHABURI FC (THA) V PERSIB BANDUNG (IDN)

3-0, 0-1 (RATCHABURI WON 3-1 ON AGGREGATE)

Thailand's Ratchaburi FC completed the job in the first leg, with a brace from Tana and one goal from Gabriel Mutombo sealing a comfortable advantage.

Indonesia's Persib Bandung gave it their all in the return leg, but could only find one goal back through Andrew Jung as Ratchaburi advanced.

BANGKOK UNITED (THA) V MACARTHUR FC (AUS)

2-0, 2-2 (BANGKOK WON 4-2 ON AGGREGATE)

Bangkok United deservedly booked their Quarter-final ticket after showing great determination over both legs against Australia's Macarthur FC.

Goals from Ilias Alhaft and Arthur sealed a 2-0 win in the first leg and Muhsen Al Ghassani struck twice in the first half of the return fixture to confirm their spot, with Macarthur only managing to reduce the deficit through Walter Scott and Harry Sawyer.

FC POHANG STEELERS (KOR) V GAMBA OSAKA (JPN)

1-1, 1-2 (GAMBA WON 3-2 ON AGGREGATE)

Gamba Osaka maximised home ground advantage to advance to the last eight after holding Korea Republic's FC Pohang Steelers FC to a 1-1 draw in the first leg.

First-half goals from Deniz Hummet and Ryoya Yamashita gave the Japanese side a comfortable lead in the return leg, with Pohang only managing to pull one back through Kento Nishiya.

The Quarter-finals pitted Al Wasl against Al Nassr, Al Ahli with Al Hussein, Gamba Osaka playing Ratchaburi FC and Bangkok United taking on Tampines Rovers.

AFC CHALLENGE LEAGUE 2025/26™ - PRELIMINARY & GROUP STAGE

The Preliminary Stage of the AFC Challenge League 2025/26™ was played on August 12, 2025 and the Group Stage was contested between October 25 and November 1, 2025.

PRELIMINARY STAGE

Nine one-off games were played, with the winners advancing to join 11 direct entrants in the Group Stage.

In the West Zone, Bashundhara Kings of Bangladesh edged Syria's Al Karamah SC 1-0, Bhutan's Paro FC defeated Abu Muslim Farah FC of Afghanistan by the same scoreline, FC Abdysh-Ata of Kyrgyz Republic cruised 5-2 past Syria's Hutteen SC, Kuwait's Al Arabi SC strolled past Maziya Sports & RC of Maldives 4-0, and FC Muras United of Kyrgyz Republic saw off Bangladesh's Abahani Limited Dhaka 2-0.

In the East Zone, Cambodia's Phnom Penh Crown FC stormed to a 6-0 win over Brunei Darussalam's Kasuka FC, Mongolia's SP Falcons FC defeated Taichung Futuro FC of Chinese Taipei 3-1 while Laos' Ezra FC beat Myanmar's Yangon United FC 5-3 on penalties after their tie ended 1-1. And finally, Tainan City FC clinched the last ticket with a 4-1 win against Mongolia's Khangarid FC.

GROUP STAGE

The Group Stage was played in five centralised venues – three in the West Zone and two in the East Zone.

The three West Zone group winners and best second-placed side advanced to the Quarterfinals, while the top two sides from the East Zone progressed.

Al Shabab Club were peerless in Group A, which was played in Thimphu, Bhutan, with the Omani side defeating Paro FC of Bhutan 1-0, Kyrgyz Republic's FC Abdysh-Ata 2-1 and Altyn Asyr FC of Turkmenistan 3-1.

Group B was a much tighter affair, with host club Kuwait SC taking the top spot with seven points. They opened their campaign with a 3-2 defeat of Lebanon's Al Ansar FC and then settled for a 1-1 draw with Oman's Al Seeb Club. A 2-0 win over Bangladesh's Bashundhara Kings confirmed first place.

Al Ansar, who defeated Bashundhara Kings 3-0 and Al Seeb 2-1 advanced to the Quarter-finals as the best second-placed side across the three West Zone groups.

Kyrgyz Republic's FC Muras United topped Group C by the slimmest of margins, finishing ahead of Kuwait's Al Arabi SC on goal difference with both clubs accumulating five points. Host club Muras United opened their campaign with a goalless draw with Tajikistan's FC Regar-TadAZ, then beat Lebanon's Safa SC 2-0 and drew 1-1 with Al Arabi to advance.

In the East Zone's Group D, Cambodia's Preah Khan Reach Svay Rieng FC and Manila Digger FC of the Philippines booked their Quarter-final spots with a match to spare.

The 2024/25 runners-up, host club Svay Rieng defeated Mongolia's SP Falcons FC 3-0 and Laos' Ezra FC 3-0, and drew 2-2 with Manila Digger to finish top via goal difference. Manila Digger beat Ezra FC 3-1 and SP Falcons 2-0.

Indonesia's Dewa United FC and Cambodia's Phnom Penh Crown FC advanced from Group E, with both finishing on seven points.

Host club Dewa United, who topped the group on goal difference, drew 1-1 with Phnom Penh Crown before beating Chinese Taipei's Tainan City FC 4-0 and Myanmar's Shan United FC 4-1. Phnom Penh Crown defeated Shan United 3-1 and Tainan City 3-2.

The Quarter-finals and Semi-finals were set to be played in early 2026.

AFC WOMEN'S CHAMPIONS LEAGUE 2025/26™ - PRELIMINARY & GROUP STAGE

AFC WOMEN'S CHAMPIONS LEAGUE™

The Preliminary Stage of the AFC Women's Champions League 2025/26™ was held on August 25-31, 2025 while the Group Stage was played on November 9-23, 2025.

PRELIMINARY STAGE

The 19 clubs were divided into five groups with matches played in centralised venues.

Group A, which was contested in Yangon, saw ISPE WFC of Myanmar finishing top with a perfect record of three wins.

PFC Nasaf were the standout club in Group B, with the Uzbekistan side also winning all three of their matches.

Singapore's Lion City Sailors FC were unmatched in Group C, taking maximum points from their three matches.

DPR Korea's Naegohyang Women's FC, making their continental debut, also won their three matches in Group D with 23 goals scored and none conceded.

India's East Bengal registered a win and a draw in the three-club Group E to advance to the Group Stage.

Philippines outfit Stallion Laguna FC qualified for the Group Stage as the best second-placed club across the five groups.

GROUP STAGE

The top two clubs from each of the three groups and two best third-placed sides advanced to the Quarter-finals.

Australia's Melbourne City FC topped Group A, with last season's runners-up winning all three of their matches, scoring 15 goals and conceding none.

Ho Chi Minh City Women's FC advanced as the runners-up, with the Vietnamese side accumulating six points.

Defending champions Wuhan Jiangda Women's FC booked their Quarter-final ticket after topping Group B with seven points.

Joining them in the Quarter-finals were Uzbekistan's PFC Nasaf, who finished as runners-up with four points.

Tokyo Verdy Beleza were the standout club in Group C, with the Japanese side finishing top with seven points.

DPR Korea's Naegohyang Women's FC emerged as the runners-up after notching six points.

Advancing on the best third-placed tickets were the Philippines' Stallion Laguna FC (Group A) and Suwon FC Women (Group C) of Korea Republic.

The Quarter-finals were scheduled for March 28-29, 2026 with the centralised Semi-finals and Final to be played between May 20 and 23, 2026.

AFC ASIAN QUALIFIERS – ROAD TO 26™ PLAYOFFS KNOCKOUT STAGE

Iraq booked their place at the FIFA Playoff Tournament after defeating United Arab Emirates in the AFC Asian Qualifiers – Road to 26™ Playoffs Knockout Stage.

The first leg at the Mohammed Bin Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi on November 13 ended in a 1-1 draw, with UAE's Luanzinho cancelling out Ali Al Hamadi's strike.

That set the stage for an exciting return leg five days later at the Basra International Stadium, with UAE silencing the home fans after taking the lead through Caio Lucas in the 52nd minute.

Iraq, however, forced their way back into the tie through Mohanad Ali's 66th-minute equaliser. Victory was clinched in the 17th minute of time added on at the end of the second half, with Amir Al Ammari converting from the penalty spot.

Iraq were drawn to face either Bolivia or Suriname in a single, winner-takes-all FIFA Playoff Tournament tie in March for a place at the FIFA World Cup 2026.

AFC ASIAN QUALIFIERS – ROAD TO 26™ PLAYOFFS GROUP STAGE

The AFC Asian Qualifiers – Road to 26™ Playoffs Group Stage were held from October 8 to 14 with the six teams divided into two groups.

Qatar (Group A) and Saudi Arabia (Group B) booked their tickets to the FIFA World Cup 2026, joining Australia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Jordan, Korea Republic and Uzbekistan at the global showpiece.

Qatar topped Group A with four points, sharing a goalless draw with Oman before defeating United Arab Emirates 2-1.

Saudi Arabia opened their Group B campaign with a 3-2 win against Indonesia, who then lost 1-0 to Iraq. That set up an exciting finale with Saudi Arabia holding off Iraq to force a goalless draw, which confirmed their seat at the FIFA World Cup on goal difference.

UAE and Iraq, having finished runners-up in their respective groups, advanced to the AFC Asian Qualifiers – Road to 26™ Playoffs Knockout Stage.

AFC ASIAN CUP SAUDI ARABIA 2027™ QUALIFIERS – FINAL ROUND

AFC ASIAN CUP Saudi Arabia 2027™
QUALIFIERS

Just one matchday remains in the AFC Asian Cup Saudi Arabia 2027™ Qualifiers Final Round, with three group winners already decided.

Only the six group winners will advance, joining the 18 teams who featured in the AFC Asian Qualifiers – Road to 26™.

Group A will go down to the wire, with Tajikistan and the Philippines tied on 13 points and set to meet on Matchday Six.

Lebanon and Yemen will square off for Group B's top spot with the former on 13 points, two ahead of their opponents.

Singapore confirmed their status as Group C winners after coming from behind to defeat Hong Kong, China on Matchday Five, with the Southeast Asian side qualifying for the Finals on merit for the first time.

Thailand will host Turkmenistan on Matchday Six to decide the Group D winners, with both teams on 12 points.

Syria confirmed their ticket to the Finals from Group E on Matchday Four, with the West Asian side having a perfect record of five wins.

In Group F, Vietnam have claimed top spot to secure a place at the Continental flagship for a fourth occasion.

AFC U17 ASIAN CUP SAUDI ARABIA 2026™ QUALIFIERS

The AFC U17 Asian Cup Saudi Arabia 2026™ Qualifiers were played on November 22-30, 2026.

The 38 teams were divided into seven groups, with only the top team from each joining Asia's representatives from the FIFA U-17 World Cup Qatar 2025 – DPR Korea, Indonesia, Japan, Korea Republic, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan, United Arab Emirates and Uzbekistan – at the Finals.

China PR topped Group A with a perfect record of five wins, with Yemen following suit in Group B by sealing their place with a come-from-behind 4-2 win against Laos.

Vietnam were untouchable in Group C as they too registered five wins to advance. India pipped Islamic Republic of Iran to win Group D, with the South Asian side coming from behind to win the deciding tie between the two teams 2-1. The victory catapulted India to the top of the standings on the head-to-head criteria after both finished with seven points.

Australia had to stave off a spirited fightback from Iraq in their final match to secure Group E's top spot, while Thailand emerged first in a tight Group F, advancing ahead of Turkmenistan and Kuwait after all three finished on nine points.

Myanmar sealed a return to the Finals for the first time since 2006 after a hard-fought 2-2 draw with Syria, which earned them the 10th point of their campaign and their ticket to the Finals.

The 21st edition of the Finals will be contested on May 5-22, 2026.

AFC U17 WOMEN'S ASIAN CUP CHINA 2026™ QUALIFIERS

AFC U17 WOMEN'S ASIAN CUP™ CHINA 2026
QUALIFIERS

The AFC U17 Women's Asian Cup China 2026™ Qualifiers were held on October 13-17, 2025.

The 28 teams were divided into eight groups with only the winners advancing to the Finals, joining the four AFC representatives from the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup Morocco 2025 – DPR Korea, Japan, Korea Republic and hosts China PR – in the tournament, which has been expanded from eight to 12 teams.

The Philippines advanced from Group A, qualifying for their second successive Finals with a perfect nine points. Lebanon took Group B's top spot, finishing on seven points – one ahead of Islamic Republic of Iran, whom they defeated in the final match.

Myanmar won Group C with two victories, sealing a return to the Finals with their only previous appearance being in the 2009 edition. Vietnam were perfect in Group D with two wins, while Australia confirmed a fourth consecutive appearance in the Finals by easily topping Group E with two victories.

Thailand maintained their fine record of having competed in every edition by winning Group F. India, whose only previous appearance was in the inaugural edition in 2005, came from behind in their final match to defeat Uzbekistan 2-1 and win Group G.

Chinese Taipei confirmed a first appearance at the Finals since 2015 by cruising to top spot in Group H with two wins from as many matches.

The 10th edition of the AFC U17 Women's Asian Cup™, to be hosted by China PR for a fourth occasion, will take place on May 1-17, 2026.

AFC FUTSAL ASIAN CUP INDONESIA 2026™ QUALIFIERS

A total of 31 teams – divided into eight groups – competed in the AFC Futsal Asian Cup Indonesia 2026™ Qualifiers.

Group D was played on October 18-22, while the remaining groups were contested on September 20-24.

Australia (Group A), Thailand (Group B), four-time champions Japan (Group C), Iraq (Group D), Vietnam (Group E), Kyrgyz Republic (Group F), titleholders and 13-time winners Islamic Republic of Iran (Group G) and Afghanistan (Group H) advanced as group winners, joining hosts Indonesia.

Also through as the best runners-up were seven teams: Kuwait (Group A), Korea Republic (Group B), Tajikistan (Group C), Saudi Arabia (Group D), Lebanon (Group E), Uzbekistan (Group F) and Malaysia (Group G).

At the Final Draw held on November 5, 2025, Indonesia were drawn in Group A alongside Iraq, Kyrgyz Republic and Korea Republic. Thailand, runners-up in the previous edition, were pooled with Vietnam, Kuwait and Lebanon in Group B.

Four-time champions Japan were drawn in Group C with Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Australia. Thirteen-time champions IR Iran were pooled in Group D with Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia and Malaysia.

The AFC Futsal Asian Cup Indonesia 2026™ was contested from January 27 to February 7, 2026.

AFC U23 ASIAN CUP SAUDI ARABIA 2026™ QUALIFIERS

AFC U23 ASIAN CUP SAUDI ARABIA 2026 QUALIFIERS

The Qualifiers for the AFC U23 Asian Cup Saudi Arabia 2026™ were held from September 3 to 9, 2025.

The 44 teams were divided into 11 groups, with all group winners and four best runners-up overall booking their tickets to join hosts and 2022 champions Saudi Arabia at the Finals, scheduled for January 6 to 24, 2026.

Jordan advanced after a flawless performance in Group A, with the West Asian side finishing with nine points. Current holders Japan advanced as Group B winners, also navigating their campaign with three wins.

Vietnam – runners-up in 2018 – were equally dominant in Group C with three wins while Australia topped Group D ahead of China PR on goal difference, after both finished on seven points.

Kyrgyz Republic confirmed a debut appearance at the Finals after emerging as Group E winners, pipping 2018 winners Uzbekistan to top spot on goal difference with both teams garnering seven points.

Thailand's Matchday Three win against Malaysia sealed Group F's top spot ahead of Lebanon, with both teams accumulating seven points. Iraq, inaugural champions in 2013, won Group G with seven points while Qatar emerged as Group H winners with a perfect nine points.

Islamic Republic of Iran, who missed the previous edition, confirmed a return to the Finals as Group I winners with three wins, while 2020 champions Korea Republic topped Group J with a perfect record.

China PR (Group D), Uzbekistan (Group E), Lebanon (Group F) and the United Arab Emirates (Group I) qualified as the best second-placed teams, with Lebanon also set to make their Finals debut.

The Final Draw was held on October 2, 2025 with hosts Saudi Arabia having Vietnam, Jordan and Kyrgyz Republic for company in Group A.

Two-time champions Japan were drawn in Group B with Qatar, UAE and Syria. Uzbekistan and Korea Republic were drawn in Group C with IR Iran and Lebanon, while Iraq were pooled with Australia, Thailand and China PR in Group D.

AFC U20 WOMEN'S ASIAN CUP THAILAND 2026™ QUALIFIERS

The Qualifiers for the AFC U20 Women's Asian Cup Thailand 2026™ were held from August 6 to 10, 2025.

The 32 teams were divided into eights groups with 11 teams – the eight group winners and three best runners-up – joining hosts Thailand at the Finals, scheduled for April 1-18, 2026.

Defending champions DPR Korea were perfect in Group A, finishing top with nine points. Vietnam were equally dominant in Group B, winning all three matches, as did Australia in Group C.

India edged Myanmar 1-0 on Matchday Three to top Group D, with the South Asian side sealing a place at the Finals for the first time in 20 years. China PR, champions in 2006, were unstoppable in Group E, winning all three matches.

Six-time winners Japan easily topped Group F with three wins, scoring a total of 32 goals and conceding none. Uzbekistan were the Group G winners, finishing ahead of Jordan on goal difference after both garnered seven points. Korea Republic, who lifted the trophy in 2004 and 2013, sealed Group H's top spot with three wins.

Advancing as the three best runners-up were Chinese Taipei (Group C), Jordan (Group G) and Bangladesh (Group H), with Bangladesh set to appear at the Finals for the first time.

The Final Draw was conducted on November 10, 2025 and saw hosts Thailand joined by China PR, Vietnam and Bangladesh in Group A.

Reigning champions DPR Korea were drawn in Group B alongside Korea Republic, Uzbekistan and Jordan, while Japan were pooled with Australia, Chinese Taipei and India in Group C.

AFC WOMEN'S ASIAN CUP AUSTRALIA 2026™ QUALIFIERS

AFC WOMEN'S ASIAN CUP AUSTRALIA 2026™
QUALIFIERS

The AFC Women's Asian Cup Australia 2026™ Qualifiers were held from June 23 to July 19, 2025.

The 34 teams were divided into eight groups – two groups of five and six groups of four.

Group winners Islamic Republic of Iran (Group A), India (Group B), Bangladesh (Group C), Chinese Taipei (Group D), Vietnam (Group E), Uzbekistan (Group F), Philippines (Group G) and DPR Korea (Group H) qualified for the Finals, joining hosts Australia, alongside the top three finishers from the AFC Women's Asian Cup India 2022™ – defending champions China PR, runners-up Korea Republic, and third-placed Japan, who all earned automatic qualification.

GROUP A

Islamic Republic of Iran booked a second successive appearance at the Finals after topping a tightly contested Group A.

Having kicked off their campaign with wins over Singapore (4-0) and Bhutan (7-1), IR Iran found themselves on the back foot after suffering a 3-1 defeat to Lebanon on Matchday Three, a result which meant they had to defeat Jordan in their final fixture to qualify.

With three wins, Jordan entered the tie as favourites but IR Iran turned on the power as second-half strikes from Sara Didar and Negin Zandi earned them a 2-1 win and a place in the Finals.

GROUP B

India were the standout team in Group B, registering four wins to claim their ticket to the Finals in style.

They kicked off with a 13-0 win over Mongolia, which was followed by victories against Timor-Leste (4-0) and Iraq (5-0). That set up a top-of-the-table clash with hosts Thailand, who had also won their earlier three matches.

India, however, proved to be the more clinical side as a brace from Sangita Basfore clinched a 2-1 win and saw the South Asian side earn a ticket to the Finals for the first time on merit since the introduction of the Qualifiers.

GROUP C

Bangladesh created history by sealing qualification from Group B to earn their Finals debut.

The South Asians started their campaign in resounding fashion, defeating Bahrain 7-0. That set the stage for a showdown with Myanmar, who had beaten Turkmenistan 8-0 in their opening tie.

Ritu Porna Chakma emerged as Bangladesh's star, scoring twice with Myanmar notching a consolation through win in the 89th minute.

Bangladesh's qualification was confirmed following Matchday Two's second game, which ended in a 2-2 draw between Turkmenistan and Bahrain.

They turned on the style in their final match, beating Turkmenistan 7-0 to conclude their campaign with a perfect record. Bangladesh's qualification was confirmed following Matchday Two's second game, which ended in a 2-2 draw between Turkmenistan and Bahrain.

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GROUP D

Three-time winners Chinese Taipei cruised to top spot in Group D with a perfect record.

The East Asian side defeated Pakistan 8-0 in their opening tie, which was followed by a 3-0 defeat of Kyrgyz Republic.

Liu Yu-Chiao scored the winner in the 2-1 triumph against Indonesia as the East Asians ended their qualifying campaign in impressive fashion.

GROUP E

Vietnam were unstoppable in Group E, notching three wins to claim first place.

A 7-0 defeat of Maldives got their campaign underway, while the United Arab Emirates suffered a 6-0 loss against the hosts on Matchday Two.

Guam stood in their way in the concluding tie but Vietnam were not to be denied their spot in the Finals, cruising to a 4-0 win.

GROUP F

Uzbekistan booked a spot at the Finals after a thrilling penalty shoot-out win against Nepal on Matchday Three.

Uzbekistan had defeated Sri Lanka 10-0 and Laos 7-0 in their earlier matches, while Nepal beat Laos 9-0 and Sri Lanka 8-0.

Level on points and goal difference going into the tie, Uzbekistan looked to be home and dry after taking a 3-1 lead by the 39th minute.

Nozimakhon Ergasheva's sending off in first-half stoppage time, however, gave Nepal an opportunity to fight back and the South Asian side did exactly just that with Sabitra Bhandari, who scored in the first half, adding her second after Gita Rana had reduced arrears, as the match ended 3-3.

There was heartbreak for Nepal in the shootout with Bhandari and goalkeeper Anjana Rana Magar missing their efforts as Uzbekistan sealed a return to the Finals for the first time since 2003.

GROUP G

The Philippines sealed a third consecutive appearance at the Finals with a dominant performance in Group G.

The Southeast Asian side, whose Semi-final showing at the AFC Women's Asian Cup India 2022™ booked them an inaugural berth at the FIFA Women's World Cup, defeated Saudi Arabia 3-0 in their opening tie.

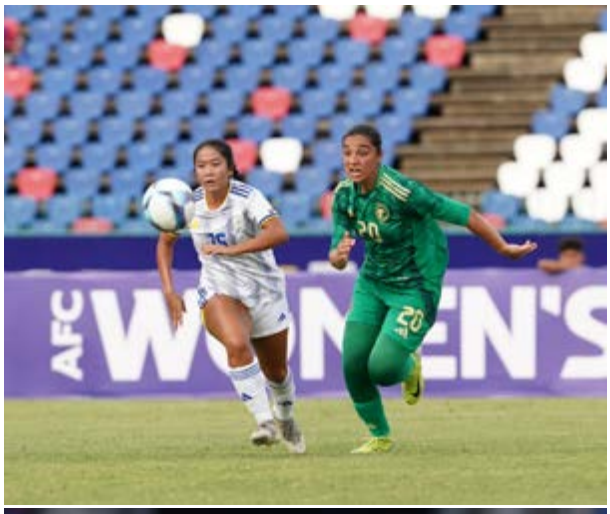
They were even more emphatic against Cambodia, cruising to a 6-0 win before a 1-0 defeat of Hong Kong, China saw them finish with a perfect record.

GROUP H

DPR Korea sealed a return to the Finals for the first time since 2010 with three impressive wins in Group H.

The three-time champions defeated Tajikistan and Palestine by 10-0 margins, with Malaysia their final opponents.

The Southeast Asian side went into the tie with a perfect record, having defeated Palestine and Tajikistan by 1-0 margins but found DPR Korea simply too strong as the East Asian side netted six unanswered goals.



The Final Draw was held on July 29, 2025 at the Sydney Town Hall, with the 12 teams divided into three groups.

Hosts Australia were drawn in Group A alongside Korea Republic, IR Iran and the Philippines.

DPR Korea, record nine-time champions China PR, debutants Bangladesh and Uzbekistan were drawn in Group B, while top-seeded Japan had Vietnam, India and Chinese Taipei for company in Group C.

The top two teams from each group and the two best third-placed sides advanced to the Quarter-finals. The four Semi-finalists booked their tickets to the FIFA Women's World Cup Brazil 2027, while the losing sides from the Quarter-finals advanced to the playoffs, where two more spots at the global showpiece were at stake.

AFC ASIAN QUALIFIERS – ROAD TO 26™

The AFC Asian Qualifiers – Road to 26™ were contested between September 5, 2024 and June 10, 2025.

The 18 teams were divided into three groups, with the top two from each earning automatic qualification to the FIFA World Cup 2026.

The third and fourth-placed sides advanced to the next stage of qualifying, where an additional two tickets to the global showpiece were on offer.

GROUP A

Islamic Republic of Iran and Uzbekistan secured automatic qualification from Group A, with both teams having dominated from the start.

While it was IR Iran's fourth consecutive and seventh overall qualification, Uzbekistan created history by earning a FIFA World Cup ticket for the first time.

Both sides went into the final four fixtures comfortably placed, with IR Iran defeating United Arab Emirates 2-0 on Matchday Seven and the 2-2 draw with Uzbekistan in their next match confirmed their spot at the Finals with two matches to spare.

They closed out their qualifying campaign with a 1-0 defeat to Qatar and a 3-0 win over DPR Korea.

Uzbekistan defeated Kyrgyz Republic 1-0 on Matchday Seven and their subsequent stalemate with IR Iran left them well placed for qualification going into the final two matches in June.

A goalless draw with UAE on June 5 confirmed a historic first appearance at the Finals and Timur Kapadze's side concluded the campaign with a 3-0 win over Qatar.

IR Iran topped Group A with 23 points, with Uzbekistan two behind. UAE (15) and Qatar (13) advanced to the next stage of qualifying, with Kyrgyz Republic finishing fifth on eight points and DPR Korea sixth with three.

GROUP B

Korea Republic qualified for an 11th consecutive and 12th overall FIFA World Cup by topping Group B.

Jordan, meanwhile, created history as their second-placed finish meant an inaugural appearance at the global showpiece.

Having ended 2024 with two consecutive draws, Korea Republic were aiming to return to winning ways when the Qualifiers resumed in March 2025 but had to settle for 1-1 stalemates with Oman and Jordan.

That left them with a bit of work to do on the final two matchdays in June and Hong Myung-bo's side responded in fine fashion with victories against Iraq

(2-0) and Kuwait (4-0) to ensure they continued the nation's incredible qualification streak.

Jordan, who impressed in their run to the AFC Asian Cup Qatar 2023™ Final, had to work much harder but they persevered to end their wait.

They resumed their campaign in March 2025 with a 3-1 win against Palestine and the 1-1 draw with Korea Republic.

Crucially, closest challengers Iraq only managed to pick up one point from the March fixtures and that proved vital on Matchday Nine, with Jordan's 3-0 defeat of Oman confirming their spot in the FIFA World Cup 2026.

They ended their campaign with a 1-0 defeat to Iraq, finishing on 16 points – six behind group winners Korea Republic.

Iraq (15) and Oman (11) advanced to the next stage of qualifying while Palestine – with 10 points – finished fifth and Kuwait sixth on five points.

GROUP C

Japan and Australia qualified for the FIFA World Cup 2026 as the top two teams from Group C, with Saudi Arabia and Indonesia advancing to the next stage of qualification.

Japan continued from where they left off in 2024, defeating Bahrain 2-0 on Matchday Seven to confirm an eighth consecutive appearance at the FIFA World Cup – achieving qualification with three matches to spare.

The Samurai Blue closed out their campaign with a 0-0 draw with Saudi Arabia, a 1-0 defeat against Australia and a 6-0 win against Indonesia to finish on 23 points.

Australia, who made a poor start to qualifying, recovered to finish second – four points behind Japan. A 5-1 win against Indonesia and 2-0 triumph against China PR left Tony Popovic's side in the driver's seat to join Japan.

The 1-0 win over Japan on Matchday Nine sealed qualification to a sixth consecutive FIFA World Cup before the Socceroos edged Saudi Arabia 2-1 in their concluding fixture.

Saudi Arabia finished third with 13 points, with Indonesia one behind as both advanced to the next stage of qualifying.

AFC WOMEN'S CHAMPIONS LEAGUE 2024/25™

The AFC Women's Champions League 2024/25™ kicked off with the centralised Preliminary Stage on August 25-31, 2024.

The clubs were divided into four groups with only the top side from each advancing to the Group Stage, with eight other clubs having sealed automatic qualification.

The centralised Group Stage was played on October 3-12, 2024 with the top two sides from each of the three groups and the two best third-placed clubs overall advancing to the Quarter-finals.

The Knockout Stage draw was conducted at the AFC House in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on January 8, 2025, with the Quarter-finals played in a single leg format.

The Semi-finals and Final were contested in the centralised venue of Wuhan on May 21-24, with all ties single-leg affairs.

QUARTER-FINALS

HYUNDAI STEEL RED ANGELS WOMEN'S FC (KOR) 1-0 BAM KHATOON FC (IRN)

Kim Myeong-jin came off the bench to secure Hyundai Steel Red Angels Women's FC a 1-0 win over Bam Khatoon FC in their Quarter-final.

The Korea Republic side tested their opponents as early as the third minute with Kim So-eun seeing her volleyed attempt saved by Raha Yazdani, who later comfortably gathered Ko Yoo-jin's header from inside the box.

Islamic Republic of Iran's Bam Khatoon gradually got into their stride and almost stunned the Red Angels in the eighth minute after Negin Zandi collected Mona Hamoudi's pass before rattling the left post with her long-range effort.

Bam Khatoon threatened again five minutes later with Melika Motevalli angling her header off a set-piece, which forced Kim Min-jung into making a fingertip save.

The Iranians were let off in the 23rd minute after Kim So-eun surged down the right before sending a delightful cross for Yuka Toriumi, whose goal was disallowed for handball.

The Red Angels went on the offensive in the second half but were left frustrated by Bam Khatoon's resolute defending, with captain Jang Chang's left-footed shot cleared off the line by Sarshin Kamangar.

However, Bam Khatoon's resistance was finally broken in the 81st minute after a lapse in concentration allowed Haruhi Suzuki to send a deft lob to substitute Kim Myeong-jin, who controlled the ball with her chest before slotting home the winner.

MELBOURNE CITY FC (AUS) 3-0 TAICHUNG BLUE WHALE WOMEN'S FOOTBALL CLUB (TPE)

Melbourne City FC cruised to a 3-0 win over Chinese Taipei's Taichung Blue Whale Women's Football Club, setting up a Semi-final showdown with Hyundai Steel Red Angels Women's FC of Korea Republic.

Melbourne City got off to a bright start when Alexia Apostolakis's fourth-minute corner kick took a bounce across the face of goal, with Mariana Speckmaier steering Taylor Otto's flick at the near post into the back of the net.

The Australian side continued to dominate possession against a defensive Taichung Blue Whale and came close to scoring again at the half-hour mark, with Holly McNamara forcing a brilliant save from goalkeeper Tsai Ming-Jung.

Taichung Blue Whale had their first look on goal in the 39th minute with Maho Tanaka shooting from distance into the arms of Melbourne City custodian Malena Garcia.

Melbourne City's high pressing game led to their second goal in the 44th minute after Rhianna Pollicina played the ball deep for McNamara, whose low cross from the left flank was deflected into the back of the net by the unfortunate Li Pei-Jung.

Chasing a two-goal deficit, Taichung Blue Whale ventured forward in the second half but their plan backfired when Tsai conceded a penalty in the 63rd minute after bringing down McNamara, who made no mistake from the spot.

Taichung Blue Whale conceded another penalty in the 78th minute after substitute Emilia Murray pounced on a poor back pass from Lin Yu-Syuan before being felled by Tsai. The Chinese Taipei goalkeeper, however, went the right way to deny Leticia McKenna from the spot.

Tanaka came close to scoring for Taichung Blue Whale in the 82nd minute after the midfielder weaved into the box before striking a powerful shot, which was initially fumbled by Garcia before she recovered to gather the ball on the line as Melbourne City saw out the remaining minutes comfortably.

HO CHI MINH CITY WOMEN'S FC (VIE) 5-4 ABU DHABI COUNTRY CLUB (UAE)

An amazing comeback saw Ho Chi Minh City Women's FC defeat Abu Dhabi Country Club 5-4 in a thrilling Quarter-final.

Trailing 3-0 at the break and then 4-2, Vietnam's Ho Chi Minh City fought back to roar to victory.

Ho Chi Minh City had to withstand early pressure from Abu Dhabi with Rashida Ibrahim pulling a shot just wide off the right post before the home side's defence was breached shortly after.

The goal came after some brilliant work by Princella Adubea, who collected Ibrahim's pass before unleashing a piledriver from distance into the bottom left corner in the third minute.

The advantage was doubled in the 15th minute after Salha Al Zaabi's long-range effort struck the bar, with the rebound falling kindly for Toorfah Al Ghafri to slot the ball home from close range. In the second minute of added time, Eugenia Tetteh nodded home Adubea's cross from the right to make it three.

A determined Ho Chi Minh City upped their tempo after the break and came close to reducing the deficit in the 60th minute when Aubrey Goodwill struck the bar from inside the box.

An injury to Al Ghafri then gave Ho Chi Minh City the edge in the 63rd minute, with K' Thua scoring from close range off a poor clearance from Fatima Jassem.

Ho Chi Minh City scored their second goal four minutes later courtesy off Chuong Thi Kieu's glancing header, but Abu Dhabi came back fighting with Tetteh netting in the 74th after Naeema Ibrahim dispossessed Nguyen Thi Kim Yen before supplying a cross for the Ghanaian midfielder.

Their joy was cut short two minutes later when Tran Nguyen Bao Chau struck from long range to beat goalkeeper Jeane Bueno before Ngo Thi Hong Nhung drew Ho Chi Minh level in the 83rd minute with her lob from just above the box.

A buoyant Ho Chi Minh City applied further pressure and forced Abu Dhabi into conceding an own goal in the 90th minute when Ghanima Al Zaabi inadvertently headed Ngo Thi Hong Nhung's cross into her own net to complete an incredible turnaround.

URAWA RED DIAMONDS LADIES (JPN) 0-0 WUHAN JIANGDA WOMEN'S FC (CHN) *(A.E.T, WUHAN JIANGDA WON 6-5 ON PENALTIES)*

Wuhan Jiangda Women's FC of China PR edged Urawa Red Diamonds Ladies of Japan 6-5 on penalties in their Quarter-final, with the match having ended 0-0 after 120 minutes.

Substitute keeper Chen Chen was the star of the shootout, saving twice as Wuhan Jiangda booked a Semi-final meeting with Ho Chi Minh City Women's FC of Vietnam.

Urawa, who scored an impressive 21 goals and conceded none in the Group Stage, were let off the hook in the fifth minute after Wuhan's Song Fei sent a long ball for Tereza Engesha, who outmuscled her marker down the right flank before seeing her shot parried away by Sakiko Ikeda.

The Japanese side almost broke through five minutes later when Reina Nagashima floated a cross into the box for Mei Shimada, who failed to make contact, with the ball then taking a bounce before missing the right post by a whisker.

Urawa had a half chance in the 33rd minute but Wuhan Jiangda kept cool with Wu Haiyan intercepting Yuzuho Shiokoshi's flick for Shimada, who later had her attempt from just inside the box saved by Ding Xuan.

Hana Takahashi and Shimada both saw their efforts from distance sail over the bar, while Ding pulled off a save to deny Miki Ito's attempt from point blank range as the tie remained goalless heading into the break.

Ding had to be on her toes two minutes after the restart when she foiled Shiokoshi, while Akari Kurishima skied her attempt following Shimada's layoff from a set-piece situation.

Urawa almost found a way through in the 76th minute but Ding was quick to intercept Ito's long pass to Takahashi as the match went into extra time.

The Japanese side wasted clear-cut chances with substitute Satoko Fujisaki forcing Ding into a fingertip save in the first half of extra time, before coming close again in the second period after her curling effort sailed over the bar.

Wuhan Jiangda wasted an attempt in the closing stages of the second half with Deng Mengye failing to score from her own half into an unattended goal, while Takahashi blasted wide from close range as the match went to penalties.

Chen Chen, who replaced Ding just before the shootout, lived up to expectations to deny Ito and Yu Endo as Wuhan Jiangda continued their journey into the Semi-finals.

SEMI-FINALS

WUHAN JIANGDA WOMEN'S FC (CHN) 2-0 HO CHI MINH CITY WOMEN'S FC (VIE)

Wuhan Jiangda Women's FC marched into the Final after a commanding 2-0 win over Ho Chi Minh City Women's FC in the last four.

The China PR side were dominant from start to finish against their Vietnamese opponents, who suffered an early setback when an injury forced Cu Thi Hyunh Nhu off after only 14 minutes, with Nguyen Thi Kim Yen coming on.

Wuhan Jiangda went close through Wang Shuang, whose powerful free-kick was thwarted by an alert Quach Thu Em.

The persistent pressure paid off in the 34th minute when Tereza Engesha forced her way into the box. Her cutback was blocked but the rebound fell kindly for the impressive Wang, who directed her sublime curling effort into the top corner for the opener.

The hosts could have added to their advantage when Wang played Song Duan through but Thu Em was quick off her line to block the shot before Engesha dragged an effort wide.

Wuhan Jiangda maintained their dominance after the interval, needing only nine minutes to double their lead with Engesha teeing up Song on the edge of the box for a spectacular finish that left Thu Em completely stranded.

The visitors had their first look at goal in the 56th minute when Huynh Nhu broke free on the right and produced a telling cross which found Hong Nhung, but the latter's header was easily gathered by Ding Xuan.

Late into the game, Nhu's cross took a wicked deflection off defender Ma Jun which forced Ding to readjust and make the save, but that was all Ho Chi Minh City could muster as Wuhan Jiangda cruised into the Final.

HYUNDAI STEEL RED ANGELS WOMEN'S FC (KOR) 0-1 MELBOURNE CITY FC (AUS)

Shelby McMahon scored in the fourth minute of added time as Melbourne City FC stunningly booked their place in the Final after defeating Korea Republic's Hyundai Steel Red Angels Women's FC 1-0 in their Semi-final.

The opening minutes saw both sides attempt to assert control, finding early opportunities but losing momentum in the final third.

The Red Angels threatened in the fourth minute but Yuka Toriumi's effort from the left was safely collected by Malena Garcia while four minutes later, Kim So-eun sent a free-kick soaring over the bar.

Melbourne City responded with Holly McNamara's 10th-minute attempt being denied by the crossbar, while Leticia McKenna's powerful free-kick was punched away by Kim Min-jung shortly after.

McNamara continued to trouble the Red Angels defence, winning the ball from Mun Ha-yeon inside the box in the 19th minute before volleying it to Mariana Speckmaier. The Venezuelan then slipped a short pass to McKenna, whose weak attempt from close range was dealt with.

At the other end, the Red Angels also squandered chances, most notably when Yoon Hye-in's sublime overhead cross was headed wide by Kim Seong-mi.

The search for the opening goal continued into the second half, with the first real threat once again coming from McNamara, who darted past several red shirts before seeing her right-footed effort from a tight angle being blocked by Mun.

Speckmaier had a wonderful opportunity when she met Leah Davidson's cross from the left flank but her attempt lacked power and was palmed away by Kim Min-jung.

The Red Angels went close to breaking the deadlock 10 minutes later, when Japanese striker Haruhi Suzuki's header off Yoon's cross was saved by Garcia.

Suzuki once again made her presence felt with a left-footed strike from outside the box, but her effort sailed over the bar while three minutes later, Seo Ji-yeon's close-range attempt from inside the six-yard box was deftly cleared by Garcia.

Just when it seemed extra time would be needed, McMahon produced a moment of brilliance with a stunning right-footed strike from outside the box, finding the top-right corner after being teed up by McKenna.

FINAL

MELBOURNE CITY FC (AUS) 1-1 WUHAN JIANGDA WOMEN'S FC (CHN)

(A.E.T, WUHAN JIANGDA WON 5-4 ON PENALTIES)

China PR's Wuhan Jiangda Women's FC clinched the inaugural AFC Women's Champions League™ title in dramatic fashion, defeating Australia's Melbourne City FC 5-4 in a sudden death penalty shootout after the Final ended 1-1.

Youngster Shelby McMahon put Melbourne ahead but a Wang Shuang stoppage-time penalty sent the match into extra time and eventually the shootout, with goalkeeper Chen Chen emerging as the heroine with two saves.

The win meant Wuhan Jiangda also sealed their place in the inaugural FIFA Women's Champions Cup 2026.

Melbourne head coach Michael Matricciani made two changes with McMahon and Lourdes Bosch replacing Laura Hughes and Mariana Speckmaier in midfield and in attack respectively.

His counterpart Chang Weiwei resisted restoring captain Yao Wei to the starting 11 that saw 10 players retained from their semi-final win, instead opting to shore up the midfield with Dai Chenying starting in place of forward Song Duan.

Wuhan Jiangda started on the front foot with early opportunities falling the way of Tereza Engesha, who had a shot from distance and a header, but neither were on target.

Melbourne City took time to adjust to the high-intensity tactics adopted by the hosts, needing 20 minutes before creating their first attempt but Bosch's low cross from the left was ballooned over by Bryleeh Henry.

The Australian side then fashioned a much better chance after Holly McNamara was put through in the 27th minute only for Wuhan Jiangda custodian Ding Xuan to win the one-on-one battle before Wang forced a back-pedalling Malena Garcia to tip over her effoirt in added time.

After the interval, Wuhan Jiangda replaced Ding with Chen and the lanky goalkeeper quickly called into action to deny efforts from McNamara and Henry, as Melbourne City started to find gaps in their opponents' defence.

On the hour mark, Song– who was sent on minutes earlier to replace the injured Dai – cut in from the left and unleashed a stinging low shot that Garcia had to push away.

The breakthrough came in the 76th minute for Melbourne City, thanks to a stunning McMahon header off Leticia McKenna's pinpoint free-kick delivery from the right.

With the clock winding down, Wuhan Jiangda threw caution to the wind but were fortunate not to go further behind after Henry found the back of the net just as the tie went into added time, only for it to ruled out for a foul in the buildup.

