



AFC WOMEN'S ASIAN CUP
**REFEREEING
TECHNICAL
REPORT** ▶
JORDAN 2018





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INTRODUCTION

AFC Women's Asian Cup history was made when the best of the continent's women's football was showcased for the first time in West Asia.

Eight teams competed in Jordan in the 19th edition of the tournament, with China going into the final tournament with eight previous titles, including seven in a row between 1986 and 1999.

For this special occasion, the AFC Women's Asian Cup, the world's oldest continental women's football competition, was re-branded with a new logo presenting the female footballer as a superheroine. A new trophy was also launched, cast from six solid silver bars, acknowledging the six participants that played in the first edition in 1975.

On the refereeing field, the tournament offered a suitable scenario to continue raising the quality of the women match officials and assessing their performances, with particular regard to those shortlisted for the FIFA Women's World Cup France 2019 project.

Technical, as well as operational matters, are detailed in this report that aims to provide the refereeing fraternity with an insight into the preparation, execution and lessons learned out of the organisation of a top-level women's competition.





1.1 TEAM OVERVIEW

Eight teams from the ASEAN, East and West regions qualified for the AFC Women's Asian Cup final stage. The draw ceremony, held on 9 December 2017, revealed the groups' composition and paired the champions of the previous two editions of the tournament, Australia and Japan. As the fixtures were defined, host Jordan was set to open the event against Philippines in Amman on April 6.

GROUP A		GROUP B	
A1	JORDAN (JOR)	B1	JAPAN (JPN)
A2	CHINA PR (CHN)	B2	AUSTRALIA (AUS)
A3	THAILAND (THA)	B3	KOREA REPUBLIC (KOR)
A4	PHILIPPINES (PHI)	B4	VIETNAM (VIE)

1.2 VENUES OVERVIEW



AMMAN INTERNATIONAL STADIUM

Capacity

17,000 spectators

Matches

Group stage, 5th/6th place playoff,
3th/4th place playoff, and final



KING ABDULLAH II STADIUM

Capacity

12,574 spectators

Matches

Group stage and semi-finals



1.3 COMPETITION FORMAT

		Group Stage										5th/6th Playoff	Semi Finals			3rd/4th Place & Final	
		Friday, 6 April 2018	Saturday, 7 April 2018	Sunday, 8 April 2018	Monday, 9 April 2018	Tuesday, 10 April 2018	Wednesday, 11 April 2018	Thursday, 12 April 2018	Friday, 13 April 2018	Saturday, 14 April 2018	Sunday, 15 April 2018	Monday, 16 April 2018	Tuesday, 17 April 2018	Wednesday, 18 April 2018	Thursday, 19 April 2018	Friday, 20 April 2018	
Amman International Stadium	02 16:45			Rest Day		08 16:45			11 16:45							16 16:45	
	CHN VS THA					KOR VS JPN			JPN VS AUS								L14 VS L15
	01 20:00					07 20:00		09 20:00				13 20:00					17 20:00
	JOR VS PHI					VIE VS AUS		JOR VS CHN				3A VS 3B					W14 VS W15
King Abdullah II Stadium		03 16:45		Rest Day	05 16:45				12 16:45				15 16:45				
		JPN VS VIE				PHI VS CHN				KOR VS VIE				1B VS 2A			
		04 20:00				06 20:00			10 20:00					14 20:00			
		AUS VS KOR				THA VS JOR			THA VS PHI					1A VS 2B			

2. LOGISTICS OVERVIEW



2.1 HEADQUARTERS

AFC delegation's headquarters (HQ) was located in the Kempinski Hotel Amman, acting as the nerve centre for all refereeing activities and operations.



2.2 TRAINING VENUE

Al Jubeiha field, located within the proximity of the headquarters, hosted the practical training sessions.

3. DELEGATION SUMMARY

REFEREES



Katherine Jacewicz
(AUS)



Casey Reibelt
(AUS)



Qin Liang
(CHN)



Yoshimi Yamashita
(JPN)



Hyeon Jeong Oh
(KOR)



Hyang Ok Ri
(PRK)



Thein Thien Aye
(MYA)



Mahsa Ghorbani
(IRN)



Cong Thi Dung
(VIE)



Edita Mirabidova
(UZB)

3. DELEGATION SUMMARY

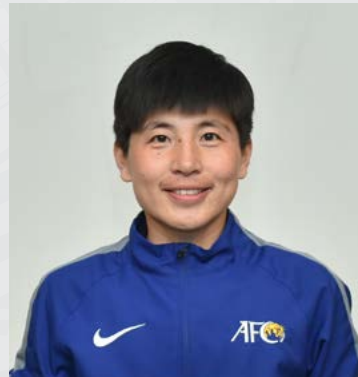
ASSISTANT REFEREES



Heba Saadieh
(PLE)



