



AFC STADIUM REGULATIONS (EDITION 2026)



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AFC STADIUM REGULATIONS (EDITION 2026)

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DEFINITIONS

In these Regulations, capitalised terms shall have the following meanings, unless the context specifically indicates otherwise:

Control Room	A room reserved for the staff and officials with overall responsibility for match-related safety and security matters, including, without limitation, the police commander for the Match, the Host Organisation safety and security officer, the stadium security officer and their staff and any other authorised personnel.
FIFA Quality Programme	FIFA's programme aimed at endorsing products that meet strict quality requirements to improve the game and to protect players, clubs, and associations.
International Airport	An airport that has multiple daily international flights and customs/ border control facilities that accommodates direct international flights and/or charter flights.
Regulations	These Stadium Regulations.
STA	The Stadium Technical Annex, being a technical document detailing the requirements of the Stadiums and Official Training Sites selected for use in a Competition.
Stadium Category	A classification assigned to a Stadium based on defined minimum infrastructure and operational requirements which determines the Competition(s) it is eligible to host.

For the purposes of these Entry Regulations, and provided the context so permits:

- (a) the singular shall include the plural and vice-versa;
- (b) the feminine gender shall include the masculine 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;
- (e) references to the AFC Commercial Rights Partner or Commercial Affiliates shall include, where advised by the AFC, their successors and permitted assigns;
- (f) all defined terms, unless otherwise stated herein and/or unless the context indicates otherwise, shall bear the same meaning as ascribed in the AFC Statutes and the Manual; and
- (g) references to Articles shall mean the Articles of these Regulations, unless expressly stated otherwise.

SECTION 1: GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. Scope of Application

- 1.1. These Regulations shall apply to all football Competitions organised by the AFC, unless expressly stated otherwise.
- 1.2. These Regulations set out the minimum requirements for each Stadium Category, arranged in alphabetical order from A to E. Category A represents the highest grade, while Category E represents the lowest grade. For the avoidance of doubt, Stadiums that have been designated with a higher category may also be used to host Competitions which require a lower Stadium Category.
- 1.3. The requirements for each Stadium Category are presented using the following classification system:
 - a) Mandatory or Applicable (✓)
The requirement is mandatory and must be fulfilled.
 - b) Non-applicable (X)
This requirement does not apply to the particular Stadium Category.
 - c) Best Practice (Δ)
The requirement is not mandatory, but its implementation is recommended to reflect industry best practices and standards.
- 1.4. For the avoidance of doubt, where no classification under Article 1.3 is specified, the particular requirement is mandatory and applicable by the AFC in respect to all Stadium Categories.
- 1.5. The relevant Competition regulations, the Manual, STA and/or other hosting documents may define further or more specific requirements beyond those set out in these Regulations. In the event of any inconsistency between these Regulations and these other documents, the following order of precedence shall apply (in descending order):
 - 1.5.1. the Competition Regulations;
 - 1.5.2. STA and/or other hosting documents; and
 - 1.5.3. the Manual.
- 1.6. These Regulations do not affect any legal obligations arising from any applicable national law.

2. Requirements of Specific Competitions

- 2.1. The required Stadium Category for a specific Competition shall be provided for in the relevant Competition Regulations, the Manual, STA, circulars issued by the AFC and/or any other bidding/hosting documents.
- 2.2. The AFC reserves the right to grant exemptions to these Regulations or set additional requirements beyond those outlined in these Regulations at its sole discretion.

3. Responsibilities of Host Organisations

- 3.1. Host Organisations shall, at their own cost and expense, be solely responsible for:
 - 3.1.1. complying with the requirements set out in these Regulations and all other relevant AFC regulations, directives, guidelines, circulars, bidding/host documents and all applicable laws;
 - 3.1.2. ensuring that each Stadium is certified with a safety certificate from the competent body in compliance with the requirements set out in the AFC Safety and Security Regulations. The certificate issued by the competent body shall be valid for a maximum of two (2) years and shall be valid on Match days;
 - 3.1.3. payment of all taxes, fees, duties and any other costs arising from or related to the implementation and delivery of all requirements and obligations in these Regulations, unless expressly stated otherwise in these Regulations or any other relevant AFC regulations; and
 - 3.1.4. indemnifying, defending, and holding the AFC and all of its officers, directors, employees, representatives, agents, Official Team Delegation and all other auxiliary persons free and harmless against any and all liabilities, obligations, losses, damages, penalties, claims, actions, fines, and expenses (including, without limitation, reasonable legal expenses) of whatsoever kind or nature resulting from, arising out of, or attributable to, any breach of these Regulations or non-compliance with these Regulations by the Host Organisation, its affiliates and any third parties contracted by it.
- 3.2. The AFC reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to decide on the Stadiums to be used for a Competition. Such decisions are final and binding and not appealable. The AFC may inspect Stadiums at any time before and/or during a Competition to confirm the Stadium Category.
- 3.3. The AFC reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to grant conditional approval for specific Stadium infrastructure and/or requirements under exceptional circumstances. Such approval may only be granted if the Host Organisation submits a written undertaking confirming that:
 - 3.3.1. the identified issues will be fully rectified; and
 - 3.3.2. a clearly defined timeframe for rectification is provided, which shall not exceed twelve (12) months from the date of the AFC's written approval and shall be completed prior to the commencement of the relevant Competition.

4. Use of Stadium

- 4.1. Specific terms relating to the exclusive use of a Stadium shall be provided for in the relevant Competition regulations, hosting agreements and/or the AFC's instructions. Generally, a Stadium shall, among other matters:
 - 4.1.1. not be used for any other Matches, events and/or activities;
 - 4.1.2. be delivered to the AFC for its exclusive use; and
 - 4.1.3. be delivered to the AFC as a Clean Stadium.
- 4.2. All Stadiums shall be equipped with basic infrastructural requirements, including, without limitation, power supply, hot and cold water, heating and cooling systems with air-conditioning and internet connection, which shall be sufficient for use and accessible by the AFC and all related stakeholders in connection with a Match.
- 4.3. All areas within the Stadium, including, without limitation, function rooms, corridors, technical spaces, hospitality areas and public facilities shall be maintained in optimal operational condition at all times.
- 4.4. Each function room designated for use shall be:
 - 4.4.1. fully functional and accessible;
 - 4.4.2. free from any form of damage, obstruction or malfunction; and
 - 4.4.3. equipped with the required furniture, equipment, facilities and utilities in good working condition.
- 4.5. The Stadium authority shall ensure regular maintenance of the Stadium, including an optimal level of cleanliness at all times. They shall:
 - 4.5.1. conduct regular preventive maintenance for all infrastructure, systems and equipment;
 - 4.5.2. immediately address any identified defects, damages or malfunctions through appropriate corrective measures; and
 - 4.5.3. maintain a maintenance log documenting inspections, repairs and scheduled servicing.
- 4.6. All function rooms and shared spaces shall be kept clean, organised and presentable before, during and after Match day operations. This includes:
 - 4.6.1. proper waste disposal;
 - 4.6.2. hygiene standards in compliance with local health regulations; and
 - 4.6.3. no visible wear and tear that may affect the functionality or aesthetics of the space.