The China PR side's fighting spirit was eventually rewarded in the eighth minute of stoppage time after Speckmaier handled the ball in the box. Wang, cool as ever, stepped up to convert the spot-kick and send the match into extra time.

Despite the best efforts of both clubs, extra time yielded no goals though both sides went close with Wuhan Jiangda's Kim Hye-ri and Deng Mengye denied by stout defending, while McKenna was off target by mere centimetres in the 116th minute as the tie went to penalties.

Proven shot-stopper Chen lived up to her reputation in the shootout, saving attempts from Rebekah Stott and Henry to give Wuhan Jiangda the win.

Melbourne City's Stott was named the Most Valuable Player while Yuzuho Shiokoshi of Urawa Red Diamonds Ladies of Japan won the Top Scorer award with her haul of four goals.

AFC CHAMPIONS LEAGUE TWO 2024/25™ (FROM QUARTER-FINALS)

The AFC Champions League Two 2024/25™ kicked off with the Preliminary Stage played on August 14, 2024 and the Final contested on May 18, 2025.

Sharjah FC of the United Arab Emirates defeated Singapore's Lion City Sailors FC 2-1 in the Final, played at the Bishan Stadium in Singapore.

QUARTER-FINALS

TRACTOR FC (IRN) V AL TAAWOUN FC (KSA)

0-0, 2-2 - (A.E.T, AGGREGATE 2-2; AL TAAWOUN WON 4-2 ON PENALTIES)

Penalties were needed to settle the Tractor FC and Al Taawoun FC in their last-eight showdown after the tie ended 2-2 on aggregate.

A goalless draw in the first leg was followed by a 2-2 stalemate in the return fixture, which saw the clubs exchanging leads.

Ricardo Alves opened the scoring for Islamic Republic of Iran's Tractor in the 50th minute, with Musa Barrow restoring parity four minutes later.

Sultan Mandash put Saudi Arabia's Al Taawoun ahead two minutes into extra-time but Domagoj Drozdek forced the tie into a penalty shootout with his 105th-minute equaliser.

Tractor, however, were not as sharp from the penalty spot, with Mehdi Shiri ballooning his shot and Sajjad Ashouri seeing his attempt saved by goalkeeper Abdulquddus Atiah as Al Taawoun won the shootout 4-2.

SHABAB AL AHLI (UAE) V SHARJAH FC (UAE)

1-1, 1-1 - (A.E.T, AGGREGATE 2-2; SHARJAH FC WON 5-4 ON PENALTIES)

The all-United Arab Emirates Quarter-final tie was a tight affair, with the showdown ending 2-2 on aggregate.

The first leg saw Sardar Azmoun giving home side Shabab Al Ahli a 46th-minute lead but Caio Lucas restored parity in the 68th minute.

Marcus Meloni's goal in the 35th minute seemed to have settled proceedings for Sharjah in the return leg but Mu'nas Dabbur popped up with the equaliser in the fourth minute of time added on to force extra-time and then penalties.

Goalkeeper Adel Alhosani was the hero for Sharjah in the shootout, saving Kauan Santos' penalty as they won 5-4 to set up a date with Saudi Arabia's Al Taawoun FC in the Semi-finals.

SANFRECCE HIROSHIMA (JPN) V LION CITY SAILORS FC (SGP)

0-3, 1-1 (LION CITY SAILORS FC WON 4-1 ON AGGREGATE)

It looked to be all over for Lion City Sailors FC after they suffered a 6-1 defeat in the first leg.

Japan's Sanfrecce Hiroshima, however, were subsequently found to have fielded an ineligible player and the tie was awarded 3-0 in favour of the Singaporean side.

Lion City Sailors came under heavy pressure in the return leg, but limited Sanfrecce to a 1-1 draw as they advanced to the Semi-finals.

JEONBUK HYUNDAI MOTORS FC (KOR) V SYDNEY FC (AUS)

0-2, 2-3 (SYDNEY FC WON 5-2 ON AGGREGATE)

Sydney FC were stunning across both legs, registering a shock 2-0 away win against two-time Asian champions Jeonbuk Hyundai Motors FC in the first leg.

Patryk Klimala's brace sealed that victory but Jeonbuk turned things around in the first half of the second leg, with Jeon Jin-woo netting twice to draw the Korea Republic side level on aggregate.

A half-time pep-talk, however, saw a different Sydney FC emerge in the second 45 minutes as goals from Alex Grant, Klimala and Douglas Costa saw them complete an astonishing 5-2 win on aggregate.

SEMI-FINALS

AL TAAWOUN FC (KSA) V SHARJAH FC (UAE)

1-0, 0-2 (SHARJAH FC WON 2-1 ON AGGREGATE)

Abdelhamid Sabiri's second-minute goal gave Al Taawoun FC a dream start in their first leg against Sharjah FC but the Saudi Arabian side's inability to build on it cost them dearly in the return fixture.

Sharjah clinched their place in the Final in dramatic fashion, first drawing level on aggregate through Ousmane Camara in the fourth minute of time added on at the end of the second half.

There was even more late heroics to come for the United Arab Emirates side, with Firas Ben Arbi striking the winner five minutes later as Sharjah advanced to their first major Asian Final.

LION CITY SAILORS FC (SGP) V SYDNEY FC (AUS)

2-0, 0-1 (LION CITY SAILORS FC WON 2-1 ON AGGREGATE)

Having shown resilience to book their Semi-final spot, Lion City Sailors produced clinical yet stunning finishing to defeat Sydney FC 2-0 in the first leg of their Semi-final.

Bart Ramselaar opened the scoring for the Singaporean side with a stunner in the eighth minute, with Lennart Thy doubling their lead with another outstanding strike in the 53rd minute.

While Sydney FC were left stunned, the Australian side had home ground advantage for the return leg but a defensive masterclass from Lion City Sailors saw them walk away with a 1-0 defeat, as they became the first ever Singaporean side to reach a first major Asian final.

FINAL

LION CITY SAILORS FC (SGP) 1-2 SHARJAH FC (UAE)

Sharjah FC claimed the AFC Champions League Two 2024/25™ title with a dramatic 2-1 win over Singapore's Lion City Sailors FC as Marcus Meloni scored deep into added time to secure victory for the United Arab Emirates side.

The Final looked to be heading for extra-time when Sailors' Maxime Lestienne cancelled out Firas Ben Arbi's 74th-minute goal, but Meloni struck in the 97th minute to secure Sharjah the title.

Meloni had an early sight of goal but his free-kick from distance was comfortably dealt with by goalkeeper Izwan Mahbud, as both clubs took time to impose themselves on the game.

The home side shaded proceedings, with Bart Ramselaar denied the opener when his driven strike from the edge of the area was blocked by central defender Shaheen Abdalla and goalkeeper Adel Al Hosani batted the ball to safety after it looped towards goal.

Caio Lucas almost unlocked the defence with 11 minutes left in the half, the Brazil-born winger swinging a right-footed cross in from close to the left touchline that an on-rushing Ben Arbi only narrowly missed connecting with.

The game was starting to open up and Diogo Costa almost put the home side in front moments later as the Portuguese winger hit the base of Al Hosani's right post with a powerful left-foot strike from the edge of the area.

Lion City Sailors midfielder Song Ui-young skied his first-time effort well off target inside the opening five minutes of the second half, while Ramselaar started and almost finished a flowing move through the centre that ended with the ball flying over the bar.

Ousmane Camara squandered a gilt-edged opportunity with 21 minutes remaining, rising highest to meet Meloni's corner from the right only to steer his header marginally wide of Izwan's left post.

With 16 minutes remaining, however, Sharjah found their way through.

Lucas swung the ball over from the left corner of the area towards Khaleed Ebraheim as the full-back galloped into space behind the Lion City Sailors defence and his first-time centre as he slid along the turf found Ben Arbi at the far post, who finished with aplomb.

The clock had barely ticked over into added time when Lestienne levelled, the prolific Belgian lashing a low left-foot shot through a defender's leg and past Al Hosni to raise the possibility of extra-time.

But Meloni won the title for Sharjah six minutes later when he moved the ball onto his right foot on the left of the penalty area and bent an unstoppable low shot beyond Izwan to seal a remarkable win.

Sharjah's Lucas, with five goals and four assists complementing his sterling campaign, was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player while Sardar Azmoun of UAE side Shabab Al Ahli won the Top Scorer award with his haul of nine goals.

AFC WOMEN'S FUTSAL ASIAN CUP CHINA 2025™

The AFC Women's Futsal Asian Cup China 2025™ was held at the Hohhot Sports Centre, China PR on May 6-17, 2025.

The Qualifiers – featuring 19 teams – were contested on January 11-19, 2025.

Japan emerged as champions for the first time after defeating Thailand 3-2 on penalties, with the Final having ended 3-3 following extra-time.

Islamic Republic of Iran beat China PR 3-1 in the third-place playoff to join Japan and Thailand as Asia's representatives at the FIFA Futsal Women's World Cup Philippines 2025.

QUALIFIERS

Nine teams advanced from the Qualifiers, joining two-time champions IR Iran, Japan and hosts China PR in the Finals.

Thailand topped Group A of the Qualifiers, with Bahrain advancing as the runners-up. Indonesia were peerless in Group B with three wins out of three, while Hong Kong, China qualified as runners-up.

Australia booked a debut appearance at the Finals in style, registering four wins out four to win Group C with Uzbekistan joining them as the runners-up. Also through from the group were the Philippines, as the best third-placed team.

Vietnam finished ahead of Chinese Taipei in Group D on goal difference, with both sides booking their spots in the Finals.

GROUP STAGE

GROUP A

China PR were the dominant side in Group A and opened their campaign with a 3-1 win against tournament debutants Australia.

An exciting 5-3 win against Chinese Taipei followed, with victory confirming the hosts' Knockout Stage berth with a match to spare. The group's top spot was sealed with a 3-1 defeat of Uzbekistan in their final match.

Chinese Taipei advanced as the runners-up after victories against Uzbekistan (6-1) and Australia (1-0).

GROUP B

Vietnam and Islamic Republic of Iran confirmed their Quarter-final spots after two matchdays following wins against Hong Kong, China and the Philippines.

Vietnam opened their campaign with a 5-3 win against Hong Kong, China, followed by a 3-0 defeat of the Philippines.

Two-time defending champions IR Iran edged the Philippines 1-0 in their opening match, which was followed by a 3-1 defeat of Hong Kong, China.

Vietnam topped the group on goal difference after their concluding tie with IR Iran ended goalless.

GROUP C
Thailand, the highest-ranked Asian side in the competition, cruised 4-0 past Bahrain in their tournament opener but were then held to a surprising goalless draw by Indonesia on Matchday Two.

The Southeast Asian side, however, were back at their best for the final matchday, coming from behind to stun two-time runners-up Japan 3-1 as they finished top with seven points.

Defeat for Japan didn't prove costly as they had already confirmed their Quarter-final ticket with earlier wins against Indonesia (5-2) and Bahrain (3-2).

QUARTER-FINALS

VIETNAM 0-2 JAPAN
Seeking to win the title for the first time, Japan rebounded from their Group Stage defeat against Thailand to beat Vietnam 2-0 in their Quarter-final.

A third-minute own goal by Nguyen Phuong Anh gave Japan a perfect start and Ryo Egawa sealed their Semi-final spot with her 24th-minute strike.

THAILAND 5-2 HONG KONG, CHINA
Thailand, buoyant after their stunning win against Japan, were unstoppable in their last-eight tie against Hong Kong, China.

Paerploy Huajaipetch got them rolling with her third-minute strike with Jenjira Bubpha then netting two goals in the space of a minute.

Nattamon Artkla made it 4-0 in the 14th minute with Darika Peanpailun widening their lead seconds later.

CHINA PR 6-0 INDONESIA
China PR carried their perfect form into their Quarter-final against Indonesia, registering an emphatic 6-0 win.

Zhan Zewen put them ahead in the 13th minute but China PR got into their groove after the break with Fan Yuqiu (22nd) and Zhang Rui (25th) widening their lead.

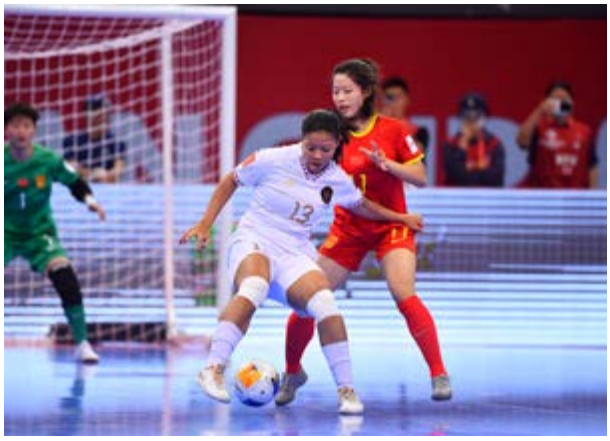
The goals didn't stop flowing for the hosts, with Jiang Xiaoyu (31st), Yu Ting (36th) and Xiong Jing (38th) completing the resounding win.

CHINESE TAIPEI 1-3 IR IRAN
(A.E.T)
IR Iran had to work hard to keep their title defence alive, with the Central Asian side needing extra-time to see off the challenge of a feisty Chinese Taipei.

Maral Torkaman gave IR Iran a second-minute advantage but Liu Wen-Ling equalised in the 18th.

Both sides had opportunities to clinch victory in regulation time but were denied by great goalkeeping and the woodwork, forcing the tie into extra-time.

After both sides had come close, Fereshteh Khosravi struck in the 49th minute and goalkeeper Farzaneh Tavasoli gave Chinese Taipei no chance to recover, netting IR Iran's third just before the final whistle was blown.



SEMI-FINALS

CHINA PR 2-3 THAILAND

In an exciting tie which saw the sides exchange leads, Thailand advanced to the Final for the first time with a thrilling 3-2 win against China PR.

Thailand, who had finished third in the 2015 and 2018 editions, took the lead through Zou Yinglan's own goal in the 11th minute.

China PR, roared on by their fans, fought back and scored twice in the 16th minute through Fan Yuqiu and Cao Jiayi.

With 18 seconds left in the first half, it went from bad to worse for Thailand as goalkeeper Sasiphrapa Suksen received a direct red card for taking down Su Jiahong as she raced clear and looked to round the custodian.

Jiang Xiaoyu headed Liu Danping's inch-perfect chipped ball over and Ke Yaoxiang's effort was saved by goalkeeper Nuengruthai Sorahong early in the second half as China PR sought a third.

But China PR were pegged back on 26 minutes after Ke handled Jenjira Bubpha's shot in the area and the latter took responsibility for the penalty by smashing it past Liu.

With the wind in their sails, Thailand began to dominate proceedings and retook the lead in the 32nd minute.

Receiving the ball on the left, Arriya Saetoen advanced and slid a low shot that took a nick off Zhan Huimin to end up in goal.

Nuengruthai then came up big for the Thais in the closing minutes with a remarkable point-blank save to foil Zhang Rui from close range, as Asia's top-ranked side advanced to the Final and also booked their ticket to the FIFA Futsal Women's World Cup Philippines 2025.

JAPAN 3-2 IR IRAN

Japan ended Islamic Republic of Iran's reign with an exciting 3-2 win in their Semi-final.

Japan, who lost the 2015 and 2018 Finals to Iran, got off to a blistering start with Naomi Matsumoto seeing her grounder blocked.

At the other end, IR Iran hit back on the counter-attack with Fereshteh Khosravi forcing goalkeeper Nene Inoue into a save.

Backed into their own half, IR Iran were left stunned in the third minute after Mika Eguchi collected her own blocked effort to set up Risa Ikadai to score from inside a packed box.

Another brilliant play from Japan left IR Iran chasing a two-goal deficit a minute later when Inoue launched a long pass to Yuka Iwasaki, who teed up Kyoka Takahashi to drill the ball into the bottom left corner.

With Ryo Egawa stretched off after suffering a knock, IR Iran pounced on the opportunity to up the tempo in the 14th minute with Maral Torkaman rattling the left post before the 22-year-old's shot was brilliantly kept out by Inoue moments later.

The Central Asians pushed forward with added intensity but their finishing deserted them as Elham Anafjeh and Khosravi saw their efforts saved by Inoue, while Fatemeh Hosseini beat her marker on the right before missing the right post by a whisker.

Japan continued to absorb the pressure in the second half, eventually succumbing in the 24th minute when Khosravi reacted the quickest to a blocked free-kick to set up Torkaman, who finished with a powerful strike.

Although limited to counter-attacks, Japan almost restored their two-goal lead two minutes later when

Sara Oino sidestepped her marker on the right, only to see her powerful shot rattle the left post.

They had better luck in the 30th minute though as a sudden burst of pace caught IR Iran off guard with Inoue again the initiator, releasing Anna Amishiro on the left to lay the ball perfectly for Yukari Miyahara to finish from close range.

IR Iran, however, refused to concede defeat and Torkman showed her quality in set-piece situations when she drilled the ball past a sea of Japanese players into the bottom right corner in the 32nd minute.

The reigning champions poured forward after that but despite utilising the power play, the equaliser eluded them as Japan took their place in the Final and booked their ticket to the FIFA Futsal Women's World Cup.

THIRD-PLACE PLAYOFF

CHINA PR 1-3 IR IRAN

The Islamic Republic of Iran overcame China PR in the third-place playoff to seal their place at the FIFA Futsal Women's World Cup Philippines 2025.

After the tie got off to a cautious start, IR Iran took the initiative as Fereshteh Khosravi, Maral Torkaman and Fereshteh Karimi went close, before Liu Danping saved efforts from Elham Anafjeh and Karimi.

There was a scare when Fatemeh Rahmati nearly put the ball in her own net, with only the outstretched left leg of Farzaneh Tavasoli preventing disaster. The goalkeeper then fielded Yu Ting's rasping strike as her side broke the deadlock shortly after on 11 minutes.

Liu did superbly to repel attempts from Rahmati and then Nasimeh Gholami on the rebound, but was helpless to prevent the latter from setting up Torkaman to score her fifth goal in six games from unmissable range.

Tavasoli then did brilliantly to stop Zhang Rui's volley. Seconds later, the 38-year-old made a sprawling save from Ke Yaoxiang's grounder, before getting up immediately to push the rebound away from the lurking Zhang.

The home fans, however, were on their feet within a minute of the second half.

Receiving the ball on the right, Su Jiahong pulled off a stunning piece of skill by leaving the onrushing Tavasoli for dead with a perfect turn before calmly picking out Cao Jiayi to tap in the equaliser.

The upper hand was with China PR now and Nastaran Moghimi made a vital intervention to prevent Ke from getting to a loose ball, while Tavasoli pulled off another top reflex save from the ensuing corner to deny Zhang.

Despite being under pressure, it was IR Iran who scored next as they caught the red shirts out at a corner. Gholami rolled the set-piece to Moghimi, who had ghosted into the area, to sidefoot a shot that came off the left post and back into goal off the unfortunate Liu on 30 minutes.

Lady Luck deserted China PR at the other end three minutes later as Zou Yinglan's attempt beat Tavasoli but not the right post.

The home side brought out the power play and threw everything in a bid to take the game to extra-time, but to no avail and it was Torkaman who finished them off in the dying seconds with a long-range strike into an unguarded net.

FINAL

THAILAND 3-3 JAPAN
(A.E.T, JAPAN WON 3-2 ON PENALTIES)

Japan ended their wait for the AFC Women's Futsal Asian Cup™ title by defeating Thailand 3-2 on penalties after the Final ended 3-3 following extra-time.

Having twice taken the lead, Japan had to force their way back into the Final after Thailand went ahead in extra-time as the East Asian side finally lifted the trophy after having finished runners-up in both previous editions.

The match kicked off with Japan looking the more dangerous, especially in transition, with Naomi Matsumoto and Risa Ikadai dictating play from the flanks.

A mistake by Arriya Saetoen in the 15th minute presented Japan with the opener, with Yuka Iwasaki pouncing on the loose ball to set up the unmarked Sara Oino, who placed her shot into the bottom right corner of the net.

Thailand, just as they had done when the sides met in the Group Stage, came back fighting with Paerploy Huajaipetch forcing goalkeeper Nene Inoue into a fine save with her stinging shot from distance.

The Southeast Asians, however, were not to be denied and levelled the tie in the 11th minute with Jenjira Bubpha drilling home Nattamon Artkla's corner from above the arc.

Thailand then went close to going ahead in the 16th minute but Patitta Moolpho's powerful effort from long range was repelled by Inoue.

Thai custodian Nuengruthai Sorahong then made a brilliant save to deny Anna Amishiro from above the arc with a minute on the clock while at the other end, Sangrawee Meekham's shot was blocked as the tie remained delicately balanced going into the break.

Japan were quicker to settle after half-time and retook the lead a minute in when Aki Ikeuchi sent her corner into the path of Oino, who crossed the ball into the box for an unmarked Kyoka Takahashi to fire into the top left corner.

With Japan making deep runs into their half, Thailand had no option but to push forward and their initiative was rewarded in the 25th minute when Nattamon pounced on a wayward pass from Matsumoto and unleashed a ferocious shot which sailed past Inoue and into the back of the net.

Both sides then had chances to win it with Iwasaki seeing her shot saved by Nuengruthai, while Takahashi angled her shot wide of the right post before Sangrawee failed to get her effort on target from close range as the tie went into extra-time.

A Japanese defensive lapse in the 43rd minute saw Thailand taking the lead for the first time with a carbon copy strike of their first goal, with Sasikarn Tongdee sending her corner kick to Paerploy, who drilled her low effort into the back of the net.

Japan refused to drop their heads and forced their way back into the tie in spectacular fashion a minute later, with Mika Eguchi teeing up Yukari Miyahara to finish with aplomb.

The second period of extra-time saw Sangrawee denying Iwasaki and Eguchi with Thailand's defence staying firm as the match went to penalties.

After both sides missed their opening spot-kicks, Sangrawee sent her effort wide while Hataichanok Tappakun had her penalty saved by Inoue as Japan won the shootout 3-2.

Japan's Oino was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player while teammate Inoue took home the Best Goalkeeper award.

Maral Torkaman won the Top Scorer award, having found the back of the net six times in IR Iran's journey to their third-place finish.

AFC CHALLENGE LEAGUE 2024/25™ (FROM QUARTER-FINALS)

The AFC Challenge League 2024/25™ kicked off with the preliminary stage on August 13, 2024 with the Final played on May 10, 2025.

Turkmenistan's FC Arkadag emerged as champions after defeating Cambodia's Preah Khan Reach Svay Rieng FC 2-1 in the Final, played in front of almost 52,000 fans at the Morodok Techo National Stadium in Phnom Penh.

QUARTER-FINALS

EAST BENGAL (IND) V FC ARKADAG (TKM)

0-1, 1-2 (FC ARKADAG WON 3-1 ON AGGREGATE)

Yazgylyc Gurbanow's 10th-minute strike secured FC Arkadag a 1-0 advantage in the away leg against East Bengal.

The Indian side, however, cancelled out the deficit through Messi Boulli's goal in the first minute of the return leg.

The tie was evenly poised until Altymyrat Annadurdyyew took matters into his own hands, striking in the 89th and 90+8 minutes to secure a 3-1 aggregate win for the Turkmenistan side.

AL ARABI SC (KUW) V AL SEEB CLUB (OMA)

1-0, 2-2 (A.E.T, AL ARABI SC WON 3-2 ON AGGREGATE)

Bandar Al Salama struck in the first minute of time added on in the first leg to secure Al Arabi SC the advantage.

The Kuwaiti side then looked to have secured their Semi-final spot when Hussain Ashkanani put them ahead in the 23rd minute of the return leg.

Oman's Al Seeb Club, however, fought back with Abdul Rahman Al Mushaifri pulling one back in the 41st minute.

Abu Kamara's 89th-minute goal forced the tie into extra-time but there was to be no joy for Al Seeb Club as Mohamed Bouchar netted in the 102nd minute to take Al Arabi through.

TAINAN CITY FC (TPE) V MADURA UNITED (IDN) *0-0, 0-3 (MADURA UNITED WON 3-0 ON AGGREGATE)*

A goalless first leg meant Tainan City FC were left with a mountain to climb in the return fixture and so it proved for the Chinese Taipei side as Madura United cruised to a 3-0 win.

Iran Junior (38th), Lulinha (59th) and Youssef Ezzejjari (84th) struck in the second leg as the Indonesian side cruised into the Semi-finals.

PREAH KHAN REACH SVAY RIENG FC (CAM) V SHAN UNITED FC (MYA)

6-2, 1-2 (PREAH KHAN REACH SVAY RIENG FC WON 7-4 ON AGGREGATE)

Preah Khan Reach Svay Rieng FC were sensational in the first leg, taking a two-goal lead through Cristian's brace in the 17th and 31st minutes.

Saret Krya's own goal in the 38th minute gave Myanmar's Shan United hope but the Cambodian side turned on the power in the second half with Ryo Fujii netting in the 54th minute.

Cristian completed his hat-trick in the 59th with Zwe Khant Min's own goal (64th) and Min Ratanak's effort in the 76th further widening their advantage.

Efrain Rintaro narrowed the deficit in the 88th minute but the deficit proved too much for Shan United, who could only manage a 2-1 win in the return leg as Preah Khan Reach Svay Rieng FC advanced 7-4 on aggregate.

SEMI-FINALS

AL ARABI SC (KUW) V FC ARKADAG (TKM)

2-0, 0-3 (FC ARKADAG WON 3-2 ON AGGREGATE)

Goals from Christopher John (71st) and Salman Al Awadhi (90+4) in the first leg of their Semi-final against FC Arkadag seemed to have assured Kuwait's Al Arabi SC their spot in the Final.

The Turkmenistan side, however, made full use of home ground advantage to snatch a sensational 3-0 win in the return leg.

Sanazar Tirkisow got the comeback rolling with his seventh-minute goal and Altymyrat Annadurdyyew cancelled the deficit in the 58th minute.

With Al Arabi on the ropes, Tirkisow netted the winner in the fourth minute of time added on as FC Arkadag deservedly took their place in the Final.

PREAH KHAN REACH SVAY RIENG FC (CAM) V MADURA UNITED (IDN)

3-0, 3-3 (PREAH KHAN REACH SVAY RIENG FC WON 6-3 ON AGGREGATE)

Another blazing start saw Preah Khan Reach Svay Rieng FC ultimately take a 3-0 lead from the first leg.

Breno Caetano and Bounphachan Bounkong struck in the opening six minutes, with Min Ratanak adding the third in the 90th minute as the Cambodian side avenged their defeat against Madura United in the Group Stage.

The Indonesian side's hopes of a comeback were dashed by Gabriel Silva's fifth-minute goal as the return leg ended 3-3 on the night, which meant Svay Rieng advanced 6-3 on aggregate.

FINAL

PREAH KHAN REACH SVAY RIENG FC (CAM) 1-2 FC ARKADAG (TKM)

(A.E.T)

FC Arkadag claimed the AFC Challenge League 2024/25™ title as Altymyrat Annadurdyyew struck eight minutes from the end of extra-time to earn the Turkmen outfit a 2-1 win over Cambodia’s Preah Khan Reach Svay Rieng FC at a sold-out Morodok Techo National Stadium.

Annadurdyyew netted the winner after Mekan Saparow had seen his 59th-minute opener for the side from Ashgabat cancelled out by Saret Krya’s header with eight minutes remaining to take the decider into extra-time in Phnom Penh.

Head coach Ahmet Allaberdiyev’s side prevailed to become the third club from Turkmenistan to win a continental title, with Arkadag following in the footsteps of Balkan and HTTU Asgabat, who won the AFC President’s Cup in 2013 and 2014 respectively.

Svay Rieng started the Final promisingly with Ryo Fujio having an early look at goal for the hosts, only to sky his first-time strike from 20 yards over in the fourth minute while Saret Krya headed Sosidan Nhean's corner off target under pressure six minutes later.

The home side continued to set the tempo in the opening exchanges, Bounphachan Bounkong twisting and turning down the right before feeding Cristian, who dragged his left-foot effort wide.

It took until the half-hour mark for Arkadag to create their first attempt at goal.

Yazgylych Gurbanov slid the ball infield from the right to Didar Durdiyev and the forward worked it onto his left foot before hitting a rising shot that was always going to clear the crossbar.

Svay Rieng picked up the pace after the interval, Breninho shooting wide while Sosidan saw his attempt on the run deflected off target seven minutes into the second half. Cristian then hit the side netting in a flurry of activity around the Arkadag goal.

Sanazar Tirkisow threatened at the other end in the 58th minute, forcing Vireak Dara to tip his shot over the bar and from the resulting corner, the side from Ashgabat broke the deadlock.

It was Tirkisow who delivered the corner, dropping a perfect delivery onto the head of Saparow on the edge of the six-yard box and the defender rose highest to power the ball home.

Chou Sinti thumped his attempt wide as the game entered the final quarter and Annagulyyev denied Pablo a certain goal when the Brazilian steered Min Ratanak's cross towards the target, the goalkeeper instinctively saving with his legs.

The equaliser eventually came with eight minutes remaining as Saret met Takashi Odawara's cross from the right corner of the penalty area with a header that gave Annagulyyev little chance.

Saret's header took the game into extra-time, where Ratanak went closest to giving Svay Rieng the lead 10 minutes into the first added period when his shot clipped the outside of the Arkadag post.

Pablo was denied by Annagulyyev in the 111th minute and, moments later, Annadurdeyyew raced to the other end of the pitch to deliver the winner on the counter, gleefully stroking past Dara after he was released by Arzuvguly Sapargulyyev from deep inside his own half.

Annadurdeyyew won the Top Scorer award while his teammate Tirkisow was named the Most Valuable Player.

AFC CHAMPIONS LEAGUE ELITE 2024/25™ (FROM KNOCKOUT STAGE)

The AFC Champions League Elite 2024/25™ concluded with the AFC Champions League Elite Finals Jeddah 2025™, which was held from April 27 to May 3, 2025.

The Finals were contested as single-leg matches in the centralised venue of Jeddah, with games played at the Prince Abdullah Al Faisal Stadium and King Abdullah Sports City Stadium, which also hosted the Final.

Al Ahli Saudi FC of Saudi Arabia emerged as champions for the first time, defeating Kawasaki Frontale of Japan 2-0 in the finale played in front of more than 58,000 fans.

ROUND OF 16

ESTEGHLAL FC (IRN) V AL NASSR CLUB (KSA)

0-0, 0-3 (AL NASSR CLUB WON 3-0 ON AGGREGATE)

Al Nassr Club turned on the power in the return leg of their Round of 16 tie to seal a 3-0 victory against Esteghlal FC.

With the first leg having ended goalless, Jhon Duran put Al Nassr on the road to glory with the opening goal in the ninth minute of the return leg.

Cristiano Ronaldo doubled the advantage in the 27th minute and Duran capped a fine evening for himself by scoring his second in the 84th minute.

AL WASL FC (UAE) V AL SADD SC (QAT)

1-1, 1-3 (AL SADD WON 4-2 ON AGGREGATE)

The first leg ended in a 1-1 stalemate, with Ali Saleh giving Al Wasl FC of the United Arab Emirates a third-minute lead.

Al Sadd SC fought back and a thumping header from Abdulla Al Yazidi off Akram Afif's cross saw the Qatari side drawing level in the 68th minute.

That set the stage for a nail-biting second leg, with Fabio Lima giving Al Wasl a dream start with his 10th-minute goal.

Al Sadd, however, showed resilience and determination to score three times in 11 minutes.

Mostafa Meshaal drew them level on aggregate in the 26th minute and strikes from Youcef Atal (30th) and Afif (37th) sealed their Quarter-final spot with a 4-2 win on aggregate.

PAKHTAKOR (UZB) V AL HILAL SFC (KSA)

1-0, 0-4 (AL HILAL SFC WON 4-1 ON AGGREGATE)

The first leg witnessed a stunning result as Flamarion scored the only goal of the game in Pakhtakor's 1-0 defeat of Al Hilal SFC. It was the Uzbekistan club's first win in nine meetings with Al Hilal.

The Saudi Arabian side were back to their best in the return leg, drawing level on aggregate through Hamad Al Yami in the 31st minute.

With the floodgates open, Malcom put Al Hilal ahead in the 42nd minute with Salem Al Dawsari (51st) and Nasser Al Dawsari (90+2) sealing their place in the Quarter-finals.

AL RAYYAN SC (QAT) V AL AHLI SAUDI FC (KSA)

1-3, 0-2 (AL AHLI SAUDI FC WON 5-1 ON AGGREGATE)

Al Ahli Saudi FC seized control of the Round of 16 tie from the first blow of the whistle, taking the lead in the first leg through Galeno's 30th minute strike.

Riyad Mahrez doubled their advantage four minutes later, with Roger Guedes giving Al Rayyan hope with his 71st-minute goal.

Feras Al Brikan, however, ensured Al Ahli had a good advantage to take home with his effort in the fifth minute of added time.

Mahrez stole the show in the return leg, with the Algerian striking in the 77th and 83rd minutes as Al Ahli advanced in emphatic fashion.

SHANGHAI PORT FC (CHN) V YOKOHAMA F. MARINOS (JPN)

0-1, 1-4 (YOKOHAMA F. MARINOS WON 5-1 ON AGGREGATE)

Yokohama F. Marinos took a 1-0 lead into the second leg of their meeting with Shanghai Port after Anderson Lopes earned the 2023/24 runners-up a narrow but deserved victory.

Lopes struck in the 30th minute as the Japanese outfit took a step towards progressing to the Quarter-finals for the second season in a row.

That was achieved by an impressive return leg, with their spot all but sealed after Daiya Tono opened the scoring in the second minute.

Lopes widened their advantage in the 29th minute, with Leonardo pulling one back for Shanghai Port in the 35th.

The Japanese side, however, comfortably booked their Quarter-final ticket through further strikes from Yan Matheus (44th) and Lopes (56th).

BURIRAM UNITED (THA) V JOHOR DARUL TA'ZIM (MAS)

0-0, 1-0 (BURIRAM UNITED WON 1-0 ON AGGREGATE)

Having already met in the League Stage, the first leg ended in yet another stalemate as Buriram United and Johor Darul Ta'zim cancelled each other out.

The second leg proved to be an equally tight affair, with Johor Darul Ta'zim failing to put away their chances despite dominating.

The Malaysian side were made to pay in the 58th minute as Suphanat Mueanta struck the only goal of the game as Buriram advanced to the Quarter-finals for the first time since 2013.

VISSEL KOBE (JPN) V GWANGJU FC (KOR)

2-0, 0-3 (A.E.T, GWANGJU FC WON 3-2 ON AGGREGATE)

This Round of 16 tie served up a classic with Japan's Vissel Kobe taking a 2-0 advantage from the first leg through goals from Yuya Osako (20th) and Haruya Ide (29th).

Tournament debutants Gwangju FC pulled one back through Park Jeong-in the 18th minute of the second leg but try as they did, a second goal that would have drawn them level on aggregate remained elusive.

That, however, changed in the 85th minute as Jasir Asani yet again proved he is a player for the big moments, with the Albanian forcing the tie into extra-time with his strike.

The forward wasn't done yet, scoring a spectacular winner with just two minutes remaining as Gwangju deservedly advanced.

SHANGHAI SHENHUA FC (CHN) V KAWASAKI FRONTALE (JPN)

1-0, 0-4 (KAWASAKI FRONTALE WON 4-1 ON AGGREGATE)

A Kota Takai own goal gave Shanghai Shenhua a 1-0 lead after the first leg but it proved not to be enough as Kawasaki Frontale turned on the power in the return leg.

The Japanese side, who had never progressed beyond the Quarter-finals in their previous appearances in the tournament, drew level on aggregate through Asahi Sasaki's 24th-minute effort.

Erison put them firmly in control of the tie with his 64th minute strike and their Quarter-final spot was confirmed with further goals from Tatsuya Ito (68th) and Marcinho (90+1).

QUARTER-FINALS

AL HILAL SFC (KSA) 7-0 GWANGJU FC (KOR)

Seven players scored as Al Hilal SFC cruised to a 7-0 victory over Gwangju FC.

Goals from Sergej Milinkovic-Savic, Marcos Leonardo and Salem Al Dawsari gave the four-time champions a healthy lead heading into the break.

Aleksandar Mitrovic, Malcom, Nasser Al Dawsari and Abdullah Al Hamddan added to Al Hilal's haul in the second half.

A fast start by the Saudi Arabian side led to Gwangju conceding a corner in the fifth minute, which saw Milinkovic-Savic rise highest to nod Salem Al Dawsari's delivery past the flailing hands of goalkeeper Kim Kyeong-min.

Al Hilal's high pressing approach kept causing Gwangju problems with custodian Kim keeping them in the game by denying Salem Al Dawsari's stinging shot, which was followed by Mitrovic's headed attempt from close range and Milinkovic-Savic's effort from distance.

Gwangju were, however, caught napping in the 25th minute after Malcom's run down the right flank was left unchallenged, allowing the Brazilian to cut the ball back to Leonardo to slam the ball into the bottom right corner.

Al Hilal showed their quality again in the 33rd minute with Leonardo finding captain Salem Al Dawsari, who surged into the area from the left flank to net their third.

Al Hilal ended all hopes Gwangju had of a comeback in the 55th minute when Milinkovic-Savic's cross found the unmarked Mitrovic inside the box, with the forward coolly slotting home.

The Saudi Arabian side remained relentless, adding their fifth in the 79th minute after Malcolm finished off Mitrovic's through pass before Nasser Al Dawsari converted Mohamed Kanno's pass for their sixth in the 84th minute.

Al Hamddan then made it 7-0 three minutes later from above the box to complete the emphatic win.

AL AHLI SAUDI FC (KSA) 3-0 BURIRAM UNITED (THA)

Al Ahli Saudi FC produced a sparkling display to cruise 3-0 past Buriram United in their Quarter-final.

The Saudi Arabian side turned on the power in the first half, racing to a three-goal lead as they set up a Semi-final encounter with Al Hilal SFC.

Al Ahli made Buriram pay when a mistake from Sasalak Haiprakhon in the fourth minute saw Roberto Firmino gain possession before setting up Riyad Mahrez to drill the ball into the bottom left corner.

Buriram barely had time to regroup as they fell further behind two minutes later after a neat through pass from Roger Ibanez found Galeno, who nutmegged goalkeeper Neil Etheridge to slot the ball into the back of the net.

Buriram thought they were handed a lifeline when Merih Demiral's foul on Martin Boakye prompted referee Ahmed Al Kaf to point to the spot, but their joy was short-lived as the decision was overturned following a VAR review.

The Thai side had a narrow escape in the 27th minute when Marcelo Djalo's poor clearance allowed Galeno to slip the ball through to Firmino, whose effort was foiled by Etheridge.

Clearly missing injured duo Theerathon Bunmathan and Suphanat Mueanta, Buriram conceded a third at the half-hour mark with Firmino tapping home Demiral's header with Al Ahli content to sit back and defend their lead in the second half.

YOKOHAMA F. MARINOS (JPN) 1-4 AL NASSR CLUB (KSA)

Al Nassr Club scored thrice in 11 first half minutes to take their place in the Semi-finals with a 4-1 win over Yokohama F. Marinos 4-1 in their last-eight tie.

Jhon Duran netted two with Cristiano Ronaldo and Sadio Mane bagging one each as the Saudi Arabian side advanced to the Semi-finals for the third time in five seasons.

Al Nassr missed a good opportunity in the 22nd minute when Sultan Al Ghannam fed Duran in the box, only for the Colombian to slice his shot wide but the forward redeemed himself five minutes later.

Mane was given space to deliver a cross from the left which led to Thomas Deng miskicking the ball onto the post. The lurking Duran was quick to slot the rebound home.

Buoyed by the goal, Al Nassr pressed harder and doubled their lead in the 31st minute with a surging Otavio laying the ball off for Mane to apply a low finish past Park Il-gyu.

It was one-way traffic with Al Nassr striking again in the 38th minute. Marcelo Brozovic's shot took a wicked deflection off Riku Yamane, which goalkeeper Park did well to tip away but the ball fell kindly for Ronaldo to smash home his eighth goal of the campaign.

Despite the Japanese side making attacking changes at the break, it was Al Nassr who widened their lead just three minutes into the restart, with Duran slotting home the rebound after Ali Hassan's curling shot was palmed away by Park.

Kota Watanabe narrowed the deficit in the 53rd minute but Al Nassr comfortably saw out the remainder of the tie.

KAWASAKI FRONTALE (JPN) 3-2 AL SADD SC (QAT)

(A.E.T)

Yasuto Wakizaka's extra-time goal earned Japan's Kawasaki Frontale a historic Semi-final berth after they defeated Qatar's Al Sadd SC 3-2 in their Quarter-final.

Having been denied at the last eight stage in three of their previous five appearances on the continental stage, Frontale showed grit to reach the Semi-finals, setting up a date with Saudi Arabia's Al Nassr Club.

Frontale got off to a fabulous start, taking the lead after only four minutes when Yuki Yamamoto dispossessed Mohamed Camara and released Akihiro Ienaga on the right, whose cross was then swept home by Erison.

Their lead, however, only lasted five minutes as Al Sadd drew level when Akram Afif put Paulo Otavio through with Frontale custodian Louis Yamaguchi failing to handle the Brazilian's shot at his near post.

With both clubs opting to play free-flowing football, it was only a matter of time before another goal was scored, with Frontale regaining their advantage in the 21st minute when Marcinho ran onto Yamamoto's perfectly weighted pass and lifted the ball over advancing Al Sadd goalkeeper Meshaal Barsham.

Al Sadd injected more urgency into their game after the break and their relentless pressure paid off in the 71st minute when Giovani sped away from his marker on the right flank and his subsequent cross was stepped over by Hasan Al Haydos, allowing Claudinho the chance to smash home to take the tie into extra-time.

The winning goal came in the 98th minute when Guilherme's underhit pass was pounced on by Yusuke Segawa who quickly relayed the ball to Shin Yamada who, in turn, cut it back for Wakizaka to strike past Barsham and take Frontale through.

SEMI-FINALS

AL HILAL SFC (KSA) 1-3 AL AHLI SAUDI FC (KSA)

Al Ahli Saudi FC were at their best as they advanced to the Final with a well-deserved 3-1 win against domestic rivals Al Hilal SFC.