Kum Nyo Hong
(PRK)



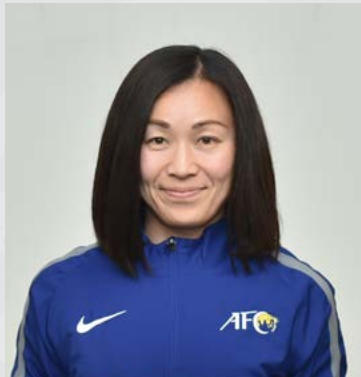
Cui Yong Mei
(CHN)



Fang Yan
(CHN)



Uvena Fernandes
(IND)



Naomi Teshirogi
(JPN)



Maiko Hagio
(JPN)



Seul Gi Lee
(KOR)



Kyoung Min Kim
(KOR)



Trong Thi Le Trinh
(VIE)

3. DELEGATION SUMMARY

ASSISTANT REFEREES



Ensieh Khabaz Mafi Nezhad
 (IRN)



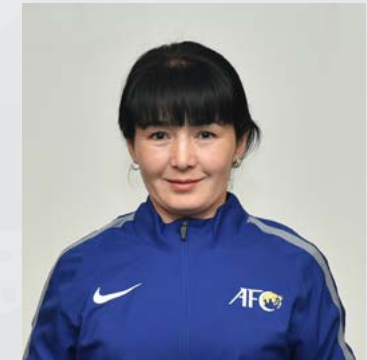
Rohaidah Binte Mohd Nasir
 (SIN)



Fusako Kajiyama
 (JPN)



Pansa Chaisanit
 (THA)



Zilola Rahmatova
 (UZB)

STAND-BY REFEREES

STAND-BY ASSISTANT REFEREE

TECHNICAL INSTRUCTORS

FITNESS INSTRUCTOR



Ali Altraifi
 (KSA)



Krystyna Szokolai
 (AUS)



Etsuko Fukano
 (JPN)



Heba Abed
 (JOR)



Zhang Lingling
 (CHN)

3.2 LOCAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE (LOC) DELEGATION



REFEREES' LIAISON OFFICERS (HQ):

Two liaison officers (LOs) were assigned to support the coordination of all logistic requirements at the headquarters. The LOs also managed transportation and training equipment.

REFEREES' LIAISON OFFICERS (STADIA):

One liaison officer was assigned at each match venue. The LO assisted in the airport and hotel reception of the match officials, as well as ensured transportation and the readiness of the referees' room at the stadia.

PLAYERS TEAM:

22 local players plus a coach were involved in the referees' practical session to create simulated match incidents as per the technical instructors' plan.

4. PRE-COMPETITION

4.1 TEAM ARRIVAL MEETINGS

Three days prior to their first appearance in the competition, all eight teams participated in a Team Arrival Meeting (TAM).

The session was designed to enrich players and coaches' knowledge and understanding of the Laws of the Game, and preventing potential unsporting behaviour on the field of play.

Referee technical instructors facilitated the meeting, demonstrating each topic with clips, and opening the floor for questions, which helped interaction and ensured the message was delivered.

4.2 MATCH COORDINATION MEETINGS

Match Coordination Meetings (MCMs) were held one day prior to each group games.

Among other competition related matters, assigned team officials were presented on refereeing subjects such as injury management, technical area management, and players' jersey colours for the specific matches.

Additionally, one MCM took place prior to the quarter-finals, semi-finals and final matches respectively.



5. PREPARATORY COURSE



The referees and assistant referees participated in a four-day preparatory stage from 02 to 05 January comprising theoretical sessions, a fitness check, and acclimatisation and practical sessions.

FIFA Refereeing Manager Kari Seitz, responsible for the FIFA Women's World Cup project, joined the delegation and shared her vast expertise with the match officials prior and during the tournament.

5.1 FITNESS CHECK

The fitness check consisted of a Yo-Yo Intermittent Test for referees –with the target level set at 16.8– and an Assistant Referee Intermittent Endurance Test (ARIET) for assistant referees –with the target level set at 14.0-8–.

Upon the monitoring of the two fitness instructors, 25 out of 26 match officials were declared physically qualified to officiate at the competition and cope with the match demands as required.