- 4.7. If required, the AFC and/or any appointed party reserves the right to conduct on-site inspections to verify compliance with Stadium maintenance and operational requirements.
- 4.8. Any Stadium that does not meet the requirements set out under this Article 4 shall be deemed ineligible to host any Match or Competition until the non-compliance is rectified by the Host Organisation and approved by the AFC.

5. Stadium Location

- 5.1. For national team Competitions, a Stadium shall be located in a Venue which has an International Airport within a radius of 150 kilometres and a journey time of no more than 120 minutes' drive between the Stadium and the International Airport.
- 5.2. For club Competitions, a Stadium shall be located in a Venue which has an International Airport within a radius of 200 kilometres and a journey time of no more than 150 minutes' drive between the Stadium and the International Airport.
- 5.3. The AFC may grant exceptions to Articles 5.1 or 5.2 above:
 - 5.3.1. if the Stadium is located in a well-connected Venue which has a domestic airport with at least four (4) connecting flights daily from the main International Airport, within a radius of 60 kilometres and a journey time of no more than 60 minutes' drive between the Stadium and the domestic airport; or
 - 5.3.2. if the Matches are held in a centralised format.

SECTION 2: AREAS RELATING TO THE FIELD OF PLAY

6. Field of Play

- 6.1. Each Stadium shall be equipped with a Field of Play consisting of the type of pitch surface applicable to its Stadium Category:
- 6.1.1. Hybrid playing surface (natural-grass surface incorporating hybrid reinforcement with artificial fibres).
- 6.1.2. Natural playing grass (100% natural grass).
- 6.1.3. Artificial turf with a valid FIFA Quality PRO Certificate.
- 6.1.4. Artificial turf with a valid FIFA Quality Certificate.

CAT A	CAT B	CAT C	CAT D	CAT E
Hybrid playing surface (6.1.1); or Natural playing grass (6.1.2)	Hybrid playing surface (6.1.1); or Natural playing grass (6.1.2)	Hybrid playing surface (6.1.1); Natural playing grass (6.1.2); or Artificial turf FIFA Quality PRO (6.1.3)	Hybrid playing surface (6.1.1); Natural playing grass (6.1.2); Artificial turf FIFA Quality PRO (6.1.3); or Artificial turf FIFA Quality (6.1.4)	Hybrid playing surface (6.1.1); Natural playing grass (6.1.2); Artificial turf FIFA Quality PRO (6.1.3); or Artificial turf FIFA Quality (6.1.4)

- 6.2. The Field of Play shall be smooth and level. The surface shall be green in colour and contain only white line markings for football, in full compliance with the Laws of the Game. For the avoidance of doubt, no lines other than those prescribed in the Laws of the Game shall be visible on the Field of Play. No physical structure should be lower than 21 metres above the Field of Play.
- 6.3. Where artificial turf is used for Matches, it shall be certified with a valid FIFA Quality or FIFA Quality PRO certificate under the FIFA Quality Programme for Football Turf, valid on the day of the Match. The Host Organisation shall be fully responsible for maintaining a valid certificate and shall submit the same to the AFC upon request.
- 6.4. The Field of Play shall not have a mixed playing surface unless it is a hybrid playing surface in accordance with Article 6.1.1 above.
- 6.5. The Field of Play surface shall extend at least 1 metre beyond the touchlines and 2 metres beyond the goal lines, before transitioning to a different surface type. Any transition in surface (e.g. from natural to artificial turf or vice-versa) shall not occur immediately beyond the touchline or goal line to ensure player safety and footing.
- 6.6. Stadiums shall be equipped with appropriate infrastructure to maintain a match-ready Field of Play under various climate conditions, including, without limitation:

- 6.6.1. necessary equipment (e.g. brushes) and personnel to assist with water removal/drainage during/after heavy rain;
 - 6.6.2. necessary equipment (e.g. blowers and shovels) and personnel to assist with the clearance of snow;
 - 6.6.3. sufficient staff to support activities relating to unexpected adverse weather conditions;
 - 6.6.4. an appropriate watering system; and
 - 6.6.5. an appropriate drainage system to prevent flooding.
- 6.7. In Stadiums with a moveable pitch system, the Host Organisation shall ensure that the Field of Play is in its final position no later than three (3) days prior to the Match.

7. Warm-up Area

- 7.1. Stadiums shall have a designated warm-up area for substitutes, in accordance with the Manual.

8. Goals, Spare Goals and Corner Flags

- 8.1. Goalposts and crossbars shall be provided in accordance with the Laws of the Game, in particular:
 - 8.1.1. the distance between the inside edges of the posts shall be 7.32 metres;
 - 8.1.2. the distance from the lower edge of the crossbar to the ground shall be 2.44 metres;
 - 8.1.3. goalposts and crossbars shall be white in colour and have the same width and depth, not exceeding 12 centimetres and shall not have any markings;
 - 8.1.4. sub-posts used to support the goal net shall be of a dark colour;
 - 8.1.5. goalposts, crossbars and spare goals shall be made of approved material and shall be square, rectangular, round or elliptical in shape;
 - 8.1.6. goalposts, crossbars, sub-posts and spare goals shall not pose any danger to players, officials and other persons; and
 - 8.1.7. all goalposts (including, without limitation, spare goalposts) shall be firmly secured to the ground.
- 8.2. Each Stadium shall be equipped with a set of spare goals (consisting of goalposts and crossbars), which can be easily installed within the Stadium.
- 8.3. Two (2) sets of corner flag poles for each corner (i.e. eight [8] poles in total) shall be provided in accordance with the Laws of the Game.

9. Floodlights

- 9.1. Stadiums shall be equipped with the following floodlights integrated with an illumination system that is capable of maintaining at least the average illuminance levels as per the respective Stadium Category:

		CAT A	CAT B	CAT C	CAT D	CAT E
9.1.1. Existing Horizontal Illuminance (Lux)	Avg.	≥ 2,000	≥ 1,800	≥ 1,400	≥ 1,200	≥ 800
9.1.1.1. Uniformity Ratios	U1h	>0.50	>0.50	>0.50	>0.40	>0.40
	U2h	>0.70	>0.70	>0.70	>0.60	>0.60
9.1.2. Existing Vertical Illuminance (Lux on each reference plane)	Avg.	≥ 1,100	≥ 1,000	≥ 750	≥ 500	≥ 350
9.1.2.1. Uniformity Ratios	U1v	>0.40	>0.40	>0.40	>0.35	>0.35
	U2v					

- 9.2. The illumination system shall include both a main and backup power supply, which shall be independent of each other, to ensure that Matches can be held without interruption in the event of a power failure.
- 9.3. The AFC may request the Host Organisation to submit a valid lighting certificate. The AFC may also appoint an independent Stadium lighting consultant to inspect and verify the adequacy of the Stadium's illumination system. The Host Organisation shall cooperate fully with any such inspections.
- 9.3.1. The lighting certificate shall be valid for a maximum of one (1) year and remain valid on the date of all Matches to be hosted at the Stadium.