With both sides chasing continental glory, the match got off to a tense start with yellow cards for Al Ahli's Ezgjan Alioski and Ali Majrashi in the opening five minutes.

The Jeddah-based club, however, were undaunted by the early cautions and their pressure paid off in the ninth minute.

Roger Ibanez played the ball over the Al Hilal defence and a determined Galeno kept it in play, with his cutback finding Roberto Firmino who side footed the ball home.

Al Ahli went two up in the 27th minute as Riyad Mahrez brilliantly picked out Ivan Toney's run with the England forward then evading onrushing Al Hilal

goalkeeper Yassine Bounou to slide the ball into the net.

Al Hilal looked to bounce back and captain Salem Al Dawsari narrowed the deficit in the 42nd minute, pouncing on a poor touch by Franck Kessie to blast home his 10th goal of the campaign.

Al Hilal's hopes of a comeback, however, suffered a massive blow in the 59th minute after Senegalese international Kalidou Koulibaly picked up a second yellow card.

Al Ahli capitalised on their numerical advantage and Feras Al Brikan came off the bench to score their third in time added on as Al Ahli moved within one match of lifting the trophy for the first time.

AL NASSR CLUB (KSA) 2-3 KAWASAKI FRONTALE (JPN)

Kawasaki Frontale clinched a deserved spot in the Final with a 3-2 win against Al Nassr Club.

Japan's Frontale played brilliant counter attacking football to advance to the final for the first time, having previously not even featured in the Semi-finals.

Saudi Arabia's Al Nassr got off to a fast start, with Frontale custodian Louis Yamaguchi forced into a sprawling save to deny Jhon Duran's effort from inside the area in the opening seconds.

The Japanese side responded in the sixth minute when Marcelo Brozovic was outmuscled by Marcinho, who surged into the box but pulled his effort wide.

Frontale, however, found themselves ahead four minutes later when a headed clearance fell invitingly for Tatsuya Ito, who struck a wonderful volley from just above the box into the top left corner.

Al Nassr looked to bounce back and had a chance in the 16th minute with Sadio Mane on the end of a fast break, only for the Senegalese forward to pull his effort wide from inside the area before Cristiano Ronaldo tried his luck from distance.

The Saudi Pro League side drew level with their next attack, Mane weaving his way through before unleashing a shot, with the ball hitting Yuichi Maruyama and sailing past the diving Yamaguchi.

With the wind in their sails, Al Nassr continued pressing with Ronaldo seeing his header in the 33rd minute bounce off the woodwork.

Al Nassr paid a heavy price for the miss, with Frontale retaking the lead in the 41st minute through 20-year-old Yuto Ozeki who struck after Tatsuya Ito's initial effort had been blocked by Al Nassr goalkeeper Bento.

Al Nassr continued to dominate the ball after the break but it was Frontale who widened their advantage in the 76th minute after the surging Erison sprinted past Aymeric Laporte down the byline before cutting back to Akihiro Ienaga for a simple finish.

Aiman Yahya reduced the deficit in the 87th minute and Al Nassr had their fans at the edge of their seats with Ronaldo having three chances in the closing moments but Frontale thwarted them all to take their place in the Final.

FINAL

AL AHLI SAUDI FC (KSA) 2-0 KAWASAKI FRONTALE (JPN)

First-half strikes from Galeno and Franck Kessie steered Al Ahli Saudi FC to a 2-0 win over Kawasaki Frontale in the Final of the AFC Champions League Elite™ 2024/25.

It was a richly deserved triumph, with the side from Saudi Arabia completing their campaign with an astonishing 12 wins and one draw to end their long wait for the continental title, having twice emerged as runners-up.

With their fans spurring them on, Al Ahli settled quickly and had a close look at goal in the fifth minute with Ivan Toney forcing Louis Yamaguchi into a sprawling save before the Frontale custodian made himself big to deny Ziyad Al Johani from point-blank range.

Frontale were far from being overawed and just as they had against Al Nassr Club in the Semi-finals, looked to hit on the counter.

One such move in the 11th minute saw Yuki Yamamoto set up the surging Marcinho, who wriggled his way into the box before unleashing a shot that forced goalkeeper Eduardo Mendy into action.

Al Ahli, however, continued to hold the upper hand and Frontale were let off the hook in the 18th minute after the Saudi Arabian side's quick transition left the Japanese club trailing in their wake, but Roger Ibanez couldn't get enough curl on the ball as it sailed wide of the right post.

With Frontale continuing to frustrate them, Al Ahli needed a moment of magic to open the scoring and it came in the 35th minute through Galeno, with the Brazilian collecting Roberto Firmino's pass before unleashing a dipping strike from just outside the box over a despairing Yamaguchi.

It didn't take Al Ahli long to double their advantage as they caught Frontale out with a counter-attacking move, with Firmino assisting again by delivering a pin-point cross for Kessie to nod home from close range.

With the onus on Frontale to chase the game, Al Ahli were content to sit back and soak up the Japanese side's pressure after the break.

Frontale, however, had to wait till the 57th minute for a sight on goal with Yasuto Wakizaka floating the ball into the box but Sai van Wermeskerken failed to get his header on target.

Substitute Tatsuya Ito pulled his effort wide from just above the box in the 76th minute, before squandering another chance from inside the box moments later as Al Ahli saw out the remainder of the Final to lift the coveted trophy for the first time.

Firmino, who had been at the forefront of their campaign all season long, was named the Most Valuable Player while Mendy received the Best Goalkeeper award.

Al Hilal captain Salem Al Dawsari won the Top Scorer award, having netted 10 goals as his side advanced to the Semi-finals.

AFC U17 ASIAN CUP SAUDI ARABIA 2025™

The AFC U17 Asian Cup Saudi Arabia 2025™ was held from April 3 to 20, 2025.

Uzbekistan emerged as champions after defeating Saudi Arabia 2-0 in the Final at the King Fahd Sports City Stadium in Taif.

The Okaz Stadium in Taif was also utilised while matches were played in Jeddah as well, with games contested at the King Abdullah Sports City Hall Stadium and Prince Abdullah Al Faisal Stadium.

The eight Quarter-finalists sealed their spots at the FIFA U-17 World Cup Qatar 2025.

GROUP STAGE

GROUP A

Uzbekistan stamped their mark on Group A from their opening match, defeating Thailand 4-1.

Seeking to emerge champions for a second time after having won the title in 2012, Uzbekistan easily topped the group with subsequent victories over China PR (2-1) and Saudi Arabia (3-0).

Saudi Arabia also advanced to the Quarter-finals, with victories against China PR (2-1) and Thailand (3-1) securing the runners-up spot.

GROUP B

Japan and United Arab Emirates advanced from Group B after an extremely tight contest saw all four teams finish on four points.

Defending champions Japan got off to a fine start by defeating UAE 4-1, but were then held 1-1 by Vietnam.

That was followed by a 3-2 defeat to Australia, who had opened their campaign with a 1-1 stalemate with Vietnam.

A 2-0 defeat to UAE on Matchday Two ultimately cost Australia as they exited the competition on the head-to-head criteria, with Japan topping the group and UAE finishing second.

GROUP C

Indonesia were unstoppable in Group C, with the Southeast Asian side finishing top with a perfect record of nine points.

A stunning 1-0 win against former champions Korea Republic on Matchday One was followed by victories against Yemen (4-1) and Afghanistan (2-0) as Indonesia sealed qualification to the FIFA U-17 World Cup on merit for the first time.

Korea Republic advanced as the group runners-up, thanks to victories against Afghanistan (6-0) and Yemen (1-0).

GROUP D

Tajikistan, runners-up in 2018, topped Group D after a tight contest which saw DPR Korea also advancing, with Oman and the Islamic Republic of Iran missing out.

A 2-1 win over Oman on Matchday One gave Tajikistan the perfect start but the Central

Asian side then suffered a 3-0 defeat to DPR Korea.

Tajikistan were back at their best in their final match, defeating IR Iran 3-1 to finish a point ahead of DPR Korea.

The East Asian side's win against Tajikistan on Matchday Two came either side of stalemates with IR Iran (1-1) and Oman (2-2).

QUARTER-FINALS

JAPAN 2-2 SAUDI ARABIA
(SAUDI ARABIA WON 3-2 ON PENALTIES)

Saudi Arabia ended Japan's reign with a thrilling penalty shootout win after their last-eight tie ended 2-2.

Both sides exchanged leads in a topsy-turvy match with Taiga Seguchi putting Japan ahead from the penalty spot in the eighth minute after Abu Baker Saeed handled the ball in the area.

There was redemption for the Saeed nine minutes later when Saudi Arabia were awarded a penalty of their own after Makoto Himeno hauled down Abdulaziz Al Fawaz, with the central defender slotting home the equaliser.

Saudi Arabia went ahead in the 37th minute after Nasser Al Fihani produced a precise diagonal pass to Abdulrahman Sufyani on the right flank, who drove into the box and committed Japanese custodian Shuji Muramatsu before cutting the ball back for Sabri Dahal to slot home.

Japan head coach Nozomi Hiroyama adjusted his frontline after the break with Hiroto Asada and Minato Yoshida sent on and it had the desired effect in the 72nd minute.

Yoshida’s quick pass found Daichi Tani, who released Asada to slot past Abdulrahman Al Otaibi as the match went to penalties.

Al Otaibi starred in the shoot-out, saving Yuito Kamo’s attempt with Shota Fujii and Ryota Hariu's efforts hitting the woodwork as Saudi Arabia stayed on course for a third title.

UZBEKISTAN 3-1 UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Asilbek Aliev struck a first-half brace to send Uzbekistan into the Semi-finals after an impressive 3-1 win against the United Arab Emirates.

Uzbekistan started off on the front foot and had a great opportunity to take the lead in the second minute, but Abubakir Shukurullaev shot tamely from close range after a neat one-two with Sadriddin Khasanov.

Khasanov fired just wide from outside the penalty box, before Sayfiddin Sodikov was denied by a last-ditch block from Ali Hassan Aljasmi with Uzbekistan seizing control of proceedings.

The Central Asians were rewarded for their dominance in the 14th minute through a magnificent 25-yard free-kick from Aliev, who struck the ball beautifully into the top left corner.

In the 35th minute, the 16-year-old striker made it five goals in the tournament, using his thigh to turn home Sodikov’s left-wing cross.

Sodikov put his name on the scoresheet with a penalty in the 45th minute to close out a thoroughly dominant first-half performance from Uzbekistan.

With a three-goal advantage, Uzbekistan were content to sit back in the second half but UAE could only find a consolation, with Mohamed Buti Almarar scoring off a corner in the 66th minute.

INDONESIA 0-6 DPR KOREA

Six players found the back of the net as DPR Korea overpowered Indonesia 6-0 to march into the Semi-finals.

DPR Korea wasted no time in getting down to business when Pak Kwang Song's seventh minute corner landed nicely for Choe Song Hun, who first-timed his shot past a diving Dafa Al Gasemi.

The East Asians extended their lead in the 19th minute when captain Kim Yu Jin's volley from inside the box took a deflection off defender Mathew Baker and bounced past a flat-footed Dafa.

They widened their lead three minutes after the break, when Pak's cut back on the right found Ri Kyong Bong in the middle of the six yard box, whose shot hit the crossbar and bounced into goal.

Kim Tae Guk made it 4-0 in the 60th minute when he converted a penalty after a handball from Putu Panji, and Ri Kang Rim got onto the scoresheet a minute later when he dashed into the box, evaded two defenders and Dafa before sending his shot into an unguarded net.

Their sixth goal came courtesy of Pak Ju Won, who capitalised on Fabio Azkairawan's error following a corner in the 77th minute to bury his shot from the middle of the box to cap the commanding win.

TAJIKISTAN 2-2 KOREA REPUBLIC

(KOREA REPUBLIC WON 5-3 ON PENALTIES)

Korea Republic advanced to the Semi-finals after defeating Tajikistan 5-3 on penalties, with the Quarter-final tie ending 2-2.

Korea Republic captain Koo Hyeon-bin emerged as their hero after putting away the winning penalty in the shootout, with goalkeeper Park Do-hun playing a big role after saving Tajikistan's second spot-kick.

With both sides unable to put away their chances in the first half, the match finally burst into life in the 67th minute when Jeong Hyeon-ung scored from Kim Ji-sung's cross from the right.

Lim Ye-chan thought he had given Korea Republic a second goal with a sweet strike in the 74th minute, but the goal was rescinded upon a VAR review, with the ball having hit Kim's hand in the build-up.

Tajikistan's Abdullo Ibragimzoda proved lively after coming on, forcing Park into a diving save in the 80th minute.

The substitute turned the game around shortly after as Tajikistan scored two goals in as many minutes.

The Central Asian side drew level in the 83rd minute through Mukhammad Nazriev, who turned the ball home from close range after great work from Abdullo Ibragimzoda on the left.

Nazriev turned provider two minutes later with a lovely backheel for Ibragimzoda to rifle the ball home.

But there was late drama as Korea Republic were awarded a penalty six minutes into time added on after a VAR check, and Kim made no mistake from the spot to force the game into a shoot-out.

Park first saved Furqon Rahimzoda's effort, before Koo kept his cool by converting the fifth spot-kick to steer his team into the semis.

SEMI-FINALS

SAUDI ARABIA 1-1 KOREA REPUBLIC
(SAUDI ARABIA WON 3-1 ON PENALTIES)

Saudi Arabia came back from the cusp of defeat to beat Korea Republic 3-1 on penalties to reach the Final.

Abu Baker Saeed's equaliser in stoppage time took the Semi-final into a penalty shoot-out, with the match having ended 1-1.

Goalkeeper Abdulrahman Al Otaibi emerged as the hero after saving attempts from Jeong Hyeon-ung and Kim Do-yeon in the shootout.

After both sides went close several times, Korea Republic took the lead just before the break when Kim Ye-geon chased down a long free-kick to send the ball back across the face of the goalmouth for Oh Ha-ram, who slotted home the rebound after his initial attempt had been saved by Al Otaibi.

It took Saudi Arabia until the 74th minute to create their first opening of the second half as substitute Thari Saeed embarked on a surging run on the left before cutting the ball back for Abdulrahman Sufyani, who did well to create space but saw his shot blocked by Koo Hyeon-bin.

Saudi Arabia, however, were not to be denied the equaliser, drawing level in the 12th minute of added time after Park Do-hun bundled Abdulhadi Al Fawaz over in the box with Saeed stepping up to convert the spot-kick to send the match to penalties.

Al Otaibi then denied Jeong and Kim in the shoot-out to take Saudi Arabia into the Final.

UZBEKISTAN 3-0 DPR KOREA

Uzbekistan stormed into the Final after an impressive 3-0 victory against 10-man DPR Korea.

Both sides entered the tie having scored 24 goals between them but it was Uzbekistan who were the first to go close when Sadriddin Khasanov was tripped in the box in the 26th minute, with captain Muminkhon Bakhhodirkhonov stepping up for the spot-kick.

Bakhhodirkhonov shot straight at goalkeeper Jong Hyon Ju and while the rebound was turned into his own net by DPR Korea defender Ri Kang Song, the effort was ruled out after a VAR review.

Khasanov, however, set the game alight in the 31st minute, cutting inside his marker before firing a shot into the top corner to give Uzbekistan a deserved lead.

Things got worse for DPR Korea in the 40th minute after they were reduced to 10 men when Kang Myong Bom received his marching orders for a second yellow card.

Uzbekistan made their numerical advantage count and doubled their lead in the 62nd minute through Jamshidbek Rustamov.

The substitute controlled Abubakir Shukurullaev's perfectly flighted cross before finishing with a curling effort into the top corner for his third goal after coming off the bench.

Three minutes later, Shukurullaev got his name on the scoresheet with a simple tap-in after great work from Khasanov, who teed him up to stab the ball into an empty goalmouth as Uzbekistan marched into the Final in style.

FINAL

UZBEKISTAN 2-0 SAUDI ARABIA

Nine-man Uzbekistan overcame the odds to win the AFC U17 Asian Cup Saudi Arabia 2025™ title after defeating Saudi Arabia 2-0 in the Final.

Uzbekistan stayed resilient despite losing two players to red cards in the first half to lift the coveted trophy for a second time, having also emerged as champions in 2012.

Saudi Arabia started the Final strongly, with Abdulrahman Sufyani releasing Abdulhadi Matari in the eighth minute but the striker's low shot was well claimed by Uzbekistan custodian Nematulloh Rustamjonov.

Uzbekistan then started to impose themselves but were limited to half chances with efforts from Nurbek Sarsenbaev and Abubakir Shukurullaev not troubling Saudi Arabia goalkeeper Abdulrahman Al Otaibi.

The cagey game took an unexpected twist in the 40th minute when a tussle between Sarsenbaev and Adel Hibah on the touchline saw the Uzbekistan player shown the red card for kicking out at his opponent while on the ground.

Matters got worse for the Central Asian side in the second minute of time added on as they went down to nine players following Miraziz Abdukarimov's last-man challenge on Sabri Dahal.

Uzbekistan, however, remained on the front foot after the interval and took the game to Saudi Arabia despite their numerical disadvantage.

Their aggression paid off in the 51st minute after a VAR check confirmed Yazeed Al Dosari's handball, with Muhammad Khakimov making no mistake from 12 yards.

The home fans at King Fahd Sports City Stadium were then stunned into silence in the 70th minute after a quick break saw a surging Sadriddin Khasanov evade Alwaleed Aloufi on the left before slotting past Al Otaibi to seal Uzbekistan's amazing victory.

Having impressed throughout the tournament, Uzbekistan's Khasanov was named the Most Valuable Player of the Tournament while teammate Asilbek Aliev picked up the Top Scorer award after finishing with five goals.

Uzbekistan custodian Rustamjonov was named the Best Goalkeeper, having only conceded three goals in five appearances.

AFC BEACH SOCCER ASIAN CUP THAILAND 2025™

The AFC Beach Soccer Asian Cup Thailand 2025™ was held on March 20-30, 2025.

Islamic Republic of Iran emerged champions for a record fourth time after defeating Oman in the Final at the Jomtien Beach Arena in Pattaya, with both teams qualifying for the FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup Seychelles 2025.

Japan defeated Saudi Arabia in the third-place playoff to also confirm their ticket to the FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup.

GROUP A

Thailand were the standout team in Group A, with the hosts kicking off their campaign with a 3-0 win over India. That was followed by a 5-4 victory over Lebanon.

The Group A top spot was confirmed after edging Kuwait 4-3 as Thailand finished with eight points.

Lebanon, thanks to wins against Kuwait (5-4) and India (6-1), advanced to the Quarter-finals as the runners-up.

GROUP B

Japan, seeking a fourth title, had to work hard in their Group B opener to defeat a strong Iraq side 4-3.

The East Asians were back at their best in the subsequent encounter with Saudi Arabia, strolling to a 7-2 win and then confirmed the Group B top spot with a 4-1 victory against China PR.

Saudi Arabia created history as their wins against China PR (5-3) and Iraq (3-2) meant they advanced as runners-up, having never previously qualified for the Knockout Stage.

GROUP C

IR Iran were unstoppable in Group C, kicking off their campaign with a 12-2 win against Indonesia.

Seeking back-to-back titles for the first time, they defeated Afghanistan 14-0 on Matchday Two and followed that up with a 4-3 win against the United Arab Emirates.

The UAE, having beaten Afghanistan (7-1) and Indonesia (6-1), qualified to the next stage as well.

GROUP D

Oman, seeking to win the title a second time after having emerged as champions in 2015, hit the ground running in Group D with an emphatic 7-1 win against Vietnam.

That was followed by victories against Malaysia (6-3) and Bahrain (5-1) as they booked their Quarter-final spot in style.

Bahrain advanced as the runners-up, with Malaysia missing out after both sides finished with three points.

QUARTER-FINALS

THAILAND 3-4 SAUDI ARABIA

Saudi Arabia not only broke Thailand's hearts but also created history after a 4-3 triumph in their Quarter-final.

In a match which saw the lead changing hands, Ahmed Al Hamami stepped up to blast home a free-kick in the 33rd minute to send Saudi Arabia through to the last four stage for the first time.

JAPAN 8-3 LEBANON

Japan were a class above in their face-off with Lebanon, with the former champions leading from start to finish.

Lebanon restricted them to just one goal in the first period but Japan were at their lethal best after the first break as they marched into the Semi-finals in style.

IR IRAN 11-0 BAHRAIN

Islamic Republic of Iran produced another swashbuckling performance as they cruised past Bahrain 11-0 in their last eight tie.

An impressive seven players got on the scoresheet as IR Iran moved a step closer to winning the title for a fourth time.

OMAN 7-2 UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Oman came from behind to book their Semi-final spot, defeating UAE 7-2 in an impressive show of strength.

Seeking a return to the final for the first time since lifting the crown in 2015, Oman were in unstoppable form as they ultimately registered a resounding win.

SEMI-FINALS

SAUDI ARABIA 0-6 IR IRAN

Islamic Republic of Iran proved a step too far for Saudi Arabia as the defending champions booked their spot in the Final with a 6-0 win.

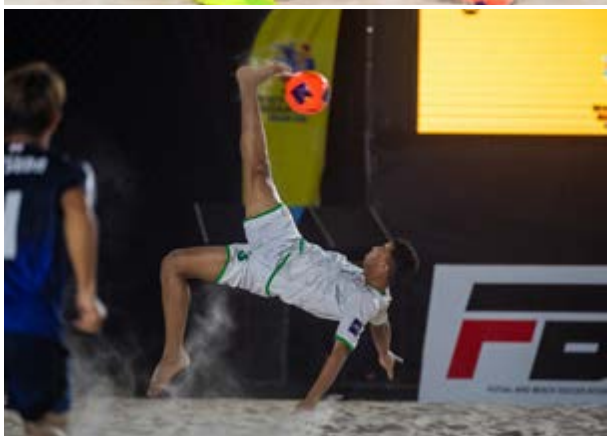
After spirited resistance from Saudi Arabia, Iran broke the deadlock in the seventh minute when substitute goalkeeper Seyemohammad Dastan showed his accuracy from distance, rifling a volley into the top corner beyond Saudi Arabia custodian Mohammed Alajmi's outstretched hands.

IR Iran doubled their advantage two minutes later as they opened up Saudi Arabia's defence for the first time in the game, allowing Seyed Nazem the chance to smash an overhead strike home.

Saudi Arabia showed more attacking intent in the second period but their inability to put away their chances were punished late in the period.

Movahed Mohammadpour found Ali Mishekari in the space in the 22nd minute and the Iranian forward accepted the invitation to power in an overhead strike to score his ninth goal of the campaign.

IR Iran kept up their intensity in the third period as they added further goals through Mohammad Masoumizadeh (27th), Dastan (31st) and Mirshekari (36th) to seal their passage to the Final.



JAPAN 2-3 OMAN

Oman continued their impressive form with a stunning 3-2 win over Japan, ending the East Asian side's hopes of winning the title for a fourth time.

Oman went ahead in the eighth minute when Yahya Al Muraiki's long-range shot from the right flank went past Japan's Takaaki Oba, Ozu Moreira and goalkeeper Takeru Furusato before settling in the net.

The first few minutes of the second period saw Oba's repeated attempts thwarted by the woodwork and the Oman backline, but Japan finally found their equaliser in the 17th minute through Chikara Eguro.

Japan took the lead in the 21st minute when captain Ryota Tsuboya collected a lobbed pass from Kosuke Matsuda and beat goalkeeper Mushel Al Araimi.

Three minutes into the final period, it was all square once again as Oman goalkeeper Younis Al Owaisi's throw found Abdullah Salim at the other end, whose acrobatic effort sent the ball into the centre of the Japan net.

Al Owaisi then turned matchwinner when his shot from the Oman goal line went unchallenged, sailing straight into the Japan net as Oman advanced to the Final in stunning fashion.

THIRD-PLACE PLAYOFF

SAUDI ARABIA 1-3 JAPAN

Japan held off Saudi Arabia to take third place with a 3-1 win in the playoff.

The victory meant Japan booked their ticket to the FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup Seychelles 2025, joining Islamic Republic of Iran and Oman at the global showpiece.

Japan threatened early, with goalkeeper Takeru Furusato launching a long-range effort within the first minute, but Saudi Arabia's Hassan Aleid reacted swiftly to punch the ball away.

The West Asians grew into the game and nearly broke the deadlock in the fourth minute when goalkeeper Aleid played a precise ball to Ahmed Alhamami on the left flank, whose acrobatic volley was tipped over by Furusato.

The stalemate finally ended in the final seconds of the first period when Takaaki Oba latched onto a throw from Furusato and unleashed a bicycle kick towards the Saudi Arabia goal. The ball bounced off Aleid before rolling into the bottom left corner of the net.

The West Asians did not take long to find their equaliser, with Majed Shamhani firing in a left-footed free-kick, sending the ball past Furusato into the right corner of the Japan goalmouth.

Japan regained their lead shortly after when Takumi Uesato's precise volley found Chikara Eguro, who produced a stunning overhead strike that flew past a rooted Aleid and settled in the net.

Japan extended their lead in the closing seconds with Ozu Moreira adding his name to the scoresheet as they finished third.

FINAL

IR IRAN 8-1 OMAN

Islamic Republic of Iran capped a fabulous campaign by defeating Oman 8-1 in the Final to lift the AFC Beach Soccer Asian Cup™ trophy for a record fourth time.

The Central Asian side dominated from the start with Oman custodian Younis Al-Owaisi having to be alert to block efforts from Mahdi Shirmohammadi and Movahed Mohammapour before his opposite number Seyedmahdi Mirjalili pushed away an attempt from Nooh Al Zadjali.

IR Iran, however, had to wait till the final minute of the first period for the breakthrough when Seyedmohammad Dastan's long range effort was saved by Amjad Al-Hamdani, only for Shirmohammadi to nod home the rebound.

The defending champions stepped up another gear in the second half, doubling their lead in the 15th minute after Reza Amiri smashed a free-kick home with the final bounce taking the ball away from the gloves of Al-Owaisi.

IR Iran made it 3-0 two minutes later, Movahed Mohammadpour executing an overhead kick that ended up in the top corner. In the 18th minute, Seyed Nazem steered a first-time effort home before Ali Mirshekari blasted home two minutes later with a free-kick.

Oman pulled a goal back seconds later after Sami Al Bulushi was left unmarked at the far post to sweep home but the 2015 champions conceded another in the 22nd minute with Mirshekari getting his second of the game.

Mohammadali Mokhtari added to the tally in the 32nd and 36th minutes as IR Iran cruised to a sensational victory.

Capping a memorable tournament, Mirshekari was named the Most Valuable Player while his 12 goals also saw him scoop the Top Scorer award. Mirjalili landed the Best Goalkeeper award.

AFC U20 ASIAN CUP CHINA 2025™

The AFC U20 Asian Cup China 2025™ was held from February 12 to March 1, 2025.

Australia emerged as champions for the first time after defeating Saudi Arabia in the Final at the Baoan Sports Centre Stadium. Three other venues across Shenzhen were also utilised during the tournament.

Losing Semi-finalists Japan and Korea Republic joined Australia and Saudi Arabia in qualifying for the FIFA U-20 World Cup Chile 2025.

GROUP STAGE

GROUP A

Australia topped Group A with a perfect record of three wins, defeating Kyrgyz Republic 5-1, Qatar 3-1 and China PR 2-1.

China PR advanced to the Quarter-finals as the runners-up following victories over Qatar (2-1) and Kyrgyz Republic (5-2).

Qatar finished third in the group with a 4-0 win against Kyrgyz Republic in their concluding tie.

GROUP B

Saudi Arabia and Iraq advanced to the Knockout Stage but only after a thrilling battle in Group B.

Saudi Arabia, who eventually topped the group, opened their campaign with a 1-0 win over Jordan but suffered a reverse by the same scoreline against Iraq in their second match.

The three-time champions, however, rediscovered their winning touch to edge DPR Korea 2-1 on Matchday Three.

Iraq, having drawn 1-1 with DPR Korea in their opening match, went into their final tie against Jordan as the leaders but a goalless draw meant finishing second in the group behind Saudi Arabia.

Jordan concluded their campaign with four points, with DPR Korea on one point.

GROUP C

Islamic Republic of Iran took a firm grip on Group C with the four-time champions kicking off their campaign with a 3-0 defeat of Indonesia.

That was followed by a 6-0 triumph against Yemen, before completing their Group Stage campaign with a perfect record after defeating defending champions Uzbekistan 2-1.

Uzbekistan also advanced, courtesy of victories against Yemen (1-0) and Indonesia (3-1).

Indonesia and Yemen finished on one point each, with the Southeast Asian third on goal difference.

GROUP D

Korea Republic and Japan comfortably advanced from Group D.

Korea Republic—seeking a record-extending 13th title—defeated a plucky Syria 2-1 in their opening match and confirmed their Knockout Stage spot with a 4-1 win against Thailand on Matchday Two.

Japan had to work a little harder after their opening 3-0 win against Thailand was followed by a 2-2 draw with Syria.

Japan had to avoid defeat against Korea Republic in their final group tie, which ended 0-0, as they finished second on five points.

Syria, who played out a 2-2 draw with Thailand in their final match, concluded their campaign with two points, one ahead of the Southeast Asian side.

QUARTER-FINALS

SAUDI ARABIA 1-0 CHINA PR

Amar Al Yuhaybi struck deep into time added on as Saudi Arabia defeated China PR 1-0 in their Quarter-final at the Shenzhen Youth Football Training Base Centre Stadium.

China PR dominated the tie and had more attempts on goal, but their inability to finish their chances cost them dearly in the fifth minute of added time in the second half.

With play edging towards an additional 30 minutes, Saudi Arabia had the China PR fans holding their heads in dismay when Al Yuhaybi volleyed the ball over the outstretched arms of goalkeeper Liu Qiwei for a sensational finish to a thrilling contest.

AUSTRALIA 3-2 IRAQ

Australia came from behind twice to defeat Iraq 3-2 in their Quarter-final at the Baoan Sports Centre Stadium.

Amoori Faisal opened the scoring in the 15th minute, with Luka Jovanovic's dipping free-kick in the 22nd minute drawing Australia level.

Mustafa Qabeel restored Iraq's lead in the 26th minute but Australia fought back with Panagiotis

Kikianis drawing them level with a curling right-footed finish.

Victory was sealed thanks to a sensational Alexander Badolato shot from just outside the box in the 74th minute.

IR IRAN 1-1 JAPAN

(A.E.T, JAPAN WON 4-3 ON PENALTIES)

Captain Rion Ichihara struck the winning spot-kick in the penalty shootout as Japan defeated Islamic Republic of Iran in their Quarter-final.

Reza Ghandipour gave IR Iran a fifth-minute lead, with Kosei Ogura's equaliser in the 30th minute forcing the match into extra-time and then penalties.

Goalkeeper Arsha Shakouri—whose saves had kept IR Iran in the game—scored in the shootout and also stopped Japan's third, but Erfan Darvish Aali and Pourya Shahrabadi missed the opening two efforts, paving the way for Ichihara to net the winning spot-kick as Japan advanced to the Semi-finals.

KOREA REPUBLIC 3-3 UZBEKISTAN

(A.E.T, KOREA REPUBLIC WON 3-1 ON PENALTIES)

Goalkeeper Hong Seong-min saved twice in the shootout as Korea Republic defeated defending

champions Uzbekistan 3-1 on penalties in their Quarter-final, with the match having ended 3-3 at the end of 120 minutes.

In a thrilling encounter, skipper Muhammadali Urinboev missed from the penalty spot in the second minute but Uzbekistan did go on to take the lead through Asilbek Jumaev in the 18th minute.

Korea Republic roared back and looked to have booked their Semi-final spot through goals from Shin Min-ha (24th, 56th) and skipper Kim Tae-won (61st).

Uzbekistan, however, refused to concede defeat with strikes from Urinboev (90th) and Abdugafur Haydarov (90+4) forcing the game to an additional 30 minutes and penalties, only for Hong to deny Ollabergan Karimov and Murodjon Komilov to take Korea Republic through.

SEMI-FINALS

SAUDI ARABIA 0-0 KOREA REPUBLIC
(A.E.T, SAUDI ARABIA WON 3-2 ON PENALTIES)

Saudi Arabia advanced into the Final by defeating Korea Republic 3-2 on penalties after their last-four tie ended in a goalless draw after 120 minutes.

Goalkeeper Hamed Yousef starred for Saudi Arabia in the shootout, saving twice to take his team through despite having been dominated by Korea Republic.

In a match which saw Korea Republic outshoot Saudi Arabia with 13 attempts to five, the East Asian side's inability to finish cost them dearly in the penalty shootout.

Yousef saved Kim Tae-won's opening effort, while Lee Chang-woo hit the post as Saudi Arabia led 2-0.

Missed penalties from Saleh Barnawi and Saud Al Tumbkti saw Korea Republic pull themselves back into the tie, but the momentum swung in Saudi Arabia's favour again when Yousef saved Kim Gyeol's attempt with Ali Al Mahdawi netting the decisive spot-kick to take Saudi Arabia into the Final.

AUSTRALIA 2-0 JAPAN

Australia produced a dominant second-half display to defeat Japan 2-0 in their Semi-final.

Goals from Musa Toure and Jaylan Pearman took Australia within one match of lifting the trophy for the first time.

Japan started the tie on the front foot and outshot Australia with 12 attempts to six throughout the course of the match but were unable to find a breakthrough.

Crucially for Australia, both their shots on target ended in the back of the net, with Toure opening the scoring in the 49th minute.

Even better was to come for Australia through substitute Pearman, who had been on the pitch for just four minutes prior to bagging their second in the 67th minute to confirm their ticket to the Final.

FINAL

AUSTRALIA 1-1 SAUDI ARABIA
(A.E.T, AUSTRALIA WON 5-4 ON PENALTIES)

Goalkeeper Steven Hall was the star as Australia defeated Saudi Arabia 5-4 on penalties.

With the Final ending 1-1 after 120 minutes, Hall saved Bassam Hazazi's spot-kick as Australia won their first title.

Saudi Arabia—seeking to become champions for a fourth time—almost got off to a dream start when Hussain Al Raqwani's instinctive intervention in the third minute sent Talal Haji clear on goal, but Hall parried the shot before it was cleared to safety.

Australia had their first opening six minutes later when Alex Badolato executed a neat lob to Louis Agosti inside a packed box, but Saleh Barnawi's timely tackle nullified the threat.

Haji then wasted a golden opportunity to give Saudi Arabia the lead in the 13th minute when Amar Al Yuhaybi laid the ball for the unmarked forward, who sent his effort over the bar while at the other end, Musa Toure saw his attempt from just above the box blocked.

Australia gradually got a firmer grip on the proceedings and took the lead in the 24th minute when Badolato's cross into the box was deflected onto the path of Agosti, whose shot from just outside the box sailed past despairing Saudi Arabia goalkeeper Hamed Yousef and into the bottom left corner.

Buoyed by the goal, Australia pushed forward in numbers but Saudi Arabia remained resolute in defence, with Farhah Al Shamrani making a crucial goal line clearance to deny Paul Okon's effort from a corner.
With the first half in time added on, Saudi Arabia drew level in dramatic fashion with Haji making amends for his earlier miss.

The forward perfectly timed his jump to meet Nawaf Al Ghulaimish's cross and nodded home, with Hall seemingly having made the save. The assistant referee, however, flagged for the goal which was confirmed after a VAR review.

Australia rang in the changes at the start of the second half with Fabian Talladira, Jaylan Pearman and Jonny Yull going on but it was Saudi Arabia who had an opening as Al Shamrani made a decisive interception in the 67th minute and sent a delightful ball through for Saad Hussain Haqawi, who struck his close-range effort straight into the arms of Hall.

Haji then sent his headed attempt wide in the 78th minute while Luka Jovanovic missed his header in the 90th minute as the match went into extra-time.

Both sides were limited to half chances in the additional 30 minutes and the penalty shootout went according to script until Hall got his hand to Hazazi's effort to clinch the title for Australia.

Australian midfielder Badolato was named the Most Valuable Player while Saudi Arabia's Yousef was picked as the Best Goalkeeper. Uzbekistan's Mukhammadali Urinboev won the Top Scorer Award.

ASIAN TEAMS ON THE GLOBAL STAGE

FIFA ARAB CUP QATAR 2025

The FIFA Arab Cup Qatar 2025 was held on December 1-18, 2025 with matches played in Al Khor, Al Rayyan, Doha and Lusail.

Asia was represented by Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria and the United Arab Emirates.

Jordan made the continent proud by emerging as runners-up, narrowly falling 3-2 to Morocco after extra-time.

GROUP STAGE

Palestine and Syria advanced to the Quarter-finals after finishing first and second in Group A.

Both accumulated five points, with Palestine topping the group on goal difference while Qatar

were eliminated after managing one draw in their three matches.

Saudi Arabia advanced as the Group B runners-up behind Morocco, with Herve Renard's side collecting six points – one behind the African team. Oman finished third with four points and were eliminated.

Jordan were perfect in Group C, three wins yielding eight goals with just two conceded. Joining them in the Quarter-finals from the group were UAE, who collected four points. Kuwait were eliminated after managing a single draw.

Iraq advanced to the Quarter-finals as the Group D runners-up behind defending champions Algeria. Iraq collected six points—one less than Algeria—while Bahrain finished third with three points.

QUARTER-FINALS

Saudi Arabia needed extra-time to see off the challenge of a spirited Palestine.

Firas Al Buraikan opened the scoring for Saudi Arabia from the penalty spot in the 58th minute, with Oday Dabbagh drawing Palestine level six minutes later.

Mohammed Kanno, however, ensured it was Saudi Arabia who progressed with his strike in the 115th minute.

Ali Olwan was Jordan's hero in their last-eight tie against Iraq, scoring from the penalty spot in the 41st minute to set up a Semi-final showdown with Saudi Arabia.

UAE showed nerves of steel as they came from behind to hold Algeria 1-1 and force extra-time, before winning the penalty shootout 7-6.

Algeria took the lead through Adi Boulbina in the 46th minute, with Bruno equalising in the 64th before Richard Akonnor struck the winning penalty for UAE to set up a Semi-final against Morocco.

SEMI-FINALS

Morocco, however, proved too strong in the last four showdown, cruising to a 3-0 win through goals from Karim El Berkaoui, Aschraf El Mahdioui and Abderrazak Hamdallah.

Jordan had to work much harder to achieve victory against Saudi Arabia, with Nizar Al-Rashdan netting the only goal of a pulsating tie in the 66th minute.

THIRD-PLACE PLAYOFF

Inclement weather forced the abandonment of the Saudi Arabia-UAE third-place playoff.

FINAL

Jordan had to be satisfied with the runners-up spot but would have been proud of their commitment and drive, having gone within minutes of lifting the title.

Morocco got off to a strong start, with Oussama Tannane giving them the lead in the fourth minute.

Jordan roared back in the second half with eventual top scorer Ali Olwan netting in the 48th and 68th minutes to turn the game around, but Morocco refused to give up with Abderrazak Hamdallah equalising in the 88th minute to force extra-time.

Hamdallah, who plays his club football in Saudi Arabia, then struck the winner in the 100th minute as Morocco took the title.

FIFA WOMEN'S CHAMPIONS CUP

Wuhan Jiangda Women's FC were Asia's representatives in the FIFA Women's Champions Cup, having earned their ticket as winners of the AFC Women's Champions League 2024/25™.

Wang Shuang and her teammates opened their campaign with a Round Two encounter with New Zealand's Auckland United FC on October 8, 2025.

It was a tightly fought encounter with Jiang Chenying's 88th minute strike securing Wuhan Jiangda a Round Two encounter with African champions AS FAR on December 14, 2025.

A thrilling tie at the Berrechid Municipal Stadium saw the China PR side take the lead through Wang's stunning strike in the 30th minute.

The stung Moroccan side upped their tempo but had to wait till the 89th minute for the equaliser, with Hajar Said nodding home Yolande Gnammi's cross from the right to force extra-time.

It was one way traffic in extra-time with Sanaa Mssoudy going close on two occasions – first sending her glancing header over the bar, before angling the second into the path of custodian Chen Chen.

The Moroccan side's relentless pressure paid off a minute before the break when a long ball from Fatima Tagnaout found Mssoudy, who outmuscled her marker before lobbing Chen to seal the win.

FIFA FUTSAL WOMEN'S WORLD CUP PHILIPPINES 2025

The FIFA Futsal Women's World Cup Philippines 2025 was held on November 21-December 7, 2025.

Asia was represented by Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Thailand and hosts Philippines.

The Philippines' campaign ended in Group A, suffering defeats against Poland (6-0), Morocco (3-2) and Argentina (5-1).

Thailand were also eliminated from Group B, with the Southeast Asian side opening their campaign with a 5-2 defeat against Spain. They bounced back to defeat Canada 6-3 but a 4-1 loss to Colombia meant the end of their campaign.

Japan kicked off their Group C challenge with a 6-0 win against New Zealand. The reigning Asian champions, however, found Portugal too strong on Matchday Two as they fell to a 3-1 defeat. A 9-0 win against Tanzania on Matchday Three booked their Quarter-final spot.

IR Iran also found the going tough in Group D, with their opening match against Brazil ending in a 4-1 defeat. A 6-2 win against Panama revived their Knockout Stage hopes but Italy were a hurdle too high as the European side took a 3-1 win to end the Central Asians' hopes.

Japan's campaign came to an end in the Quarter-final stage as Brazil, on a 40-match winning streak, raced to a 5-0 lead at the break. Japan pulled one back but Brazil netted again to complete a resounding 6-1 win.

FIFA U-17 WORLD CUP QATAR 2025

The FIFA U-17 World Cup Qatar 2025 was held on November 3-27, 2025.

Asia was represented by DPR Korea, Indonesia, Japan, Korea Republic, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan and hosts Qatar.

Qatar opened their Group A campaign with a 1-0 defeat against Italy. That was followed by stalemates with South Africa (1-1) and Bolivia (0-0) as the hosts exited the competition.

Japan topped Group B with seven points, kicking off their campaign with a 2-0 win against Morocco. A surprise goalless stalemate with New Caledonia followed, but Japan were back at their best to defeat eventual champions Portugal 2-1 to advance.

UAE finished bottom of Group C with a point from three matches. They drew 1-1 with Costa Rica in their tournament opener, but subsequent defeats against Croatia (3-0) and Senegal (5-0) meant an early end to their campaign.

