ASIAN
FOOTBALL
CONFEDERATION

AFC EQUAL PITCH POLICY



AFC EQUAL PITCH POLICY

CONTENTS

PREAMBLE 5

DEFINITIONS 6

1. OBJECTIVES 8
2. PROJECT SCOPE 8
3. BENEFICIARIES 8
4. RESPONSIBILITIES 9
5. AFC EQUAL PITCH PARTNER 11
6. FINANCIAL CONDITIONS 11
7. PROJECT MANAGEMENT 12
8. ELIGIBILITY 13
9. PROCEDURE FOR SUBMISSION OF PROJECTS 14
10. SUSPENDED MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS 15
11. TAXES AND DUTIES 15
12. INDEMNIFICATION 15
13. AMENDMENTS 15
14. FORCE MAJEURE 16
15. MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR 16
16. ENFORCEMENT 16

PREAMBLE

Based on Articles 33.1 and 33.2a) of the AFC Statutes and in view of the objectives of the AFC set out in Articles 2a), f), h) and o), the following Policy has been adopted by the AFC Executive Committee.

DEFINITIONS

In this Policy, capitalised terms shall have the following meanings, unless the context specifically indicates otherwise:

AFC	Asian Football Confederation.
AFC Equal Pitch	An activity that covers the construction and installation of mini pitch(es) and improvement of existing full-size pitches for a Beneficiary Member Association, including without limitation those identified in Article 2 of this Policy.
AFC Equal Pitch Fund	Any financial assistance provided by the AFC to a Member Association pursuant to and for the purposes set out in this Policy.
AFC Committee	Any committee of the AFC as constituted in accordance with the AFC Statutes.
Beneficiary	Any Member Association receiving the AFC Equal Pitch Fund.
Budget	The proposed budget for the implementation of the AFC Equal Pitch by a Beneficiary.
FIFA	The Fédération Internationale de Football Association.
Force Majeure	Any event affecting the performance of any provision of this Policy arising from or attributable to acts, events, omissions, or accidents which are beyond the reasonable control of a party. This shall include, without limitation, abnormally inclement weather, flood, lightning, storm, fire, explosion, earthquake, structural damage, power supplies shortage/failure, war, terrorist action, military operations, riot, crowd disorder, strike, lockouts or other industrial action, civil commotion, epidemic or pandemic.
Member Association	A football association which is a member of the AFC.
Normalisation Committee	A committee comprising of individuals appointed by FIFA in consultation with the AFC to replace the executive bodies of a Member Association for a specific period of time.
Policy	This AFC Equal Pitch Policy, including its appendices.
Suspended Member Association	A Member Association, which has been suspended by FIFA and/or the AFC.

For the purposes of this Policy, and provided the context so permits:

a. the singular shall include the plural and vice-versa;

b. the masculine gender shall include the feminine and vice-versa;

c. references to natural persons shall include any legal person or corporation;

d. references to the AFC shall include its successors and permitted assigns and, where the context requires, the AFC Committees; and

e. all defined terms unless otherwise stated herein shall bear the same meaning as ascribed in the AFC Statutes, unless the context indicates otherwise.

1. OBJECTIVES

1.1 AFC Equal Pitch aims to enhance existing football infrastructure and promote development of grassroots and community-level football across Asia by increasing the number of mini football pitches available for grassroots and community development. The objective is to provide funds to the AFC Member Associations for the construction and installation of mini football pitches and improvement of existing full-size pitches. The project will bring the following opportunities for all:

a) Player development via small-sided games;

b) Social and community benefits;

c) Maximising limited land availability; and

d) Enhancing relationships with football stakeholders.

2. PROJECT SCOPE

2.1 AFC Equal Pitch shall include the following:

a) construction and installation of mini football pitches equipped with artificial turf (40 meters x 20 meters);

b) two high quality futsal goals;

c) strong surround fencing;

d) floodlights with solar panels;.

e) clubhouse with changing rooms; and

f) AFC Branding

The floodlights shall allow the pitches to be used 24/7, significantly enhancing opportunities for football activities and community development.

2.2 In addition, AFC Equal Pitch includes improvement of existing full-size pitches with the appropriate quality in order to allow international matches to be played in accordance with FIFA/AFC standards.