5.2 PRACTICAL SESSION

Twenty-two players plus their coach assisted in the practical sessions that focused on the following topics, among others:

- o Positioning and movement
- o Foul recognition
- o Offside recognition
- o Free-kick management
- o Standard signalling

An instant feedback replay station supported the training, allowing the match officials to review the incidents in situ and, therefore, enabling the incorporation of the instructors' advice in the subsequent set of exercises.

5.3 THEORETICAL SESSIONS

Structured by topics, the preparatory theoretical sessions were designed to enhance the technical knowledge of the match officials and lead to the best possible performances in the competition.

5. PREPARATORY COURSE



The content included an exhaustive revision of the latest edition of the Laws of the Game, delivered by the technical instructors, and targeted at reaching consistency and uniformity in its understanding and application on the field of play.

At the preparatory stage, the fitness instructor refreshed the referees on the fitness test protocol and procedures. She also provided the officials with an advanced analysis of the

various areas that define the physical condition of top athletes, advising on the most suitable training plans to narrow specific gaps.

A wide number of match incidents video clips were reviewed in order to facilitate the match officials' participation, discussion and consensus.

Main topics covered during the theoretical sessions:

Technical Area

- o Challenges / tackles
- o Reading the game
- o Penalty area incidents
- o Tactical fouls
- o Handling the ball
- o Offside
- o Match management
- o Teamwork

Fitness Area

- o Fitness check
- o Weight control
- o Fitness training plans & nutrition
- o Recovery strategies
- o Injury prevention
- o Heart monitoring system

Administration Matters

- o Championship overview
- o Stadium regulation
- o Accreditation system
- o Pre-match procedures
- o Start list and players' equipment check
- o Referee's match report
- o Media contact & procedures
- o Transport
- o Match officials' apparel
- o Communication system sets & beep flags
- o Accommodation and logistics

Other Matters

- o Integrity

6. DURING COMPETITION



6.1 PRACTICAL SESSIONS

Based on the AFC Women's Asian Cup's match schedule, the vast majority of the match officials took part in the daily light training. Likewise, the referees appointed for the upcoming games performed customised exercises planned for matchday minus 2 (MD -2) and minus 1 (MD -1). Recovery sessions were also delivered as part of the post-match programme.

The fitness preparation emphasised the benefits of stretching, helping the officials to enhance their coordination, flexibility and joint

range of motion, and to ease muscle soreness. During the daily training, the exercises were not targeted only to maintain their fitness level but also helped the officials to better understand the different variations and micro-cycles planning.

Four technical training sessions were conducted during the competition, simulating real match scenarios to provide the referees with the tools to read the game, anticipate challenges, and effectively impart justice. Offside situations were one of the key practiced areas, as the instructors identified the limited

opportunities for the women assistant referees to be tested in high-level matches other than centralised competitions.

6.2 MATCH VIDEO ASSESSMENT

All match footage was analysed live by a video referee assessor. The games were previewed at the headquarters via live streaming. The video referee assessor tracked the match situations, compiling all relevant details: time and nature of the incident, decision and sanction, officials involved and other inputs for discussion.



6. DURING COMPETITION



6.3 VENUE ASSESSMENT

Referee assessors were assigned to observe the match officials' performance at the stadiums. The referee assessors closely monitored the referees team's officiating skills and decisions made throughout the game, and furnished them with firsthand feedback.

As part of the role of the referee assessor, the match assessment reports were submitted accordingly via AFC Administration System (AFCAS)

6.4 GROUP MATCH DEBRIEFING SESSIONS

The group match debriefings gathered all the referees and assistant referees daily at headquarters.

Significant incidents from the previous day games were analysed with the main purpose of preparing the officials for the upcoming matches. By opening the discussion on the selected clips, the instructors highlighted areas for improvement and advised the referees and assistant referees where necessary in order

to reach consistency and uniformity in foul recognition and Laws of the Game application. A general debriefing took place prior to the knockout stage matches, as a recompilation of all the adequate examples of decision-making, management, reading the game and teamwork.

6.5 INDIVIDUAL MATCH DEBRIEFING SESSIONS

Besides the group match debriefings, the referee assessors conducted individual sessions with the four officials involved in the specific game to revisit it in a more comprehensive manner. The referee assessors utilised a higher number of clips, as well as their own on-field experience when meeting the referees individually.

6.6 TECHNICAL STUDY GROUP SESSION

By the end of the group stage, the competition's technical study group, represented by Belinda Wilson, shared with the referees an overview of the teams' technical and tactical approach. The valuable study of the player's style and behaviour, teams' tactics and crucial areas to focus on from a refereeing perspective, enhanced the preparation for the knockout stages.