Korea Republic advanced to the Knockout Stage as Group F runners-up, garnering seven points. A 2-1 defeat of Mexico saw them kick off their campaign in style, with a goalless draw with Switzerland and a 3-1 win against Ivory Coast taking them through.

DPR Korea were at their best in their Group G opener, beating El Salvador 5-0. That was followed by a 1-1 draw with Germany and despite falling to a 2-0 defeat against Colombia in their final match, the East Asians advanced as one of the best third-placed teams.

Indonesia found the going tough in Group H, losing to Zambia (3-1) and Brazil (4-0). The Southeast Asians, despite not advancing, did create history as their 2-1 win against Honduras in their concluding tie was their first-ever victory at the tournament.

Tajikistan also endured a tough campaign in Group I, losing to Czech Republic (6-1), United States (2-1) and Burkina Faso (2-0).

Uzbekistan advanced to the Round of 16 as Group J runners-up, defeating Paraguay (2-1) and Panama (6-1). They fell to a 2-1 defeat against group winners Republic of Ireland.

Saudi Arabia's campaign ended in Group L, with the West Asian side suffering a 1-0 defeat against Austria in their opening tie. A 3-2 win against New Zealand revived their hopes but Mali proved too strong in their concluding tie, with the African side triumphing 2-0.

Korea Republic's hopes were dashed following a 2-0 defeat against England, but the remaining three Asian sides navigated the Round of 32 successfully.

Uzbekistan edged Croatia 4-3 on penalties after their tie ended 1-1, with the Central Asian side setting up a last-16 face-off with Italy.

Japan cruised 3-0 past South Africa, while DPR Korea edged Venezuela 2-1, which meant the two East Asian sides would square off in the Round of 16. With the match ending 1-1, Japan proved sharper from the penalty spot, winning the shootout 5-4 to set up a Quarter-final with Austria.

Uzbekistan's valiant campaign came to an end following a 3-2 defeat to Italy. Meanwhile, Japan's bid for the title was ended by Austria in the Quarter-finals, with the European side edging the tie 1-0.

FIFA U-17 WOMEN'S WORLD CUP MOROCCO 2025

The FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup Morocco 2025 was held on October 17-November 8, 2025.

DPR Korea retained the title, lifting the trophy for a record-extending fourth time.

Asia's other representatives were China PR, Japan and Korea Republic.

DPR Korea opened their campaign in Group C and were peerless from the first blow of the referee's whistle. A 2-0 win against Mexico was followed by a 2-1 victory against Cameroon, with the East Asian side having to come from behind through Kim Won Sim's goals to claim victory. They were at their best in their final group tie, cruising 5-0 past Netherlands.

China PR advanced to the Knockout Stage for the first time after finishing second in Group C. An opening 5-0 win against Norway was followed by a 5-2 defeat against the United States, but China PR bounced back to defeat Ecuador to finish second.

Korea Republic were eliminated from Group E, securing a 1-1 draw with Ivory Coast in their opening match but then suffering defeats against former champions Spain (5-0) and Colombia (1-0).

Former champions Japan topped Group F with seven points, finishing ahead of Paraguay on goal difference. An opening 3-0 win against New Zealand was followed by a 2-0 victory against Zambia. The East Asians then shared a 1-1 draw with Paraguay.

Brazil proved too strong for China PR in the Round of 16, with the South American side cruising to a 3-0 victory.

DPR Korea and Japan, meanwhile, set up a Quarter-final showdown after wins against Morocco (6-1) and Colombia (4-0) respectively.

DPR Korea proved too strong, sailing to a 5-1 win thanks to goals from Kim (1st, 73rd), Ri Ui Gyong (6th, 90+6) and Yu Jong Hyang (22nd).

Up next were Brazil in the Semi-finals, but Yu struck in the 44th (penalty) and 52nd minutes to book DPR Korea's ticket to the Final.

The title decider was a second meeting with tournament debutants Netherlands, with DPR Korea confirming a fourth title with first half strikes from Kim, Pak Rye Yong and Ri giving them a 3-0 win.

Yu won the Golden Ball and Golden Boot awards, with Kim taking silver in both categories.

FIFA U-20 WORLD CUP CHILE 2025

The FIFA U-20 World Cup Chile 2025 was held on September 27 to October 19.

Asia was represented by Australia, Saudi Arabia, Japan and Korea Republic.

Japan were perfect in Group A, recording wins against Egypt (2-0), Chile (2-0) and New Zealand (3-0) to advance to the Knockout Stage.

Korea Republic also advanced, despite finishing third in Group B. They opened their campaign with a 2-1 defeat against Ukraine, followed by a 0-0 draw with Paraguay. A 2-1 victory against Panama sealed their Round of 16 spot as one of the best third-placed teams.

Australia were eliminated from Group C following a campaign which saw them suffer defeats against Italy (1-0) and Argentina (4-1). A 3-1 win against Cuba was not enough to take them through.

Saudi Arabia also made an early exit, following a return of just one point in Group F from their 1-1 draw with Norway, having suffered earlier defeats to Colombia (1-0) and Nigeria (3-2).

The Asian challenge ended in the Round of 16, with Japan suffering a 1-0 defeat to France in extra-time while Morocco defeated Korea Republic 2-1.

Morocco went on to win the title with a 2-0 defeat of Argentina in the Final.

FIFA AFRICAN–ASIAN–PACIFIC CUP 2025

Al Ahli Saudi FC suffered a 3-1 defeat to Pyramids FC in the FIFA African-Asian-Pacific Cup 2025 at the King Abdullah Sports City Stadium in Jeddah on September 23, 2025.

A hat-trick from Fiston Mayele propelled Egypt's Pyramids FC into the FIFA Challenger Cup 2025.

Despite a raucous crowd backing Saudi Arabia's Al Ahli, Mayele put Pyramids ahead in the 21st minute.

Ivan Toney drew the home side level from the penalty spot just before the break but Mayele struck again in the 71st and 75th minutes to seal victory.

FIFA CLUB WORLD CUP 2025

The FIFA Club World Cup 2025 was held in the United States of America from June 14 to July 13, 2025.

Expanded to 32 clubs, Asia was represented by Al Ain FC of the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia's Al Hilal SFC, Korea Republic's Ulsan HD and Urawa Red Diamonds of Japan.

England's Chelsea FC emerged as champions with a 3-0 win over Paris Saint-Germain in the Final.

Urawa, drawn in Group E, suffered a 3-1 defeat to River Plate of Argentina in their opening match. That was followed by further losses against Italy's Internazionale (2-1) and CF Monterrey of Mexico as the Japanese side made an early exit.

Ulsan HD also found the going tough in Group F, with the side from Korea Republic edged 1-0 by Mamelodi Sundowns of South Africa. Fluminense proved to be tough opponents in their subsequent match, with the Brazilian side cruising to a 4-2 win as Ulsan HD closed out their campaign with a 1-0 defeat against Germany's Borussia Dortmund.

Al Ain faced two European giants in Group G, with the UAE side suffering a 5-0 defeat against Manchester City of England in their opening match. That was followed by a 6-0 loss against Italy's Juventus but Al Ain displayed grit in their concluding tie and were rewarded with a 2-1 victory against Wydad AC of Morocco.

Four-time Asian champions Al Hilal also had to contend with a tough Group H, with the side from Saudi Arabia showing great resolve to hold Spanish giants Real Madrid 1-1 in their opening match. They were equally resolute in their Matchday Two encounter with Austria's Red Bull Salzburg, with the sides settling for a 0-0 result.

That meant a win against Pachuca of Mexico in their final match would take Al Hilal through to the knockout, with goals from Salem Al Dawsari and Marcos Leonardo securing them a 2-0 triumph.

Al Hilal's reward was a showdown with Manchester City in the Round of 16 and again, they showed great resilience to defeat the European heavyweights 4-3 in a thrilling encounter which went to extra-time.

Bernardo Silva gave Manchester City the lead in the ninth minute, with Marcos Leonardo restoring parity a minute into the second half. Malcom put Al Hilal ahead in the 52nd minute, only for Erling Haaland to equalise as the match went into an additional 30 minutes.

Kalidou Koulibaly put Al Hilal ahead in the 94th minute but Phil Foden pulled Manchester City back into the tie with his 104th-minute equaliser.

Al Hilal, however, had the final say with Leonardo scoring the winner in the 112th minute.

That set up a Quarter-final against Fluminense, with the Brazilian side opening the scoring in the 40th minute through Matheus Martinelli.

The impressive Leonardo drew Al Hilal level in the 51st minute but Hercules' strike in the 70th minute proved to be the winner as the side from Saudi Arabia made a gallant exit.

FIFA BEACH SOCCER WORLD CUP SEYCHELLES 2025

The FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup Seychelles 2025 was held on May 1-11, 2025.

Asia was represented by Islamic Republic of Iran, Oman and Japan.

IR Iran and Japan's campaigns ended in the Quarter-finals while Oman were eliminated at the Group Stage.

AFC Beach Soccer Asian Cup™ Thailand 2025 champions IR Iran advanced to the Knockout Stage after finishing second in Group B.

They opened their campaign with a 5-4 win against Mauritania and a 5-1 victory against Paraguay on Matchday 2 confirmed their progression with a game to spare.

IR Iran, however, ended their Group Stage campaign with a 7-5 defeat against two-time world champions Portugal.

Their bid to lift the world title for the first time was denied by Belarus, with the European side winning their Quarter-final 4-3.

Japan qualified for the Quarter-finals after finishing second in Group A. The three-time Asian champions got off to a roaring start, defeating Guatemala 6-2 but found Belarus in inspired form on Matchday 2, falling to a 6-3 defeat. Progression, however, was confirmed with a 10-2 win against Seychelles.

Despite fighting back five times to draw level, Portugal proved too strong in the Quarter-finals as the European side edged a 7-6 win.

Oman's bid to qualify for the Knockout Stage for the first time went unfulfilled with the West Asian side eliminated from Group D.

Having opened their campaign with a 7-4 defeat against Italy, Oman kept their hopes alive with a 4-4 draw with El Salvador.

Defending champions Brazil, however, proved a hurdle too high as Oman went down 11-1 to exit the tournament.

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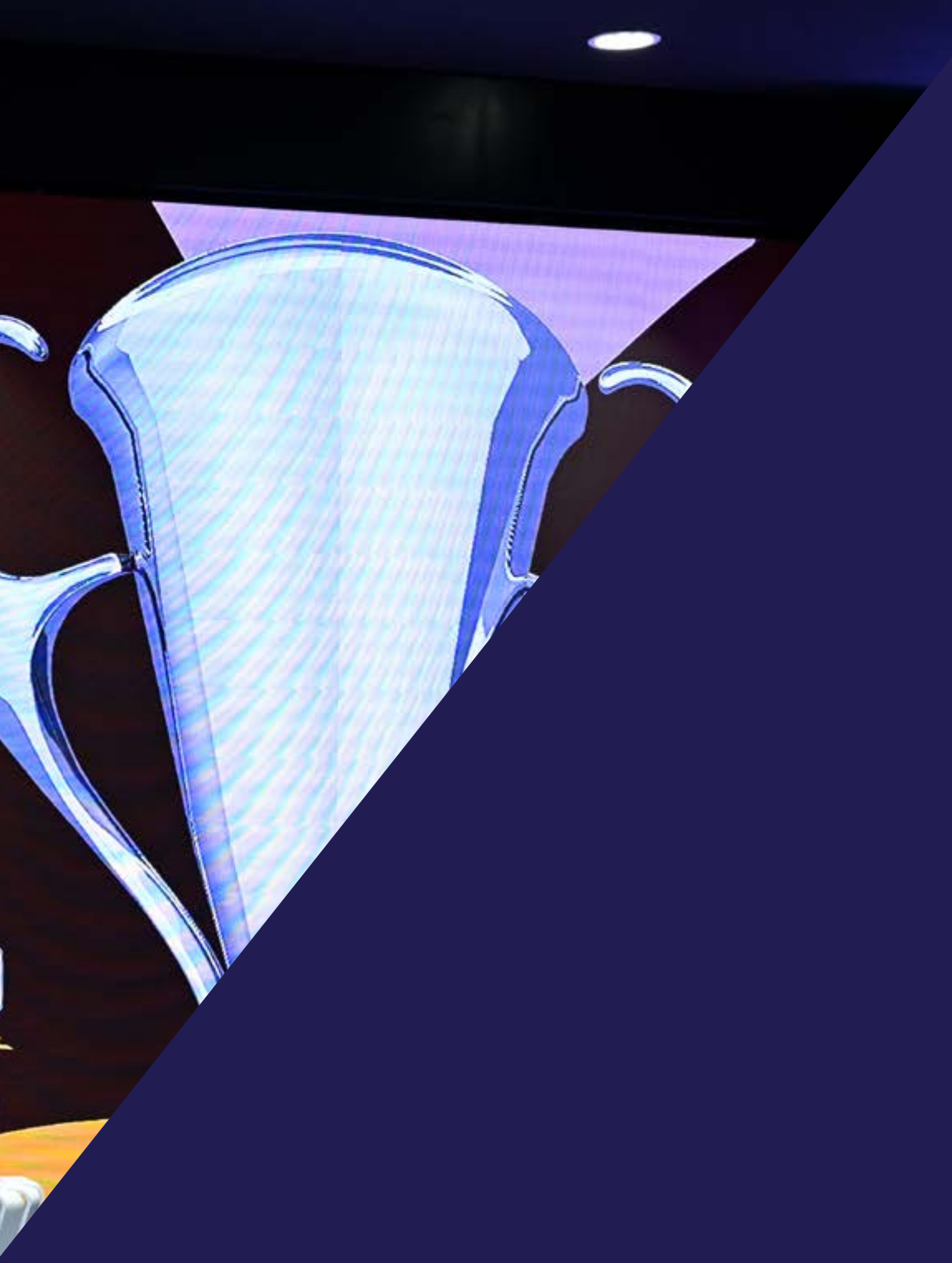


AFC 36TH CONGRESS
VANCOUVER 2026

5 OPTIMISED COMMERCIAL VALUE

COMMERCIAL

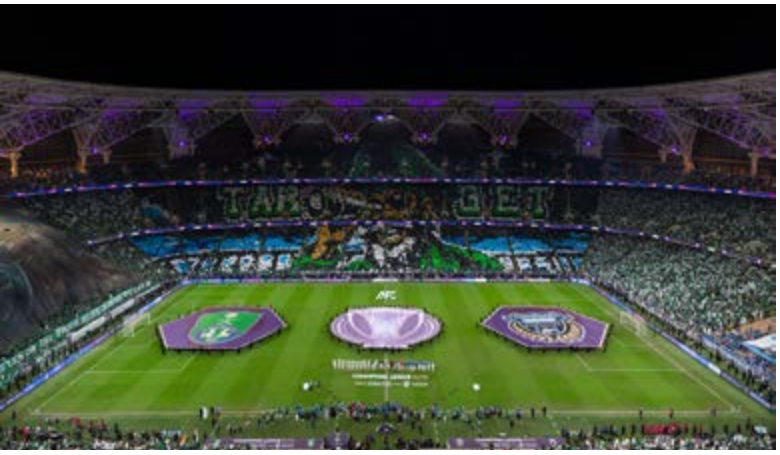
OPTIMISED COMMERCIAL VALUE

Building on the strong foundation established over recent seasons, the AFC's commercial programme in 2025—the inaugural year of the second commercial cycle (2025–2028/29)—has delivered accelerated growth, expanded market reach and a clear strategic repositioning of Asian football on the global stage. The year was characterised by landmark achievements across partnership acquisition, media rights expansion, brand development and fan engagement, reinforcing the AFC's commitment to maximising stakeholder value and elevating the global standing of its competitions.

Central to this progress was the successful integration of the AFC's comprehensive rebranding initiatives across both its corporate identity and club competition portfolios.

Ushering in a new corporate AFC brand identity and logo, the AFC began 2025 by signalling the start of a new era to reflect and reinforce the continued trajectory of the Confederation's progress and rising standards.

This latest milestone marks the Confederation's first new logo in more than 24 years, underlining the AFC's commitment to engage with the most populous Continent and the largest football community in the world through the power of the beautiful game. The goal of the AFC's new corporate brand identity is to establish a more modern, sophisticated and refined presence whilst also strengthening its connection with tomorrow's generation of passionate fans, players and all stakeholders. The corporate rebrand was followed by the revamp of the AFC Congress and the AFC Awards (formally known as the AFC Annual Awards)—both marquee events being rebranded for the first time since their inception.



These efforts, combined with dynamic marketing and promotional campaigns, innovative sponsor activations, and enhanced broadcast coverage, generated tangible commercial returns while deepening engagement with fans, partners and broadcasters worldwide.

The AFC Champions League Elite 2024/25™ delivered exceptional commercial and broadcast performance, underlining its undisputed stature as Asia's premier club competition. The competition was transmitted via broadcast partners covering 147 territories and countries and elsewhere via the AFC's YouTube channel, achieving a cumulative audience of 258 million - representing a 48% increase compared to the 2023/24 season. In addition, the cumulative reach expanded to 910.9 million, while the total number of sponsors rose by 83% year-on-year, reflecting the competition's increasing appeal to global brands and commercial partners.

Similarly, the AFC Asian Qualifiers – Road to 26™ recorded remarkable audience growth across its 10 Group Stage matchdays when compared against previous editions. Cumulative audience during this stage of the competition surged by 155% to 763.5 million, while cumulative reach grew by an impressive 222% to 3.3 billion. The revised three groups of six teams' competition format ensured that fan interest was maintained until the final Group Stage matchdays and was further heightened by the subsequent Playoffs and Knockout stages, as teams battled for the remaining FIFA World Cup qualifying slots. The impressive overall viewership results were

complemented by the successful acquisition of key partnerships across multiple sponsorship tiers, highlighting the competition's commercial strength and its pivotal role in engaging fans across Asia and beyond, while at the same time enabling the AFC to deliver significant revenues back to participating Member Associations.

Capitalising on the rising global interest in Asian football, the AFC, working alongside its marketing partners Asia Football Group and Dentsu Inc., secured a series of strategic, multi-year, and multi-market partnerships across both broadcast and sponsorship platforms. These agreements have significantly enhanced the accessibility, visibility and commercial sustainability of the AFC's world-class competitions, while laying the groundwork for long-term growth.

In parallel, the AFC has demonstrated a clear and deliberate commitment to advancing the women's game, particularly with the success of the best-ever AFC Women's Asian Cup Australia 2026™ (WAC26). A major milestone was marked on November 21, 2025, when the AFC, in collaboration with the Local Organising Committee, celebrated the 100-day countdown to the tournament. The occasion featured the launch of the official match ball, WAVEMAKER - the first-ever bespoke ball created specifically for the AFC Women's Asian Cup™, developed in conjunction with ball and apparel partner Kelme. This landmark moment symbolised the AFC's ambition to elevate the commercial, technical and experiential standards of women's football across the Continent.

Further illustrating the growing global appeal and resonance of the AFC Women's Asian Cup™, the AFC secured a series of strategic partnerships in support of the WAC26, reflecting strong brand equity of the competition and its growing commercial value proposition. Building on the successful model implemented at the AFC Asian Cup Qatar 2023™, these partnerships amplified the competition and elevated fan engagement with a broader audience.

The next major event on the horizon is the AFC Asian Cup Saudi Arabia 2027™ and significant work has been undertaken in relation to brand and marketing activities as well as broadening the commercial programme around the AFC's

marquee national team tournament. A vibrant and unique logo and brand have been developed to reflect unique aspects of the competition hosts, while retaining elements of the AFC Asian Cup™ brand architecture from previous iterations. A comprehensive international marketing plan has been developed to ensure the growth of fan and commercial interest within the host country and internationally. Efforts continue to appoint additional partners to enhance competition coverage and boost commercial revenues.

Looking ahead, the AFC continues to demonstrate strong strategic foresight by initiating preparations for the next commercial cycle (2029–2036). On December 15, 2025, the AFC formally launched the Invitation to Tender (ITT) process for the sale of all commercial rights and fulfilment of commercial services for the 2029–2036 cycle. Spanning eight years, this comprehensive tender encompasses the AFC's premier national team and club competitions, ensuring long-term financial stability, sustained growth, and continued investment in the development of Asian football.

Collectively, these achievements position the AFC with confidence and momentum as it advances into the next phase of its commercial evolution.

With a robust portfolio of competitions, strengthened global partnerships, and a clear long-term vision, the AFC remains firmly committed to ensuring that Asian football not only meets but exceeds the highest standards of excellence across the global sporting landscape.

AFC

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6

GOOD GOVERNANCE

INTERNAL AUDIT

MISSION 5: GOOD GOVERNANCE - IMPLEMENTATION OF INITIATIVES THAT ENSURE PROFESSIONALISM

The Internal Audit Department supports the AFC's commitment to good governance, greater transparency, and upholding the highest professional and ethical standards.

In line with its Charter, the Department enhances the Confederation's governance framework by providing independent and objective assurance and advisory services that strengthen operational effectiveness and internal controls.

While the Department reports administratively to the AFC General Secretary, it maintains full independence and impartiality in the execution of its responsibilities through functional reporting to the AFC Audit & Compliance Committee (ACC). All activities are performed within available resources and free from any form of management influence and stakeholder interference.

OVERSIGHT BY THE ACC

Since the last AFC Congress, the ACC convened three Committee Meetings on July 24, 2025, December 4, 2025 and February 25, 2026, alongside a Joint Meeting with the AFC Finance Committee on February 25, 2026, to approve the audited financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2025.

AUDIT METHODOLOGY

All audits are conducted in accordance with the International Professional Practices Framework (IPPF), issued by the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) Malaysia. The Department adopts a comprehensive, system-based methodology focusing on AFC's core functions and activities. Evaluation of internal controls is performed using the integrated framework developed by the Committee of Sponsoring Organisations of the Treadway Commission (COSO), ensuring robust and consistent assessment of design and operational effectiveness across all processes.

In line with Article 11.9.9 of the AFC Organisation Regulations, which mandates oversight of development fund distribution, the Department reviewed two of the 40 AFC Enhance Programme (AEP) beneficiaries in 2024/25. The review focused on assessing compliance, evaluating AEP-related internal controls and process-improvement practices, and following up on recommendations from the Central Auditors. All fund utilisations are independently verified by the appointed Central Auditors for compliance with AEP Regulations before any disbursement is made. In addition to this central audit process, the Department undertakes further review by selecting samples of beneficiaries.

These samples are determined based on feedback received from both the Central Auditors and AFC Management, providing an additional layer of oversight and assurance regarding the appropriate use of AEP funds.

AUDIT COVERAGE

The annual risk-based audit plan, approved by the ACC, was developed using the AFC Risk Management Framework and insights from the AFC Management. Since the last AFC Congress, the Department has performed the following audits:

- Review of the Procurement Management System
- Review of the AFC Enhance Programme – Central Asian Football Association
- Review of the AFC Enhance Programme – Mongolian Football Federation
- Review of the AFC Travel Department
- Review of the AFC Risk Management Process
- Review of the AFC Health, Safety and Environment
- Review of the AFC Cash Flow Management Process
- Follow-up: AFC Asian Cup UAE 2019™
- Follow-up: AFC Enhance Programme – Bangladesh Football Federation
- Follow-up: AFC Enhance Programme – South Asian Football Federation
- Follow-up: AFC Awards Selection Process
  - AFC Player of the Year
  - AFC Women's Player of the Year
  - AFC Asian International Player of the Year (Men & Women)
  - AFC Futsal Player of the Year
  - AFC Coach of the Year (Men & Women)
  - AFC President's Recognition Award for Grassroots Football
  - AFC Member Association of the Year

REPORTING AND FOLLOW-UP

All audit observations and recommendations were discussed with the relevant Management representatives. Final audit reports were presented to the ACC for deliberation, with key issues highlighted along with the audit recommendations, management responses and agreed action plans to be implemented.

The Department also maintains ongoing follow-up to ensure timely implementation of previously agreed recommendations and action plans, which subsequently provides specific updates to the ACC. Where necessary, the relevant Management representatives are requested to attend ACC meeting(s) to provide clarifications and address the Committee's enquiries on significant audit findings.

MONITORING OF AFC COMMERCIAL RIGHTS TENDER (2029–2036 CYCLE)

To strengthen governance and transparency, the ACC endorsed the AFC Administration's proposal on July 24, 2025, for the Department to assume key oversight roles throughout the AFC Commercial Rights Tender process for the 2029-2036 cycle.

The Department is mandated to ensure the tender is conducted fairly, transparently and in compliance with the AFC Invitation to Tender (ITT) requirements. Upon completion of the review, the Department submitted an independent observation report to the ACC, outlining its oversight of the tender process for the Committee's review.

To strengthen governance and transparency, the ACC endorsed the AFC Administration's proposal on July 24, 2025, for the Department to assume key oversight roles throughout the AFC Commercial Rights Tender process for the 2029-2036 cycle.

EXTERNAL AUDITOR APPOINTMENT

With the term of the incumbent external auditors, Ernst & Young, concluding on December 31, 2024, the Department played an active role in the tender process for the appointment of the external auditors for the financial years 2025–2028. Proposals from participating firms were evaluated, and the shortlisted firms were presented to the ACC for recommendation, prior to approval by the AFC Executive Committee and the AFC Congress.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Department encourages continuous professional development to ensure its staff members stay current with emerging risks, regulatory developments, and industry best practices. Team members are supported in attending training programmes, workshops and seminars to strengthen their competencies and overall contribution to the Confederation.

MEMBER ASSOCIATION GOVERNANCE

MA CONGRESSES ATTENDED BY THE MA DIVISION			
ZONE	**MEMBER ASSOCIATION**	**DATE**	**VENUE**
ASEAN	Football Australia	May 23, 2025	Sydney
	Football Association of Brunei Darussalam (FABD)	April 26, 2025	Bandar Seri Begawan
	Football Federation of Cambodia (FFC)	March 1, 2025	Phnom Penh
	Lao Football Federation (LFF)	January 19, 2025	Vientiane
	Football Association of Indonesia (PSSI)	June 4, 2025	Jakarta
	Football Association of Malaysia (FAM)	February 15, 2025 and June 30, 2025	Subang Jaya
	Philippine Football Federation (PFF)	June 10, 2025 and November 20, 2025	Clark and Manila
	Football Association of Singapore (FAS)	April 28, 2025 and September 20, 2025	Singapore
	The Football Association of Thailand (FA Thailand)	March 26, 2025	Bangkok
	Federação Futebol de Timor-Leste (FFTL)	January 11, 2025	Dili
	Vietnam Football Federation (VFF)	December 26, 2025	Hanoi

CENTRAL	Football Federation Islamic Republic of Iran (FFIRI)	March 1, 2025	Tehran
	The Kyrgyz Football Union (KFU)	June 10, 2025	Bishkek
	Tajikistan Football Federation (TFF)	December 20, 2025	Dushanbe
	Football Federation of Turkmenistan (FFT)	February 19, 2025	Ashgabat
	Uzbekistan Football Association (UFA)	February 22, 2025	Tashkent
EAST	Chinese Football Association (CFA)	January 9, 2025	Beijing
	Chinese Taipei Football Association (CTFA)	May 24, 2025 and December 20, 2025	New Taipei City
	Guam Football Association (GFA)	October 28, 2025	Tumon
	The Football Association of Hong Kong, China Limited (HKFA)	March 20, 2025	Kowloon
	Japan Football Association (JFA)	March 30, 2025 and October 26, 2025	Tokyo
	Mongolian Football Federation (MFF)	April 28, 2025	Ulaanbaatar
	Northern Mariana Islands Football Association (NMIFA)	November 6, 2025	Saipan

SOUTH	Bhutan Football Federation (BFF)	July 3, 2025	Thimphu
	All India Football Federation (AIFF)	October 12, 2025 and December 20, 2025	New Delhi
	Football Association of Maldives (FAM)	March 15, 2025, June 27, 2025 and July 26, 2025	Male
	All Nepal Football Association (ANFA)	May 9, 2025	Dhulikhel
	Pakistan Football Federation (PFF)	January 24, 2025, February 27, 2025, and May 27, 2025	Lahore
	Football Federation of Sri Lanka (FFSL)	May 31, 2025	Colombo
WEST	Jordan Football Association (JFA)	May 10, 2025	Amman
	Oman Football Association (OFA)	January 20, 2025, March 15, 2025 and June 25, 2025	Muscat
	Saudi Arabian Football Federation (SAFF)	March 25, 2025	Riyadh

ONLINE MA CONGRESSES ATTENDED BY THE MA DIVISION

ZONE	MEMBER ASSOCIATION	DATE	VENUE
ASEAN	Myanmar Football Federation (MFF)	November 28, 2025	Yangon
	Federação Futebol de Timor-Leste (FFTL)	August 9, 2025	Dili

ZONE	MEMBER ASSOCIATION	DATE	VENUE
CENTRAL	Football Federation Islamic Republic of Iran (FFIRI)	December 31, 2025	Tehran
	Uzbekistan Football Association (UFA)	October 27, 2025	Tashkent
EAST	The Football Association of Hong Kong, China Limited (HKFA)	June 26, 2025	Kowloon
	Japan Football Association (JFA)	December 20, 2025	Tokyo
SOUTH	All India Football Federation (AIFF)	November 24, 2025	New Delhi
WEST	Bahrain Football Association (BFA)	July 8, 2025	Manama
	Iraqi Football Association (IFA)	April 19, 2025 and June 25, 2025	Baghdad
	Kuwait Football Association (KFA)	June 29, 2025	Kuwait City
	Lebanese Football Association (LFA)	June 28, 2025	Beirut
	Oman Football Association (OFA)	November 15, 2025	Muscat
	Syrian Football Association (SFA)	September 14, 2025, and November 20, 2025	Damascus
	United Arab Emirates Football Association (UAE FA)	June 11, 2025	Online

COMPLETED AND ONGOING MA & RA STATUTES REVISION

ZONE	MEMBER ASSOCIATION	DATE
ASEAN	Football Association of Indonesia (PSSI)	Completed
	Myanmar Football Federation (MFF)	Ongoing
	Vietnam Football Federation (VFF)	Completed
EAST	Chinese Football Association (CFA)	Ongoing
	Chinese Taipei Football Association (CTFA)	Completed
	The Football Association of Hong Kong, China Limited (HKFA)	Ongoing
	Japan Football Association JFA)	Ongoing
	Korea Football Association (KFA)	Ongoing
	Macau Football Association (AFM)	Ongoing
SOUTH	Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF)	Ongoing
	All India Football Federation (AIFF)	Completed
	Football Association of Maldives (FAM)	Completed
	Pakistan Football Federation (PFF)	Ongoing
WEST	Bahrain Football Association (BFA)	Ongoing
	Jordan Football Association (JFA)	Ongoing
	Qatar Football Association (QFA)	Ongoing

REGIONAL ASSOCIATION GOVERNANCE

RA CONGRESSES/MEETINGS OBSERVED BY THE MA DIVISION			
ZONE	**REGIONAL ASSOCIATION**	**DATE**	**Venue**
ASEAN	ASEAN Football Federation (AFF)	November 22, 2025	Hua-Hin
CENTRAL	Central Asian Football Association (CAFA)	April 12, 2025 and December 26, 2025	Kuala Lumpur and Dushanbe (Online)
EAST	East Asian Football Federation (EAFF)	March 30, 2025 and July 15, 2025	Tokyo and Suwon
SOUTH	South Asian Football Federation (SAFF)	April 4, 2025 and May 24, 2025	Colombo and Kathmandu
WEST	West Asian Football Federation (WAFF)	September 27, 2025	Amman

PROCUREMENT

As the ERP system evolves, Procurement is continually exploring enhancements to fully leverage its capabilities, whilst ensuring the security and confidentiality of the database are maintained.

The Tender Committee has actively supported and facilitated the vendor appointment process, conducting 23 meetings and delivering 45 appointment recommendations in 2025.

With the Tender Policy implemented in January 2026, the aim is to strengthen understanding, provide clearer guidance, and reinforce fairness and transparency across the tendering process.

In parallel, the continuation of the catalogue pricing initiative is expected to streamline cycle times while creating opportunities for cost savings.

A total of 1173 Purchase Orders, as well as 20 tenders, were issued in 2025. These included Logistics Services, Travel Agency Services, External Audit Services, Security Operation Centre, Group Hospitalisation and Surgical Insurance, Photo Gallery System Modernisation, Electronic Voting System, Event Management Services, Football System Technology Providers, and Stadium Infotainment Programme for the AFC's Competitions.

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7 INTEGRITY

SPORTS LEGAL SERVICES, DISCIPLINARY & GOVERNANCE

The Sports Legal Services, Disciplinary & Governance Unit primarily handles matters across the regulatory and disciplinary legal functions, including acting as the secretariat for the AFC's judicial bodies.

Since the 35th AFC Congress, the Unit has continued to support the activities of the AFC's judicial bodies, including in important cases relating to anti-doping and racism.

INTEGRITY

Operating within the Sports Legal Services, Disciplinary & Governance Unit, the Integrity team remains steadfast in its mission to uphold integrity across Asian football by actively engaging with MAs, RAs, and other key stakeholders to raise awareness and promote best practices against match-fixing and other integrity-related challenges.

The team continues its vigilant oversight of football integrity in Asia through the comprehensive monitoring of betting markets for all matches and competitions organised by the AFC and its MAs.

Working in close collaboration with FIFA's integrity team and the AFC's integrity service provider, Sportradar, the Integrity team analyses betting trends and anomalies, identifying and addressing any suspicious activities promptly.

The team also supports MAs by sharing relevant information, offering investigative guidance, and providing feedback on their integrity strategies.

A major milestone in 2025 was the AFC Integrity Education Programme, an initiative designed to equip Integrity Officers at MAs and RAs with the knowledge and tools required to serve as integrity educators within their respective organisations. The programme adopted a hybrid learning approach, beginning with a series of online sessions before concluding with an onsite event at the AFC House from November 26 to 27, 2025. This initiative forms a central part of the Integrity team's ongoing efforts to strengthen the capacity of Asian football's stakeholders to address integrity challenges effectively.

The AFC also contributed to regional discussions on integrity in sport, including participation in the 2025 ASEAN Sports Integrity & Anti-Doping Symposium, which took place in Labuan, Malaysia, from October 29 to 30. The Symposium brought together ASEAN member countries, anti-doping agencies, international sports bodies and law enforcement stakeholders to exchange knowledge and discuss emerging integrity issues, including match-fixing.

CORPORATE, COMMERCIAL AND IP

The lawyers in the Corporate, Commercial and Intellectual Property Unit are responsible for drafting and negotiating a wide range of commercial, intellectual property and events related agreements, as well as providing corporate legal support.

The Unit performs a central role in the review and revision of commercial contracts involving sponsorship and media/broadcast rights, and in the implementation of measures to protect the AFC's intellectual property rights.

Amongst other projects taking place in the period since the 35th AFC Congress, the Unit has continued to advise in connection with the upcoming AFC Women's Asian Cup Australia 2026™ and AFC Asian Cup Saudi Arabia 2027™, including in contractual matters and risk management.

The Unit has also been actively engaged in the bidding process for the AFC Asian Cup 2031™ and AFC Asian Cup 2035™ and provides ongoing legal support in relation to the tender for the AFC Commercial Rights for the 2029 to 2036 cycle.

SPORTS MEDICINE

ANTI-DOPING

The AFC maintains a strong commitment to clean sport, prioritising fairness, integrity, and player health across all of its competitions.

A total of 576 doping control tests were conducted throughout the AFC's competitions in 2025, underscoring the Confederation's dedication to safeguarding the integrity of the game.

In addition, the anti-doping team implemented continuous education initiatives, including webinars, pre-competition medical workshops, and interactive anti-doping education programmes.

8TH AFC MEDICAL CONFERENCE KUALA LUMPUR 2025

Held from July 21 to 25 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, the 8th AFC Medical Conference brought together over 800 delegates and 213 speakers from Asia and the global sports science community, reaffirming the AFC's commitment to advancing football medicine and science.

Under the theme **"Medicine and Science – Navigating Through Changing Times,"** the conference addressed the evolving demands of modern football and the role of sports science in optimising athlete performance.

Key topics included artificial intelligence and emerging technologies for injury prevention and performance enhancement.

A major focus was on women's health in football, with sessions on menstrual health, gender-specific injuries, and equitable medical support systems.

Meanwhile, practical workshops provided hands-on training in emergency medicine and on-field

care, covering concussion management, cardiac emergencies, and trauma response. Experts also shared rehabilitation strategies for players recovering from long-term injuries.

By delivering high-value education and fostering knowledge exchange, the conference strengthened regional expertise in sports medicine while showcasing Kuala Lumpur's cultural diversity and hospitality.

COMPLIANCE

The Compliance Department continued to focus its efforts on maintaining the highest standards of integrity and adherence to national and international laws, particularly with international sanctions and financial transaction regulations.

The Department collaborated closely with various internal departments (Legal, Finance, ITT and Internal Audit) and coordinated with FIFA's Legal and Compliance teams as well as external advisers to ensure full compliance across all international and national sanctions programmes. This diligence assessed the implications of the AFC's commercial contracts related to delivering its top level competitions and commercial values.

KEY FOCUS

Monitoring Sanctions and Compliance

The Department continuously reviewed sanctions programmes from international enforcement entities (the United Nations, United States of America, United Kingdom, and European Union) and provided updates to the AFC Management whilst assessing compliance risks across the key areas of competitions, media rights, sponsorships, and technology contracts.

Anti-Money Laundering and Financial Disbursements compliance oversight

It maintained compliance with the Anti-Money Laundering and Counter Terrorism Financing requirements, focusing on Infrastructure and Corporate Social Responsibility projects, whilst supporting the Central Audits for fund disbursement under the AFC Enhance Programme.

Procurement and Other Policies, Procedures & Processes and Risks Register Reviews

The Department also vetted tenders to ensure adherence to the Procurement and Tender Policies and reviewed the various AFC policies and procedures across all Divisions, Departments and Committees to prioritise risk control and compliance.

Enhancements of the Personal Data Protection Act, Privacy and EU GDPR

Given the increasing demands for national and international compliance with the Personal Data Protection Act, Privacy, and EU GDPR, the Department conducted a global survey assessment across the Confederation's business units to identify compliance requirements.

This assessment will inform the introduction of a holistic Data Governance structure by mid-2026, in collaboration with the ITT Department, to ensure an integrated, systematic approach to compliance for the AFC, its MAs, RAs, and respective LOCs.

Disbursement of funds under the AFC Enhance Programme

Further underlining the Confederation's commitment to maintaining rigorous compliance over the administration and disbursement of the AFC Enhance Programme funds, the Department reviewed the External Appointed Auditors' reports to confirm that all expenditures were duly verified, supported by appropriate documentation and in full conformity with the Programme Regulations while ensuring timely corrective action on any identified non-compliances.

To strengthen consistency and improve the reliability of financial reporting across all beneficiaries, the Department recommended the adoption of a standardised reporting template for MAs and RAs.

The uniform format is intended to enhance disclosures, facilitate more efficient Central Audit procedures and reinforce the Confederation's dedication to good governance.

The Department also conducted a compliance-focused briefing for the AFC's RAs, outlining key regulatory obligations, documentation protocols, evidentiary standards and internal control expectations.

This capacity-building initiative was aimed at equipping RAs in implementing sound financial governance practices and maintaining full adherence to the Enhance Programme Regulations.

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8

FOOTBALL FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

In 2025, the AFC Dream Asia Foundation (ADAF) significantly strengthened its role as a catalyst for social development across Asia, advancing its mission of "Football Cares" through a diverse range of impactful programmes.

The year was marked by a major milestone, the inaugural AFC Dream Asia Foundation Conference 2025 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, which convened global and regional experts to reaffirm football's power in driving social responsibility, child safeguarding, inclusion, and the United Nations' (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Beyond the landmark Conference, 2025 saw social responsibility initiatives across Asia that empowered youth, promoted child protection, and expanded access to football for underserved communities.

Initiatives also supported mental health, gender equality, and inclusion for individuals with disabilities, while humanitarian efforts helped communities recover from crises. Collectively, these activities highlighted football's power to inspire, unite, and drive lasting social change.

In addition, as communities across Asia face growing challenges, the ADAF's expanding reach and deeper understanding of these needs continue to demonstrate football's power—not only as a tool for education and inclusion, but also for advancing Sustainability and Health & Wellbeing.

To strengthen this impact, the Foundation has broadened its focus to include two additional pillars - Sustainability and Health & Wellbeing, bringing the total number of social responsibility pillars to five.

1. ***Child Safeguarding***
2. ***Education***
3. ***Inclusion***
4. ***Sustainability***
5. ***Health & Wellbeing***

This strategic expansion will enable the ADAF to deliver broader, more inclusive programmes that align with global standards such as the UN SDGs and respond more effectively to the evolving needs of communities across Asia.

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MILESTONE AFC DREAM ASIA FOUNDATION CONFERENCE 2025 REINFORCES DETERMINATION TO DRIVE DEVELOPMENT

The power of football to foster meaningful change in society was brought to the fore at the inaugural AFC Dream Asia Foundation Conference 2025 on October 15, 2025, in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Organised in close collaboration with the UN's Football for the Goals (FFTG) initiative, this milestone edition brought together an exceptional array of voices from across the Continent and beyond in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Hosted by the Saudi Arabian Football Federation (SAFF), the Conference focused on the role of the Asian football community as a catalyst for sustainable development and advancing the UN SDGs. It also highlighted critical themes of child protection, youth empowerment, gender equality and social inclusion.

In his opening address, AFC President Shaikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa, who launched the AFC Dream Asia Foundation in March 2017, reflected on the far-reaching impact of the social responsibility programmes that have been established across the Confederation's MAs and RAs.

"The AFC's mission has underlined social responsibility as a key focus area and at the heart of this ambition is the desire to use the power of football to strengthen communities across the Continent," said Shaikh Salman.

"I am truly proud of the progress we have made in the last eight years. Asian football has touched so many lives across nearly all our members, and our success is only possible because you – our MAs, RAs and valued partners – share our belief in the power of football.

"Today, we have the privilege of hearing from those who, together with the AFC, have strengthened the foundations to carry out this work in an efficient and effective way. And with everyone's continued support, we will deliver stronger programmes that will leave a profound legacy for our future generations," the AFC President added.