10. Clocks, Display Boards and Giant Screens

- 10.1. Stadiums shall be equipped with a digital clock that displays the official playing time during the Match.
- 10.2. The clock shall run:
- 10.2.1. from 0 to 45 minutes during the first half of the Match;
 - 10.2.2. from 45 to 90 minutes during the second half of the Match;
 - 10.2.3. from 90 to 105 minutes during the first half of extra time; and
 - 10.2.4. from 105 to 120 minutes during the second half of extra time.
- 10.3. The clock shall stop at the end of normal playing time in each half (i.e. at 45 minutes and 90 minutes respectively). This requirement shall also apply during extra time, where the clock shall stop at the end of each 15-minute half (i.e. at 105 minutes and 120 minutes).

- 10.4. Stadiums shall be equipped with a scoreboard that displays the score of the Match at all times. The scoreboard shall feature a system to clearly display scores of normal playing time, Extra Time and Penalties (as applicable).
- 10.5. Stadiums shall be equipped with the following minimum number of giant screens and/or scoreboards as per the respective Stadium Category:

CAT A	CAT B	CAT C	CAT D	CAT E
Two (2) fixed giant screens	One (1) fixed giant screen	One (1) fixed giant screen	One (1) fixed or portable giant screen	One (1) fixed or portable scoreboard

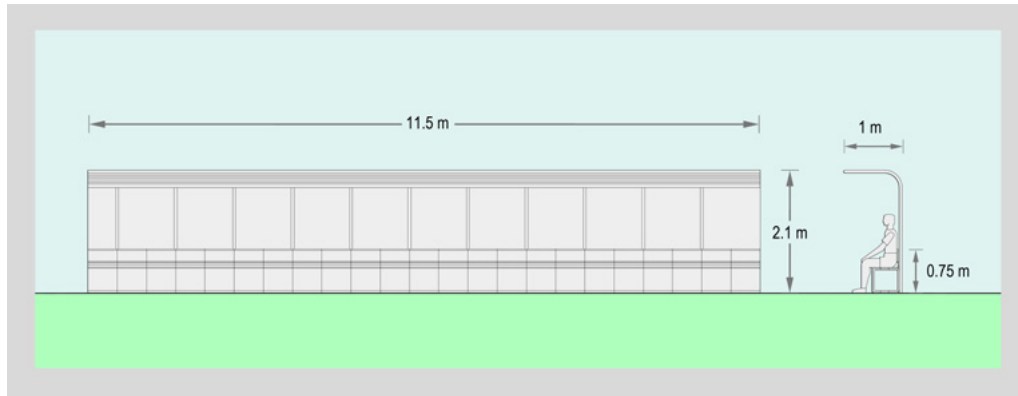
- 10.6. Giant screens shall be integrated with a display system and provide optimal viewing and sound for all spectators. They shall be placed in an area which poses no risk to the spectators and/or disturbance to play.
- 10.7. It is recommended that the video area of the giant screens uses an aspect ratio of 16:9, which may be extended to display scoring and substitution details adjacent to the main video content.

11. Referee Review Area

- 11.1. In Matches where a VAR system is implemented, the Stadium shall have sufficient space in a visible location outside the Field of Play for the installation of at least one (1) RRA.
- 11.2. The RRA shall be equipped with stable and reliable technical power supply in accordance with the AFC’s requirements and instructions.

12. Team Benches and Fourth Official’s Bench

- 12.1. Stadiums shall be equipped with two (2) covered benches or dugouts for the Official Team Delegations’ substitute players and Officials. The number of seats at each bench/dugout shall be specified in the relevant Competition regulations.
- 12.2. All seats on the team benches shall be affixed to the structure in straight lines and be comfortably shaped, with backrests to provide support.
- 12.3. Stadiums shall be equipped with one (1) covered bench at Field of Play level for the fourth official with seating and table space for at least three (3) persons.
- 12.4. Benches located at the Field of Play level shall not obstruct the view of spectators.
- 12.5. All benches shall be protected by a transparent ‘plexiglass-type’ shell, designed to shield against adverse weather conditions and potential objects thrown by spectators.

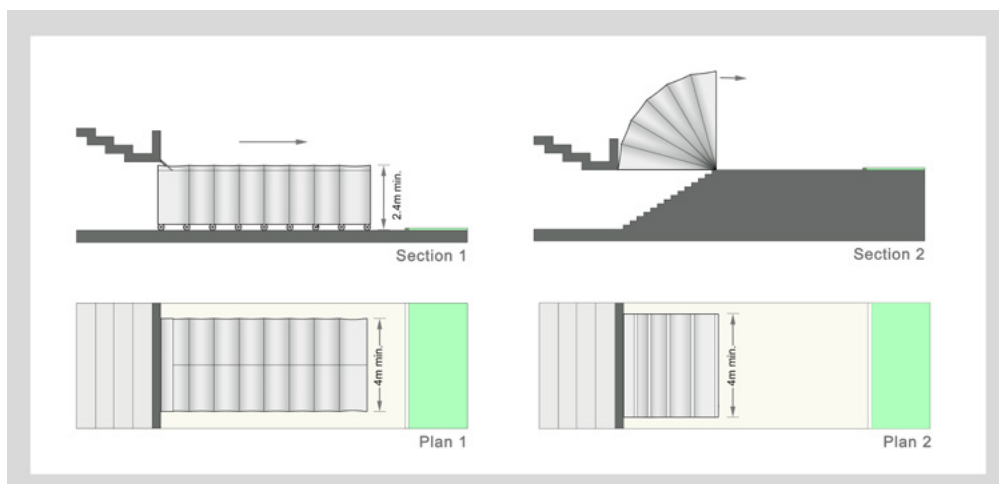


Team Bench (example)

- 12.6. The technical area surrounding the team benches shall be equipped with power and connectivity infrastructure, in accordance with AFC requirements for the relevant Competition.

13. Player Tunnel

- 13.1. In the event that a Stadium is equipped with a player tunnel, it shall have a minimum width of 4 metres and a minimum height of 2.4 metres.
- 13.2. The area of the player tunnel where the Participating Players and Match Officials enter the Field of Play shall be protected by a fireproof telescopic tunnel, which shall extend far enough into the playing area to prevent any risk of injury from potential objects thrown by spectators.
- 13.3. Telescopic tunnels shall be capable of being extended and retracted quickly so that they may be used during the Match when a Participating Player enters or leaves the Field of Play, without causing a prolonged obstruction to view.
- 13.4. The tunnel area, including, without limitation, the route between the tunnel, pitch area and dressing rooms, should be fitted with protective, non-slip flooring such as artificial grass to ensure the safety of the Official Team Delegations and Match Officials.