3. BENEFICIARIES

3.1 Subject to Article 7 of the AFC Statutes, all Member Associations have the right to benefit from AFC Equal Pitch in accordance with Articles 2 and 9.1 g) of the AFC Statutes.

3.2 Any Member Association that wants to benefit from AFC Equal Pitch must fulfil the requirements set out in this Policy.

4. RESPONSIBILITIES

4.1 AFC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

4.1.1 In accordance with Article 53 of the AFC Statutes and Article 9.56 of the AFC Organisation Regulations, the AFC Development Committee shall be responsible for and supervise the implementation of AFC Equal Pitch and fulfil its rights and duties as established in the above-mentioned provisions as well as in this Policy.

4.1.2 The responsibilities of the AFC Development Committee in relation to AFC Equal Pitch include, but are not limited to the following:

a) approving, reviewing, revising and amending the terms and/or format of the AFC Equal Pitch policy;

b) granting exemptions to this Policy upon the proposal of the AFC General Secretariat; and

c) declaring cases of Force Majeure.

4.1.3 The AFC Development Committee may delegate certain responsibilities to the AFC General Secretariat in connection with this Policy. Such delegation shall be duly documented.

4.2 AFC GENERAL SECRETARIAT

4.2.1 The AFC General Secretariat acts as the secretariat of the AFC Development Committee. It shall fulfil its rights and duties as established in this Policy and shall also implement the decisions taken by the AFC Development Committee.

4.2.2 The responsibilities of the AFC General Secretariat include, but are not limited to the following:

a) making all necessary assessments, approving all applications to benefit and the allocation of AFC Equal Pitch Fund for any Beneficiary at any time;

b) proposing amendments to this Policy for the approval of the AFC Development Committee;

c) deciding and/or amending the distribution ratio and schedule of disbursement of AFC Equal Pitch Fund subject to the AFC finances and cash flow;

d) appointing AFC Equal Pitch partner; and

e) undertake all tasks to ensure the operation of AFC Equal Pitch in compliance with this Policy, the AFC Statutes and/or all other applicable AFC regulations.

4.3 BENEFICIARIES

4.3.1 Each Beneficiary undertakes to:

a) fully comply with this Policy, the AFC Statutes and all other applicable AFC regulations at all times;

b) assist the AFC in monitoring and overseeing the operation of AFC Equal Pitch within its territory;

c) immediately inform the AFC General Secretariat of any challenges faced in respect of the implementation of AFC Equal Pitch;

d) obtain all necessary government approvals required to operate AFC Equal Pitch;

e) respect all applicable laws, including those relating to the confidentiality of data and privacy and, in particular, laws and rules on the preservation of human rights (including those that prohibit child labour and forced labour);

f) evaluate and reduce the environmental impact of their activities or projects and use AFC Equal Pitch in a responsible manner in order to achieve growth that is sustainable, and which respects the environment; and

g) have AFC Equal Pitch projects approved by its executive committee.

5. AFC EQUAL PITCH PARTNER

5.1 The AFC Equal Pitch Partner will be appointed by the AFC to construct the mini pitches and improve existing full-size pitches, (where applicable) for each project. All projects funded through the Budget must be executed and completed by the appointed AFC Equal Pitch Partner.

6. FINANCIAL CONDITIONS

6.1 Subject to compliance with this Policy, each AFC Member Association may be provided with the following financial assistance;

a) a funding of up to a maximum of Five Hundred Thousand United States Dollars (USD 500,000) per year per AFC Member Association for the construction of mini football pitches.

b) A funding of up to a maximum of Seven Hundred Thousand United States Dollars (USD 700,000) per year per AFC Member Association for the improvement of existing full-size pitches.

6.2 For the construction of mini football pitches, funding per project may cover all associated costs, including sub-base construction, transportation, and any other necessary ancillary works.

6.3 For the improvement of existing full-size pitches, funding per project may cover all associated costs including –

(i) improvement of existing full-size pitches with the appropriate quality in order to allow international matches to be played in accordance with FIFA/AFC standards;

(ii) providing pitch maintenance equipment; and

(ii) conducting staff training and educational workshops for maintenance personnel.

7. PROJECT MANAGEMENT

7.1 For any projects under AFC Equal Pitch to be approved by the AFC, the AFC Member Association shall submit the project application together with the Budget for the project, timeline for executing such project and the benefits that the AFC Member Association would derive through implementation of the project.