> **The AFC's mission has underlined social responsibility as a key focus area and at the heart of this ambition is the desire to use the power of football to strengthen communities across the Continent.**

HE Shaikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa
AFC President

The day-long Conference, attended by 146 participants, kicked off with a comprehensive overview of the AFC Dream Asia Foundation by Vahid Kardany, AFC Deputy General Secretary – Member Associations, who also serves as the Secretary to the AFC Dream Asia Foundation, followed by a presentation on Protecting Children's Rights, delivered by Nicoletta Flutti (Social and Environmental Sustainability Expert, UEFA).

The third presentation, The Powerful Role of Football to Advocate for the SDGs, which was moderated by Mike Pfister (Head of Foundation, European Football Clubs), featured Robert Skinner (Acting Director and Chief of Partnerships and Global Engagement, Outreach Division, Department of Global Communications, United Nations) alongside former French international and Manchester United player Mikael Silvestre, while the From Pitch to Progress - Football's Impact on the SDGs presentation was helmed by Lee Hawkins (Founder, ASA Foundation).

Rounding off the series of presentations were Football as a Catalyst for Humanitarian Action, with moderator Mike Pfister, along with Stephen Reynard (Global Lead Sport Programmes, UNHCR) and Nick Gates (Founder and Global Strategist, Coaches Across Continents), as well as The Sustainability XI: Key Trends Shaping Asian Football by Darlene Harrison (Consultant, AFC).

Amid the engaging presentations, Conference delegates also took the opportunity to exchange knowledge and ideas during two panel discussions. The first, Child Safeguarding and Youth Empowerment, was moderated by Morgan Lander (Consultant, AFC) and featured Marie-Laure Lemineur (Head of Safeguarding and Child Protection, FIFA), Sarah Mukuna (Director, Member Associations, CAF), Nguyen Hoang Phuong (Director, Football for All in Vietnam) and Irene Rozario (Safeguarding Lead, AFC).

The second discussed Football for Everyone: Creating Pathways for All and comprised moderator Todd Jacobson (CEO, Taj Global, Adjunct Professor, Columbia University) alongside a line-up of Sam Turner (Trustee, Para Football), Lee Hawkins and Vicheka Chourp (Indochina Starfish Foundation).

Hailing the impact of the landmark conference, Rouzbeh Khajeh Eian, Head of Safeguarding from the Central Asian Football Association, said: “It has been a very impactful conference - one where participants can gain and share knowledge, especially since safeguarding and social responsibility are extremely necessary for everyone involved in football, whether they are part of the industry or playing the game.

“We need conferences of this kind to increase our awareness and experience. The speakers here have shown us clear perspectives and pathways to what we want to achieve in the future.”

Echoing the sentiment, Fatimatuz Esha, Head of Safeguarding & Social Responsibility at the South Asian Football Federation, said: “This conference is a great opportunity for Member and Regional Associations to acquire the confidence to move forward and be inspired. I’m impressed that there are speakers from various organisations here to provide different viewpoints, and I thank the AFC Asia Dream Foundation for having a mission and acting on it.”

In his closing remarks, AFC General Secretary Datuk Seri Windsor John acknowledged the tireless efforts of the AFC’s members and expressed his confidence towards building on the forward momentum through the Conference.

“We explored critical topics, shared experiences, and built relationships that will, without a doubt, play a key role in moving us forward towards our collective goals,” he said. “Our task now is to translate these discussions into action and to make a tangible difference in the lives of those who need it most.

“As has been so clearly demonstrated, the power of football to unite people from all walks of life, regardless of ethnic, cultural or economic differences, is something we must continue to harness as we address the challenges ahead.”

AFC-ISF DREAM ASIA LEGACY PROJECT LEAVES LASTING IMPACT IN CAMBODIA

The AFC-ISF Dream Asia Legacy Project, a five-year programme aimed at empowering Cambodia's youth through football, successfully concluded in December 2024, leaving behind a legacy of growth, opportunity, and social development.

A collaborative effort between the ADAF, the Football Federation of Cambodia (FFC) and the Indochina Starfish Foundation (ISF), the project, since its inception in 2020, has played a key role in equipping young people in the Southeast Asian nation with the skills to address social challenges through the beautiful game.

In 2024, the AFC-ISF Dream Asia Legacy Project focused on three key programmes, namely the Young Coach Development Pathway, the Continuous Coach Development Pathway, and Social Impact Training for Coaches and Young Leaders, providing opportunities to youngsters not only in Phnom Penh, but also in the rural provinces of Siem Reap and Kampong Thom.

During the last year of the programme, 10 young participants completed the Youth Coach Development Pathway, who following their training, are now equipped with the necessary knowledge and tools to pursue a career in football coaching.

Meanwhile, under the Continuous Coach Development Pathway, 13 ISF coaches, including three women, enhanced their qualifications through several specialised training initiatives, such as Special Educational Needs (SEN), First Aid, and refereeing, which have increased their chances of gaining employment.

Similarly, the Social Impact Training for Coaches and Young Leaders provided training courses to more than 200 young coaches and leaders.

An inspiring success story of this initiative is 20-year-old Kanha, who joined the programme as a student in 2016 and rose through the ranks to become a full-time coach in 2024, building confidence, improving communication skills, and achieving financial independence.

Her remarkable journey, from a young girl hesitant to step onto the pitch to a confident leader mentoring the next generation, is one of the many instances of the project's transformative impact.

Having trained more than 600 coaches and leaders over the last five years, the initiative has touched the lives of over 10,000 individuals, further upholding the AFC Dream Asia Foundation's overarching theme of "Football Cares".

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BFF'S #BRIDGINGTHEGAP CONTINUES TO TOUCH LIVES

The Bhutan Football Federation (BFF) successfully conducted the third edition of its landmark #BridgingTheGap programme in Thimphu, Bhutan's capital city in December 2024, reaffirming its commitment to using football as a vehicle for positive social transformation.

Supported by the ADAF, the latest iteration of the initiative focused on enriching the lives of Bhutanese youth, particularly those from vulnerable and disadvantaged communities through integration, education and social development.

The third edition was inaugurated at the Changlimithang Football Stadium by BFF President Dasho Ugen Tsechup and attended by several dignitaries, including executive committee members of the Federation and officials of Bhutan's Department of Education.

The five-day initiative brought together as many as 120 children from schools across remote villages in Bhutan, namely Dukti Primary School (Trashiyangtse), Retey Primary School (Sarpang), Pangthang Primary School (Mongar), Tradijong Primary School (Zhemgang) and Kikhar Primary School (Zhemgang).

During the programme, the children participated in activities designed to provide holistic development opportunities in a safe, inclusive and engaging environment, which ranged from football drills and small-sided games to recreational visits to nearby landmarks such as the Motithang Takin Preserve, Buddha Point and the Paro International Airport.

Amongst the most notable highlights was an informative seminar delivered by the BFF's Child Safeguarding Officer, who educated the participants on the importance of safety both on and off the field, ensuring that young players understand their rights and responsibilities in maintaining a secure environment.

Moreover, in recognition of the challenges faced by the schools owing to their isolated locales, the programme sought to devise football-driven activities that offer a combination of skill development and creativity, while also being educational, fostering a spirit of teamwork and inclusivity among the young boys and girls.

With the programme's philosophy being deeply rooted in harnessing the power of the beautiful game to usher positive change in society, #BridgingTheGap continues to embody the ADAF's overarching motto of "Football Cares".

SAFF'S 'KICK OFF' SERIES CHAMPIONS CHILD SAFEGUARDING IN SOUTH ASIA

The South Asian Football Federation (SAFF), in collaboration with the ADAF, launched a 2D animated series, Kick Off, to educate young footballers in South Asia on child safeguarding issues.

Launched in January 2025, the five-part series targets players aged between 11 and 17, and addresses key topics such as physical safety, mental well-being, child abuse prevention, online safety, and inclusivity.

In a quest to establish a safe environment for younger generations to explore their love for the beautiful game, the show follows an innovative strategic framework of "One Skill, One Concern, One Goal," where each episode uses specific football skills as analogies to address challenges both on and off the pitch.

The use of creative titles, such as Bicycle Kick, Nutmeg, Stepover, Park the Bus, and Sweeper Keeper, aimed to capture the interest of the target audience, while the series also features characters representing all seven SAFF member associations, namely Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka, to foster a sense of inclusivity among viewers.

Shared across the SAFF's Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and YouTube channels to maximise audience engagement, Kick Off has reached over 14.8 million people across the South Asian nations and generated more than seven million views since its release.

The resounding success of Kick Off has now ignited interest among the MAs to integrate the series into safeguarding training programmes, with each MA being encouraged to dub and distribute the content locally, ensuring accessibility to wider local audiences.

With child safeguarding forming one of the key pillars of the ADAF, the SAFF's Kick Off initiative is an excellent demonstration of the Foundation's overarching theme of "Football Cares".

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AFC DREAM ASIA FOUNDATION STRENGTHENS GUAM FA'S RECOVERY EFFORTS

The ADAF underlined its overarching motto of "Football Cares" by providing unwavering support to the Guam Football Association (GFA) in the aftermath of Super Typhoon Mawar, which struck the island in May 2023.

Following the destruction left by the storm, GFA suffered significant damage not only to its headquarters in the capital but also to its National Training Center, leading to the disruption of several football activities, including the suspension of domestic leagues, national teams' training, grassroots initiatives, and other developmental programmes.

In its bid to ensure a rapid recovery, the ADAF extended its support, allowing GFA to address immediate needs such as critical repairs, further underscoring the Foundation's commitment to harnessing the power of football to bring positive change to communities in need.

With this support, GFA undertook several key initiatives, including hazard cleanup efforts such as the removal of debris from football fields and training areas, while also implementing specific safety protocols to protect players, coaches, and parents.

At the same time, the association ensured a swift return to administrative operations with the reopening of the GFA headquarters, as well as the reinstatement of the football calendar—allowing national teams to resume training and domestic leagues to return to action, marking a significant milestone in the island's recovery.

While challenges remain, GFA will continue to persevere and work alongside key stakeholders to ensure the full restoration and expansion of football activities on the island.

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JAPAN FA BOOSTS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WITH LANDMARK INITIATIVE

As part of a drive to ensure that football remains all-inclusive, the Japan Football Association (JFA) launched the inaugural Mental Health Asian Football Programme in Sakai City, Osaka from January 15 to 18, 2025.

Supported by the ADAF, the landmark initiative comprised the Dream Asia Cup 2025, a futsal tournament, as well as an international conference and two symposiums that ran alongside the competition.

The programme was borne from the desire by the JFA to establish an environment in Asia where individuals with mental health issues are able to engage in football, with the longer-term aim of eliminating prejudices against mental issues and working towards a more inclusive society.

During the international conference, the 2025 Osaka Sakai Declaration was adopted to establish the Asian Committee on Football and Mental Health with 12 members from Chinese Taipei, Japan, Korea Republic, Macau and Italy. The committee's objectives include promoting football for those facing mental health challenges and reshaping societal perceptions of mental health.

It is chaired by Japan's Takashi Takahata from the Japan Federation for Mental Health and Welfare, with Takeshi Sassa, the Chairman of Japan Social Football Association and secretary general of the International Football Committee on Mental Health, elected as its secretary general.

The first symposium focused on football and mental health while the second tackled the potential role of sports in solving these issues. Discussions emphasised the many ways in which the game benefits physical health, communication skills and persistence among individuals with mental health challenges.

The Dream Asia Cup 2025, featuring players with mental health issues, saw Japan, Korea Republic, Chinese Taipei and a joint Dream Asia United team participate in a tournament that brought

together a total of 63 players and staff members. There were also 492 spectators, 54 management staff and 45 volunteers.

All games were streamed online, and the tournament resonated strongly with its participants, who were able to showcase their skills and football's potential to address mental health issues and promote inclusivity.

"What is considered ordinary for the public or athletes with other disabilities is still regarded as exceptional for individuals like us," said Dream Asia Cup participant Lin Kun-Tien of Chinese Taipei. "This event is significant not only for those with mental health issues but also for society as a whole."

Dream Asia United Head Coach Maniwa Daisuke of Japan, who was part of the overall programme, said: "This is a very timely move as many individuals find it challenging to play football due to poor mental health. This initiative has the potential to become a powerful programme that paves the way for a more supportive, inclusive society where everyone can thrive and play football."

Moving forward, the Asian Committee will look into organising the 2nd Dream Asia Cup with increased participation, better dissemination of information and an enhanced promotion of mental health awareness through football and professional collaboration.

TASHKENT REVELS IN UFA'S "WE ARE ALL EQUAL" PROGRAMME

The Uzbekistan Football Association (UFA), supported by the ADAF, hosted the "We Are All Equal" programme for children with disabilities and special needs, further underlining the power of football in promoting inclusion and equality in society.

Held on April 15, 2025, at the Special School No. 52 in Tashkent, the fun-filled event welcomed more than 140 children, uniting them in a day of joy, empowerment and belonging through the beautiful game.

The event was marked by the presence of several esteemed guests, including UFA Senior Vice President Ravshan Irmatov, U23 National Team Head Coach Ravshan Khaydarov, Women's National Team Head Coach Kotrina Kulbite and several national team players, who actively engaged in games, football challenges and relay activities, much to the delight of the young participants.

A major highlight of the event was a youth engagement session with the AFC Dream Asia Ambassador and National Team Striker Ms. Makhliyo Sarikova who shared personal anecdotes that helped the children feel included and inspired in a football setting.

The positive interaction between the participants and towering figures of the community also made for a safe, enjoyable environment that celebrated

diversity and strengthened awareness of the importance of using football to usher social development.

As the day-long festivities ended, the participants were given footballs and T-shirts as memorabilia, while the positive feedback further strengthened the UFA's commitment to devising further opportunities to bring societal change through football.

UFA General Secretary Avaz Maksumov said: "The AFC Dream Asia Foundation has once again helped the Uzbekistan FA demonstrate the unifying power of football to promote inclusion, respect, and equal opportunities for all.

"This initiative not only brought smiles to the faces of young participants but also raised awareness of the importance of social responsibility in football. We are proud to be part of the AFC's vision to make the game truly for all and look forward to continuing this impactful journey in the years to come."

With the "We Are All Equal" programme successfully instilling self-confidence and an increased sense of happiness among the attendees, the event was yet another instance of the ADAF's overarching theme of "Football Cares" coming to life.

AFC REINFORCES COMMITMENT TO SOCIAL CHANGE THROUGH FOOTBALL AT FFTG FORUM

The AFC reaffirmed its unwavering commitment to harnessing the power of football to drive positive change in society at the United Nations (UN) Football for the Goals (FFTG) Forum, held on May 21, 2025, at the UN Headquarters in New York, the United States of America.

Titled Champions for Change: Football and the UN Unite for the SDGs, the Forum served as a precursor to the inaugural FIFA World Football Week and highlighted the sport's unique ability to promote and support the United Nations' SDGs.

In line with the AFC's ongoing efforts to forge impactful partnerships with international and local stakeholders, the Confederation joined the FFTG initiative in 2022, with a clear ambition to become a leading force in sustainability transformation within the global football community.

With the AFC conducting a workshop in collaboration with the FFTG in July 2024 to devise the best method for integrating the UN SDGs into the AFC's organisational strategy, the programme was an excellent opportunity for the Confederation to emphasise once again the transformative potential of football in shaping inclusive, safe, and progressive environments for children by teaching them life skills and providing them with an equitable, progressive educational curriculum.

"The AFC's Mission is to use football and build a haven for children, where they can not only play, but also be introduced to values that can help them be future leaders," said AFC Deputy General Secretary—Member Associations, Vahid Kardany, during the Empowering Youth & Supporting Education panel discussion.

"To that end, the Confederation proudly supports the Football for the Goals initiative and will continue to work toward empowering youth, opening doors to education, and creating safe spaces where children can play, learn, and thrive."

CAFA CHILD SAFEGUARDING SEMINAR 2025 REITERATES COMMITMENT TO CHILD PROTECTION

The Central Asian Football Association (CAFA), with the support from the AFC, successfully conducted the CAFA Child Safeguarding Seminar 2025 from May 30 to 31 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, further strengthening the Confederation's commitment to child protection in football.

The two-day seminar, attended by safeguarding officers and youth competition managers from all six CAFA MAs, was an excellent opportunity for participants to acquaint themselves with the latest best practices for the protection of children from harm, abuse, and exploitation.

Designed to initiate dialogue and foster engagement, the comprehensive programme featured a diverse array of topics, ranging from recognising signs of abuse and understanding

children's rights to implementing effective safeguarding policies in organisations and fostering safe environments for children.

The seminar also proved to be an ideal platform for the participants to showcase the efforts of their respective organisations in order to raise

awareness on safeguarding among stakeholders, which included initiatives such as the integration of safeguarding into coaching license courses, plans to develop digital safeguarding tools, and the delivery of large-scale national workshops.

Moreover, with the seminar taking place on the sidelines of the CAFA U-17 Championship 2025, a practical session was organised at the Do'stlik Stadium, which allowed the participants to explore safeguarding protocols within a competition setting, thereby enhancing their understanding of risk management during tournaments.

The seminar concluded with the presentation of certificates by CAFA General Secretary Mr. Ulugbek Karimov, who encouraged participants to continue nurturing a culture of safeguarding within their communities.

With the two-day programme bringing together representatives from across Central Asia, the seminar reinforced the region's collective commitment to creating safer football environments, while also reaffirming the AFC's dedication to protecting the rights of all children and ensuring the game is played in a positive, inclusive, and secure setting for children and young people across all levels of the game.

ANFA FOOTBALL CLINICS FOR UNDERPRIVILEGED CHILDREN DRIVES SOCIAL CHANGE IN NEPAL

The All Nepal Football Association (ANFA) Football Clinics for Underprivileged Children programme successfully concluded in March 2025, bringing to fruition a meaningful journey of empowering children in the region.

Supported by the ADAF, the programme was launched in October 2023 in the districts of Madhesh and Karnali, which are among the most vulnerable and remote pockets in the South Asian nation.

Since its inauguration, the programme has reached 18 schools across Sarlahi, Saptari, Parsa, Rautahat, Dhanusha, Mahottari, Siraha, Bara, Surkhet, Humla, Jumla, Dolpa, Mugu, and Kalikot districts, benefitting more than 1,400 children through a development approach that combined football training with essential life-skills education, promoting teamwork, sportsmanship, and integrity.

With gender equality being one of the key themes of the project, the initiative recorded a remarkable 50% participation rate among young girls – a milestone that created a ripple effect within the community and led to a positive shift in attitudes among stakeholders on girls' participation in sports.

Moreover, the girls attended daily educational sessions covering topics such as Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), health and hygiene, communication, leadership, self-confidence, and other essential life skills aimed at enhancing both hygiene awareness and social development.

To ensure the programme's long-term impact, 34 ANFA-licensed coaches, 20 volunteer coaches, and 18 schoolteachers were mobilised and trained to foster an environment that encourages sustained growth and transformation.

At the same time, teachers from the participating schools received basic football coaching skills through practical training with ANFA coaches, equipping them to support children's development beyond the classroom, which was widely appreciated by the local government bodies, who expressed strong interest in sustaining similar programmes in the future.

Moreover, alongside grassroots engagement, the programme also played a pivotal role in raising awareness among parents and schoolteachers on the positive impact that sports can have on a child's life, which further underlined the ADAF's resolve to harness the power of football to drive social change.

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URAWA RED DIAMONDS SPUR WOMEN'S FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT WITH ACL PRIZE MONEY

Three-time AFC Champions League™ (ACL) winners Urawa Red Diamonds concluded their "Heart Full Club" initiative in March 2025 with the support of the ADAF.

Funded by a portion of the prize money earned from their AFC Champions League 2022™ triumph, the programme aimed to promote football development in the region, with a special focus on women and young girls.

Under the banner of the initiative, the Saitama-based club organised two football clinics titled "Mitsubishi Heavy Industry Urawa Reds Ladies Smile Football" that were dedicated exclusively to fostering the growth of women's football in the prefecture.

The first clinic was held in October 2024 at Saitama Stadium and welcomed 79 primary school students, who had the opportunity to engage with players from Urawa Red Diamonds Ladies – the 2023 AFC Women's Club Championship™ winners.

Divided into groups based on their age, the children participated in tailored training sessions and activities alongside the players, leaving a lasting impression and reinforcing football's ability to create a positive social impact.

The second clinic took place the following month at Komaba Stadium, immediately after a WE League fixture between Urawa Reds and Omiya Ardija Ventus, and was attended by close to 100 children, further reflecting the growing interest in women's football across the region.

Complementing the clinics, the club also spearheaded a large-scale football distribution campaign to promote the sport at the grassroots level, which saw more than 2,200 footballs delivered to 54 elementary schools in Saitama City and 36 football schools in the Urawa and Midori areas between September 2024 to March 2025.

The initiative reached nearly 40,000 children, encouraging physical activity and social inclusion while instilling a lifelong love for the game.

True to the ADAF's philosophy of "Football Cares", Urawa Red Diamonds' efforts were yet another instance of the transformative power of football in shaping young lives and strengthening communities.

BANGLADESH FOOTBALL FEDERATION INSPIRES TRIBAL WOMEN IN BANGLADESH

The ADAF, in collaboration with the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF), conducted the Empowering Hill Women to Pursue Football Careers programme across the districts of Bandarban, Rangamati, and Khagrachari in January 2025.

Spanning four days, the event aimed to maximise the capabilities of the community's women by introducing them to career pathways in football, with a strong emphasis on education and child safeguarding.

Located in the remote and sparsely-populated Chittagong Hill Tracts, the three districts provided a fitting setting for the residential camp that was held at the Rangamati District Stadium.

The capacity-building programme was delivered with the support of local authorities, including the Rangamati District Office, and offered participants a diverse range of learning opportunities, ranging from coach education to menstrual hygiene management.

The inaugural day saw regional coaches from ethnic minority backgrounds receive training to improve their technical skills and theoretical knowledge, after which the focus turned to the female participants.

The 45 tribal women underwent two days of intensive football training, followed by an in-depth seminar which covered topics such as the best practices of child safeguarding, women's rights, personal safety, and protection from abuse or exploitation.

Additionally, a dedicated session on menstrual hygiene management was conducted to promote awareness of feminine health, with each participant receiving a one-year supply of sanitary napkins to help them manage their wellbeing safely and confidently.

The final day of the camp featured a friendly football tournament, during which 12 girls were selected for a one-year educational sponsorship and further training.

Designed to not only share the unifying spirit of the beautiful game, but also to equip participants with life skills and educational opportunities, the initiative was yet another instance of the ADAF's commitment to upholding its motto of "Football Cares".

FOOTBALL 4 GOOD INITIATIVE EMPOWERS YOUTH IN LEBANON

The Lebanese Football Association (LFA), with the support of the ADAF, successfully completed the second edition of the Football 4 Good programme, reaching more than 7,000 boys and girls, including youth with special needs across the country.

Conducted from February to July 2025, the Football 4 Good initiative not only impacted the capital city of Beirut but also successfully touched lives across eight locations, spanning Mount Lebanon, Tyre and Nabatieh in the southern part of the country, the northern regions of Tripoli and Akkar, as well as the Beqaa and Baalbek areas.

With the objective of harnessing the power of the beautiful game to drive positive change in society, the programme focused on raising awareness of child safeguarding among regional coaches and coordinators, while interactive games promoting teamwork, communication and empathy were also organised for the children.

Despite challenges caused by difficult weather conditions and the remoteness of certain areas, LFA took care to build a secure and inclusive environment, ensuring every child had the right to experience the power of football.

Additionally, the initiative emphasised the importance of physical and mental wellness through workshops focusing on reducing injury risks, providing emotional protection, preventing abuse and encouraging the nurturing of a community based on trust and accountability.

The resounding success of the programme was evident, with numerous parents expressing their delight in seeing their children becoming increasingly confident and displaying inclusive mindsets while also thriving in a protected and healthy environment.

An instance of the Football 4 Good impact was shared by a parent who recounted how her daughter, who bears a facial scar, was readily embraced by other participants to join in the activities, a testament to the empathy and inclusivity instilled through the programme.

With the ADAF's core principle being "Football Cares," LFA's initiative has set a benchmark for child safeguarding, educating, and inspiring communities through football.

WAFF SEMINAR STRENGTHENS CHILD SAFEGUARDING PRACTICES

The AFC joined hands with the West Asian Football Federation (WAFF) to conduct a child safeguarding seminar from November 25 to 26 in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

Taking place on the sidelines of the 9th WAFF Women's Football Championship, where Jordan defeated Palestine to claim their seventh title, the seminar was attended by safeguarding officers and other representatives from the Bahrain Football Association (BFA), Iraqi Football Association (IFA), Jordan Football Association (JFA), Lebanese Football Association (LFA), Qatar Football Association (QFA), Saudi Arabian Football Federation (SAFF), and the Yemen Football Association (YFA).

Under the supervision of the Confederation's experts, the programme provided participants with an invaluable opportunity to understand the importance of creating a safe and healthy environment for children to experience the joy of the beautiful game.

The two-day seminar featured lectures that covered a wide range of topics, including identifying signs of abuse and neglect, understanding legal obligations and ethical responsibilities, and exploring the best approaches to managing sensitive situations.

The programme also featured several on-field activities that saw attendees participate in practical exercises aimed at implementing new protocols and strengthening existing safeguarding policies.

Following two days of intensive learning, the participants engaged in interactive Q&A sessions, sharing insights into safeguarding procedures within their respective organisations, which strengthened cooperation among AFC's MAs and RAs and contributed to the wider goal of establishing a safe and secure football ecosystem for young players.

WAFF Safeguarding Officer Bana Al Bitar said: "The WAFF is constantly working towards ensuring that football is a place of safety for the region's children, and this seminar is an example of the efforts that are being made to give the youth a space to enjoy the sport in, which is in accordance with international best practices.

"The seminar has acted as a platform for child safeguarding officers in West Asia to hear from their peers, share experiences, and better understand the delicate nature of their work, and I sincerely thank the participants for their active involvement and the AFC for their valuable contribution."

Under the supervision of the Confederation's experts, the programme provided participants with an invaluable opportunity to understand the importance of creating a safe and healthy environment for children to experience the joy of the beautiful game.

SAFF SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY SEMINAR 2025 STRENGTHENS COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The AFC lent its support to the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) as the latter conducted the SAFF Social Responsibility Seminar 2025, which took place from November 30 to December 1, 2025.

The seminar was yet another demonstration of the AFC's Vision and Mission of working in close partnership with its MAs and RAs to leverage the power of the beautiful game as a force for social good.

The programme brought together representatives from all seven SAFF MAs, namely, the All India Football Federation (AIFF), All Nepal Football Association (ANFA), Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF), Bhutan Football Federation (BFF), Football Association of Maldives (FAM), Pakistan Football Federation (PFF), and Football Federation of Sri Lanka (FFSL) – who convened to share updates on their respective social responsibility initiatives and explore avenues for further regional collaboration.

During the two-day seminar, the participants received an in-depth overview of the ADAF, outlining the strategic priorities that underpin the Confederation's social responsibility and safeguarding framework, covering key tenets such as project planning, proposal development, funding processes, and the evaluation mechanisms required to ensure meaningful, measurable impact at the community level.

The insights from the Confederation's experts were further complemented by an informative presentation from SAFF Head of Safeguarding and Social Responsibility, Fatima Esha, which emphasised the importance of embedding safeguarding principles within social responsibility programmes, highlighting practical approaches to strengthen internal systems and ensure that activities are fully aligned with both the AFC and SAFF expectations.

With the capacity-building programme serving as a valuable platform for MAs to deepen their understanding and enhance their ability to create meaningful social impact, the participants expressed their appreciation for the exchange of knowledge and various perspectives shared, which will now help them support SAFF's goal of making social responsibility a key part of football development across South Asia.

Encouraging the representatives to undertake their duties with purpose and long-term vision, the AFC Executive Committee Member and Bangladesh Football Federation Executive Committee Member, Mahfuza Akter Kiron, said: "Social responsibility is not something that should be seen as a burden, but as a meaningful opportunity to use our sport as a force for good, uplift communities, and showcase the transformative power of football.

"When we approach our responsibilities with sincerity and with the belief that football can change lives, we not only strengthen our MAs, but we also strengthen our societies."

AFC
WOMEN'S
CHAMPIONS
LEAGUE
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2024/25 PRELIMINARY STAGE
& GROUP STAGE DRAW

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VANCOUVER 2026

9 SERVICES

COMMUNICATIONS

The Communications Department remained steadfast in its commitment to highlighting the AFC's achievements and strengthening its connection with the millions of passionate fans across Asia, delivering consistent and engaging content that resonated strongly across the Confederation's platforms throughout the year.

The AFC Asian Qualifiers – Road to 26™ stood out as one of the year's most memorable competitions, as Asian sides battled for a coveted place at the FIFA World Cup 2026. Historic milestones, including Jordan and Uzbekistan securing their first-ever FIFA World Cup qualification, generated compelling storylines that captured widespread attention and drove strong engagement across the Confederation's digital channels.

Among the several other landmark moments, the unforgettable AFC Champions League Elite (ACL Elite) Finals Jeddah 2025™ went down in history as one of the grandest celebrations of Asian club football.

The spectacular final stage attracted unprecedented attention across the digital arena, while the AFC Champions League Two™ and AFC Challenge League™ also made their mark by crowning the first-ever champions of the AFC's revamped three-tier club competition structure.

The inaugural edition of the AFC Women's Champions League™ represented a landmark moment in the Confederation's efforts to elevate women's football, attracting impressive engagement throughout its historic first season.

The past year also marked the long-awaited comeback of the AFC Women's Futsal Asian Cup™, hosted in Hohhot, China PR. Featuring 16 of Asia's finest women's national futsal teams, the competition drew strong attention across media and digital platforms, while serving as the pathway for the top three finishers to qualify for the inaugural FIFA Futsal Women's World Cup, staged in the Philippines from November 21 to December 7.

In another significant step forward, the AFC's Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system continued to strengthen fan connections by surpassing its acquisition targets, capturing data from almost one million fans worldwide, driven by the strategic use of fan engagement tools such as the AFC Champions League Elite™ Fantasy Football and the AFC Champions League Two™ Match Predictor, enabling more direct and meaningful interaction with supporters across multiple competitions.

The protection of the AFC's brand remained a key priority throughout the year, with the Department producing more than 531 media releases, newsletters and website articles, ensuring that stakeholders and fans across Asia and beyond remained informed and engaged with the AFC's activities and milestones.

Meanwhile, the Department also delivered an extensive array of audio-visual content, undertaking 120 productions. This included the delivery of over 650 live streams and comprehensive coverage of major events such as the 35th AFC Congress, the AFC Awards Riyadh 2025, and the AFC Asian Qualifiers – Road to 26™ Playoffs draw ceremony, culminating in the production of 40 terabytes of high-quality video assets that supported the AFC's storytelling across all platforms.

Additionally, the Media Asset Management (MAM) system continued to play an integral

role in safeguarding the Confederation's legacy, ensuring the long-term protection, organisation and accessibility of valuable audio-visual content across the AFC's communications ecosystem.

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IT'S MY GAME

The commitment to amplifying the contribution of women in Asian football continued to be underlined through the Confederation's It's My Game campaign, which shines the spotlight on individuals who have dedicated their time and expertise to the development of the women's game across the Continent at all levels.

In the first edition of 2025, the focus was on Park Youn-jeong, head coach of the U20 national team of Korea Republic and recipient of the AFC Coach of the Year (Women) award at the AFC Annual Awards Seoul 2023.

Park's inspiring tale of rising through the ranks to become Korea Republic's youngest head coach in a national team setup was followed by the story of Kyrgyz Republic's Veronika Bernatskaia, who created history as the first Kyrgyz woman referee to be appointed for competitions under CAFA, AFC, and FIFA, officiating not only in women's football but also in premier men's tournaments.

With women's futsal making a comeback on the Continental stage, the next notable figure was the Islamic Republic of Iran's Shahrzad Mozafar, a trailblazer who famously led the Central Asian team to their second Continental crown in 2018, before serving on the panel of technical observers at the AFC Women's Futsal Asian Cup™ in 2025, following which she returned to take the reins of IR Iran at the global showpiece in the Philippines.

In the fourth and final feature, the campaign followed the story of Bhutan's Karma Dema on her journey from one of the first women in Bhutan to lead a men's side in the South Asian nation's top flight league to becoming one of the 20 women coaches to be selected for the inaugural edition of the AFC-JFA Pro Diploma course.

AFC DIGITAL PLATFORMS

The AFC's digital platforms continued to serve as a powerful conduit between Asian football and its ever-growing global fanbase, ensuring compelling and comprehensive coverage of the Confederation's competitions across all age groups throughout the season.

The AFC U20 Asian Cup China 2025™ kicked off the year with strong engagement, with coverage across the AFC's digital channels generating more than 182 million impressions and 100 million video views. Later in the year, the AFC U17 Asian Cup Saudi Arabia 2025™ achieved similar success, with digital coverage attaining 291 million impressions and 110 million video views, marking an increase of 116% compared to the previous edition.

Meanwhile, in March, the fast-paced action from the AFC Beach Soccer Asian Cup Thailand 2025™ recorded an impressive 221 million impressions and engaged more than 12 million fans across platforms, representing a rise of 138% from the last iteration.

The AFC Asian Qualifiers – Road to 26™ continued to drive exceptional interest as fans followed the race to the FIFA World Cup 2026, with coverage across digital platforms recording a notable 1.27 billion impressions and 119 million engagements throughout the year.

The excitement further intensified with the spectacle of the AFC Champions League Elite Finals Jeddah 2025™, where the competition delivered exceptional digital performance, amassing more than 1.45 billion impressions and 469 million views across social media and digital platforms.

In a year marked by several landmark milestones for women's football in Asia, the return of the AFC Women's Futsal Asian Cup™ generated strong digital traction, with impressions crossing 70 million and engagements reaching 610,516.

At the club level, the AFC heralded the beginning of a new era with the inaugural season of the AFC Women's Champions League 2024/25™.

The historic edition emerged as one of the year's standout highlights, recording 53 million impressions and 21 million video views, and setting a new benchmark for women's club football in Asia.

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EVENT MANAGEMENT & EVENT SERVICES

The Event Management and Event Services Departments continued to ensure that the Confederation's competitions and activities were organised in accordance with the highest standards of operational excellence and best-in-class hospitality benchmarks.

Several landmark events were organised, including the 35th AFC Congress 2025 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in April, which featured the inaugural execution of the new AFC brand. Working in close partnership with the Corporate Branding and Creative units, the Departments adopted a collaborative approach to the implementation of the new AFC corporate rebranded elements into the key visuals, applying them across the Congress materials, including event branding, visual assets, and onsite presentation elements.

Additionally, the Congress voting process was conducted using an electronic voting system, enhancing transparency, accuracy, and efficiency in accordance with the AFC Congress procedures.

The attention then shifted to the 8th AFC Medical Conference in July. With the foundations for success laid since 2023, the Departments coordinated closely with the Sports Medicine Unit to oversee all planning, venue inspections and logistical arrangements. This collaboration ensured the seamless delivery of the conference sessions, the Faculty Dinner, the Gala Dinner and the Medical Awards Ceremony, with all aspects of protocol, accommodation and transportation managed expertly for the benefit of all participants.

The conference was hosted across multiple locations, including two venues for pre-conference programmes and one primary venue for the main event. The Departments ensured each site was equipped with the necessary facilities, technical infrastructure, and specialised medical equipment. This comprehensive planning and coordination resulted in the professional execution of all activities and a positive experience for all participants.

The AFC Women's Asian Cup Australia 2026™ Final Draw then took centre stage on July 29 at the Sydney Town Hall, where the Departments played a key role in reviewing venues and hotels, advising on the necessary planning to enhance the experience for teams and guests, and managing protocol, accommodation, and transportation for the draw.

Operational coordination between the AFC, the Local Organising Committee, Asia Football Group, and the appointed event management agency

paved the way for adherence to all the approved protocols and local requirements. Additionally, all branding elements complied with the AFC guidelines, highlighted by the official launch and unveiling of the competition logo.

In a year that also saw the AFC introduce its landmark reforms to the Asian club game, the Departments collaborated closely with relevant departments, the Saudi Arabian Football Federation, and the AFC Asian Cup Saudi Arabia 2027™ Local Organising Committee to ensure meticulous logistical planning of the AFC Champions League Elite Finals Jeddah 2025™.

Off the pitch, the Departments coordinated a series of high-profile events in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. This included the inaugural AFC Dream Asia Foundation Conference on October 15, 2025, and the AFC Member Associations & Regional Associations Presidents & General Secretaries' Conference from October 17 to 19. Both events required rapid turnaround times, rigorous rehearsals, and strict adherence to brand guidelines.

Additionally, the AFC Awards Riyadh 2025, held on October 16, served as the official launch for the event's new identity and key visuals. To accommodate the diverse group of attendees, two official hotels were secured, ensuring premium comfort and convenience for all Member Association and Regional Association delegates, invited guests and media, conference participants, and the AFC delegation.

Throughout the year, the Departments facilitated the AFC Executive Committee and Standing Committee Meetings, managing both physical and virtual formats for various Judicial Bodies.

The Departments also ensured that branding for all draw collaterals complied with the respective competition brand guidelines. Official draw ceremonies were successfully conducted both locally and internationally, including the AFC Champions League Elite 2025/26™ League Stage Draw & Club Workshop, the AFC Champions League Two 2025/26™ Group Stage Draw & Club Workshop, the AFC U17 Asian Cup Saudi Arabia 2025™ Final Draw, the AFC Women's Futsal Asian Cup China 2025™ Final Draw, the AFC Asian Qualifiers - Road to 26™ Playoffs Draw and the AFC Challenge League 2025/26™ Group Stage Draw.

Various competitions were also successfully organised, including the AFC U20 Asian Cup China 2025™, AFC Beach Soccer Asian Cup Thailand 2025™, and the AFC U17 Asian Cup Saudi Arabia 2025™. Key administrative sessions that took place included the AFC Coach Education Conference 2025, the Professional Football Seminar 2025, and various referee and coaching panel meetings.

At the same time, the Departments also worked closely with host associations to ensure all competitions were delivered to the world-class standards synonymous with the AFC. Some of the key completed competitions and events include: the AFC Champions League Elite Finals Jeddah 2025™, the AFC eChampions League Elite 2024/25™, the AFC Women's Futsal Asian Cup China 2025™, as well as the coveted final matches of the AFC Challenge League 2024/25™ in Cambodia, the AFC Champions League Two 2024/25™ in Singapore as well as the AFC Women's Champions League 2024/25™ in China PR.

HUMAN RESOURCES: GROWING TOGETHER

Supporting our Staff, Achieving our Vision

A CULTURE BUILT ON PURPOSE

The goal of the Human Resources Department is to ensure that every team member feels a direct connection to the AFC's Vision and Mission. When we understand how our daily work helps grow Asian football, we achieve better results together.

- **Working as One:** The Department shifted its focus towards "Alignment." This involves aligning the various roles of every staff member with the AFC's overarching objectives and deliverables.
- **Bringing Us Together:** Events like the "Around the World" staff night were about more than just fun; they were designed to celebrate the AFC's diversity and forge the strong relationships needed to reach the Confederation's common goals.

A BETTER WORK EXPERIENCE FOR EVERYONE

The Department remains dedicated to the principle that strong staff support is fundamental to the success of the AFC. As the collective work demand increases, the Department has reinforced its commitment to further enhancing the Confederation's environment.

- **Trust and Flexibility:** By introducing Flexible Work Arrangements, the Department has given the AFC's staff members more control over their time. This trust helps everyone stay focused and energised on their key goals.
- **Stronger Benefits:** Staff members' benefits and protections have been enhanced, including better coverage for expatriates. The Department is constantly updating these benefits to match the consistent hard work and dedication of the AFC's staff members.

BETTER TOOLS FOR SMARTER WORK

The Department continues to invest in technology to strengthen the administrative efficiency for all staff members by removing the "hassle" of manual paperwork, whilst reducing the carbon footprint of the Confederation.

- **Modern Digital Tools:** The Department has introduced new AI tools to automate repetitive tasks, allowing staff members to dedicate more time to the creative and impactful aspects of their work.
- **Simplified HR Systems:** The new digital HR platform has moved recruitment, payroll, and claims online. This transition makes information more accessible and significantly accelerates these processes for all staff members.

LOOKING AHEAD: GOALS FOR 2026

In the coming year, the Department will focus on several key areas to further support the journey of staff members at the AFC:

- **Launch of a New Performance Framework:** The Department aims to introduce a system that focuses on professional growth and facilitates meaningful feedback.
- **Expanded Learning & Development:** The Department is increasing the support for further education and training opportunities. This ensures that staff members have the skillsets needed to stay ahead in the ever-changing world of sports.
- **Finalising Digital Systems:** The Department will complete the last phase of the HR platform to ensure that all HR-related tasks are more user-friendly and accessible.
- **Strengthening Our Future-Ready Workforce:** The Department's ultimate goal is to build a skilled and motivated team that is ready to support the AFC's strategic objectives in the years to come.

The emphasis since the last AFC Congress has been on building a strong foundation. By combining the best of technology with a more inclusive and supportive culture, the Department is committed to ensuring that the AFC remains an employer of choice.

FACILITIES

The Facilities Management Department serves as a strategic enabler of the AFC's operations, shaping physical spaces that empower people, processes, and performance. Beyond maintaining infrastructure, the Department ensures that the Confederation's environment actively supports organisational goals and long-term growth.

With a sharp focus on efficiency, sustainability and innovation, the Department plays a critical role in strengthening the AFC's operational resilience and future readiness.

Acting as the steward of the AFC House, the Department integrates safety, environmental responsibility and operational excellence into every aspect of its work. Its scope extends from proactive asset management and project delivery to responsive operational support, ensuring that facilities remain functional, compliant, and fit for purpose. By creating safe, efficient and well-managed workplaces, the Department directly contributes to employee well-being, productivity and cost optimisation, whilst enabling the AFC to consistently deliver high-quality support to its MAs and RAs.

In line with the AFC's growth and transformation agenda, the Department is leading the planning phase for a range of enhancement initiatives. These efforts reflect the Department's commitment to reimagining spaces that support evolving work practices and stakeholder needs. Guided by continuous improvement and benchmarking against global best practices, the Department remains focused on delivering facilities solutions that add measurable value and reinforce the AFC's commitment to excellence.