Access route between team dressing rooms and Field of Play (example)

14. Flagpoles and Flags

- 14.1. Stadiums shall be equipped with the following facilities to display flags at the locations specified below, with the required minimum number of flagpoles/bars, as per the respective Stadium Category:

	CAT A	CAT B	CAT C	CAT D	CAT E
14.1.1. Minimum one (1) flagpole/bar on the roof of the main stand	✓	△	△	△	△
14.1.2. Minimum three (3) flagpoles/bars on the opposite stand, or, in the pitch area	✓	✓	✓	✓	△

SECTION 3: FACILITIES FOR THE OFFICIAL TEAM DELEGATION AND AFC DELEGATION

15. Team Dressing Rooms

- 15.1. Each Stadium shall have a minimum of two (2) team dressing rooms.
- 15.1.1. For ‘double-header’ situations (i.e. two Matches played on the same Match day at the same Stadium), it is recommended that the Stadium be equipped with four (4) team dressing rooms of equal size and comfort.
- 15.2. Stadiums shall be equipped with the following minimum team dressing room facilities specified as per the respective Stadium Category:

	CAT A	CAT B	CAT C	CAT D	CAT E
15.2.1. Minimum individual showers	8	4	4	4	4
15.2.2. Minimum individual seated toilets	5	4	4	2	2
15.2.3. Seats	Min. 30		Min. 30		Min. 30
	Built-in individual lockers with cushioned seats, clothing hangers, and charging stations		Built-in individual lockers with seats, and clothing hangers		Movable chairs and clothing hangers

- 15.3. Each team dressing room shall be equipped with at least:
- 15.3.1. One (1) massage table;
- 15.3.2. One (1) tactical board with marker pens and a board eraser; and
- 15.3.3. One (1) refrigerator.
- 15.4. Each team dressing room shall be adequately air-conditioned or heated, depending on the prevailing weather conditions of the Venue.
- 15.5. Stadiums shall guarantee a direct and secure access route for team buses, cars and ambulances, through which the Official Team Delegations can enter and leave the Stadium safely, without disturbance from the public or any unauthorised persons.
- 15.6. Designated access routes may be shared with Match Officials provided the safety and security of all individuals is preserved.

16. Referee Dressing Room

- 16.1. Stadiums shall have a referee dressing room, equipped with the following minimum facilities as per the respective Stadium Category:

	CAT A	CAT B	CAT C	CAT D	CAT E
16.1.1. Minimum individual showers	2	2	1	1	1
16.1.2. Minimum individual seated toilets	1	1	1	1	1

- 16.2. Each referee dressing room shall be equipped with at least:

16.2.1. one (1) table; and

16.2.2. one (1) refrigerator.

- 16.3. Each referee dressing room shall be adequately air-conditioned or heated, depending on the prevailing weather conditions of the Venue.

- 16.4. Stadiums shall guarantee direct and secured access from the referee drop-off area to the referee dressing room and from the referee dressing room to the Field of Play.

- 16.5. Stadiums shall have designated pathways for the use of Match Officials, ensuring their safety and privacy from arrival to departure.

- 16.6. Where requested by the AFC, Stadiums shall also make additional room(s) available to accommodate a mix of both male and female Match Officials, including, without limitation, at least one (1) additional separate shower and toilet unit along with a private area for changing.

17. Office Space and Meeting Rooms

- 17.1. Stadiums shall be equipped with the following office space and meeting room facilities as per the respective Stadium Category:

	CAT A	CAT B	CAT C	CAT D	CAT E
17.1.1. One (1) room designated as the AFC Secretariat, with workstations (i.e. working desks with individual chairs) for a minimum of twenty (20) persons	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
17.1.2. One (1) room for the AFC Match Commissioner and/or General Coordinator, with workstations for a minimum of four (4) persons (i.e. working desks with individual chairs)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
17.1.3. One (1) room for the AFC Commercial Rights Partner (as applicable), close to the AFC Secretariat room, with workstations for a minimum of six (6) persons (i.e. working desks and individual chairs)	✓	✓	✓	✓	△

17.1.4. One (1) room for the ball crews and flag bearers with nearby toilet facilities which can comfortably accommodate a minimum of twenty (20) persons	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
17.1.5. One (1) room for player escorts with nearby toilet facilities which can comfortably accommodate a minimum of twenty-five (25) persons	✓	✓	✓	△	△
17.1.6. One (1) room for event organisational staff (e.g. ceremony services) with nearby toilet facilities - the number of person(s) the room shall accommodate will be as per the AFC's instructions	✓	✓	△	△	△
17.1.7. One (1) meeting room for thirty (30) persons (minimum 40 square metres) - e.g. for MCMs	✓	✓	△	△	△
17.1.8. One (1) prayer room at the team dressing room area and one (1) prayer room at the VVIP/VIP hospitality area	✓	✓	△	△	△

17.2. The dedicated rooms specified in Articles 17.1.1 to 17.1.8 shall be equipped with:

- 17.2.1. wired and wireless broadband internet connection which shall be dedicated with a minimum symmetrical bandwidth of 10 Mbps, dynamic host configuration protocol (DHCP), and all ports open so virtual private networks can be used;
- 17.2.2. the wireless access point provided to the AFC shall support a minimum of fifty (50) users or more as requested by the AFC;
- 17.2.3. desktop or laptop computers that are connected to the internet and to a printer, in which the operating system of each desktop computer/laptop and all its software to be used in connection with the Competition is in English;
- 17.2.4. printers as well as all relevant consumables (including, without limitation, paper, toner and cartridges); and
- 17.2.5. enterprise-grade photocopy machines with sorting facilities as well as all relevant consumables (including, without limitation, paper, toner and cartridges) or one (1) enterprise-grade multi-function printer (MFP-colour).

17.3. The dedicated rooms as specified in Articles 17.1.1 to 17.1.2 shall have easy access and be located close to the team dressing rooms and to the Field of Play.

17.4. All rooms as specified in Article 17.1 shall be adequately air-conditioned or heated, depending on the prevailing weather conditions of the Venue.

17.5. All rooms as specified in Article 17.1 shall be in an area protected from the public and Media.

18. Storage Facilities

- 18.1. Stadiums shall have a minimum of one (1) storage room with an area measuring 10 square metres that is located close to the room(s) stipulated in Articles 17.1.1 and 17.1.2 with close access to the Field of Play.
- 18.2. All storage rooms shall be equipped with a locking device and located in an area protected from the public and Media.

19. Match Commissioner and Referee Assessor Seating Area

- 19.1. Stadiums shall be equipped with a covered seating area with a minimum of two (2) seats, dedicated for use by the AFC MC and AFC RA, located in an area protected from the public.
 - 19.1.1. If requested by the AFC at its sole discretion, this dedicated seating area shall be equipped with television monitor(s) that transmit the live feed of the Match.
- 19.2. The MC and RA seating area shall be located centrally, as close to the halfway line as possible, with easy access to the Field of Play, team dressing rooms and Referee dressing room.
- 19.3. The MC and RA seating area shall be equipped with:
 - 19.3.1. tables and chairs;
 - 19.3.2. power sockets; and
 - 19.3.3. wireless broadband internet connection.