7.2 The Beneficiary must manage its projects in accordance with this Policy and the terms of the countersigned project agreement.

7.3 The Beneficiary shall ensure that:

7.3.1 they have the right, title and interest to undertake the relevant AFC Equal Pitch projects and maintain all necessary documents and approvals attesting to its ownership or use of any land or property for all purposes relating to the approved AFC Equal Pitch project;

7.3.2 ownership and/or use of the land or property by the Beneficiary pursuant to Article 7.3.1 above shall be in perpetuity or for a period not less than ten (10) years; and

7.3.3 all documents and agreements submitted attesting to ownership and/or use of the land or property shall be in English or, where in a language other than English, a certified translation of the same shall be provided to the AFC General Secretariat.

7.4 The Beneficiary should also ensure that:

For the construction and installation of mini pitch:

7.4.1 all proposed project sites are fully accessible for construction purposes, free from any legal, physical, or logistical hindrances. Site accessibility is subject to review and approval by the AFC;

7.4.2 sites that will be used for football on a daily basis are considered; and

7.4.3 the location is ideal for installation, such as the Member Association's technical centre, other venue owned or operated by the Member Association, school or other location where the Member Association can manage usage and maintenance.

For the improvement of an existing full-size pitch:

7.4.4 current pitch condition is not conducive to organise national team matches due to various factors such as wear and tear, playing surface quality, drainage issues and/or soil/subbase condition;

7.4.5 the pitch will be used on a regular basis to play national team matches; and

7.4.6 there is a proper maintenance plan to ensure long term usage of the pitch.

7.5 Upon examination and verification of the information and documentation submitted by the AFC Member Association, the AFC General Secretariat shall decide on the approval of the application.

7.6 Once a project has been approved and, upon execution of the project agreement, the Beneficiary shall not be permitted to sell or mortgage assets financed through AFC Equal Pitch without the written approval of the AFC. Leasing the same for a purpose other than those defined in the project agreement is also prohibited without the written approval of the AFC.

7.7 An AFC Member Association shall be permitted to submit an application for only one project at a given time, either for the construction and installation of mini-pitch or for the improvement of an existing pitch. Applications for both projects simultaneously shall not be accepted.

8. ELIGIBILITY

8.1 In order to benefit from AFC Equal Pitch, the AFC Member Association shall comply with this Policy.

8.2 A Suspended Member Association shall not be eligible to apply to join AFC Equal Pitch unless the applicable suspensions are lifted by FIFA and/or the AFC.

8.3 AFC Member Associations may re-apply for AFC Equal Pitch six (6) months after the completion of a project.

8.4 The AFC General Secretariat shall make the necessary assessment as to whether the relevant project is complete and the date of commencement of the six (6) months waiting period.

9. PROCEDURE FOR SUBMISSION OF PROJECTS

9.1 An AFC Member Association shall submit the following in respect of its application for funding for AFC Equal Pitch projects:

9.1.1 submission of a letter to the AFC General Secretary along with:

a) Application for Mini Pitch - AFC Equal Pitch application form (Appendix 1); or

b) Application for improvement of full-size pitch – AFC Equal Pitch application form (Appendix 2);

9.1.2 the application form must include the Budget for AFC Equal Pitch;

9.1.3 submission of details on the proposed sites and pitch (improvement of full-size pitches): the AFC Member Association must show strategic consideration for the selection of sites and pitch;

9.1.4 submission of planned usage including planned activities of the Member Association and which communities/schools will be using the facility;

9.1.5 submission of a maintenance and pitch replacement plan. The replacement of the pitch should be planned after five to eight years. The AFC Member Association must show serious consideration towards how to fund this replacement;

9.1.6 the application form must state the designated Member Association project manager for AFC Equal Pitch; and

9.1.7 submission of relevant document(s) in accordance with the conditions and/or requirements referred to in Article 7 of this Policy.

9.2 The application letter must be accompanied with:

9.2.1 details on proposed sites with reasons for selection of each specific site and stadium venue, ownership information and map showing geographical spread;

9.2.2 details on the planned usage of the mini pitch and full-size pitch at each site;

9.2.3 a maintenance and pitch replacement plan; and

9.2.4 strategic plan on the grassroots and community football development through the implementation of AFC Equal Pitch.

9.3 The payment terms and conditions for the disbursement of AFC Equal Pitch shall be made in accordance with the countersigned project agreement.