INNOVATION TECHNOLOGY & TRANSFORMATION (ITT)

The ITT Department continues to drive the AFC's digital transformation, transitioning toward a world-class, proactive technology model. Since the last AFC Congress, efforts have focused on building a resilient infrastructure, a robust security culture, and a unified digital ecosystem for football operations.

HIGH-AVAILABILITY INFRASTRUCTURE

To ensure business continuity and operational agility, the AFC has modernised its core systems:

- **Cloud-First Architecture:** Deployed a scalable cloud environment featuring enhanced redundancy and disaster recovery capabilities.
- **Unified Communications:** Transitioned to a cloud-based telephony solution, reducing physical hardware overhead while enabling seamless remote and hybrid connectivity.
- **IT Service Management:** Implemented an automated asset management and support system to improve service delivery and ensure efficient oversight of the organisation's technology lifecycle.

STRENGTHENING CYBERSECURITY & GOVERNANCE

The AFC has adopted a multi-layered defence strategy to mitigate evolving digital risks:

- **Proactive Threat Defence:** Enhanced security protocols across all endpoints, servers, and communication channels to safeguard organisational data.
- **Information Security Management System (ISMS) Framework:** Established a comprehensive ISMS master policy, aligning the AFC's security practices with global compliance standards.
- **Security Culture:** Launched organisation-wide awareness initiatives to ensure staff remain vigilant against emerging cybersecurity threats.
- **Continuous Assessment:** Conducted rigorous audits of cloud and on-premises environments to identify and address potential vulnerabilities.

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION OF FOOTBALL OPERATIONS

The centrepiece of the AFC's digital evolution is the development of a unified enterprise ecosystem (AFCAS 3.0) designed to streamline match and administrative functions:

- **Integrated Operations Platform:** Progress continues on the next generation of the AFC's core enterprise application. Phase 1 is live, with expanded modules for match management and tournament results scheduled for deployment in upcoming competitions. Phase 2 is undergoing rigorous tests and is on track for implementation during the AFC Women's Asian Cup Australia 2026™.
- **Educational Excellence:** Launched a centralised platform to manage technical, medical, and refereeing certifications, alongside a new Learning Management System (LMS) for staff members and affiliate development.
- **Mobile Match Management:** Introduced mobile solutions for substitutions and match reporting for Match Commissioners and officials, enabling real-time data capture and more efficient match-day operations.
- **Administrative Automation:** Digitised the financial claims process by integrating a new automated system with existing HR and ERP platforms, improving transparency and processing speed.

TRAVEL

The Travel Department managed and coordinated travel arrangements for appointed match officials, staff members and other stakeholders based on the AFC's calendar of competitions, meetings and events, which included the following:

- AFC Regional Associations Workshop Malaysia 2025
- AFC Champions League Elite 2024/25™ (League Stage to Final)
- AFC Champions League Two 2024/25™ (Round of 16 to Final)
- AFC Challenge League 2024/25™ (Knockout Stage to Final)
- AFC Women's Futsal Asian Cup China 2025™ (Qualifiers and Finals)
- AFC Referee Academy
- AFC Beach Soccer Asian Cup Thailand 2025™
- AFC Women's Champions League 2024/25™ (Quarter-finals to Final)
- AFC Asian Cup Saudi Arabia 2027™ (Qualifiers)
- AFC U17 Asian Cup Saudi Arabia 2025™
- 35th AFC Congress 2025
- AFC Professional Football Leadership Summit 2025
- AFC eChampions League Elite 2025™
- 8th AFC Medical Conference Kuala Lumpur 2025
- AFC Coach Education Conference 2025
- AFC Women's Asian Cup Australia 2026™ (Qualifiers and Finals)
- AFC Elite Men Referees Seminar 2025
- AFC U20 Women's Asian Cup Thailand 2026™ (Qualifiers)
- AFC Elite Futsal Instructors & Referees Seminar 2025
- AFC Champions League Two 2025/26™ (Group Stage)
- AFC Champions League Elite 2025/26™ (League Stage)
- AFC Challenge League 2025/26™ (Group Stage)
- AFC Professional Football Seminar
- AFC U23 Asian Cup Saudi Arabia 2026™ (Qualifiers and Finals)
- AFC Match Commissioner Seminar 2025
- AFC Futsal Asian Cup Indonesia 2026™ (Qualifiers and Finals)
- AFC U17 Women's Asian Cup China 2026™ (Qualifiers)
- AFC Dream Asia Foundation Conference 2025
- AFC Awards Riyadh 2025
- AFC Member Associations & Regional Associations Presidents & General Secretaries' Conference
- AFC Integrity Education Programme
- AFC Women's Champions League 2025/26™ (Group Stage)
- AFC Women's Asian Cup Referee Seminar 2025

The Department ensured that the relevant AFC stakeholders were provided with an appropriate travel itinerary, including visa information, enabling the seamless delivery and successful execution of the AFC's competitions and events.

LOGISTICS

For the first time, the Logistics Department offered onsite logistics support for the 8th AFC Medical Conference Kuala Lumpur 2025 and the AFC Women's Asian Cup Australia 2026™.

The Department, the Local Organising Committee and a third-party logistics services provider managed the AFC Women's Asian Cup™ logistics, with a central distribution centre in Sydney supporting both the city's and Gold Coast operations, and a satellite warehouse in Perth for operations in the Western Australian state.

The Department is working with the Asian Cup Office to coordinate logistics for the AFC Asian Cup Saudi Arabia 2027™. In mid-2026, a third-party logistics provider will be selected via open tender to oversee air and sea freight, warehousing, and trucking services in Malaysia and Saudi Arabia.

Since the last Congress, the Department also maintained its responsibilities for warehousing and the distribution of official match balls, ball crew uniforms, and match-day bibs for the AFC's club and national team competitions.

STRATEGIC PLANNING & ADVISORY UNIT

THE GUIDELINES ON PRINCIPLES OF GOOD GOVERNANCE FOR REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS' STATUTES

The Guidelines on Principles of Good Governance for Regional Associations' Statutes (hereinafter the "Guidelines") were introduced in 2025; a key initiative aimed at strengthening governance standards among the Regional Associations (RAs) across Asia.

In support of the AFC's ongoing commitment to enhancing governance within its RAs, this initiative provides the following regulatory and model documents, which were drafted to help safeguard the democratic, fair, comprehensible and financially responsible running of the RAs:

a Guidelines;
b Model statutes;
c Model standing orders; and
d Model electoral code.

GUIDELINES

The Guidelines outline the mandatory provisions and key good governance principles for RAs. Section I sets out the required principles and obligations under the AFC Statutes, while Section II provides recommended principles of good governance, outlining their scope and applicability. The accompanying model statutes, standing orders and electoral code demonstrate the practical application of these principles and support the RAs in aligning their regulatory frameworks with the governance standards set out in the Guidelines.

MODEL STATUTES, STANDING ORDER AND ELECTORAL CODE

The model statutes set out in Annex 1 are of a recommendatory nature and serve as a sample set of statutes to support the RAs in their internal reforms, promote the adoption of current best practices, and strengthen good governance, while allowing flexibility to consider national legal requirements, each RA's specific circumstances, and the need to safeguard and preserve organisational autonomy.

Similarly, the model standing order and electoral code set out in Annexes 2 and 3, respectively, are also of a recommendatory nature that the RAs may use when drafting and/or revising their statutory framework. These models align with the core provisions of the model statutes, and the RAs are encouraged to adopt and implement them according to their specific needs.

SPECIAL PROJECTS UNIT

AFC KNOWLEDGE SHARING PROGRAMME

The AFC Knowledge Sharing Programme provides the staff members from MAs and RAs, as well as AFC ACE programme valedictorians, an exciting opportunity to learn and acquire the fundamentals of football administration by working closely with experienced staff members of the AFC Member Association (MA) Division, the AFC Competitions and Football Events Division (CFED), the AFC Technical Division and the AFC Referees Department.

The programme, which began on January 2, 2025, and ended on December 5, 2025, saw the participation of 13 individuals.

DATE	PARTICIPANTS	MA/RA	DEPARTMENT/ DIVISION
January 2-30, 2025	Ms. Maitha Al Shamsi	United Arab Emirates Football Association (UAE FA)	MA Division
	Ms. Basma Bait Ali Sulaiman	Oman Football Association (OFA)	MA Division
January 13-28, 2025	Ms. Bayan Samer Ali Soboh	Palestine Football Association (PFA)	CFED
March 17–28, 2025	Ms. Hsu Pyae Sone Aung	Myanmar Football Federation (MFF)	MA Division
March 10-28, 2025	Ms. Kunzang Choden	Bhutan Football Federation (BFF)	CFED
April 10-29, 2025	Ms. Subha Rahman	South Asian Football Federation (SAFF)	CFED
	Ms. Huang Yi Ru	Chinese Taipei Football Association (CTFA)	CFED
May 4-17, 2025	Ms. Aisha Yousef Maarej	Qatar Football Association (QFA)	Referees Department
May 5-23, 2025	Mr. Shoma Teshima	Japan Football Association (JFA)	CFED

June 3-19, 2025	Mr. Kuntapol Lertlamsakulkarn	The Football Association of Thailand (FA Thailand)	Technical Division
July 14-30, 2025	Mr. Abdullah Ali Oqlah Najadat	Jordan Football Association (JFA)	CFED
August 4-22, 2025	Mr. Byunghwa Lee	Korea Football Association (KFA)	CFED
November 24–December 5, 2025	Mr. Chow Bark Chung Aaron Malinis	The Football Association of Hong Kong, China Limited (HKFA)	Technical Division

AFC

AFC 36TH CONGRESS
VANCOUVER 2026

10 AWARDS

AFC AWARDS RIYADH 2025 PRESENTED BY NEOM

Saudi Arabian ace Salem Al Dawsari was named the AFC Player of the Year and Japan's Hana Takahashi claimed the AFC Women's Player of the Year title on October 16 at the AFC Awards Riyadh 2025 presented by NEOM.

Held in Saudi Arabia for the first time at the iconic King Fahad Cultural Center, the 29th edition of the gala featured a refreshed brand identity, transitioning from the AFC Annual Awards to the AFC Awards, along with updated trophy and medal designs for all 20 categories.

Al Dawsari secured his second AFC Player of the Year title following a standout season as the top scorer in the AFC Champions League Elite™ with Al Hilal SFC whilst Takahashi earned her first award after leading Urawa Red Diamonds Ladies to domestic success and contributing to Japan's SheBelieves Cup victory.

Ri Song Ho was named AFC Coach of the Year (Men) for masterminding DPR Korea's titles at the FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup 2024 and AFC U20 Women's Asian Cup 2024™. Marziyeh Jafari became the first Iranian to win the AFC Coach of the Year (Women) award for her achievements with Bam Khatoon Women's FC and leading the IR Iran national team to qualification for the AFC Women's Asian Cup Australia 2026™.

Salar Aghapour became the seventh Iranian recipient of the AFC Futsal Player of the Year trophy following his six-goal performance at the FIFA Futsal World Cup Uzbekistan 2024. In the international categories, Korea Republic's Lee Kang-in won the AFC Asian International Player of the Year (Men) after his successful season with Paris Saint-Germain, while Japan's Maika Hamano took the women's award following a domestic treble with Chelsea FC.

In the youth categories, Alex Badolato became the first Australian to earn the AFC Youth Player of the Year (Men) after his MVP performance at the AFC U20 Asian Cup China 2025™. Choe Il Son of DPR Korea was recognised as the AFC Youth Player of the Year (Women) following her victories in both the FIFA U-17 and U-20 Women's World Cups.

The AFC Diamond of Asia, the Continent's highest individual accolade, was bestowed upon Timothy Fok, Honorary President of The Football Association of Hong Kong, China Limited.

Additionally, the stellar efforts of the AFC's MAs and RAs were feted as the DPR Korea Football Association received the AFC President's Recognition Award for Outstanding Achievement for sweeping both Asian and world titles at the U17 and U20 women's levels.

AFC AWARDS RIYADH 2025 ROLL OF HONOUR

AFC DIAMOND OF ASIA

Timothy Fok Tsun Ting

AFC PRESIDENT'S RECOGNITION AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT

DPR Korea Football Association

AFC MEMBER ASSOCIATION OF THE YEAR

Platinum
Saudi Arabian Football Federation

Diamond
The Football Association of Thailand

Gold
The Football Association of Hong Kong, China Limited

Ruby
Lao Football Federation

AFC REGIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THE YEAR

ASEAN Football Federation

AFC PRESIDENT'S RECOGNITION AWARDS FOR GRASSROOTS FOOTBALL

Gold
United Arab Emirates Football Association

Silver
Football Association of Malaysia

Bronze
Bangladesh Football Federation

AFC COACH OF THE YEAR (WOMEN)

Marziyeh Jafari
(Bam Khatoon Women's FC and IRN)

AFC COACH OF THE YEAR (MEN)

Ri Song Ho
(DPR Korea U20 Women and PRK)

AFC FUTSAL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Salar Aghapour
(Gohar Zamin and IRN)

AFC WOMEN'S PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Hana Takahashi
(Urawa Red Diamonds Ladies and JPN)

AFC PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Salem Al Dawsari
(Al Hilal SFC and KSA)

AFC ASIAN INTERNATIONAL PLAYER OF THE YEAR (WOMEN)

Maika Hamano
(Chelsea FC and JPN)

AFC ASIAN INTERNATIONAL PLAYER OF THE YEAR (MEN)

Lee Kang-in
(Paris Saint-Germain and KOR)

AFC YOUTH PLAYER OF THE YEAR (WOMEN)

Choe Il Son
(4.25 SC and PRK)

AFC YOUTH PLAYER OF THE YEAR (MEN)

Alex Badolato
(Melbourne Victory and AUS)

AFC REFEREES SPECIAL AWARD

Alireza Faghani
(AUS)

Anton Shchetinin
(AUS)

Ashley Beecham
(AUS)

AFC 36TH CONGRESS
VANCOUVER 2026

11 STATISTICS

SOCIAL MEDIA

8,814,036
FOLLOWERS

443%
increase across all four Facebook accounts combined since 2016

4,827,161
SUBSCRIBERS

4,424%
increase on both The AFC Hub and AFC Asian Cup channels since 2016

7,968,638
FOLLOWERS

237%
increase on both AFC Asian Cup and AFC Champions League channels since 2016

2,641,257
FOLLOWERS

532%
increase since 2016 across multi-language X accounts

8,085,392
FOLLOWERS

7,580%
increase across all Instagram platforms since 2016

1,039,256
FOLLOWERS

4,689%
increase since August 2021

As of February 2026

VIDEO VIEWS
2.21 BILLION

(Facebook, YouTube, Weibo,
Twitter and Instagram combined)

THE-AFC.COM STATS

USERS
6.3 MILLION

PAGE VIEWS
27.6 MILLION

Followers on AFC's digital
platforms increased by

686%

since 2016

2016

4,801,156 FOLLOWERS

34 MILLION VIEWS

On Facebook, YouTube and Weibo combined

2017

6,304,312 FOLLOWERS

214 MILLION VIEWS

On Facebook, YouTube and Weibo combined

2018

9,583,216 FOLLOWERS

238 MILLION VIEWS

On Facebook, YouTube and Weibo combined

2019

13,793,052 FOLLOWERS

344.3 MILLION VIEWS

On Facebook, YouTube and Weibo combined

2020

14,991,506 FOLLOWERS

175.8 MILLION VIEWS

On Facebook, YouTube and Weibo combined

21,318,094
FOLLOWERS

2021

727.3 MILLION
VIEWS

On Facebook, YouTube, Weibo, Twitter and Instagram combined

22,624,431
FOLLOWERS

2022

442.7 MILLION
VIEWS

On Facebook, YouTube, Weibo, Twitter and Instagram combined

25,453,486
FOLLOWERS

2023

480.9 MILLION
VIEWS

On Facebook, YouTube, Weibo, X and Instagram combined

33,123,528
FOLLOWERS

2024

2.033 BILLION
VIEWS

On Facebook, YouTube, Weibo, X and Instagram combined

35,755,614
FOLLOWERS

2025

2.21 BILLION
VIEWS

On Facebook, YouTube, Weibo, X and Instagram combined

TOURNAMENT RESULTS

AFC ASIAN CUP SAUDI ARABIA 2027™ - QUALIFIERS FINAL ROUND

AFC ASIAN CUP SAUDI ARABIA 2027 QUALIFIERS

GROUP A	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
TAJIKISTAN	5	4	1	0	13	2	11	13
PHILIPPINES	5	4	1	0	15	5	10	13
TIMOR-LESTE	5	1	0	4	3	13	-10	3
MALDIVES	5	0	0	5	1	12	-11	0

SCORE		
TAJIKISTAN	1-0 (1-0)	TIMOR-LESTE
PHILIPPINES	4-1 (2-0)	MALDIVES
TIMOR-LESTE	1-0 (1-0)	MALDIVES
PHILIPPINES	2-2 (1-2)	TAJIKISTAN
TAJIKISTAN	2-0 (2-0)	MALDIVES
TIMOR-LESTE	1-4 (0-2)	PHILIPPINES
MALDIVES	0-3 (0-2)	TAJIKISTAN
PHILIPPINES	3-1 (0-1)	TIMOR-LESTE
MALDIVES	0-2 (0-2)	PHILIPPINES
TIMOR-LESTE	0-5 (0-3)	TAJIKISTAN
TAJIKISTAN		PHILIPPINES
MALDIVES		TIMOR-LESTE

GROUP B	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
LEBANON	5	4	1	0	14	0	14	13
YEMEN	5	3	2	0	18	1	17	11
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM	5	1	0	4	2	20	-18	3
BHUTAN	5	0	1	4	2	15	-13	1

SCORE		
BHUTAN	0-0 (0-0)	YEMEN
LEBANON	5-0 (4-0)	BRUNEI DARUSSALAM
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM	2-1 (1-0)	BHUTAN
YEMEN	0-0 (0-0)	LEBANON
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM	0-2 (0-2)	YEMEN
LEBANON	2-0 (0-0)	BHUTAN
BHUTAN	0-4 (0-3)	LEBANON
YEMEN	9-0 (3-0)	BRUNEI DARUSSALAM
YEMEN	7-1 (2-0)	BHUTAN
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM	0-3 (0-2)	LEBANON
LEBANON		YEMEN
BHUTAN		BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

GROUP C	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
SINGAPORE	5	3	2	0	7	4	3	11
HONG KONG, CHINA	5	2	2	1	7	6	1	8
BANGLADESH	5	1	2	2	6	7	-1	5
INDIA	5	0	2	3	2	5	-3	2

SCORE		
INDIA	0-0 (0-0)	BANGLADESH
SINGAPORE	0-0 (0-0)	HONG KONG, CHINA
BANGLADESH	1-2 (0-1)	SINGAPORE
HONG KONG, CHINA	1-0 (0-0)	INDIA
SINGAPORE	1-1 (1-0)	INDIA
BANGLADESH	3-4 (1-1)	HONG KONG, CHINA
INDIA	1-2 (1-1)	SINGAPORE
HONG KONG, CHINA	1-1 (1-0)	BANGLADESH
BANGLADESH	1-0 (1-0)	INDIA
HONG KONG, CHINA	1-2 (1-0)	SINGAPORE
INDIA		HONG KONG, CHINA
SINGAPORE		BANGLADESH

GROUP D	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
TURKMENISTAN *	5	4	0	1	10	5	5	12
THAILAND *	5	4	0	1	14	4	10	12
SRI LANKA	5	2	0	3	5	8	-3	6
CHINESE TAIPEI	5	0	0	5	4	16	-12	0

** The standing table is based on points, goal difference and number of goals scored of the teams tied*

SCORE		
CHINESE TAIPEI	1-2 (0-0)	TURKMENISTAN
THAILAND	1-0 (1-0)	SRI LANKA
SRI LANKA	3-1 (0-0)	CHINESE TAIPEI
TURKMENISTAN	3-1 (2-1)	THAILAND
SRI LANKA	1-0 (0-0)	TURKMENISTAN
THAILAND	2-0 (0-0)	CHINESE TAIPEI
CHINESE TAIPEI	1-6 (0-3)	THAILAND
TURKMENISTAN	2-1 (0-0)	SRI LANKA
SRI LANKA	0-4 (0-1)	THAILAND
TURKMENISTAN	3-1 (1-1)	CHINESE TAIPEI
THAILAND		TURKMENISTAN
CHINESE TAIPEI		SRI LANKA

GROUP E	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
SYRIA	5	5	0	0	16	1	15	15
MYANMAR	4	2	0	2	4	9	-5	6
AFGHANISTAN	4	0	2	2	2	4	-2	2
PAKISTAN	5	0	2	3	1	9	-8	2

SCORE		
MYANMAR	2-1 (1-1)	AFGHANISTAN
SYRIA	2-0 (1-0)	PAKISTAN
MYANMAR	1-0 (1-0)	PAKISTAN
AFGHANISTAN	0-1 (0-1)	SYRIA
PAKISTAN	0-0 (0-0)	AFGHANISTAN
SYRIA	5-1 (3-0)	MYANMAR
MYANMAR	0-3 (0-0)	SYRIA
AFGHANISTAN	1-1 (1-1)	PAKISTAN
PAKISTAN	0-5 (0-1)	SYRIA
AFGHANISTAN		MYANMAR
SYRIA		AFGHANISTAN
PAKISTAN		MYANMAR

GROUP F	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
MALAYSIA	5	5	0	0	15	1	14	15
VIETNAM	5	4	0	1	11	5	6	12
LAOS	5	1	0	4	3	16	-13	3
NEPAL	5	0	0	5	2	9	-7	0

SCORE		
VIETNAM	5-0 (2-0)	LAOS
MALAYSIA	2-0 (1-0)	NEPAL
LAOS	2-1 (1-0)	NEPAL
MALAYSIA	4-0 (0-0)	VIETNAM
LAOS	0-3 (0-0)	MALAYSIA
VIETNAM	3-1 (1-1)	NEPAL
NEPAL	0-1 (0-1)	VIETNAM
MALAYSIA	5-1 (0-1)	LAOS
NEPAL	0-1 (0-0)	MALAYSIA
LAOS	0-2 (0-0)	VIETNAM
VIETNAM		MALAYSIA
NEPAL		LAOS

AFC ASIAN QUALIFIERS - ROAD TO 2026™

GROUP A	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN	10	7	2	1	19	8	11	23
UZBEKISTAN	10	6	3	1	14	7	7	21
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	10	4	3	3	15	8	7	15
QATAR	10	4	1	5	17	24	-7	13
KYRGYZ REPUBLIC	10	2	2	6	12	18	-6	8
DPR KOREA	10	0	3	7	9	21	-12	3

GROUP B	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
KOREA REPUBLIC	10	6	4	0	20	7	13	22
JORDAN	10	4	4	2	16	8	8	16
IRAQ	10	4	3	3	9	9	0	15
OMAN	10	3	2	5	9	14	-5	11
PALESTINE	10	2	4	4	10	13	-3	10
KUWAIT	10	0	5	5	7	20	-13	5

	SCORE	
QATAR	1-3 (1-0)	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
UZBEKISTAN	1-0 (1-0)	DPR KOREA
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN	1-0 (1-0)	KYRGYZ REPUBLIC
DPR KOREA	2-2 (1-2)	QATAR
KYRGYZ REPUBLIC	2-3 (2-2)	UZBEKISTAN
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	0-1 (0-1)	ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN
UZBEKISTAN	0-0 (0-0)	ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN
QATAR	3-1 (1-0)	KYRGYZ REPUBLIC
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	1-1 (0-0)	DPR KOREA
UZBEKISTAN	1-0 (0-0)	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
KYRGYZ REPUBLIC	1-0 (1-0)	DPR KOREA
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN	4-1 (1-1)	QATAR
DPR KOREA	2-3 (0-3)	ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN
QATAR	3-2 (2-0)	UZBEKISTAN
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	3-0 (2-0)	KYRGYZ REPUBLIC
DPR KOREA	0-1 (0-1)	UZBEKISTAN
KYRGYZ REPUBLIC	2-3 (0-2)	ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	5-0 (3-0)	QATAR
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN	2-0 (1-0)	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
UZBEKISTAN	1-0 (1-0)	KYRGYZ REPUBLIC
QATAR	5-1 (3-0)	DPR KOREA
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN	2-2 (0-1)	UZBEKISTAN
KYRGYZ REPUBLIC	3-1 (1-0)	QATAR
DPR KOREA	1-2 (1-1)	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	0-0 (0-0)	UZBEKISTAN
DPR KOREA	2-2 (1-0)	KYRGYZ REPUBLIC
QATAR	1-0 (1-0)	ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN
UZBEKISTAN	3-0 (1-0)	QATAR
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN	3-0 (0-0)	DPR KOREA
KYRGYZ REPUBLIC	1-1 (0-1)	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

	SCORE	
IRAQ	1-0 (1-0)	OMAN
KOREA REPUBLIC	0-0 (0-0)	PALESTINE
JORDAN	1-1 (1-0)	KUWAIT
OMAN	1-3 (1-1)	KOREA REPUBLIC
KUWAIT	0-0 (0-0)	IRAQ
PALESTINE	1-3 (1-1)	JORDAN
JORDAN	0-2 (0-1)	KOREA REPUBLIC
OMAN	4-0 (2-0)	KUWAIT
IRAQ	1-0 (1-0)	PALESTINE
PALESTINE	2-2 (1-1)	KUWAIT
JORDAN	4-0 (1-0)	OMAN
KOREA REPUBLIC	3-2 (1-0)	IRAQ
KUWAIT	1-3 (0-2)	KOREA REPUBLIC
IRAQ	0-0 (0-0)	JORDAN
OMAN	1-0 (0-0)	PALESTINE
PALESTINE	1-1 (1-1)	KOREA REPUBLIC
OMAN	0-1 (0-1)	IRAQ
KUWAIT	1-1 (0-1)	JORDAN
KOREA REPUBLIC	1-1 (1-0)	OMAN
JORDAN	3-1 (3-1)	PALESTINE
IRAQ	2-2 (0-1)	KUWAIT
KOREA REPUBLIC	1-1 (1-1)	JORDAN
KUWAIT	0-1 (0-0)	OMAN
PALESTINE	2-1 (0-1)	IRAQ
OMAN	0-3 (0-1)	JORDAN
KUWAIT	0-2 (0-1)	PALESTINE
IRAQ	0-2 (0-0)	KOREA REPUBLIC
KOREA REPUBLIC	4-0 (1-0)	KUWAIT
PALESTINE	1-1 (0-0)	OMAN
JORDAN	0-1 (0-0)	IRAQ

GROUP C	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
JAPAN	10	7	2	1	30	3	27	23
AUSTRALIA	10	5	4	1	16	7	9	19
SAUDI ARABIA	10	3	4	3	7	8	-1	13
INDONESIA	10	3	3	4	9	20	-11	12
CHINA PR	10	3	0	7	7	20	-13	9
BAHRAIN	10	1	3	6	5	16	-11	6

SCORE		
JAPAN	7-0 (2-0)	CHINA PR
AUSTRALIA	0-1 (0-0)	BAHRAIN
SAUDI ARABIA	1-1 (1-1)	INDONESIA
INDONESIA	0-0 (0-0)	AUSTRALIA
BAHRAIN	0-5 (0-1)	JAPAN
CHINA PR	1-2 (1-1)	SAUDI ARABIA
BAHRAIN	2-2 (1-1)	INDONESIA
AUSTRALIA	3-1 (1-1)	CHINA PR
SAUDI ARABIA	0-2 (0-1)	JAPAN
JAPAN	1-1 (0-0)	AUSTRALIA
CHINA PR	2-1 (2-0)	INDONESIA
SAUDI ARABIA	0-0 (0-0)	BAHRAIN
BAHRAIN	0-1 (0-0)	CHINA PR
AUSTRALIA	0-0 (0-0)	SAUDI ARABIA
INDONESIA	0-4 (0-2)	JAPAN
INDONESIA	2-0 (1-0)	SAUDI ARABIA
CHINA PR	1-3 (0-2)	JAPAN
BAHRAIN	2-2 (0-1)	AUSTRALIA
JAPAN	2-0 (0-0)	BAHRAIN
AUSTRALIA	5-1 (3-0)	INDONESIA
SAUDI ARABIA	1-0 (0-0)	CHINA PR
CHINA PR	0-2 (0-2)	AUSTRALIA
JAPAN	0-0 (0-0)	SAUDI ARABIA
INDONESIA	1-0 (1-0)	BAHRAIN
BAHRAIN	0-2 (0-1)	SAUDI ARABIA
AUSTRALIA	1-0 (0-0)	JAPAN
INDONESIA	1-0 (1-0)	CHINA PR
CHINA PR	1-0 (0-0)	BAHRAIN
JAPAN	6-0 (3-0)	INDONESIA
SAUDI ARABIA	1-2 (1-1)	AUSTRALIA

PLAYOFFS

GROUP A	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
QATAR	2	1	1	0	2	1	1	4
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	2	1	0	1	3	3	0	3
OMAN	2	0	1	1	1	2	-1	1

SCORE		
OMAN	0-0 (0-0)	QATAR
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	2-1 (0-1)	OMAN
QATAR	2-1 (0-0)	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

GROUP B	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
SAUDI ARABIA	2	1	1	0	3	2	1	4
IRAQ	2	1	1	0	1	0	1	4
INDONESIA	2	0	0	2	2	4	-2	0

SCORE		
INDONESIA	2-3 (1-2)	SAUDI ARABIA
IRAQ	1-0 (0-0)	INDONESIA
SAUDI ARABIA	0-0 (0-0)	IRAQ

PLAYOFFS KNOCKOUT

SCORE		
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	1-1 (1-1)	IRAQ
IRAQ	2-1 (0-0)	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

AFC BEACH SOCCER ASIAN CUP THAILAND 2025™

GROUP STAGE

GROUP A	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
THAILAND	3	3	0	0	12	7	5	9
LEBANON	3	2	0	1	15	10	5	6
KUWAIT	3	1	0	2	11	11	0	3
INDIA	3	0	0	3	3	13	-10	0

SCORE		
KUWAIT	4:5 (1:3, 3:1, 0:1)	LEBANON
THAILAND	3:0 (0:0, 1:0, 2:0)	INDIA
INDIA	2:4 (1:1, 0:1, 1:2)	KUWAIT
LEBANON	4:5 (1:2, 2:2, 1:1)	THAILAND
LEBANON	6:1 (2:0, 2:1, 2:0)	INDIA
THAILAND	4-3 a.e.t. (3:0, 0:0, 0:3, 1:0)	KUWAIT

GROUP B	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
JAPAN	3	3	0	0	15	6	9	9
SAUDI ARABIA	3	2	0	1	10	12	-2	6
CHINA PR	3	1	0	2	7	11	-4	3
IRAQ	3	0	0	3	7	10	-3	0

SCORE		
JAPAN	4:3 (1:2, 2:0, 1:1)	IRAQ
CHINA PR	3:5 (1:1, 2:2, 0:2)	SAUDI ARABIA
IRAQ	2-3 a.e.t. (1:1, 1:0, 0:1, 0:1)	CHINA PR
SAUDI ARABIA	2:7 (1:5, 0:0, 1:2)	JAPAN
SAUDI ARABIA	3:2 (1:0, 1:1, 1:1)	IRAQ
JAPAN	4:1 (0:0, 2:0, 2:1)	CHINA PR

GROUP C	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN	3	3	0	0	30	5	25	9
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	3	2	0	1	16	6	10	6
INDONESIA	3	1	0	2	9	22	-13	3
AFGHANISTAN	3	0	0	3	5	27	-22	0

SCORE		
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN	12:2 (2:0, 3:1, 7:1)	INDONESIA
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	7:1 (2:1, 3:0, 2:0)	AFGHANISTAN
INDONESIA	1:6 (0:2, 1:3, 0:1)	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
AFGHANISTAN	0:14 (0:3, 0:4, 0:7)	ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN
AFGHANISTAN	4:6 (1:2, 1:1, 2:3)	INDONESIA
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN	4:3 (2:1, 0:1, 2:1)	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

GROUP D	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
OMAN	3	3	0	0	18	5	13	9
MALAYSIA *	3	1	0	2	9	11	-2	3
VIETNAM *	3	1	0	2	6	12	-6	3
BAHRAIN *	3	1	0	2	7	12	-5	3

** The standing table is based on points, goal difference and number of goals scored of the teams tied*

SCORE		
OMAN	7:1 (2:0, 2:0, 3:1)	VIETNAM
BAHRAIN	4:3 (1:1, 2:1, 1:1)	MALAYSIA
VIETNAM	4-2 a.e.t. (1:0, 0:0, 1:2, 2:0)	BAHRAIN
MALAYSIA	3:6 (0:2, 2:1, 1:3)	OMAN
MALAYSIA	3:1 (0:0, 1:0, 2:1)	VIETNAM
OMAN	5:1 (2:0, 2:0, 1:1)	BAHRAIN

QUARTER-FINALS

	SCORE	
THAILAND	3:4 (1:1, 1:0, 1:3)	SAUDI ARABIA
JAPAN	8:3 (2:0, 4:1, 2:2)	LEBANON
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN	11:0 (3:0, 3:0, 5:0)	BAHRAIN
OMAN	7:2 (3:2, 2:0, 2:0)	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

SEMI-FINALS

	SCORE	
SAUDI ARABIA	0:6 (0:2, 0:1, 0:3)	ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN
JAPAN	2:3 (0:1, 2:0, 0:2)	OMAN

3RD/4TH PLACING

	SCORE	
SAUDI ARABIA	1:3 (0:1, 1:1, 0:1)	JAPAN

FINAL

	SCORE	
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN	8:1 (1:0, 5:1, 2:0)	OMAN

AFC CHALLENGE LEAGUE 2024/25™ - KNOCKOUT STAGE

QUARTER-FINALS

	SCORE	
EAST BENGAL FC (IND)	0-1 (0-1)	FC ARKADAG (TKM)
AL ARABI SC (KUW)	1-0 (0-0)	AL SEEB CLUB (OMA)
PREAH KHAN REACH SVAY RIENG FC (CAM)	6-2 (2-1)	SHAN UNITED FC (MYA)
TAINAN CITY FC (TPE)	0-0 (0-0)	MADURA UNITED (IDN)
FC ARKADAG (TKM)	2-1 (0-1)	EAST BENGAL FC (IND)
AL SEEB CLUB (OMA)	2-2 a.e.t. (2-1,1-1)	AL ARABI SC (KUW)
SHAN UNITED FC (MYA)	2-1 (2-0)	PREAH KHAN REACH SVAY RIENG FC (CAM)
MADURA UNITED (IDN)	3-0 (1-0)	TAINAN CITY FC (TPE)

SEMI-FINALS

	SCORE	
AL ARABI SC (KUW)	2-0 (0-0)	FC ARKADAG (TKM)
PREAH KHAN REACH SVAY RIENG FC (CAM)	3-0 (2-0)	MADURA UNITED (IDN)
FC ARKADAG (TKM)	3-0 (1-0)	AL ARABI SC (KUW)
MADURA UNITED (IDN)	3-3 (1-2)	PREAH KHAN REACH SVAY RIENG FC (CAM)

FINAL

	SCORE	
PREAH KHAN REACH SVAY RIENG FC (CAM)	1-2 a.e.t. (1-1,0-0)	FC ARKADAG (TKM)

AFC CHALLENGE LEAGUE 2025/26™ - PRELIMINARY & GROUP STAGE

AFC CHALLENGE LEAGUE™

PRELIMINARY

EAST	SCORE	
SP FALCONS (MNG)	3-1 (1-0)	TAICHUNG FUTURO FC (TPE)
YANGON UNITED FC (MYA)	1-1 a.e.t. (0-0,0-0) 3-5 PSO	EZRA FC (LAO)
TAINAN CITY FC (TPE)	4-1 (1-0)	KHANGARID FC (MNG)
KASUKA FC (BRU)	0-6 (0-1)	PHNOM PENH CROWN FC (CAM)

WEST	SCORE	
MAZIYA SPORTS & RC (MDV)	0-4 (0-2)	AL ARABI SC (KUW)
ABAHANI LIMITED DHAKA (BAN)	0-2 (0-0)	FC MURAS UNITED (KGZ)
PARO FC (BHU)	1-0 (0-0)	ABU MUSLIM FARAH FC (AFG)
FC ABDYSH-ATA (KGZ)	5-2 (3-0)	HUTTEEN SC (SYR)
AL-KARAMAH SC (SYR)	0-1 (0-1)	BASHUNDHARA KINGS (BAN)

GROUP STAGE

GROUP A	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
AL SHABAB CLUB (OMA)	3	3	0	0	6	2	4	9
ALTYN ASYR FC (TKM)	3	2	0	1	5	4	1	6
FC ABDYSH-ATA (KGZ)	3	0	1	2	4	6	-2	1
PARO FC (BHU)	3	0	1	2	4	7	-3	1

SCORE		
ALTYN ASYR FC (TKM)	1-0 (0-0)	FC ABDYSH-ATA (KGZ)
AL SHABAB CLUB (OMA)	1-0 (1-0)	PARO FC (BHU)
FC ABDYSH-ATA (KGZ)	1-2 (1-1)	AL SHABAB CLUB (OMA)
PARO FC (BHU)	1-3 (1-2)	ALTYN ASYR FC (TKM)
ALTYN ASYR FC (TKM)	1-3 (1-1)	AL SHABAB CLUB (OMA)
PARO FC (BHU)	3-3 (2-2)	FC ABDYSH-ATA (KGZ)

GROUP B	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
KUWAIT SC (KUW)	3	2	1	0	6	3	3	7
AL ANSAR FC (LBN)	3	2	0	1	7	4	3	6
AL SEEB CLUB (OMA)	3	1	1	1	5	5	0	4
BASHUNDHARA KINGS (BAN)	3	0	0	3	2	8	-6	0

SCORE		
AL SEEB CLUB (OMA)	3-2 (1-1)	BASHUNDHARA KINGS (BAN)
AL ANSAR FC (LBN)	2-3 (1-1)	KUWAIT SC (KUW)
BASHUNDHARA KINGS (BAN)	0-3 (0-1)	AL ANSAR FC (LBN)
KUWAIT SC (KUW)	1-1 (1-1)	AL SEEB CLUB (OMA)
AL SEEB CLUB (OMA)	1-2 (1-0)	AL ANSAR FC (LBN)
KUWAIT SC (KUW)	2-0 (2-0)	BASHUNDHARA KINGS (BAN)

GROUP C	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
FC MURAS UNITED (KGZ)	3	1	2	0	3	1	2	5
AL ARABI SC (KUW)	3	1	2	0	5	4	1	5
SAFA SC (LBN)	3	1	1	1	4	5	-1	4
FC REGAR-TADAZ (TJK)	3	0	1	2	2	4	-2	1

SCORE		
SAFA SC (LBN)	2-2 (2-0)	AL ARABI SC (KUW)
FC REGAR-TADAZ (TJK)	0-0 (0-0)	FC MURAS UNITED (KGZ)
AL ARABI SC (KUW)	2-1 (1-1)	FC REGAR-TADAZ (TJK)
FC MURAS UNITED (KGZ)	2-0 (1-0)	SAFA SC (LBN)
FC REGAR-TADAZ (TJK)	1-2 (1-1)	SAFA SC (LBN)
AL ARABI SC (KUW)	1-1 (1-0)	FC MURAS UNITED (KGZ)

GROUP D	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
PREAH KHAN REACH SVAY RIENG FC (CAM)	3	2	1	0	8	2	6	7
MANILA DIGGER FC (PHI)	3	2	1	0	7	3	4	7
SP FALCONS (MNG)	3	1	0	2	3	6	-3	3
EZRA FC (LAO)	3	0	0	3	2	9	-7	0

SCORE		
PREAH KHAN REACH SVAY RIENG FC (CAM)	3-0 (2-0)	SP FALCONS (MNG)
MANILA DIGGER FC (PHI)	3-1 (2-1)	EZRA FC (LAO)
SP FALCONS (MNG)	0-2 (0-1)	MANILA DIGGER FC (PHI)
EZRA FC (LAO)	0-3 (0-2)	PREAH KHAN REACH SVAY RIENG FC (CAM)
SP FALCONS (MNG)	3-1 (2-1)	EZRA FC (LAO)
MANILA DIGGER FC (PHI)	2-2 (1-0)	PREAH KHAN REACH SVAY RIENG FC (CAM)

GROUP E	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
DEWA UNITED FC (IDN)	3	2	1	0	9	2	7	7
PHNOM PENH CROWN FC (CAM)	3	2	1	0	7	4	3	7
TAINAN CITY FC (TPE)	3	1	0	2	4	8	-4	3
SHAN UNITED FC (MYA)	3	0	0	3	3	9	-6	0

SCORE		
SHAN UNITED FC (MYA)	1-2 (0-2)	TAINAN CITY FC (TPE)
DEWA UNITED FC (IDN)	1-1 (0-0)	PHNOM PENH CROWN FC (CAM)
PHNOM PENH CROWN FC (CAM)	3-1 (0-1)	SHAN UNITED FC (MYA)
TAINAN CITY FC (TPE)	0-4 (0-3)	DEWA UNITED FC (IDN)
TAINAN CITY FC (TPE)	2-3 (1-1)	PHNOM PENH CROWN FC (CAM)
DEWA UNITED FC (IDN)	4-1 (2-1)	SHAN UNITED FC (MYA)

AFC CHAMPIONS LEAGUE ELITE 2024/25™

AFC CHAMPIONS LEAGUE ELITE™

ROUND OF 16

1ST LEG		
ESTEGHLAL FC (IRN)	0-0 (0-0)	AL NASSR CLUB (KSA)
AL WASL FC (UAE)	1-1 (1-0)	AL SADD SC (QAT)
SHANGHAI PORT FC (CHN)	0-1 (0-1)	YOKOHAMA F. MARINOS (JPN)
PAKHTAKOR (UZB)	1-0 (1-0)	AL HILAL SFC (KSA)
AL RAYYAN SC (QAT)	1-3 (0-2)	AL AHLI SAUDI FC (KSA)
BURIRAM UNITED (THA)	0-0 (0-0)	JOHOR DARUL TA'ZIM FC (MAS)
VISSEL KOBE (JPN)	2-0 (2-0)	GWANGJU FC (KOR)
SHANGHAI SHENHUA FC (CHN)	1-0 (0-0)	KAWASAKI FRONTALE (JPN)