20. Technical Observers Team Seating Area

- 20.1. Stadiums shall be equipped with a covered seating area with a minimum of three (3) seats, dedicated for use by the AFC technical observers team, located in an area protected from the public.
- 20.2. The AFC technical observers team's seating area shall be located centrally, as close to the halfway line as possible, with easy access to the Field of Play, team dressing rooms and Referee dressing room.
- 20.3. The AFC technical observers team's seating area shall be equipped with:
 - 20.3.1. table and chairs;
 - 20.3.2. power sockets; and
 - 20.3.3. wired and/or wireless dedicated broadband internet connection.

21. Video Operation Room

- 21.1. In Matches where a VAR system is implemented, a VOR shall be available either within the Stadium or in close proximity to the Stadium (i.e. adjacent to the broadcast compound). Depending on the technology solutions and setup adopted, in coordination with the Host Association, the AFC may implement a centralised VAR system, in which case the VOR may be located off-site, such as at a designated replay centre.
- 21.2. The VOR shall be located in an area measuring a minimum of 32 square metres and be in a suitable operational condition in accordance with the Laws of the Game and/or any AFC requirements for the relevant Competition. If an area of the required minimum size is not available for use, an enclosed space such as a portable cabin shall be provided by the Host Organisation, subject to the AFC's instructions and approval.
- 21.3. The VOR shall be equipped with a minimum of:
- 21.3.1. seven (7) ergonomic chairs and sufficient desk space to accommodate all authorised personnel;
 - 21.3.2. a wired broadband internet connection, dedicated for VAR use, with a minimum symmetrical bandwidth of 100 Mbps; and
 - 21.3.3. a stable and reliable technical power supply capable of supporting uninterrupted VAR operations.
- 21.4. The VOR shall be adequately air-conditioned or heated, depending on the prevailing weather conditions of the Venue, and shall be equipped with secure access control to ensure restricted entry for authorised personnel only.

22. Parking Area for Official Team Delegations and AFC Delegation

- 22.1. Stadiums shall be equipped with the following parking spaces as per the respective Stadium Category:

	CAT A	CAT B	CAT C	CAT D	CAT E
22.1.1. Team buses	Min. 6	Min. 4	Min. 4	Min. 4	Min. 2
22.1.2. Vehicles of Official Team Delegation and AFC Delegation	Min. 30	Min. 25	Min. 10	Min. 10	Min. 8

- 22.2. Designated parking spaces shall be provided free of charge for use by the AFC, the AFC Commercial Rights Partner, Commercial Affiliates, Official Team Delegations and any other parties as required by the AFC.
- 22.3. All designated parking spaces shall be safe, secure and offer convenient access to the relevant operational areas of the Stadium.

23. Accreditation Centre

- 23.1. Where applicable, Stadiums shall be equipped with a dedicated area for the management and processing of accreditations:

	CAT A	CAT B	CAT C	CAT D	CAT E
23.1.1. Dedicated accreditation centre	✓	✓	△	△	△

- 23.2. The accreditation centre shall be designated for non-ticketed persons requiring access to the Stadium and for resolving any issues relating to accreditation. The location of the accreditation centre shall be accessible outside any security-controlled area (such as the Stadium perimeter) to ensure easy public access.
- 23.3. The accreditation centre shall be functionally divided as follows:
- 23.3.1. a reception area for person(s) applying for or collecting accreditation;
 - 23.3.2. a waiting area for persons pending accreditation processing; and
 - 23.3.3. an administration area for staff responsible for processing applications and producing accreditations.

24. IT Systems

- 24.1. All Stadiums shall have access to a flexible and adaptive communications cabling infrastructure. In the event of a single point of failure, it must be ensured that such failure only affects a limited and isolated area of the Stadium. The infrastructure shall support the continuity of service and operations across the rest of the Stadium.
- 24.2. Stadiums shall provide the necessary space and infrastructure as required by the AFC for mobile operators to install their systems and solutions in order to ensure sufficient mobile network coverage, including, without limitation, during high spectator volume on Match days.
- 24.3. In respect of the Wireless LAN (WIFI) connectivity at the Stadium, it is recommended that the Host Organisation implements a system that supports multiple users and high user density, with prioritised access provided to certain user groups, such as Media and Stadium operations. Public and private traffic shall be segregated from the AFC's operational network to ensure security and performance integrity.
- 24.4. In addition to VAR systems, the AFC may require the implementation of other technologies such as camera-based goal-line technology. If requested by the AFC, the Host Organisation shall provide the necessary power and data infrastructure to enable the implementation and operation of such football technologies.

SECTION 4: FACILITIES FOR THE BROADCAST PARTNERS AND MEDIA

25. Media Centre

- 25.1. Each Stadium shall be equipped with a media centre that can accommodate the following minimum number of Media as per the respective Stadium Category:

	CAT A	CAT B	CAT C	CAT D	CAT E
25.1.1. Minimum number of Media	200	100	50	30	20

- 25.2. The Media centre shall be located on the same side as the media tribune, press conference room and mixed zone, preferably on the same side as the main stand and team dressing rooms.
- 25.3. The Media centre shall be adequately air-conditioned or heated, depending on the prevailing weather conditions of the Venue, and equipped with the following unless otherwise instructed by the AFC:
- 25.3.1. tables, chairs, power sockets and internet connection;
 - 25.3.2. an enterprise-grade office multi-function printer (MFP-colour) with all relevant consumables (including, without limitation, paper, toner and cartridges);
 - 25.3.3. a secure storage room or individual lockers for Media representatives; and
 - 25.3.4. information services, catering and/or transport office.
- 25.4. A separate office within the Media centre for the AFC and LOC media officers shall be provided if requested by the AFC.
- 25.5. A separate office or dedicated area within the media centre for a professional camera repair service shall be provided if requested by the AFC.
- 25.6. There shall be a direct and secure access route for the Media from the Media centre to the press conference room, Media tribune and mixed zone.

26. Media Tribune

- 26.1. Stadiums shall be equipped with a Media tribune that can accommodate the following minimum number of Media as per the respective Stadium Category:

	CAT A	CAT B	CAT C	CAT D	CAT E
26.1.1. Minimum number of Media	200	100	50	30	20

- 26.2. The Media tribune shall preferably be located in a central position and on the same side as the media centre, press conference room and mixed zone.
- 26.3. The Media tribune shall be equipped with the following, unless otherwise instructed by the AFC:
 - 26.3.1. seats with desks and equipped with power supply and wired and wireless internet connection. The desks shall be big enough to accommodate a laptop computer and note pad;
 - 26.3.2. observation seats (seats without desks);
 - 26.3.3. photographer seats in the front row; and
 - 26.3.4. enclosed and/or non-enclosed commentary positions.
- 26.4. The Host Organisation shall provide a secure and convenient access route for the Media from the Media tribune to the Media centre, press conference room and mixed zone.