10. SUSPENDED MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

10.1 Should a Beneficiary be suspended in accordance with the AFC and/or FIFA Statutes, AFC Equal Pitch Fund shall be immediately suspended, and no funds will be released during the period of such suspension until further notice. The suspension of AFC Equal Pitch Fund and its effect shall remain in force throughout the period of the suspension of the Beneficiary even if, in the interim, FIFA appoints a Normalisation Committee for the suspended Beneficiary;

10.2 An AFC Member Association that is suspended pursuant to Article 10.1 of this Policy above shall not be entitled to benefit from AFC Equal Pitch during the period of suspension. Once the suspension is lifted, the AFC Development Committee, based on the assessment of the AFC General Secretariat, shall then decide what actions to take in respect of the suspended AFC Equal Pitch Fund, including deciding on the procedure for the release of the remaining funds and the amount of AFC Equal Pitch Fund in accordance with this Policy.

11. TAXES AND DUTIES

11.1 The Beneficiary shall be responsible for the payment of all taxes, duties, and other charges payable in relation to the operation of AFC Equal Pitch funding in their territory (including receipt of and disbursement to third parties in relation to AFC Equal Pitch funding).

11.2 The Beneficiary shall declare such items where applicable within their Budget.

12. INDEMNIFICATION

12.1 The Beneficiary shall indemnify, hold harmless and defend the AFC, its officers, members, agents, auxiliary persons, representatives, and employees from and against all liabilities, obligations, damages, losses, claims, demands, recoveries, deficiencies, costs or expenses (including without limitation all costs and expenses for withdrawal or exclusion from the AFC Equal Pitch and/or all attorneys' fees and expenses) which such parties may suffer or incur in connection with, resulting from, or arising out of any breach by the Beneficiary (including its officers, directors, representatives, auxiliary persons, employees or agents) or any act or omission of the Beneficiary (including its officers, directors, representatives, auxiliary persons, employees or agents) in connection with the performance of its obligations pursuant to this Policy.

13. AMENDMENTS

13.1 The AFC reserves the right to make amendments to any part of this Policy for any reason whatsoever. Such amendments shall be duly communicated in due course.

14. FORCE MAJEURE

14.1 The AFC Development Committee is the only body capable of declaring a Force Majeure event. The AFC Development Committee shall take whatever action it deems necessary in cases of Force Majeure.

15. MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR

15.1 Matters not provided for in this Policy shall be decided by the AFC Development Committee. Such decisions are final and binding and not appealable.

16. ENFORCEMENT

16.1 This Policy was ratified by the AFC Executive Committee on 16 October 2025 and came into force immediately.

APPENDIX 1 - AFC EQUAL PITCH APPLICATION FORM – MINI PITCH



AFC EQUAL PITCH
APPLICATION FORM - MINI PITCH

Member Association:	
Year:	
Number of Mini Pitches:	
Location:	
Total Cost:	

Details on proposed site(s) with reasons for selection of each specific site:

Details on the planned usage of the mini pitch at each site with strategic plan on the grassroots and community football development:

Project Manager at the Beneficiary Member Association	
Name:	
Email:	
Contact Number:	

Name & Signature of General Secretary

Date:

Name & Signature of President

Date:

Seal of Member Association

Asian Football Confederation
AFC House, Jalan 1/155B, Bukit Jalil, 57000 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia T: +603 8994 3388 the-AFC.com

APPENDIX 2 - AFC EQUAL PITCH APPLICATION FORM – IMPROVEMENT OF FULL-SIZE PITCH



AFC EQUAL PITCH APPLICATION FORM
IMPROVEMENT OF FULL-SIZE PITCH

Member Association:	
Year:	
Location:	
Total Cost:	

Details on proposed site(s) with reasons for improvement of full-size pitch:

Details on the planned usage of the full-size pitch:

Project Manager at the Beneficiary Member Association	
Name:	
Email:	
Contact Number:	

Name & Signature of General Secretary

Date:

Name & Signature of President

Date:

Seal of Member Association

Asian Football Confederation
AFC House, Jalan 1/155B, Bukit Jalil, 57000 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia T: +603 8994 3388 the-AFC.com



AFC House, Jalan 1/155B,
Bukit Jalil, 57000 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
T: +603 8994 3388

the – AFC.com