2ND LEG		
AL NASSR CLUB (KSA)	3-0 (2-0)	ESTEGHLAL FC (IRN)
AL SADD SC (QAT)	3-1 (3-1)	AL WASL FC (UAE)
YOKOHAMA F. MARINOS (JPN)	4-1 (3-1)	SHANGHAI PORT FC (CHN)
JOHOR DARUL TA'ZIM FC (MAS)	0-1 (0-0)	BURIRAM UNITED (THA)
AL HILAL SFC (KSA)	4-0 (2-0)	PAKHTAKOR (UZB)
AL AHLI SAUDI FC (KSA)	2-0 (0-0)	AL RAYYAN SC (QAT)
KAWASAKI FRONTALE (JPN)	4-0 (1-0)	SHANGHAI SHENHUA FC (CHN)
GWANGJU FC (KOR)	3-0 a.e.t. (2-0,1-0)	VISSEL KOBE (JPN)

QUARTER-FINALS

	SCORE	
AL HILAL SFC (KSA)	7-0 (3-0)	GWANGJU FC (KOR)
AL AHLI SAUDI FC (KSA)	3-0 (3-0)	BURIRAM UNITED (THA)
YOKOHAMA F. MARINOS (JPN)	1-4 (0-3)	AL NASSR CLUB (KSA)
KAWASAKI FRONTALE (JPN)	3-2 a.e.t. (2-2,2-1)	AL SADD SC (QAT)

SEMI-FINALS

	SCORE	
AL HILAL SFC (KSA)	1-3 (1-2)	AL AHLI SAUDI FC (KSA)
AL NASSR CLUB (KSA)	2-3 (1-2)	KAWASAKI FRONTALE (JPN)

FINAL

	SCORE	
AL AHLI SAUDI FC (KSA)	2-0 (2-0)	KAWASAKI FRONTALE (JPN)

AFC CHAMPIONS LEAGUE TWO 2024/25™ - KNOCKOUT STAGE

ROUND OF 16

1ST LEG		
AL KHALDIYA SC (BHR)	1-2 (0-0)	TRACTOR FC (IRN)
AL HUSSEIN (JOR)	0-1 (0-1)	SHARJAH FC (UAE)
AL WEHDAT (JOR)	0-2 (0-0)	SHABAB AL AHLI (UAE)
AL WAKRAH SC (QAT)	2-2 (0-1)	AL TAAWOUN FC (KSA)
NAM DINH FC (VIE)	0-3 (0-0)	SANFRECCE HIROSHIMA (JPN)
SYDNEY FC (AUS)	2-2 (0-0)	BANGKOK UNITED (THA)
PORT FC (THA)	0-4 (0-2)	JEONBUK HYUNDAI MOTORS FC (KOR)
MUANGTHONG UNITED (THA)	2-3 (0-3)	LION CITY SAILORS FC (SGP)

2ND LEG		
TRACTOR FC (IRN)	3-3 (2-0)	AL KHALDIYA SC (BHR)
SHARJAH FC (UAE)	0-1 a.e.t. (0-1,0-1) 3-0 PSO	AL HUSSEIN (JOR)
SANFRECCE HIROSHIMA (JPN)	4-0 (1-0)	NAM DINH FC (VIE)
BANGKOK UNITED (THA)	2-3 a.e.t. (2-2,1-1)	SYDNEY FC (AUS)
SHABAB AL AHLI (UAE)	4-3 (1-1)	AL WEHDAT (JOR)
AL TAAWOUN FC (KSA)	2-2 a.e.t. (1-1,0-0) 4-3 PSO	AL WAKRAH SC (QAT)
JEONBUK HYUNDAI MOTORS FC (KOR)	1-0 (1-0)	PORT FC (THA)
LION CITY SAILORS FC (SGP)	4-0 (2-0)	MUANGTHONG UNITED (THA)

QUARTER-FINALS

	SCORE	
TRACTOR FC (IRN)	0-0 (0-0)	AL TAAWOUN FC (KSA)
SANFRECCE HIROSHIMA (JPN)	0-3 (Void)	LION CITY SAILORS FC (SGP)
SHABAB AL AHLI (UAE)	1-1 (0-0)	SHARJAH FC (UAE)
JEONBUK HYUNDAI MOTORS FC (KOR)	0-2 (0-1)	SYDNEY FC (AUS)
AL TAAWOUN FC (KSA)	2-2 a.e.t. (1-1,0-0)4-2 PSO	TRACTOR FC (IRN)
LION CITY SAILORS FC (SGP)	1-1 (1-1)	SANFRECCE HIROSHIMA (JPN)
SHARJAH FC (UAE)	1-1 a.e.t. (1-1,1-0) 5-4 PSO	SHABAB AL AHLI (UAE)
SYDNEY FC (AUS)	3-2 (0-2)	JEONBUK HYUNDAI MOTORS FC (KOR)

SEMI-FINALS

	SCORE	
AL TAAWOUN FC (KSA)	1-0 (1-0)	SHARJAH FC (UAE)
LION CITY SAILORS FC (SGP)	2-0 (1-0)	SYDNEY FC (AUS)
SHARJAH FC (UAE)	2-0 (0-0)	AL TAAWOUN FC (KSA)
SYDNEY FC (AUS)	1-0 (0-0)	LION CITY SAILORS FC (SGP)

FINAL

	SCORE	
LION CITY SAILORS FC (SGP)	1-2 (0-0)	SHARJAH FC (UAE)

AFC CHAMPIONS LEAGUE TWO 2025/26™ - PRELIMINARY & GROUP STAGE

PRELIMINARY

EAST		
PERSIB BANDUNG (IDN)	2-1 (1-0)	MANILA DIGGER FC (PHI)

WEST		
FC REGAR-TADAZ (TJK)	1-2 (0-0)	AHAL FC (TKM)
FC GOA (IND)	2-1 (1-0)	AL SEEB CLUB (OMA)

GROUP STAGE

GROUP A	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
AL WASL FC (UAE)	6	4	2	0	15	6	9	14
ESTEGHLAL FC (IRN)	6	2	2	2	8	10	-2	8
AL MUHARRAQ SC (BHR)	6	2	1	3	8	8	0	7
AL WEHDAT (JOR)	6	1	1	4	5	12	-7	4

SCORE		
AL WASL FC (UAE)	7-1 (3-1)	ESTEGHLAL FC (IRN)
AL MUHARRAQ SC (BHR)	4-0 (2-0)	AL WEHDAT (JOR)
AL WEHDAT (JOR)	1-2 (0-1)	AL WASL FC (UAE)
ESTEGHLAL FC (IRN)	0-1 (0-0)	AL MUHARRAQ SC (BHR)
ESTEGHLAL FC (IRN)	2-0 (2-0)	AL WEHDAT (JOR)
AL MUHARRAQ SC (BHR)	0-1 (0-0)	AL WASL FC (UAE)
AL WEHDAT (JOR)	2-1 (1-1)	AL MUHARRAQ SC (BHR)
AL WASL FC (UAE)	2-2 (1-1)	AL MUHARRAQ SC (BHR)
AL WEHDAT (JOR)	1-1 (1-1)	ESTEGHLAL FC (IRN)
ESTEGHLAL FC (IRN)	1-1 (1-0)	AL WASL FC (UAE)
AL MUHARRAQ SC (BHR)	0-3 (0-1)	ESTEGHLAL FC (IRN)
AL WASL FC (UAE)	2-1 (1-0)	AL WEHDAT (JOR)

GROUP B	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
AL AHLI SC (QAT)	6	2	4	0	7	4	3	10
FC ARKADAG (TKM)	6	1	4	1	5	6	-1	7
AL KHALDIYA SC (BHR)	6	1	3	2	3	3	0	6
PFC ANDIJON (UZB)	6	0	5	1	1	3	-2	5

SCORE		
FC ARKADAG (TKM)	0-0 (0-0)	PFC ANDIJON (UZB)
AL AHLI SC (QAT)	0-0 (0-0)	AL KHALDIYA SC (BHR)
PFC ANDIJON (UZB)	0-0 (0-0)	AL AHLI SC (QAT)
AL KHALDIYA SC (BHR)	2-0 (2-0)	FC ARKADAG (TKM)
PFC ANDIJON (UZB)	0-0 (0-0)	AL KHALDIYA SC (BHR)
AL AHLI SC (QAT)	2-2 (1-0)	FC ARKADAG (TKM)
AL KHALDIYA SC (BHR)	1-2 (0-0)	AL AHLI SC (QAT)
FC ARKADAG (TKM)	1-1 (1-1)	AL AHLI SC (QAT)
AL KHALDIYA SC (BHR)	0-0 (0-0)	PFC ANDIJON (UZB)
PFC ANDIJON (UZB)	1-1 (0-0)	FC ARKADAG (TKM)
AL AHLI SC (QAT)	2-0 (1-0)	PFC ANDIJON (UZB)
FC ARKADAG (TKM)	1-0 (1-0)	AL KHALDIYA SC (BHR)

GROUP C	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
AL HUSSEIN (JOR)	4	3	0	1	8	4	4	9
FOOLAD MOBARAKEH SEPAHAN SC (IRN)	4	2	1	1	5	3	2	7
AHAL FC (TKM)	4	0	1	3	4	10	-6	1

SCORE		
MOHUN BAGAN SUPER GIANT (IND)	Void	AHAL FC (TKM)
AL HUSSEIN (JOR)	1-0 (1-0)	FOOLAD MOBARAKEH SEPAHAN SC (IRN)
AHAL FC (TKM)	1-4 (1-4)	AL HUSSEIN (JOR)
FOOLAD MOBARAKEH SEPAHAN SC (IRN)	Void	MOHUN BAGAN SUPER GIANT (IND)
AHAL FC (TKM)	0-1 (0-0)	FOOLAD MOBARAKEH SEPAHAN SC (IRN)
AL HUSSEIN (JOR)	Void	MOHUN BAGAN SUPER GIANT (IND)
MOHUN BAGAN SUPER GIANT (IND)	Void	AL HUSSEIN (JOR)
FOOLAD MOBARAKEH SEPAHAN SC (IRN)	2-2 (1-1)	AHAL FC (TKM)
AHAL FC (TKM)	Void	MOHUN BAGAN SUPER GIANT (IND)
FOOLAD MOBARAKEH SEPAHAN SC (IRN)	2-0 (0-0)	AL HUSSEIN (JOR)
AL HUSSEIN (JOR)	3-1 (0-0)	AHAL FC (TKM)
MOHUN BAGAN SUPER GIANT (IND)	Void	FOOLAD MOBARAKEH SEPAHAN SC (IRN)

GROUP D	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
AL NASSR CLUB (KSA)	6	6	0	0	22	2	20	18
AL ZAWRAA SC (IRQ)	6	3	0	3	8	11	-3	9
FC ISTIKLOL (TJK)	6	3	0	3	7	13	-6	9
FC GOA (IND)	6	0	0	6	3	14	-11	0

SCORE		
FC GOA (IND)	0-2 (0-1)	AL ZAWRAA SC (IRQ)
AL NASSR CLUB (KSA)	5-0 (2-0)	FC ISTIKLOL (TJK)
FC ISTIKLOL (TJK)	2-0 (0-0)	FC GOA (IND)
AL ZAWRAA SC (IRQ)	0-2 (0-0)	AL NASSR CLUB (KSA)
FC ISTIKLOL (TJK)	2-1 (1-1)	AL ZAWRAA SC (IRQ)
FC GOA (IND)	1-2 (1-2)	AL NASSR CLUB (KSA)
AL ZAWRAA SC (IRQ)	2-1 (1-0)	FC ISTIKLOL (TJK)
AL NASSR CLUB (KSA)	4-0 (1-0)	FC GOA (IND)
FC ISTIKLOL (TJK)	0-4 (0-2)	AL NASSR CLUB (KSA)
AL ZAWRAA SC (IRQ)	2-1 (1-0)	FC GOA (IND)
AL NASSR CLUB (KSA)	5-1 (4-0)	AL ZAWRAA SC (IRQ)
FC GOA (IND)	1-2 (1-0)	FC ISTIKLOL (TJK)

GROUP E	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
MACARTHUR FC (AUS)	6	4	1	1	11	6	5	13
CONG AN HA NOI FC (VIE)	6	2	2	2	9	7	2	8
TAI PO FC (HKG)	6	2	1	3	7	12	-5	7
BEIJING FC (CHN)	6	1	2	3	10	12	-2	5

SCORE		
TAI PO FC (HKG)	2-1 (1-0)	MACARTHUR FC (AUS)
BEIJING FC (CHN)	2-2 (0-1)	CONG AN HA NOI FC (VIE)
MACARTHUR FC (AUS)	3-0 (1-0)	BEIJING FC (CHN)
CONG AN HA NOI FC (VIE)	3-0 (2-0)	TAI PO FC (HKG)
TAI PO FC (HKG)	3-3 (2-1)	BEIJING FC (CHN)
CONG AN HA NOI FC (VIE)	1-1 (1-0)	MACARTHUR FC (AUS)
MACARTHUR FC (AUS)	2-1 (1-1)	CONG AN HA NOI FC (VIE)
BEIJING FC (CHN)	3-0 (0-0)	TAI PO FC (HKG)
MACARTHUR FC (AUS)	2-1 (0-1)	TAI PO FC (HKG)
CONG AN HA NOI FC (VIE)	2-1 (0-1)	BEIJING FC (CHN)
TAI PO FC (HKG)	1-0 (1-0)	CONG AN HA NOI FC (VIE)
BEIJING FC (CHN)	1-2 (0-0)	MACARTHUR FC (AUS)

GROUP F	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
GAMBA OSAKA (JPN)	6	6	0	0	16	2	14	18
RATCHABURI FC (THA)	6	3	0	3	15	8	7	9
NAM DINH FC (VIE)	6	3	0	3	14	7	7	9
EASTERN FC (HKG)	6	0	0	6	2	30	-28	0

SCORE		
GAMBA OSAKA (JPN)	3-1 (1-1)	EASTERN FC (HKG)
NAM DINH FC (VIE)	3-1 (1-0)	RATCHABURI FC (THA)
EASTERN FC (HKG)	0-1 (0-0)	NAM DINH FC (VIE)
RATCHABURI FC (THA)	0-2 (0-0)	GAMBA OSAKA (JPN)
GAMBA OSAKA (JPN)	3-1 (1-0)	NAM DINH FC (VIE)
RATCHABURI FC (THA)	5-1 (2-0)	EASTERN FC (HKG)
NAM DINH FC (VIE)	0-1 (0-1)	GAMBA OSAKA (JPN)
EASTERN FC (HKG)	0-7 (0-0)	RATCHABURI FC (THA)
RATCHABURI FC (THA)	2-0 (0-0)	NAM DINH FC (VIE)
EASTERN FC (HKG)	0-5 (0-3)	GAMBA OSAKA (JPN)
NAM DINH FC (VIE)	9-0 (6-0)	EASTERN FC (HKG)
GAMBA OSAKA (JPN)	2-0 (0-0)	RATCHABURI FC (THA)

GROUP E	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
PERSIB BANDUNG (IDN)	6	4	1	1	11	6	5	13
BANGKOK UNITED (THA) *	6	3	1	2	8	7	1	10
LION CITY SAILORS FC (SGP) *	6	3	1	2	10	8	2	10
SELANGOR FC (MAS)	6	0	1	5	7	15	-8	1

** The standing table is based on points, goal difference and number of goals scored of the teams tied*

SCORE		
SELANGOR FC (MAS)	2-4 (1-3)	BANGKOK UNITED (THA)
PERSIB BANDUNG (IDN)	1-1 (0-0)	LION CITY SAILORS FC (SGP)
LION CITY SAILORS FC (SGP)	4-2 (3-1)	SELANGOR FC (MAS)
BANGKOK UNITED (THA)	0-2 (0-1)	PERSIB BANDUNG (IDN)
BANGKOK UNITED (THA)	1-0 (0-0)	LION CITY SAILORS FC (SGP)
PERSIB BANDUNG (IDN)	2-0 (1-0)	SELANGOR FC (MAS)
LION CITY SAILORS FC (SGP)	1-2 (0-1)	BANGKOK UNITED (THA)
SELANGOR FC (MAS)	2-3 (2-0)	PERSIB BANDUNG (IDN)
BANGKOK UNITED (THA)	1-1 (0-0)	SELANGOR FC (MAS)
LION CITY SAILORS FC (SGP)	3-2 (1-1)	PERSIB BANDUNG (IDN)
PERSIB BANDUNG (IDN)	1-0 (1-0)	BANGKOK UNITED (THA)
SELANGOR FC (MAS)	0-1 (0-0)	LION CITY SAILORS FC (SGP)

GROUP H	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
TAMPINES ROVERS FC (SGP)	6	5	1	0	14	5	9	16
FC POHANG STEELERS (KOR)	6	4	1	1	7	2	5	13
BG PATHUM UNITED (THA)	6	2	0	4	5	8	-3	6
KAYA FC-ILOILO (PHI)	6	0	0	6	4	15	-11	0

SCORE		
KAYA FC-ILOILO (PHI)	0-3 (0-0)	TAMPINES ROVERS FC (SGP)
BG PATHUM UNITED (THA)	0-1 (0-1)	FC POHANG STEELERS (KOR)
TAMPINES ROVERS FC (SGP)	2-1 (1-0)	BG PATHUM UNITED (THA)
FC POHANG STEELERS (KOR)	2-0 (0-0)	KAYA FC-ILOILO (PHI)
TAMPINES ROVERS FC (SGP)	1-0 (1-0)	FC POHANG STEELERS (KOR)
KAYA FC-ILOILO (PHI)	0-2 (0-1)	BG PATHUM UNITED (THA)
FC POHANG STEELERS (KOR)	1-1 (0-0)	TAMPINES ROVERS FC (SGP)
BG PATHUM UNITED (THA)	2-1 (2-1)	KAYA FC-ILOILO (PHI)
FC POHANG STEELERS (KOR)	2-0 (1-0)	BG PATHUM UNITED (THA)
TAMPINES ROVERS FC (SGP)	5-3 (2-0)	KAYA FC-ILOILO (PHI)
BG PATHUM UNITED (THA)	0-2 (0-0)	TAMPINES ROVERS FC (SGP)
KAYA FC-ILOILO (PHI)	0-1 (0-1)	FC POHANG STEELERS (KOR)

AFC FUTSAL ASIAN CUP INDONESIA 2026™ - QUALIFIERS

GROUP A	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
AUSTRALIA	3	2	1	0	20	4	16	7
KUWAIT	3	2	1	0	12	5	7	7
INDIA	3	1	0	2	5	14	-9	3
MONGOLIA	3	0	0	3	3	17	-14	0

SCORE		
AUSTRALIA	8-1 (3-0)	MONGOLIA
KUWAIT	4-1 (2-1)	INDIA
INDIA	1-10 (1-6)	AUSTRALIA
MONGOLIA	2-6 (1-3)	KUWAIT
MONGOLIA	0-3 (0-1)	INDIA
KUWAIT	2-2 (2-1)	AUSTRALIA

GROUP B	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
THAILAND	3	2	1	0	21	3	18	7
KOREA REPUBLIC	3	2	1	0	7	2	5	7
BAHRAIN	3	1	0	2	9	6	3	3
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM	3	0	0	3	1	27	-26	0

SCORE		
KOREA REPUBLIC	2-0 (0-0)	BAHRAIN
THAILAND	15-1 (9-0)	BRUNEI DARUSSALAM
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM	0-3 (0-2)	KOREA REPUBLIC
BAHRAIN	0-4 (0-2)	THAILAND
BAHRAIN	9-0 (7-0)	BRUNEI DARUSSALAM
THAILAND	2-2 (0-1)	KOREA REPUBLIC

GROUP C	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
JAPAN	3	3	0	0	21	1	20	9
TAJIKISTAN	3	2	0	1	18	6	12	6
CAMBODIA	3	1	0	2	12	14	-2	3
MACAU	3	0	0	3	4	34	-30	0

SCORE		
JAPAN	5-0 (4-0)	CAMBODIA
TAJIKISTAN	10-2 (4-0)	MACAU
MACAU	0-13 (0-6)	JAPAN
CAMBODIA	1-7 (1-4)	TAJIKISTAN
MACAU	2-11 (0-4)	CAMBODIA
JAPAN	3-1 (0-1)	TAJIKISTAN

GROUP D	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
IRAQ	3	3	0	0	14	2	12	9
SAUDI ARABIA	3	2	0	1	19	2	17	6
CHINESE TAIPEI	3	1	0	2	4	9	-5	3
PAKISTAN	3	0	0	3	1	25	-24	0

SCORE		
IRAQ	8-1 (3-0)	PAKISTAN
SAUDI ARABIA	5-0 (1-0)	CHINESE TAIPEI
CHINESE TAIPEI	0-4 (0-0)	IRAQ
PAKISTAN	0-13 (0-8)	SAUDI ARABIA
CHINESE TAIPEI	4-0 (1-0)	PAKISTAN
IRAQ	2-1 (1-0)	SAUDI ARABIA

GROUP E	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
VIETNAM	3	3	0	0	20	3	17	9
LEBANON	3	1	1	1	3	6	-3	4
CHINA PR	3	1	0	2	7	9	-2	3
HONG KONG, CHINA	3	0	1	2	2	14	-12	1

SCORE		
VIETNAM	9-1 (5-0)	HONG KONG, CHINA
LEBANON	2-1 (1-0)	CHINA PR
HONG KONG, CHINA	1-1 (0-1)	LEBANON
CHINA PR	2-7 (0-5)	VIETNAM
VIETNAM	4-0 (3-0)	LEBANON
CHINA PR	4-0 (2-0)	HONG KONG, CHINA

GROUP F	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
KYRGYZ REPUBLIC	3	3	0	0	14	4	10	9
UZBEKISTAN	3	2	0	1	16	5	11	6
TIMOR-LESTE	3	1	0	2	7	20	-13	3
PALESTINE	3	0	0	3	6	14	-8	0

SCORE		
UZBEKISTAN	7-1 (3-1)	PALESTINE
KYRGYZ REPUBLIC	9-1 (6-1)	TIMOR-LESTE
TIMOR-LESTE	1-7 (0-3)	UZBEKISTAN
PALESTINE	1-2 (1-0)	KYRGYZ REPUBLIC
TIMOR-LESTE	5-4 (2-2)	PALESTINE
UZBEKISTAN	2-3 (0-1)	KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

GROUP G	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN	3	3	0	0	26	0	26	9
MALAYSIA	3	2	0	1	8	5	3	6
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	3	1	0	2	8	13	-5	3
BANGLADESH	3	0	0	3	3	27	-24	0

SCORE		
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN	12-0 (6-0)	BANGLADESH
MALAYSIA	1-0 (0-0)	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	0-10 (0-7)	ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN
BANGLADESH	1-7 (1-3)	MALAYSIA
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	8-2 (1-1)	BANGLADESH
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN	4-0 (2-0)	MALAYSIA

GROUP H	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
AFGHANISTAN	2	2	0	0	18	1	17	6
MYANMAR	2	1	0	1	7	11	-4	3
MALDIVES	2	0	0	2	4	17	-13	0

SCORE		
MALDIVES	1-10 (0-7)	AFGHANISTAN
MYANMAR	7-3 (5-2)	MALDIVES
AFGHANISTAN	8-0 (6-0)	MYANMAR

AFC U17 ASIAN CUP SAUDI ARABIA 2025™

GROUP A	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
UZBEKISTAN	3	3	0	0	9	2	7	9
SAUDI ARABIA	3	2	0	1	5	5	0	6
CHINA PR	3	1	0	2	4	4	0	3
THAILAND	3	0	0	3	2	9	-7	0

SCORE		
UZBEKISTAN	4-1 (2-1)	THAILAND
SAUDI ARABIA	2-1 (2-0)	CHINA PR
CHINA PR	1-2 (1-1)	UZBEKISTAN
THAILAND	1-3 (1-1)	SAUDI ARABIA
SAUDI ARABIA	0-3 (0-0)	UZBEKISTAN
THAILAND	0-2 (0-0)	CHINA PR

GROUP B	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
JAPAN *	3	1	1	1	7	5	2	4
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES *	3	1	1	1	4	5	-1	4
AUSTRALIA *	3	1	1	1	4	5	-1	4
VIETNAM	3	0	3	0	3	3	0	3

** The standing table is based on points, goal difference and number of goals scored of the teams tied*

SCORE		
AUSTRALIA	1-1 (1-0)	VIETNAM
JAPAN	4-1 (3-0)	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
VIETNAM	1-1 (0-1)	JAPAN
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	2-0 (1-0)	AUSTRALIA
JAPAN	2-3 (1-0)	AUSTRALIA
VIETNAM	1-1 (1-0)	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

GROUP C	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
INDONESIA	3	3	0	0	7	1	6	9
KOREA REPUBLIC	3	2	0	1	7	1	6	6
YEMEN	3	1	0	2	3	5	-2	3
AFGHANISTAN	3	0	0	3	0	10	-10	0

SCORE		
KOREA REPUBLIC	0-1 (0-0)	INDONESIA
YEMEN	2-0 (2-0)	AFGHANISTAN
INDONESIA	4-1 (2-0)	YEMEN
AFGHANISTAN	0-6 (0-3)	KOREA REPUBLIC
KOREA REPUBLIC	1-0 (1-0)	YEMEN
AFGHANISTAN	0-2 (0-0)	INDONESIA

GROUP D	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
TAJIKISTAN	3	2	0	1	5	5	0	6
DPR KOREA	3	1	2	0	6	3	3	5
OMAN	3	1	1	1	6	6	0	4
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN	3	0	1	2	4	7	-3	1

SCORE		
TAJIKISTAN	2-1 (1-1)	OMAN
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN	1-1 (1-1)	DPR KOREA
DPR KOREA	3-0 (0-0)	TAJIKISTAN
OMAN	3-2 (0-1)	ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN	1-3 (0-1)	TAJIKISTAN
OMAN	2-2 (0-1)	DPR KOREA

QUARTER-FINALS

SCORE		
JAPAN	2-2 a.e.t. (2-2,1-2) 2-3 PSO	SAUDI ARABIA
UZBEKISTAN	3-1 (3-0)	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
INDONESIA	0-6 (0-2)	DPR KOREA
TAJIKISTAN	2-2 a.e.t. (2-2,0-0) 3-5 PSO	KOREA REPUBLIC

SEMI-FINALS

SCORE		
SAUDI ARABIA	1-1 a.e.t. (1-1,0-1) 3-1 PSO	KOREA REPUBLIC
UZBEKISTAN	3-0 (1-0)	DPR KOREA

FINAL

SCORE		
UZBEKISTAN	2-0 (0-0)	SAUDI ARABIA

AFC U17 ASIAN CUP SAUDI ARABIA 2026™ - QUALIFIERS

AFC U17 ASIAN CUP SAUDI ARABIA 2026
QUALIFIERS

GROUP A	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
CHINA PR	5	5	0	0	42	0	42	15
BANGLADESH	5	4	0	1	20	5	15	12
BAHRAIN	5	3	0	2	16	7	9	9
TIMOR-LESTE	5	2	0	3	4	23	-19	6
SRI LANKA	5	1	0	4	6	17	-11	3
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM	5	0	0	5	0	36	-36	0

SCORE		
BANGLADESH	5-0 (3-0)	TIMOR-LESTE
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM	0-4 (0-1)	SRI LANKA
BAHRAIN	0-4 (0-3)	CHINA PR
BANGLADESH	8-0 (4-0)	BRUNEI DARUSSALAM
BAHRAIN	2-1 (1-0)	SRI LANKA
CHINA PR	14-0 (6-0)	TIMOR-LESTE
SRI LANKA	0-5 (0-2)	BANGLADESH
TIMOR-LESTE	0-3 (0-2)	BAHRAIN
CHINA PR	12-0 (6-0)	BRUNEI DARUSSALAM
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM	0-2 (0-1)	TIMOR-LESTE
BANGLADESH	2-1 (0-0)	BAHRAIN
SRI LANKA	0-8 (0-3)	CHINA PR
BAHRAIN	10-0 (4-0)	BRUNEI DARUSSALAM
TIMOR-LESTE	2-1 (1-0)	SRI LANKA
CHINA PR	4-0 (2-0)	BANGLADESH

GROUP B	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
YEMEN	5	5	0	0	24	3	21	15
PAKISTAN *	5	3	0	2	19	9	10	9
LAOS *	5	3	0	2	19	9	10	9
KYRGYZ REPUBLIC *	5	3	0	2	16	7	9	9
CAMBODIA	5	1	0	4	7	15	-8	3
GUAM	5	0	0	5	1	43	-42	0

** The standing table is based on points, goal difference and number of goals scored of the teams tied*

SCORE		
KYRGYZ REPUBLIC	0-2 (0-0)	YEMEN
LAOS	8-0 (3-0)	GUAM
CAMBODIA	1-3 (1-1)	PAKISTAN
YEMEN	10-0 (7-0)	GUAM
LAOS	5-1 (2-1)	CAMBODIA
KYRGYZ REPUBLIC	1-3 (0-2)	PAKISTAN
PAKISTAN	1-2 (1-1)	LAOS
YEMEN	3-0 (1-0)	CAMBODIA
GUAM	0-9 (0-3)	KYRGYZ REPUBLIC
CAMBODIA	5-1 (1-0)	GUAM
PAKISTAN	1-5 (0-3)	YEMEN
LAOS	2-3 (2-2)	KYRGYZ REPUBLIC
GUAM	0-11 (0-4)	PAKISTAN
KYRGYZ REPUBLIC	3-0 (1-0)	CAMBODIA
YEMEN	4-2 (1-1)	LAOS

GROUP C	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
VIETNAM	5	5	0	0	30	0	30	15
MALAYSIA	5	4	0	1	21	5	16	12
HONG KONG, CHINA	5	2	1	2	7	4	3	7
SINGAPORE	5	1	2	2	5	11	-6	5
MACAU	5	1	1	3	3	12	-9	4
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS	5	0	0	5	1	35	-34	0

SCORE		
HONG KONG, CHINA	2-0 (1-0)	MACAU
SINGAPORE	0-6 (0-3)	VIETNAM
MALAYSIA	13-0 (7-0)	NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
MALAYSIA	1-0 (0-0)	HONG KONG, CHINA
VIETNAM	14-0 (6-0)	NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
SINGAPORE	1-1 (0-1)	MACAU
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS	1-2 (1-1)	SINGAPORE
MACAU	0-5 (0-2)	MALAYSIA
VIETNAM	2-0 (1-0)	HONG KONG, CHINA
MALAYSIA	2-1 (2-0)	SINGAPORE
HONG KONG, CHINA	4-0 (1-0)	NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
MACAU	0-4 (0-4)	VIETNAM
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS	0-2 (0-0)	MACAU
SINGAPORE	1-1 (0-1)	HONG KONG, CHINA
VIETNAM	4-0 (2-0)	MALAYSIA

GROUP E	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
AUSTRALIA	4	3	1	0	13	3	10	10
IRAQ	4	2	2	0	9	7	2	8
JORDAN	4	2	1	1	13	4	9	7
BHUTAN	4	0	1	3	0	9	-9	1
PHILIPPINES	4	0	1	3	3	15	-12	1

SCORE		
LEBANON	0-0 (0-0)	CHINESE TAIPEI
PALESTINE	1-1 (0-1)	INDIA
CHINESE TAIPEI	0-5 (0-1)	ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN
LEBANON	1-1 (0-1)	PALESTINE
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN	1-1 (1-0)	LEBANON
INDIA	3-1 (1-1)	CHINESE TAIPEI
PALESTINE	1-3 (1-0)	ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN
INDIA	0-2 (0-2)	LEBANON
CHINESE TAIPEI	1-3 (0-1)	PALESTINE
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN	1-2 (1-1)	INDIA

GROUP D	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
INDIA *	4	2	1	1	6	5	1	7
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN *	4	2	1	1	10	4	6	7
LEBANON	4	1	3	0	4	2	2	6
PALESTINE	4	1	2	1	6	6	0	5
CHINESE TAIPEI	4	0	1	3	2	11	-9	1

** The standing table is based on points, goal difference and number of goals scored of the teams tied*

SCORE		
LEBANON	0-0 (0-0)	CHINESE TAIPEI
PALESTINE	1-1 (0-1)	INDIA
CHINESE TAIPEI	0-5 (0-1)	ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN
LEBANON	1-1 (0-1)	PALESTINE
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN	1-1 (1-0)	LEBANON
INDIA	3-1 (1-1)	CHINESE TAIPEI
PALESTINE	1-3 (1-0)	ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN
INDIA	0-2 (0-2)	LEBANON
CHINESE TAIPEI	1-3 (0-1)	PALESTINE
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN	1-2 (1-1)	INDIA

GROUP F	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
THAILAND *	4	3	0	1	16	4	12	9
TURKMENISTAN *	4	3	0	1	15	5	10	9
KUWAIT *	4	3	0	1	11	3	8	9
MONGOLIA	4	1	0	3	3	15	-12	3
MALDIVES	4	0	0	4	1	19	-18	0

** The standing table is based on points, goal difference and number of goals scored of the teams tied*

SCORE		
TURKMENISTAN	0-1 (0-0)	KUWAIT
MALDIVES	0-1 (0-1)	MONGOLIA
MALDIVES	0-6 (0-2)	TURKMENISTAN
MONGOLIA	0-4 (0-1)	THAILAND
KUWAIT	5-0 (3-0)	MONGOLIA
THAILAND	7-1 (3-0)	MALDIVES
KUWAIT	5-0 (3-0)	MALDIVES
TURKMENISTAN	3-2 (2-0)	THAILAND
MONGOLIA	2-6 (1-2)	TURKMENISTAN
THAILAND	3-0 (2-0)	KUWAIT

GROUP F	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
MYANMAR	4	3	1	0	11	3	8	10
OMAN	4	3	0	1	12	3	9	9
SYRIA	4	2	1	1	10	8	2	7
AFGHANISTAN	4	1	0	3	4	10	-6	3
NEPAL	4	0	0	4	2	15	-13	0

SCORE		
MYANMAR	3-1 (1-0)	AFGHANISTAN
NEPAL	2-4 (0-3)	SYRIA
NEPAL	0-4 (0-1)	MYANMAR
SYRIA	1-3 (0-1)	OMAN
OMAN	5-0 (3-0)	NEPAL
AFGHANISTAN	1-3 (0-2)	SYRIA
MYANMAR	2-0 (0-0)	OMAN
AFGHANISTAN	2-0 (1-0)	NEPAL
SYRIA	2-2 (1-2)	MYANMAR
OMAN	4-0 (1-0)	AFGHANISTAN

AFC U17 WOMEN'S ASIAN CUP CHINA 2026™ - QUALIFIERS

AFC U17 WOMEN'S ASIAN CUP CHINA 2026
QUALIFIERS

GROUP A	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
PHILIPPINES	3	3	0	0	11	0	11	9
MALAYSIA	3	2	0	1	3	4	-1	6
SYRIA	3	1	0	2	1	6	-5	3
TAJIKISTAN	3	0	0	3	0	5	-5	0

SCORE		
PHILIPPINES	5-0 (2-0)	SYRIA
MALAYSIA	2-0 (1-0)	TAJIKISTAN
SYRIA	0-1 (0-1)	MALAYSIA
TAJIKISTAN	0-2 (0-1)	PHILIPPINES
PHILIPPINES	4-0 (2-0)	MALAYSIA
TAJIKISTAN	0-1 (0-0)	SYRIA

GROUP B	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
LEBANON	3	2	1	0	13	2	11	7
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN	3	2	0	1	12	2	10	6
SAUDI ARABIA	3	1	1	1	13	4	9	4
KUWAIT	3	0	0	3	0	30	-30	0

SCORE		
LEBANON	9-0 (4-0)	KUWAIT
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN	2-0 (1-0)	SAUDI ARABIA
KUWAIT	0-10 (0-3)	ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN
SAUDI ARABIA	2-2 (2-1)	LEBANON
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN	0-2 (0-0)	LEBANON
KUWAIT	0-11 (0-5)	SAUDI ARABIA

GROUP C	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
MYANMAR	2	2	0	0	8	0	8	6
INDONESIA	2	1	0	1	2	1	1	3
MACAU	2	0	0	2	0	9	-9	0

SCORE		
MACAU	0-2 (0-0)	INDONESIA
MYANMAR	7-0 (5-0)	MACAU
INDONESIA	0-1 (0-1)	MYANMAR

GROUP D	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
VIETNAM	2	2	0	0	6	0	6	6
HONG KONG, CHINA	2	1	0	1	7	2	5	3
GUAM	2	0	0	2	1	12	-11	0

SCORE		
GUAM	0-5 (0-2)	VIETNAM
HONG KONG, CHINA	7-1 (4-1)	GUAM
VIETNAM	1-0 (0-0)	HONG KONG, CHINA

GROUP E	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
AUSTRALIA	2	2	0	0	33	0	33	6
SINGAPORE	2	1	0	1	11	11	0	3
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS	2	0	0	2	0	33	-33	0

SCORE		
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS	0-22 (0-10)	AUSTRALIA
SINGAPORE	11-0 (3-0)	NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
AUSTRALIA	11-0 (9-0)	SINGAPORE

GROUP F	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
THAILAND	2	2	0	0	29	0	29	6
NEPAL	2	0	1	1	0	12	-12	1
TURKMENISTAN	2	0	1	1	0	17	-17	1

SCORE		
TURKMENISTAN	0-17 (0-10)	THAILAND
NEPAL	0-0 (0-0)	TURKMENISTAN
THAILAND	12-0 (8-0)	NEPAL

GROUP G	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
INDIA	2	2	0	0	4	2	2	6
KYRGYZ REPUBLIC	2	1	0	1	3	3	0	3
UZBEKISTAN	2	0	0	2	2	4	-2	0

SCORE		
KYRGYZ REPUBLIC	1-2 (1-1)	INDIA
UZBEKISTAN	1-2 (0-1)	KYRGYZ REPUBLIC
INDIA	2-1 (0-1)	UZBEKISTAN

GROUP H	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
CHINESE TAIPEI	2	2	0	0	11	1	10	6
JORDAN	2	0	1	1	2	7	-5	1
BANGLADESH	2	0	1	1	1	6	-5	1

SCORE		
JORDAN	1-1 (0-1)	BANGLADESH
CHINESE TAIPEI	6-1 (2-0)	JORDAN
BANGLADESH	0-5 (0-2)	CHINESE TAIPEI

AFC U20 ASIAN CUP CHINA 2025™

GROUP A	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
AUSTRALIA	3	3	0	0	10	3	7	9
CHINA PR	3	2	0	1	8	5	3	6
QATAR	3	1	0	2	6	5	1	3
KYRGYZ REPUBLIC	3	0	0	3	3	14	-11	0

SCORE		
AUSTRALIA	5-1 (4-0)	KYRGYZ REPUBLIC
CHINA PR	2-1 (2-0)	QATAR
QATAR	1-3 (1-1)	AUSTRALIA
KYRGYZ REPUBLIC	2-5 (1-2)	CHINA PR
CHINA PR	1-2 (1-2)	AUSTRALIA
KYRGYZ REPUBLIC	0-4 (0-2)	QATAR

GROUP B	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
SAUDI ARABIA	3	2	0	1	3	2	1	6
IRAQ	3	1	2	0	2	1	1	5
JORDAN	3	1	1	1	2	2	0	4
DPR KOREA	3	0	1	2	3	5	-2	1

SCORE		
IRAQ	1-1 (1-0)	DPR KOREA
JORDAN	0-1 (0-0)	SAUDI ARABIA
DPR KOREA	1-2 (0-1)	JORDAN
SAUDI ARABIA	0-1 (0-1)	IRAQ
IRAQ	0-0 (0-0)	JORDAN
SAUDI ARABIA	2-1 (0-1)	DPR KOREA

GROUP C	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN	3	3	0	0	11	1	10	9
UZBEKISTAN	3	2	0	1	5	3	2	6
INDONESIA	3	0	1	2	1	6	-5	1
YEMEN	3	0	1	2	0	7	-7	1

SCORE		
UZBEKISTAN	1-0 (1-0)	YEMEN
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN	3-0 (1-0)	INDONESIA
YEMEN	0-6 (0-4)	ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN
INDONESIA	1-3 (1-1)	UZBEKISTAN
UZBEKISTAN	1-2 (0-0)	ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN
INDONESIA	0-0 (0-0)	YEMEN

GROUP D	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
KOREA REPUBLIC	3	2	1	0	7	3	4	7
JAPAN	3	1	2	0	6	3	3	5
SYRIA	3	0	2	1	5	6	-1	2
THAILAND	3	0	1	2	3	9	-6	1

SCORE		
KOREA REPUBLIC	2-1 (2-0)	SYRIA
JAPAN	3-0 (2-0)	THAILAND
SYRIA	2-2 (2-1)	JAPAN
THAILAND	1-4 (1-1)	KOREA REPUBLIC
JAPAN	1-1 (1-0)	KOREA REPUBLIC
SYRIA	2-2 (0-0)	THAILAND

QUARTER-FINALS

SCORE		
SAUDI ARABIA	1-0 (0-0)	CHINA PR
AUSTRALIA	3-2 (1-2)	IRAQ
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN	1-1 a.e.t. (1-1,1-1) 3-4 PSO	JAPAN
KOREA REPUBLIC	3-3 a.e.t. (3-3,1-1) 3-1 PSO	UZBEKISTAN

SEMI-FINALS

SCORE		
SAUDI ARABIA	0-0 a.e.t. (0-0,0-0) 3-2 PSO	KOREA REPUBLIC
AUSTRALIA	2-0 (0-0)	JAPAN

FINAL

SCORE		
AUSTRALIA	1-1 a.e.t. (1-1,1-1) 5-4 PSO	SAUDI ARABIA

AFC U20 WOMEN'S ASIAN CUP THAILAND 2026™ - QUALIFIERS

AFC U20 WOMEN'S ASIAN CUP THAILAND 2026
QUALIFIERS

GROUP A	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
DPR KOREA	3	3	0	0	36	0	36	9
NEPAL	3	1	1	1	2	12	-10	4
SAUDI ARABIA	3	1	0	2	2	17	-15	3
BHUTAN	3	0	1	2	2	13	-11	1