27. Press Conference Room

- 27.1. Stadiums shall be equipped with a press conference room that can accommodate the following minimum number of Media as per the respective Stadium Category:

	CAT A	CAT B	CAT C	CAT D	CAT E
27.1.1. Minimum number of Media	100	80	50	30	20

- 27.2. The press conference room shall be adequately air-conditioned or heated, depending on the prevailing weather conditions of the Venue, and equipped with the following unless otherwise instructed by the AFC:
 - 27.2.1. desks and chairs arranged in theatre setup, and the chairs shall be equipped with foldable tabletops;
 - 27.2.2. a podium at the front, together with tables and chairs, large enough to accommodate at least four (4) persons and a backdrop;
 - 27.2.3. a stable camera platform at the rear, raised above the floor to ensure unobstructed views of the podium and interviewees;
 - 27.2.4. a wireless broadband internet connection to support a minimum of fifty (50) users or more as requested by the AFC, which shall be dedicated with a minimum symmetrical bandwidth of 10 Mbps, dynamic host configuration protocol (DHCP) and all ports open so virtual private networks can be used;
 - 27.2.5. a multi-output audio split box at the camera platform to distribute public address (PA) audio to ENG cameramen;

- 27.2.6. a sound system (which includes microphones, an audio mixer, loudspeakers and, in the case of simultaneous interpretation, booths and headsets); and
- 27.2.7. sufficient lighting at the podium for broadcast coverage.
- 27.3. The press conference room shall preferably be located on the same level as the team dressing room areas and mixed zone with easy access from broadcast and Media areas.
- 27.4. There shall be a secure, and convenient access route for the Media from the press conference room to the Media centre, Media tribune and mixed zone.
- 27.5. There shall be a dedicated entrance and exit for the Official Team Delegation.
- 27.6. There shall be a dedicated entrance and exit for the Media.

28. Mixed Zone

- 28.1. Stadiums shall be equipped with a designated mixed zone area that can accommodate the following minimum backdrop size as per the respective Stadium Category:

	CAT A	CAT B	CAT C	CAT D	CAT E
28.1.1. Minimum backdrop size	22 metres	22 metres	18 metres	15 metres	15 metres

- 28.2. The mixed zone shall be well-lit and located in an area along the pathway to and from the team dressing rooms and the team drop-off area.
- 28.3. The mixed zone shall be secured and accessible to the Official Team Delegation, Host Broadcaster, Broadcast Partners and Media.
- 28.4. The dimensions of the mixed zone shall be specified by the AFC and divided into two (2) areas as follows:
 - 28.4.1. broadcast (for Host Broadcaster and Broadcast Partners); and
 - 28.4.2. press (for written journalists, radio reporters and non-rights holders).
- 28.5. A single mixed zone shall only be used for Official Team Delegations and shall be sufficiently lit to facilitate broadcast coverage.
- 28.6. There shall be a secure and convenient access route for the Media from the mixed zone to the media centre, media tribune, and press conference room.

29. Photographers' Seats

- 29.1. Host Organisations shall provide seating for photographers at pitch-side positions which are equipped with chairs and wired and wireless internet connections.

- 29.2. In principle, photographers shall work behind the advertising boards behind the goals. If space and safety considerations permit, the AFC may (at its sole discretion) grant approval for photographers to work behind the advertising boards along the touch line opposite the team benches.

30. Interview Positions

- 30.1. Stadiums shall make available positions for the Official Team Delegations to be interviewed after the respective Matches. The dedicated positions shall be placed along the route from the pitch side to the team dressing room, depending on the availability of space.
- 30.2. A flash interview area within the Field of Play measuring a minimum of 2m x 2.5m for each position shall be designated and shall, where applicable, accommodate a backdrop containing the AFC’s approved Commercial Affiliates.

31. Internet Connectivity

- 31.1. Host Organisations shall provide sufficient internet coverage for the number of Media representatives present, in accordance with the following minimum levels:
- 31.1.1. minimum 10 Mbps to be shared between the Media working area and Media seating;
 - 31.1.2. greater bandwidth for photographers for their higher upload usage at Matches; and
 - 31.1.3. wireless networks with password-protection.
- 31.2. All internet connections shall be provided free of charge to the Media.

32. Broadcast Compound

- 32.1. Stadiums shall be equipped with the following minimum area for a broadcast compound as per the respective Stadium Category:

	CAT A	CAT B	CAT C	CAT D	CAT E
32.1.1. Minimum area for a broadcast compound	3,000 sqm.	2,500 sqm.	2,000 sqm.	1,500 sqm.	1,000 sqm.

- 32.2. The broadcast compound shall be located within the Stadium perimeter and have sufficient space for an outside broadcasting (OB) van area and satellite uplink facilities with easy access for large vehicles.
- 32.3. The broadcast compound shall be secured by a perimeter fence, well-lit and manned by security personnel at all times.

- 32.4. The Host Organisation shall designate a clear cable route between the broadcast compound and all broadcast operational areas inside and outside the Stadium.
- 32.5. All cable routes inside and outside the Stadium shall be equipped with cable trays, hooks, bridges and trenches where necessary.
- 32.6. The Host Organisation shall install telecommunication cabling between the broadcast compound and Stadium main distribution frame (MDF) room to facilitate the activation of additional dedicated telecommunication services in the broadcast compound.
- 32.7. The broadcast compound shall have a specified number of office cabins of various sizes as requested by the AFC at its sole discretion.

33. Broadcast Power

- 33.1. Stadiums shall be equipped with a local grid power source which shall be accessible to the Host Broadcaster and Broadcast Partners.
- 33.2. The Host Broadcaster and Broadcast Partners will be responsible for the installation of additional temporary power solutions for their activities and/or operations and all related costs, if and when required.

34. Camera Positions

- 34.1. Stadiums shall be equipped with the following minimum number of camera positions and/or platforms as per the respective Stadium Category:

	CAT A	CAT B	CAT C	CAT D	CAT E
34.1.1. Minimum number of camera positions/ platforms	18	10	7	7	4

- 34.2. If additional camera positions are required by the AFC, the Host Organisation shall install the necessary overlay solution, including, without limitation, the removal of seats within the Stadiums to accommodate such camera positions.
- 34.3. All camera positions and related activities are subject to the written approval of the AFC, to be given at its sole discretion.
- 34.4. All camera positions shall have an unobstructed view of the entire Field of Play and its immediate vicinity with seats blocked where necessary.
- 34.5. All camera platforms shall be stable, secure and surrounded by guard rails for safety purposes. The standard single camera platform is 3 square metres.
- 34.6. In an effort to enhance the broadcast production, the Host Broadcaster may require additional camera positions and/or to modify the camera position(s). Subject to the availability of space and any safety and security considerations, such camera positions may be approved by the AFC on a case-by-case basis in consultation with the Host Organisation and at the AFC's sole discretion.

- 34.7. Depending on the Competition, the specific requirements of local broadcasters shall be considered, including, without limitation, the need for specialty camera systems such as spider-cams suspended from roof structures.