7. TECHNICAL SUMMARY

7.1 GENERAL PERFORMANCE

The AFC Women's Asian Cup 2018, as the Continent's major women's competition, gathered the top female officials in Jordan. The event also marked a notable milestone on the road to the FIFA Women's World Cup France 2019 for all candidates involved.

Consistently, the referee assessors and instructors agreed to qualify the performance of the match officials as very good. As a result of the daily training and other activities oriented to raise the refereeing standards – as described in this report – a significant improvement was identified as the tournament advanced, especially in offside decision-making.

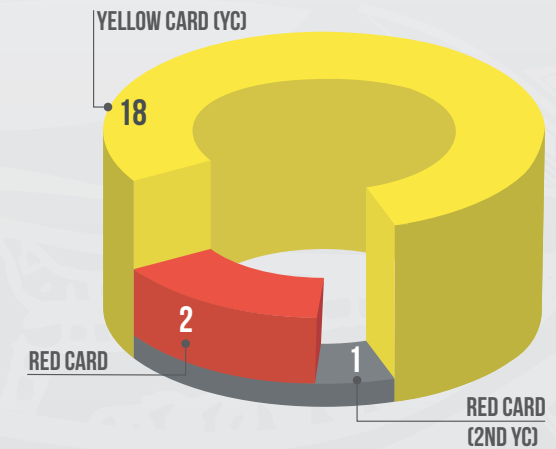
From a physical point of view, the referees and assistant referees displayed expected levels of fitness at the AFC Women's Asian Cup, benefiting from the training and maintenance programme designed by the fitness instructor. As well, no serious injuries occurred during the period.



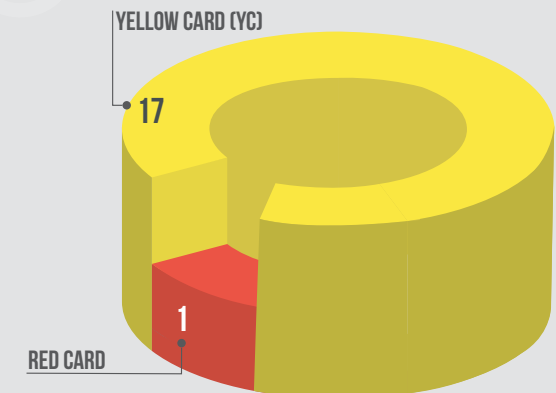
7. TECHNICAL SUMMARY



**AFC WOMEN'S ASIAN CUP
 JORDAN 2018**



**AFC WOMEN'S ASIAN CUP
 VIETNAM 2014**



7.2 GENERAL MANAGEMENT

A total of 21 disciplinary sanctions were issued at the AFC Women's Asian Cup. Out of the total, 18 cautions were yellow cards, one sent-off took place after a second caution and two direct red cards were shown. There was a match average of 1.06 yellow cards and 0.18 red cards.

However, the statistics show a marginal contrast with the last edition of the AFC Women's Asian Cup Vietnam 2014, where 18 cautions were shown – 17 yellow cards and one direct red card.

8. CONCLUSION



As the AFC strives to fulfil its vision of excellence, it is paramount to optimise Asia's football potential through inclusiveness and empowering the women's game as a career path for women and girls in a variety of roles, including that of a referee.

In line with the global goal of reaching consistency and uniformity among the match officials regardless of their gender, the AFC launched its first-ever combined programme for men and women referees in 2016.

Development initiatives and tailor-made resources aim at elevating the performance of the female officials and, ultimately, at displaying high-levels of technical knowledge, management and fitness in first-class competitions like the AFC Women's Asian Cup.

From the technical point of view, the main highlight was the improvement exhibited by the referees as the tournament progressed based on the implementation of the lessons learned at the theoretical and practical sessions. The positive attitude of the officials was also highly regarded.

The host country, Jordan, represented by the Local Organising Committee, ensured well-being and provided the referees and the assistant referees with a professional environment to carry out their duties.

The AFC refereeing fraternity looks forward to continuing to raise the bar of the female match officials' performances, aspiring to excellence at continental and worldwide level.

9. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



We would like to express our sincere gratitude and acknowledge the following parties for their contribution to the success of the AFC refereeing activities:

- o The AFC President
- o The AFC Referees Committee
- o The AFC Management
- o The Jordan Football Association (JFA) and the Local Organising Committee
- o The AFC technical and fitness instructors
- o The AFC match officials



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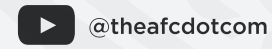
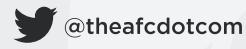
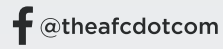
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