SCORE		
DPR KOREA	15-0 (9-0)	SAUDI ARABIA
NEPAL	1-1 (1-1)	BHUTAN
SAUDI ARABIA	0-1 (0-0)	NEPAL
BHUTAN	0-10 (0-5)	DPR KOREA
DPR KOREA	11-0 (5-0)	NEPAL
BHUTAN	1-2 (1-0)	SAUDI ARABIA

GROUP B	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
VIETNAM	3	3	0	0	14	0	14	9
HONG KONG, CHINA	3	2	0	1	5	8	-3	6
KYRGYZ REPUBLIC	3	1	0	2	2	5	-3	3
SINGAPORE	3	0	0	3	1	9	-8	0

SCORE		
KYRGYZ REPUBLIC	1-2 (0-0)	HONG KONG, CHINA
VIETNAM	5-0 (1-0)	SINGAPORE
SINGAPORE	0-1 (0-1)	KYRGYZ REPUBLIC
HONG KONG, CHINA	0-6 (0-3)	VIETNAM
HONG KONG, CHINA	3-1 (1-1)	SINGAPORE
VIETNAM	3-0 (2-0)	KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

GROUP C	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
AUSTRALIA	3	3	0	0	20	0	20	9
CHINESE TAIPEI	3	2	0	1	7	3	4	6
PALESTINE	3	1	0	2	2	7	-5	3
TAJIKISTAN	3	0	0	3	0	19	-19	0

SCORE		
CHINESE TAIPEI	4-0 (1-0)	PALESTINE
AUSTRALIA	14-0 (7-0)	TAJIKISTAN
PALESTINE	0-3 (0-1)	AUSTRALIA
TAJIKISTAN	0-3 (0-2)	CHINESE TAIPEI
AUSTRALIA	3-0 (1-0)	CHINESE TAIPEI
PALESTINE	2-0 (1-0)	TAJIKISTAN

GROUP D	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
INDIA	3	2	1	0	8	0	8	7
INDONESIA	3	1	2	0	6	2	4	5
MYANMAR	3	1	1	1	8	4	4	4
TURKMENISTAN	3	0	0	3	1	17	-16	0

SCORE		
MYANMAR	6-1 (4-1)	TURKMENISTAN
INDIA	0-0 (0-0)	INDONESIA
INDONESIA	2-2 (0-1)	MYANMAR
TURKMENISTAN	0-7 (0-5)	INDIA
MYANMAR	0-1 (0-1)	INDIA
INDONESIA	4-0 (3-0)	TURKMENISTAN

GROUP E	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
CHINA PR	3	3	0	0	21	0	21	9
LEBANON	3	2	0	1	3	9	-6	6
SYRIA	3	0	1	2	1	8	-7	1
CAMBODIA	3	0	1	2	0	8	-8	1

SCORE		
LEBANON	1-0 (0-0)	CAMBODIA
CHINA PR	6-0 (4-0)	SYRIA
SYRIA	1-2 (0-1)	LEBANON
CAMBODIA	0-7 (0-2)	CHINA PR
CAMBODIA	0-0 (0-0)	SYRIA
CHINA PR	8-0 (6-0)	LEBANON

GROUP F	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
JAPAN	3	3	0	0	32	0	32	9
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN	3	2	0	1	5	11	-6	6
MALAYSIA	3	1	0	2	2	19	-17	3
GUAM	3	0	0	3	0	9	-9	0

SCORE		
JAPAN	5-0 (3-0)	GUAM
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN	3-0 (2-0)	MALAYSIA
GUAM	0-2 (0-1)	ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN
MALAYSIA	0-16 (0-7)	JAPAN
JAPAN	11-0 (5-0)	ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN
MALAYSIA	2-0 (0-0)	GUAM

GROUP G	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
UZBEKISTAN	3	2	1	0	19	3	16	7
JORDAN	3	2	1	0	15	4	11	7
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS	3	1	0	2	4	14	-10	3
BAHRAIN	3	0	0	3	0	17	-17	0

SCORE		
JORDAN	6-1 (2-0)	NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
UZBEKISTAN	8-0 (4-0)	BAHRAIN
BAHRAIN	0-6 (0-3)	JORDAN
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS	0-8 (0-4)	UZBEKISTAN
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS	3-0 (1-0)	BAHRAIN
UZBEKISTAN	3-3 (1-1)	JORDAN

GROUP H	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
KOREA REPUBLIC	3	3	0	0	16	1	15	9
BANGLADESH	3	2	0	1	12	7	5	6
LAOS	3	1	0	2	3	4	-1	3
TIMOR-LESTE	3	0	0	3	0	19	-19	0

SCORE		
KOREA REPUBLIC	9-0 (4-0)	TIMOR-LESTE
BANGLADESH	3-1 (1-0)	LAOS
TIMOR-LESTE	0-8 (0-4)	BANGLADESH
LAOS	0-1 (0-0)	KOREA REPUBLIC
KOREA REPUBLIC	6-1 (1-1)	BANGLADESH
LAOS	2-0 (2-0)	TIMOR-LESTE

AFC U23 ASIAN CUP SAUDI ARABIA 2026™ - QUALIFIERS

AFC U23 ASIAN CUP SAUDI ARABIA 2026
QUALIFIERS

GROUP A	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
JORDAN	3	3	0	0	19	1	18	9
TURKMENISTAN	3	2	0	1	8	3	5	6
BHUTAN	3	1	0	2	3	14	-11	3
CHINESE TAIPEI	3	0	0	3	2	14	-12	0

SCORE		
TURKMENISTAN	5-1 (3-1)	CHINESE TAIPEI
JORDAN	11-0 (4-0)	BHUTAN
BHUTAN	0-2 (0-1)	TURKMENISTAN
CHINESE TAIPEI	0-6 (0-4)	JORDAN
CHINESE TAIPEI	1-3 (1-0)	BHUTAN
JORDAN	2-1 (1-0)	TURKMENISTAN

GROUP B	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
JAPAN	3	3	0	0	11	2	9	9
KUWAIT	3	1	1	1	2	6	-4	4
AFGHANISTAN	3	1	0	2	2	5	-3	3
MYANMAR	3	0	1	2	2	4	-2	1

SCORE		
KUWAIT	0-0 (0-0)	MYANMAR
JAPAN	3-0 (2-0)	AFGHANISTAN
MYANMAR	1-2 (0-0)	JAPAN
AFGHANISTAN	0-1 (0-0)	KUWAIT
MYANMAR	1-2 (1-1)	AFGHANISTAN
JAPAN	6-1 (4-1)	KUWAIT

GROUP C	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
VIETNAM	3	3	0	0	4	0	4	9
YEMEN	3	2	0	1	3	2	1	6
BANGLADESH	3	1	0	2	4	4	0	3
SINGAPORE	3	0	0	3	2	7	-5	0

SCORE		
YEMEN	2-1 (2-0)	SINGAPORE
VIETNAM	2-0 (1-0)	BANGLADESH
BANGLADESH	0-1 (0-0)	YEMEN
SINGAPORE	0-1 (0-0)	VIETNAM
SINGAPORE	1-4 (0-0)	BANGLADESH
VIETNAM	1-0 (0-0)	YEMEN

GROUP D	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
AUSTRALIA	3	2	1	0	20	0	20	7
CHINA PR	3	2	1	0	12	1	11	7
TIMOR-LESTE	3	1	0	2	7	8	-1	3
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS	3	0	0	3	0	30	-30	0

SCORE		
AUSTRALIA	14-0 (7-0)	NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
CHINA PR	2-1 (2-0)	TIMOR-LESTE
TIMOR-LESTE	0-6 (0-3)	AUSTRALIA
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS	0-10 (0-1)	CHINA PR
TIMOR-LESTE	6-0 (2-0)	NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
AUSTRALIA	0-0 (0-0)	CHINA PR

GROUP E	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
KYRGYZ REPUBLIC	3	2	1	0	10	3	7	7
UZBEKISTAN	3	2	1	0	8	3	5	7
PALESTINE	3	1	0	2	7	4	3	3
SRI LANKA	3	0	0	3	0	15	-15	0

SCORE		
UZBEKISTAN	4-0 (2-0)	SRI LANKA
PALESTINE	1-2 (0-0)	KYRGYZ REPUBLIC
SRI LANKA	0-5 (0-1)	PALESTINE
KYRGYZ REPUBLIC	2-2 (1-2)	UZBEKISTAN
UZBEKISTAN	2-1 (1-0)	PALESTINE
KYRGYZ REPUBLIC	6-0 (2-0)	SRI LANKA

GROUP F	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
THAILAND	3	2	1	0	10	3	7	7
LEBANON	3	2	1	0	6	2	4	7
MALAYSIA	3	1	0	2	8	3	5	3
MONGOLIA	3	0	0	3	0	16	-16	0

SCORE		
MALAYSIA	0-1 (0-0)	LEBANON
THAILAND	6-0 (3-0)	MONGOLIA
MONGOLIA	0-7 (0-3)	MALAYSIA
LEBANON	2-2 (0-0)	THAILAND
LEBANON	3-0 (3-0)	MONGOLIA
THAILAND	2-1 (1-1)	MALAYSIA

GROUP G	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
IRAQ	3	2	1	0	9	1	8	7
CAMBODIA	3	1	2	0	1	0	1	5
OMAN	3	1	1	1	1	1	0	4
PAKISTAN	3	0	0	3	1	10	-9	0

SCORE		
IRAQ	8-1 (1-0)	PAKISTAN
CAMBODIA	0-0 (0-0)	OMAN
OMAN	0-1 (0-0)	IRAQ
PAKISTAN	0-1 (0-1)	CAMBODIA
OMAN	1-0 (1-0)	PAKISTAN
IRAQ	0-0 (0-0)	CAMBODIA

GROUP H	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
QATAR	3	3	0	0	17	2	15	9
INDIA	3	2	0	1	9	2	7	6
BAHRAIN	3	1	0	2	11	4	7	3
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM	3	0	0	3	0	29	-29	0

SCORE		
BAHRAIN	0-2 (0-1)	INDIA
QATAR	13-0 (7-0)	BRUNEI DARUSSALAM
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM	0-10 (0-5)	BAHRAIN
INDIA	1-2 (0-1)	QATAR
INDIA	6-0 (3-0)	BRUNEI DARUSSALAM
QATAR	2-1 (0-0)	BAHRAIN

GROUP I	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN	3	3	0	0	13	2	11	9
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	3	2	0	1	17	3	14	6
HONG KONG, CHINA	3	1	0	2	1	6	-5	3
GUAM	3	0	0	3	0	20	-20	0

SCORE		
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN	4-0 (0-0)	HONG KONG, CHINA
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	13-0 (9-0)	GUAM
GUAM	0-6 (0-1)	ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN
HONG KONG, CHINA	0-2 (0-0)	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
HONG KONG, CHINA	1-0 (1-0)	GUAM
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	2-3 (1-3)	ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

GROUP J	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
KOREA REPUBLIC	3	3	0	0	13	0	13	9
INDONESIA	3	1	1	1	5	1	4	4
LAOS	3	1	1	1	3	8	-5	4
MACAU	3	0	0	3	1	13	-12	0

SCORE		
KOREA REPUBLIC	5-0 (2-0)	MACAU
INDONESIA	0-0 (0-0)	LAOS
LAOS	0-7 (0-2)	KOREA REPUBLIC
MACAU	0-5 (0-2)	INDONESIA
LAOS	3-1 (0-0)	MACAU
KOREA REPUBLIC	1-0 (1-0)	INDONESIA

GROUP K	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
SYRIA	3	3	0	0	7	3	4	9
PHILIPPINES	3	2	0	1	6	2	4	6
TAJIKISTAN	3	1	0	2	4	2	2	3
NEPAL	3	0	0	3	2	12	-10	0

SCORE		
SYRIA	2-1 (0-0)	PHILIPPINES
TAJIKISTAN	4-0 (1-0)	NEPAL
NEPAL	2-4 (0-1)	SYRIA
PHILIPPINES	1-0 (0-0)	TAJIKISTAN
PHILIPPINES	4-0 (2-0)	NEPAL
TAJIKISTAN	0-1 (0-0)	SYRIA

AFC WOMEN'S ASIAN CUP AUSTRALIA 2026™ - QUALIFIERS

AFC WOMEN'S ASIAN CUP AUSTRALIA 2026 QUALIFIERS

GROUP A	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN *	4	3	0	1	14	5	9	9
JORDAN *	4	3	0	1	13	2	11	9
BHUTAN *	4	2	0	2	6	13	-7	6
LEBANON *	4	2	0	2	5	7	-2	6
SINGAPORE	4	0	0	4	2	13	-11	0

** The standing table is based on points, goal difference and number of goals scored of the teams tied*

SCORE		
BHUTAN	3-2 (1-2)	SINGAPORE
LEBANON	0-4 (0-3)	JORDAN
SINGAPORE	0-4 (0-1)	ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN
BHUTAN	2-1 (1-0)	LEBANON
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN	7-1 (4-1)	BHUTAN
JORDAN	5-0 (2-0)	SINGAPORE
LEBANON	3-1 (2-0)	ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN
JORDAN	3-0 (2-0)	BHUTAN
SINGAPORE	0-1 (0-0)	LEBANON
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN	2-1 (0-0)	JORDAN

GROUP B	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
INDIA	4	4	0	0	24	1	23	12
THAILAND	4	3	0	1	23	2	21	9
TIMOR-LESTE	4	1	1	2	3	9	-6	4
IRAQ	4	1	1	2	5	14	-9	4
MONGOLIA	4	0	0	4	3	32	-29	0

SCORE		
MONGOLIA	0-13 (0-4)	INDIA
IRAQ	0-0 (0-0)	TIMOR-LESTE
IRAQ	5-2 (4-2)	MONGOLIA
TIMOR-LESTE	0-4 (0-3)	THAILAND
INDIA	4-0 (1-0)	TIMOR-LESTE
THAILAND	7-0 (3-0)	IRAQ
INDIA	5-0 (2-0)	IRAQ
MONGOLIA	0-11 (0-5)	THAILAND
TIMOR-LESTE	3-1 (1-1)	MONGOLIA
THAILAND	1-2 (0-1)	INDIA

GROUP C	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
BANGLADESH	3	3	0	0	16	1	15	9
MYANMAR	3	2	0	1	15	2	13	6
BAHRAIN	3	0	1	2	2	15	-13	1
TURKMENISTAN	3	0	1	2	2	17	-15	1

SCORE		
MYANMAR	8-0 (4-0)	TURKMENISTAN
BAHRAIN	0-7 (0-5)	BANGLADESH
BANGLADESH	2-1 (1-0)	MYANMAR
TURKMENISTAN	2-2 (0-0)	BAHRAIN
MYANMAR	6-0 (3-0)	BAHRAIN
BANGLADESH	7-0 (7-0)	TURKMENISTAN

GROUP D	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
CHINESE TAIPEI	3	3	0	0	13	1	12	9
PAKISTAN	3	2	0	1	4	9	-5	6
INDONESIA	3	1	0	2	2	4	-2	3
KYRGYZ REPUBLIC	3	0	0	3	1	6	-5	0

SCORE		
CHINESE TAIPEI	8-0 (3-0)	PAKISTAN
INDONESIA	1-0 (0-0)	KYRGYZ REPUBLIC
KYRGYZ REPUBLIC	0-3 (0-1)	CHINESE TAIPEI
PAKISTAN	2-0 (2-0)	INDONESIA
KYRGYZ REPUBLIC	1-2 (0-2)	PAKISTAN
CHINESE TAIPEI	2-1 (1-0)	INDONESIA

GROUP E	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
VIETNAM	3	3	0	0	17	0	17	9
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	3	1	1	1	5	6	-1	4
GUAM	3	1	1	1	3	4	-1	4
MALDIVES	3	0	0	3	0	15	-15	0

SCORE		
GUAM	0-0 (0-0)	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
VIETNAM	7-0 (6-0)	MALDIVES
MALDIVES	0-3 (0-1)	GUAM
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	0-6 (0-3)	VIETNAM
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	5-0 (2-0)	MALDIVES
VIETNAM	4-0 (3-0)	GUAM

GROUP F	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
UZBEKISTAN	3	2	1	0	20	3	17	7
NEPAL	3	2	1	0	20	3	17	7
LAOS	3	1	0	2	2	16	-14	3
SRI LANKA	3	0	0	3	0	20	-20	0

SCORE		
NEPAL	9-0 (2-0)	LAOS
UZBEKISTAN	10-0 (5-0)	SRI LANKA
SRI LANKA	0-8 (0-4)	NEPAL
LAOS	0-7 (0-2)	UZBEKISTAN
LAOS	2-0 (0-0)	SRI LANKA
UZBEKISTAN	(3-3,3-1) 4-2 PSO	NEPAL

GROUP G	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
PHILIPPINES	3	3	0	0	10	0	10	9
HONG KONG, CHINA	3	1	1	1	2	2	0	4
CAMBODIA	3	1	1	1	3	8	-5	4
SAUDI ARABIA	3	0	0	3	1	6	-5	0

SCORE		
PHILIPPINES	3-0 (1-0)	SAUDI ARABIA
HONG KONG, CHINA	1-1 (1-0)	CAMBODIA
SAUDI ARABIA	0-1 (0-0)	HONG KONG, CHINA
CAMBODIA	0-6 (0-4)	PHILIPPINES
PHILIPPINES	1-0 (1-0)	HONG KONG, CHINA
CAMBODIA	2-1 (0-0)	SAUDI ARABIA

GROUP H	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
DPR KOREA	3	3	0	0	26	0	26	9
MALAYSIA	3	2	0	1	2	6	-4	6
PALESTINE	3	1	0	2	3	11	-8	3
TAJIKISTAN	3	0	0	3	0	14	-14	0

SCORE		
MALAYSIA	1-0 (0-0)	PALESTINE
DPR KOREA	10-0 (8-0)	TAJIKISTAN
PALESTINE	0-10 (0-6)	DPR KOREA
TAJIKISTAN	0-1 (0-0)	MALAYSIA
DPR KOREA	6-0 (2-0)	MALAYSIA
PALESTINE	3-0 (0-0)	TAJIKISTAN

AFC WOMEN'S CHAMPIONS LEAGUE 2024/25™

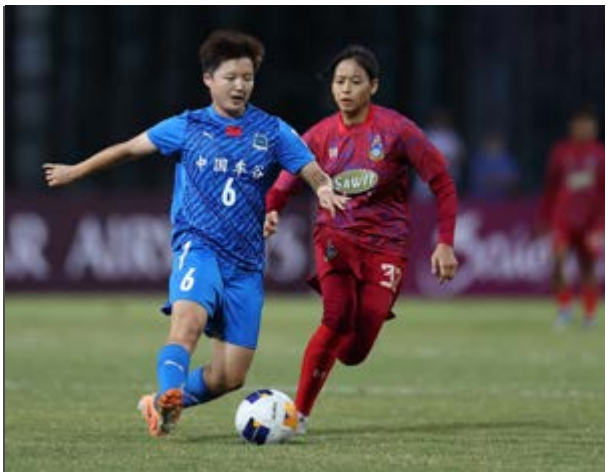
PRELIMINARY

GROUP A	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
ABU DHABI COUNTRY CLUB (UAE)	3	3	0	0	4	1	3	9
AL NASSR CLUB (KSA)	3	2	0	1	6	1	5	6
YOUNG ELEPHANTS FC (LAO)	3	1	0	2	4	5	-1	3
MYAWADY WOMEN FOOTBALL CLUB (MYA)	3	0	0	3	0	7	-7	0

SCORE		
YOUNG ELEPHANTS FC (LAO)	1-2 (0-1)	ABU DHABI COUNTRY CLUB (UAE)
MYAWADY WOMEN FOOTBALL CLUB (MYA)	0-3 (0-2)	AL NASSR CLUB (KSA)
ABU DHABI COUNTRY CLUB (UAE)	1-0 (0-0)	MYAWADY WOMEN FOOTBALL CLUB (MYA)
AL NASSR CLUB (KSA)	3-0 (2-0)	YOUNG ELEPHANTS FC (LAO)
MYAWADY WOMEN FOOTBALL CLUB (MYA)	0-3 (0-2)	YOUNG ELEPHANTS FC (LAO)
ABU DHABI COUNTRY CLUB (UAE)	1-0 (0-0)	AL NASSR CLUB (KSA)

GROUP C	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
SABAH FA (MAS)	2	1	1	0	2	1	1	4
PFC NASAF (UZB)	2	1	0	1	2	2	0	3
APF FC (NEP)	2	0	1	1	0	1	-1	1

SCORE		
APF FC (NEP)	0-1 (0-0)	PFC NASAF (UZB)
SABAH FA (MAS)	0-0 (0-0)	APF FC (NEP)
PFC NASAF (UZB)	1-2 (0-2)	SABAH FA (MAS)



GROUP B	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
ODISHA FOOTBALL CLUB (IND)	2	2	0	0	6	2	4	6
ETIHAD CLUB (JOR)	2	1	0	1	6	2	4	3
LION CITY SAILORS FC (SGP)	2	0	0	2	1	9	-8	0

SCORE		
LION CITY SAILORS FC (SGP)	1-4 (1-1)	ODISHA FOOTBALL CLUB (IND)
ETIHAD CLUB (JOR)	5-0 (3-0)	LION CITY SAILORS FC (SGP)
ODISHA FOOTBALL CLUB (IND)	2-1 (1-0)	ETIHAD CLUB (JOR)

GROUP D	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
BAM KHATOON FC (IRN)	2	2	0	0	4	1	3	6
KITCHEE SC (HKG)	2	1	0	1	1	2	-1	3
ROYAL THIMPHU COLLEGE FC (BHU)	2	0	0	2	1	3	-2	0

SCORE		
ROYAL THIMPHU COLLEGE FC (BHU)	1-2 (1-1)	BAM KHATOON FC (IRN)
KITCHEE SC (HKG)	1-0 (1-0)	ROYAL THIMPHU COLLEGE FC (BHU)
BAM KHATOON FC (IRN)	2-0 (1-0)	KITCHEE SC (HKG)

GROUP STAGE

GROUP A	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
HYUNDAI STEEL RED ANGELS WOMEN'S FC (KOR)	3	2	1	0	7	2	5	7
ABU DHABI COUNTRY CLUB (UAE)	3	1	2	0	6	5	1	5
WUHAN JIANGDA WOMEN'S FC (CHN)	3	1	0	2	8	4	4	3
SABAH FA (MAS)	3	0	1	2	2	12	-10	1

SCORE		
WUHAN JIANGDA WOMEN'S FC (CHN)	1-2 (1-0)	ABU DHABI COUNTRY CLUB (UAE)
HYUNDAI STEEL RED ANGELS WOMEN'S FC (KOR)	3-0 (3-0)	SABAH FA (MAS)
SABAH FA (MAS)	0-7 (0-3)	WUHAN JIANGDA WOMEN'S FC (CHN)
ABU DHABI COUNTRY CLUB (UAE)	2-2 (1-1)	HYUNDAI STEEL RED ANGELS WOMEN'S FC (KOR)
SABAH FA (MAS)	2-2 (1-2)	ABU DHABI COUNTRY CLUB (UAE)
WUHAN JIANGDA WOMEN'S FC (CHN)	0-2 (0-1)	HYUNDAI STEEL RED ANGELS WOMEN'S FC (KOR)

GROUP B	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
MELBOURNE CITY FC (AUS)	3	3	0	0	9	1	8	9
BAM KHATOON FC (IRN)	3	1	1	1	4	4	0	4
KAYA FC-ILOILO (PHI)	3	0	2	1	1	5	-4	2
COLLEGE OF ASIAN SCHOLARS (THA)	3	0	1	2	1	5	-4	1

SCORE		
MELBOURNE CITY FC (AUS)	2-1 (2-0)	BAM KHATOON FC (IRN)
KAYA FC-ILOILO (PHI)	0-0 (0-0)	COLLEGE OF ASIAN SCHOLARS (THA)
BAM KHATOON FC (IRN)	1-1 (1-0)	KAYA FC-ILOILO (PHI)
COLLEGE OF ASIAN SCHOLARS (THA)	0-3 (0-1)	MELBOURNE CITY FC (AUS)
MELBOURNE CITY FC (AUS)	4-0 (4-0)	KAYA FC-ILOILO (PHI)
COLLEGE OF ASIAN SCHOLARS (THA)	1-2 (1-1)	BAM KHATOON FC (IRN)

GROUP C	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
URAWA RED DIAMONDS LADIES (JPN)	3	3	0	0	21	0	21	9
HO CHI MINH CITY WOMEN'S FC (VIE)	3	2	0	1	6	4	2	6
TAICHUNG BLUE WHALE WOMEN'S FOOTBALL TEAM (TPE)	3	1	0	2	5	5	0	3
ODISHA FOOTBALL CLUB (IND)	3	0	0	3	1	24	-23	0

SCORE		
URAWA RED DIAMONDS LADIES (JPN)	17-0 (8-0)	ODISHA FOOTBALL CLUB (IND)
HO CHI MINH CITY WOMEN'S FC (VIE)	3-1 (0-0)	TAICHUNG BLUE WHALE WOMEN'S FOOTBALL TEAM (TPE)
TAICHUNG BLUE WHALE WOMEN'S FOOTBALL TEAM (TPE)	0-2 (0-0)	URAWA RED DIAMONDS LADIES (JPN)
ODISHA FOOTBALL CLUB (IND)	1-3 (0-2)	HO CHI MINH CITY WOMEN'S FC (VIE)
TAICHUNG BLUE WHALE WOMEN'S FOOTBALL TEAM (TPE)	4-0 (2-0)	ODISHA FOOTBALL CLUB (IND)
URAWA RED DIAMONDS LADIES (JPN)	2-0 (1-0)	HO CHI MINH CITY WOMEN'S FC (VIE)

QUARTER-FINALS

SCORE		
HYUNDAI STEEL RED ANGELS WOMEN'S FC (KOR)	1-0 (0-0)	BAM KHATOON FC (IRN)
HO CHI MINH CITY WOMEN'S FC (VIE)	5-4 (0-3)	ABU DHABI COUNTRY CLUB (UAE)
MELBOURNE CITY FC (AUS)	3-0 (2-0)	TAICHUNG BLUE WHALE WOMEN'S FOOTBALL TEAM (TPE)
URAWA RED DIAMONDS LADIES (JPN)	0-0 a.e.t. (0-0,0-0) 5-6 PSO	WUHAN JIANGDA WOMEN'S FC (CHN)

SEMI-FINALS

SCORE		
WUHAN JIANGDA WOMEN'S FC (CHN)	2-0 (1-0)	HO CHI MINH CITY WOMEN'S FC (VIE)
HYUNDAI STEEL RED ANGELS WOMEN'S FC (KOR)	0-1 (0-0)	MELBOURNE CITY FC (AUS)

FINAL

SCORE		
MELBOURNE CITY FC (AUS)	1-1 a.e.t. (1-1,0-0) 4-5 PSO	WUHAN JIANGDA WOMEN'S FC (CHN)

AFC WOMEN'S CHAMPIONS LEAGUE 2025/26™ - PRELIMINARY & GROUP STAGE

PRELIMINARY

GROUP A	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
ISPE WFC (MYA)	3	3	0	0	20	1	19	9
STALLION LAGUNA FC (PHI)	3	2	0	1	20	4	16	6
KHOVD WESTERN FC (MNG)	3	1	0	2	6	16	-10	3
STRYKERS FC (GUM)	3	0	0	3	2	27	-25	0

SCORE		
ISPE WFC (MYA)	9-0 (7-0)	STRYKERS FC (GUM)
STALLION LAGUNA FC (PHI)	6-1 (4-0)	KHOVD WESTERN FC (MNG)
KHOVD WESTERN FC (MNG)	0-8 (0-4)	ISPE WFC (MYA)
STRYKERS FC (GUM)	0-13 (0-6)	STALLION LAGUNA FC (PHI)
STALLION LAGUNA FC (PHI)	1-3 (1-0)	ISPE WFC (MYA)
STRYKERS FC (GUM)	2-5 (0-4)	KHOVD WESTERN FC (MNG)

GROUP C	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
LION CITY SAILORS FC (SGP)	3	3	0	0	8	1	7	9
ETIHAD CLUB (JOR)	3	2	0	1	7	3	4	6
SDYUSHOR SI - ASIAGOAL (KGZ)	3	0	1	2	1	6	-5	1
KELANA UNITED FC (MAS)	3	0	1	2	1	7	-6	1

SCORE		
ETIHAD CLUB (JOR)	0-2 (0-2)	LION CITY SAILORS FC (SGP)
KELANA UNITED FC (MAS)	0-0 (0-0)	SDYUSHOR SI - ASIAGOAL (KGZ)
SDYUSHOR SI - ASIAGOAL (KGZ)	1-3 (0-0)	ETIHAD CLUB (JOR)
LION CITY SAILORS FC (SGP)	3-1 (1-0)	KELANA UNITED FC (MAS)
LION CITY SAILORS FC (SGP)	3-0 (2-0)	SDYUSHOR SI - ASIAGOAL (KGZ)
KELANA UNITED FC (MAS)	0-4 (0-2)	ETIHAD CLUB (JOR)

GROUP B	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
PFC NASAF (UZB)	3	3	0	0	6	1	5	9
COLLEGE OF ASIAN SCHOLARS (THA)	3	2	0	1	7	2	5	6
AL NASSR CLUB (KSA)	3	1	0	2	6	4	2	3
APF FC (NEP)	3	0	0	3	1	13	-12	0

SCORE		
COLLEGE OF ASIAN SCHOLARS (THA)	2-0 (1-0)	AL NASSR CLUB (KSA)
PFC NASAF (UZB)	3-0 (3-0)	APF FC (NEP)
APF FC (NEP)	0-4 (0-2)	COLLEGE OF ASIAN SCHOLARS (THA)
AL NASSR CLUB (KSA)	0-1 (0-0)	PFC NASAF (UZB)
APF FC (NEP)	1-6 (0-2)	AL NASSR CLUB (KSA)
COLLEGE OF ASIAN SCHOLARS (THA)	1-2 (0-1)	PFC NASAF (UZB)

GROUP D	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
NAEGOHYANG WOMEN'S FC (PRK)	3	3	0	0	23	0	23	9
KAOHSIUNG ATTACKERS FC (TPE)	3	2	0	1	7	5	2	6
RTC FC (BHU)	3	1	0	2	5	9	-4	3
MASTER FC (LAO)	3	0	0	3	0	21	-21	0

SCORE		
KAOHSIUNG ATTACKERS FC (TPE)	2-0 (1-0)	RTC FC (BHU)
NAEGOHYANG WOMEN'S FC (PRK)	11-0 (6-0)	MASTER FC (LAO)
RTC FC (BHU)	0-7 (0-4)	NAEGOHYANG WOMEN'S FC (PRK)
MASTER FC (LAO)	0-5 (0-2)	KAOHSIUNG ATTACKERS FC (TPE)
KAOHSIUNG ATTACKERS FC (TPE)	0-5 (0-4)	NAEGOHYANG WOMEN'S FC (PRK)
MASTER FC (LAO)	0-5 (0-2)	RTC FC (BHU)

GROUP E	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
EAST BENGAL FC (IND)	2	1	1	0	2	1	1	4
KITCHEE SC (HKG)	2	0	2	0	4	4	0	2
PHNOM PENH CROWN FC (CAM)	2	0	1	1	3	4	-1	1

SCORE		
PHNOM PENH CROWN FC (CAM)	0-1 (0-0)	EAST BENGAL FC (IND)
KITCHEE SC (HKG)	3-3 (2-1)	PHNOM PENH CROWN FC (CAM)
EAST BENGAL FC (IND)	1-1 (1-0)	KITCHEE SC (HKG)

GROUP STAGE

GROUP A	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
MELBOURNE CITY FC (AUS)	3	3	0	0	15	0	15	9
HO CHI MINH CITY WOMEN'S FC (VIE)	3	2	0	1	3	3	0	6
STALLION LAGUNA FC (PHI)	3	1	0	2	5	8	-3	3
LION CITY SAILORS FC (SGP)	3	0	0	3	0	12	-12	0

SCORE		
MELBOURNE CITY FC (AUS)	5-0 (2-0)	LION CITY SAILORS FC (SGP)
HO CHI MINH CITY WOMEN'S FC (VIE)	1-0 (0-0)	STALLION LAGUNA FC (PHI)
STALLION LAGUNA FC (PHI)	0-7 (0-4)	MELBOURNE CITY FC (AUS)
LION CITY SAILORS FC (SGP)	0-2 (0-0)	HO CHI MINH CITY WOMEN'S FC (VIE)
STALLION LAGUNA FC (PHI)	5-0 (2-0)	LION CITY SAILORS FC (SGP)
MELBOURNE CITY FC (AUS)	3-0 (3-0)	HO CHI MINH CITY WOMEN'S FC (VIE)

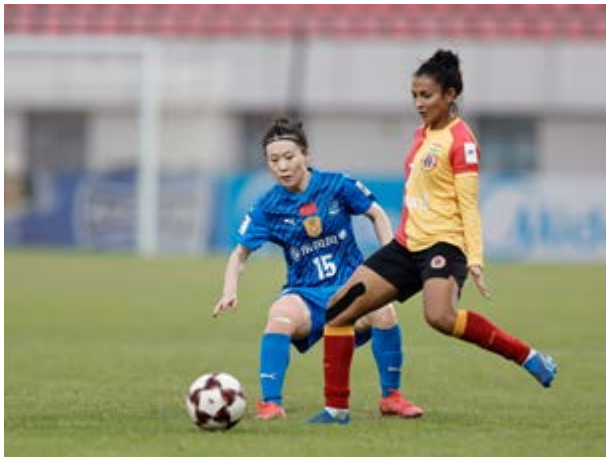
GROUP B	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
WUHAN JIANGDA WOMEN'S FC (CHN)	3	2	1	0	7	1	6	7
PFC NASAF (UZB)	3	1	1	1	4	2	2	4
EAST BENGAL FC (IND) *	3	1	0	2	3	6	-3	3
BAM KHATOON FC (IRN) *	3	1	0	2	2	7	-5	3

** The standing table is based on points, goal difference and number of goals scored of the teams tied*

SCORE		
BAM KHATOON FC (IRN)	1-3 (1-2)	EAST BENGAL FC (IND)
WUHAN JIANGDA WOMEN'S FC (CHN)	1-1 (1-1)	PFC NASAF (UZB)
EAST BENGAL FC (IND)	0-2 (0-2)	WUHAN JIANGDA WOMEN'S FC (CHN)
PFC NASAF (UZB)	0-1 (0-1)	BAM KHATOON FC (IRN)
EAST BENGAL FC (IND)	0-3 (0-1)	PFC NASAF (UZB)
WUHAN JIANGDA WOMEN'S FC (CHN)	4-0 (1-0)	BAM KHATOON FC (IRN)

GROUP C	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
TOKYO VERDY BELEZA (JPN)	3	2	1	0	5	0	5	7
NAEGOHYANG WOMEN'S FC (PRK)	3	2	0	1	6	4	2	6
SUWON FC WOMEN (KOR)	3	1	1	1	5	3	2	4
ISPE WFC (MYA)	3	0	0	3	0	9	-9	0

SCORE		
TOKYO VERDY BELEZA (JPN)	4-0 (1-0)	NAEGOHYANG WOMEN'S FC (PRK)
SUWON FC WOMEN (KOR)	5-0 (1-0)	ISPE WFC (MYA)
ISPE WFC (MYA)	0-1 (0-1)	TOKYO VERDY BELEZA (JPN)
NAEGOHYANG WOMEN'S FC (PRK)	3-0 (0-0)	SUWON FC WOMEN (KOR)
SUWON FC WOMEN (KOR)	0-0 (0-0)	TOKYO VERDY BELEZA (JPN)
NAEGOHYANG WOMEN'S FC (PRK)	3-0 (1-0)	ISPE WFC (MYA)



AFC WOMEN'S FUTSAL ASIAN CUP CHINA 2025™

AFC WOMEN'S FUTSAL ASIAN CUP CHINA 2025

QUALIFIERS

GROUP A	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
THAILAND	4	4	0	0	22	3	19	12
BAHRAIN	4	2	1	1	14	10	4	7
PALESTINE	4	1	1	2	6	12	-6	4
IRAQ	4	1	1	2	9	18	-9	4
LEBANON	4	0	1	3	2	10	-8	1

SCORE		
BAHRAIN	1-1 (0-1)	LEBANON
IRAQ	1-1 (0-0)	PALESTINE
IRAQ	5-9 (1-6)	BAHRAIN
PALESTINE	1-8 (0-4)	THAILAND
LEBANON	0-3 (0-1)	PALESTINE
THAILAND	7-1 (3-1)	IRAQ
LEBANON	1-2 (0-0)	IRAQ
BAHRAIN	1-3 (1-2)	THAILAND
PALESTINE	1-3 (1-2)	BAHRAIN
THAILAND	4-0 (2-0)	LEBANON

GROUP C	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
AUSTRALIA	4	4	0	0	16	3	13	12
UZBEKISTAN	4	2	1	1	15	8	7	7
PHILIPPINES	4	2	1	1	10	6	4	7
TURKMENISTAN	4	1	0	3	7	17	-10	3
KUWAIT	4	0	0	4	4	18	-14	0

SCORE		
AUSTRALIA	6-1 (3-1)	TURKMENISTAN
KUWAIT	1-4 (0-1)	PHILIPPINES
PHILIPPINES	3-3 (2-1)	UZBEKISTAN
KUWAIT	0-5 (0-2)	AUSTRALIA
TURKMENISTAN	0-2 (0-0)	PHILIPPINES
UZBEKISTAN	5-0 (3-0)	KUWAIT
TURKMENISTAN	4-3 (1-1)	KUWAIT
AUSTRALIA	3-1 (0-1)	UZBEKISTAN
PHILIPPINES	1-2 (1-1)	AUSTRALIA
UZBEKISTAN	6-2 (3-1)	TURKMENISTAN

GROUP B	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
INDONESIA	3	3	0	0	22	3	19	9
HONG KONG, CHINA	3	2	0	1	9	5	4	6
KYRGYZ REPUBLIC	3	1	0	2	7	18	-11	3
INDIA	3	0	0	3	3	15	-12	0

SCORE		
HONG KONG, CHINA	5-0 (1-0)	INDIA
INDONESIA	11-3 (5-3)	KYRGYZ REPUBLIC
KYRGYZ REPUBLIC	0-4 (0-2)	HONG KONG, CHINA
INDIA	0-6 (0-4)	INDONESIA
INDIA	3-4 (1-3)	KYRGYZ REPUBLIC
INDONESIA	5-0 (0-0)	HONG KONG, CHINA

GROUP D	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
VIETNAM	3	2	1	0	28	3	25	7
CHINESE TAIPEI	3	2	1	0	24	2	22	7
MYANMAR	3	1	0	2	13	10	3	3
MACAU	3	0	0	3	1	51	-50	0

SCORE		
CHINESE TAIPEI	18-0 (5-0)	MACAU
VIETNAM	5-1 (4-1)	MYANMAR
MACAU	0-21 (0-13)	VIETNAM
MYANMAR	0-4 (0-2)	CHINESE TAIPEI
VIETNAM	2-2 (1-2)	CHINESE TAIPEI
MACAU	1-12 (0-4)	MYANMAR

GROUP STAGE

GROUP A	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
CHINA PR	3	3	0	0	11	5	6	9
CHINESE TAIPEI	3	2	0	1	10	6	4	6
UZBEKISTAN	3	1	0	2	5	10	-5	3
AUSTRALIA	3	0	0	3	2	7	-5	0

SCORE		
UZBEKISTAN	1-6 (1-3)	CHINESE TAIPEI
CHINA PR	3-1 (2-0)	AUSTRALIA
AUSTRALIA	1-3 (1-1)	UZBEKISTAN
CHINESE TAIPEI	3-5 (0-2)	CHINA PR
CHINESE TAIPEI	1-0 (0-0)	AUSTRALIA
CHINA PR	3-1 (1-1)	UZBEKISTAN

GROUP B	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
VIETNAM	3	2	1	0	8	3	5	7
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN	3	2	1	0	4	1	3	7
HONG KONG, CHINA	3	1	0	2	11	11	0	3
PHILIPPINES	3	0	0	3	3	11	-8	0

SCORE		
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN	1-0 (0-0)	PHILIPPINES
VIETNAM	5-3 (3-1)	HONG KONG, CHINA
PHILIPPINES	0-3 (0-0)	VIETNAM
HONG KONG, CHINA	1-3 (1-1)	ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN
HONG KONG, CHINA	7-3 (2-1)	PHILIPPINES
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN	0-0 (0-0)	VIETNAM

GROUP C	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
THAILAND	3	2	1	0	7	1	6	7
JAPAN	3	2	0	1	9	7	2	6
INDONESIA	3	1	1	1	7	6	1	4
BAHRAIN	3	0	0	3	3	12	-9	0

SCORE		
THAILAND	4-0 (1-0)	BAHRAIN
JAPAN	5-2 (4-0)	INDONESIA
BAHRAIN	2-3 (0-3)	JAPAN
INDONESIA	0-0 (0-0)	THAILAND
INDONESIA	5-1 (1-0)	BAHRAIN
THAILAND	3-1 (0-0)	JAPAN

QUARTER-FINALS

SCORE		
VIETNAM	0-2 (0-1)	JAPAN
THAILAND	5-2 (5-1)	HONG KONG, CHINA
CHINA PR	6-0 (1-0)	INDONESIA
CHINESE TAIPEI	1-3 a.e.t. (1-1,1-1)	ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

SEMI-FINALS

SCORE		
CHINA PR	2-3 (2-1)	THAILAND
JAPAN	3-2 (2-0)	ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

3RD/4TH PLACING

SCORE		
CHINA PR	1-3 (0-1)	ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

FINAL

SCORE		
THAILAND	3-3 a.e.t. (2-2,1-1 2-3 PSO	JAPAN

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VANCOUVER 2026

12 THE COMMITTEES

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Dato' Suraya Yaacob	FAM
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Ms. Nirmeen Tariq	PFF
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REFORM TASK FORCE

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