35. Commentary Positions

- 35.1. Stadiums shall be equipped with the following minimum number of enclosed and non-enclosed commentary positions as per the respective Stadium Category:

	CAT A	CAT B	CAT C	CAT D	CAT E
35.1.1. Minimum number of commentary positions	12	10	8	6	2

- 35.2. Commentary positions shall be located on the same side as the main camera position and have unobstructed views of the entire Field of Play.
- 35.3. Enclosed commentary positions shall be adequately air-conditioned or heated, depending on the prevailing weather conditions of the Venue.
- 35.4. Non-enclosed commentary positions, which ideally shall be part of the media tribune, shall have sufficient space to accommodate three (3) commentators per position.
- 35.5. Each enclosed and non-enclosed commentary position shall be equipped with power sockets and telecommunication sockets for telephone, internet and integrated service digital network (ISDN). Telecommunication sockets shall be cabled to the Stadium main distribution frame (MDF) room to facilitate the activation of telecommunication services at the commentary positions.

36. Presentation Studios and Platforms

- 36.1. Stadiums shall be equipped with the following minimum number of enclosed spaces for use as presentation studios and/or platforms as per the respective Stadium Category:

	CAT A	CAT B	CAT C	CAT D	CAT E
36.1.1. Minimum number of enclosed spaces	✓ Min. 2	✓ Min. 2	✓ Min. 2	✓ Min. 1	△ Min. 1

- 36.2. Presentation studios shall have an unobstructed view of the Field of Play.
- 36.3. Each presentation studio shall be adequately air-conditioned or heated, depending on the prevailing weather conditions of the Venue.
- 36.4. In the event a suitable facility does not exist within the Stadium, the Host Organisation shall provide an allocated space for a temporary studio to be constructed, which may entail the removal of seats.
- 36.4.1. Any seats lost due to security implementation and all safety-related approval and security measures are the responsibility of the Host Organisation.

37. Cabling Infrastructure

- 37.1. Where applicable, Stadiums shall be equipped with cabling infrastructure (e.g. cable routes, cable bridges, trenches, etc.):

	CAT A	CAT B	CAT C	CAT D	CAT E
37.1.1. Cabling infrastructure	✓	✓	△	△	△

- 37.2. The cabling infrastructure shall enable the Host Broadcaster and Broadcast Partners to install all cables safely and securely.

37.2.1. Access to any pre-existing cable systems in the Stadium where requested shall be provided free of charge by the respective Host Organisation.

- 37.3. The cabling infrastructure shall not cause any obstruction or present a safety hazard. Necessary measures shall be taken by the Host Organisation to ensure that cables are as unobtrusive as possible within the Stadium and the area surrounding the Field of Play (including, without limitation, cable bridges, cable covers, cable hooks and Stadium dressing).

38. Broadcast Observer Seats

- 38.1. Stadiums shall be equipped with the following minimum number of broadcast observer seats in addition to the seating requirements in the media tribune as per the respective Stadium Category:

	CAT A	CAT B	CAT C	CAT D	CAT E
38.1.1. Minimum number of broadcast observer seats	50 seats	40 seats	30 seats	20 seats	10 seats

39. Broadcast Parking Area

- 39.1. Stadiums shall be equipped with the following minimum number of dedicated parking spaces for Broadcast Partners as per the respective Stadium Category:

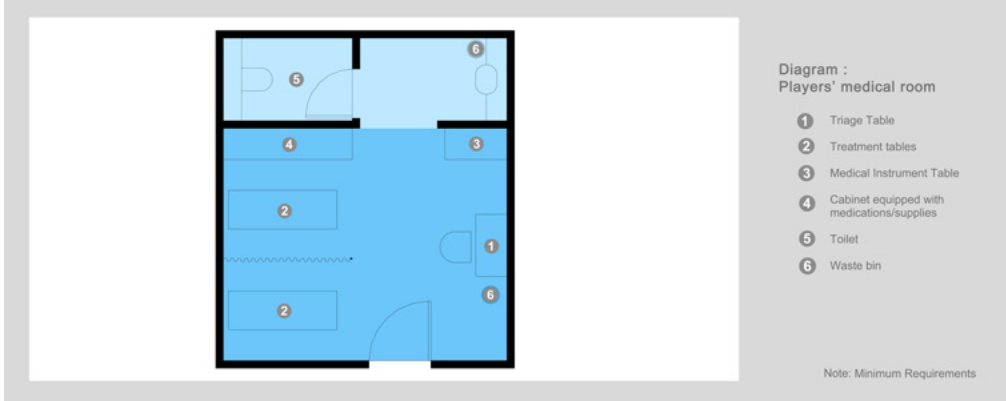
	CAT A	CAT B	CAT C	CAT D	CAT E
39.1.1. Minimum number of parking spaces	80	60	40	30	25

- 39.2. Such parking spaces shall be also located near the Broadcast Partners' working area and/or Media entrance.

SECTION 5: FACILITIES FOR MEDICAL MATTERS AND DOPING CONTROL

40. Infrastructure Requirements

- 40.1. Each Stadium shall have a minimum of one (1) fully equipped medical room for the medical care of the Official Team Delegations.
 - 40.1.1. Such medical room shall be located in the tunnel close to the Field of Play and team dressing rooms for the emergency treatment of seriously injured members of the Official Team Delegations.
 - 40.1.2. Such medical room shall be equipped with a built-in washbasin with running water.
 - 40.1.3. Further facilities and requirements for the medical rooms are set out in the Manual and the STA (where applicable).



Medical room layout (example)

- 40.2. Each Stadium shall have at least one (1) fully equipped doping control room for Participating Players.
 - 40.2.1. The doping control room shall have a separate waiting area and sampling area in the room, with a minimum space of 16 square metres for each area.
 - 40.2.2. The following sanitary facilities shall be available adjacent or next to the sampling area with private access to:
 - 40.2.2.1. one (1) washbasin and mirror;
 - 40.2.2.2. one (1) toilet; and
 - 40.2.2.3. one (1) shower.

40.2.3. Further facilities and requirements for the doping control rooms are set out in the Manual and the STA (where applicable).



Doping control room layout (example)

SECTION 6: FACILITIES FOR SPECTATORS

41. Spectator Capacity

41.1. Stadiums shall be equipped with the following minimum spectator capacity as per the respective Stadium Category:

	CAT A	CAT B	CAT C	CAT D	CAT E
41.1.1. Minimum spectator capacity	20,000	10,000	5,000	3,000	250

41.2. From the total capacity of the Stadium, a certain percentage of the seating shall be allocated for visiting spectators as determined by the AFC at its sole discretion.

42. Roof

42.1. Stadiums shall be equipped with roofs in the following areas as per the respective Stadium Category:

	CAT A	CAT B	CAT C	CAT D	CAT E
42.1.1. Main stand	✓	✓	✓	✓	△
42.1.2. Opposite stand	✓	✓	△	△	△
42.1.3. All seats	✓	△	△	△	△

43. Stands

43.1. Each stand within a Stadium shall be capable of being divided into separate sectors or tribunes, each with its own access points, refreshment outlets, toilet facilities and other essential services, such as spectators’ medical centres, security stations and areas for stewards and marshals.

43.1.1. Barriers, which are in accordance with national law and approved by the local authorities, shall be used to sub-divide such sectors or tribunes. The Host Organisation shall ensure it is possible to see through the barriers for safety reasons.

43.1.2. The barriers shall prevent spectators from moving from a sector or tribune or sub-sector to another, unless and to the extent, required for the Stadium’s evacuation process.

43.2. The use of temporary stands is prohibited unless otherwise approved by the AFC at its sole discretion.

44. Seating

- 44.1. Stadiums shall be equipped with the following seats as per the respective Stadium Category:

	CAT A	CAT B	CAT C	CAT D	CAT E
44.1.1. Separated individual seats	✓	✓	✓	△	△

- 44.2. Seats shall be affixed to the structure (e.g. the floor) and comfortably shaped, with backrests to provide support.

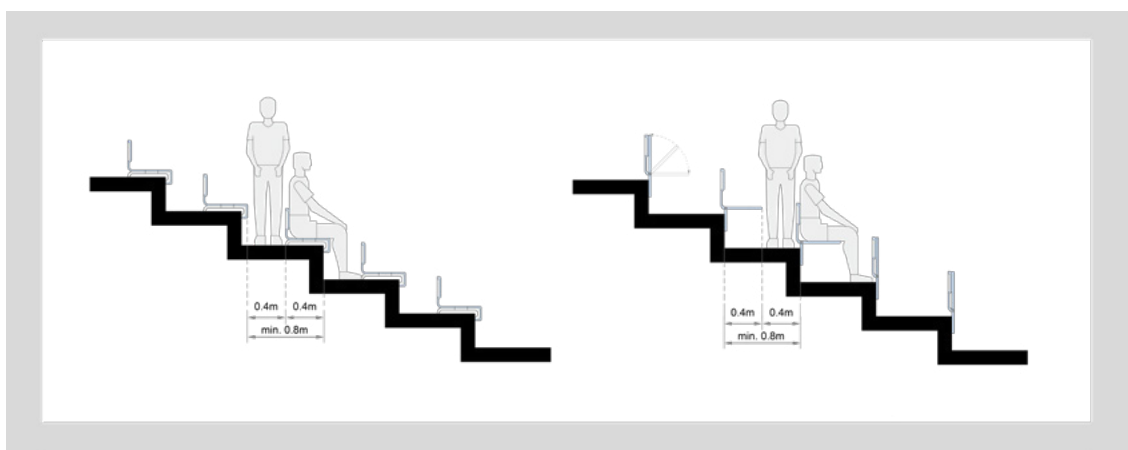
44.2.1. Seats shall be unbreakable, fireproof and capable of withstanding the rigours of the prevailing climate.

44.2.2. There shall be sufficient legroom between the rows of the seats behind from the row of the seats in front to ensure that spectators' knees do not touch the seats in front and simultaneously do not obstruct the pathway. To achieve reasonable leg room, a minimum distance of 80 centimetres from backrest to backrest is recommended.

44.2.3. The pathway between the rows of seats shall ensure that there is easy access for spectators to move in and out of the rows even when they are full.

- 44.3. Row identification shall be clearly exhibited in the passageways or aisles in an easy-to-find location on the outside of the end seat.

- 44.4. All seats shall be numbered in a way that makes them clearly, easily and immediately identifiable.



Stadium seating (example)

45. Food and Beverage

- 45.1. Stadiums shall be equipped with refreshment and catering facilities for spectators.
- 45.2. Food and beverage concessions shall be designed to include spaces where the spectators can gather once they have bought their refreshments. These spaces shall be away from the main queueing zones.

46. Merchandise and Retail Stores

- 46.1. The presence and use of merchandising and retail facilities within the Stadium perimeter shall be subject to the AFC's prior written approval at all times. The AFC also reserves the right to operate its own and/or its Commercial Affiliates' merchandising and/or retail store(s) within the Stadiums.

47. VVIP and VIP Tribune Seats and Lounges

- 47.1. Stadiums shall be equipped with the following dedicated area for VIPs and VVIPs as per the respective Stadium Category:

	CAT A	CAT B	CAT C	CAT D	CAT E
47.1.1. VIP Tribune Seats	✓	✓	✓	△	△
47.1.2. VVIP Tribune Seats	✓	✓	△	△	△
47.1.3. VIP Lounge	✓	✓	✓	△	△
47.1.4. VVIP Lounge	✓	✓	△	△	△

- 47.2. The VVIP Tribune and VIP Tribune seats (where applicable) shall be located in the main stand, under a covered area and positioned as close to the halfway line as possible.
- 47.3. To achieve reasonable leg room, a minimum distance of 90 centimetres from backrest to backrest is recommended.
- 47.4. The VVIP Tribune and lounge, and VIP Tribune and lounge (where applicable), shall be strictly controlled and protected from unauthorised persons or cross-over from other groups, including, without limitation, spectators and Media.
- 47.5. The VVIP Tribune and lounge, and VIP Tribune and lounge (where applicable), shall be separated, with each having dedicated entrances and exits.

48. Entrances and Exits

- 48.1. Where applicable, Stadiums shall be equipped with an electronic ticket control system to prevent the use of counterfeit tickets and to provide real-time flow and entrance data to prevent overcrowding:

	CAT A	CAT B	CAT C	CAT D	CAT E
48.1.1. Electronic ticket control system	✓	✓	△	△	△

- 48.2. Entry gates and/or turnstiles shall be installed and designed in such a way as to avoid congestion and ensure the smooth flow of spectators.
- 48.3. All public passageways, stairways and gates in the spectator area shall be painted in bright colours.
- 48.4. Single-sided locking mechanisms shall be installed on exit doors and gates (i.e. locks which are operable only from one designated side, with the opposite side being non-lockable and designed solely for passage or access).
- 48.5. Double-sided locking mechanisms shall be installed on gates leading to the Field of Play (i.e. locks which are operable from both sides, allowing access control from either side of the door or entry point).
- 48.5.1. All locks shall remain in an unlocked state unless actively locked from the designated side.
- 48.6. Routes leading to/from a Stadium shall be adequately signposted (e.g. by means of pictograms) to easily guide spectators to their sectors and all turnstiles. Entry, exit gates and doors shall be operational and similarly clearly indicated by signs which are universally understood.
- 48.6.1. Prominent, clearly visible signage that easily guides spectators to sanitary facilities, concessions, retail outlets, exits and other customer services shall be provided by the Host Organisation.
- 48.7. The circulation space available immediately outside the exit gates shall be sufficient to guarantee that spectators are not at risk of being crushed in the event of a stampede and/or in any other circumstances and that the spectators can leave the Stadium comfortably.

49. Stadium Access Routes

- 49.1. Stadiums shall be equipped with the following dedicated access routes for each of the following areas as per the respective Stadium Category:

	CAT A	CAT B	CAT C	CAT D	CAT E
49.1.1. Official Team Delegation and Match Officials	✓	✓	✓	△	△
49.1.2. VIP	✓	✓	✓	△	△
49.1.3. VVIP	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
49.1.4. AFC Delegation	△	△	△	△	△
49.1.5. Media and Broadcast Partner	✓	△	△	△	△
49.1.6. Public	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

- 49.2. The access routes from the drop-off point to the final destination shall be fully secured from other functional areas.

50. Emergency Lighting System

- 50.1. Stadiums shall be equipped with an emergency lighting system approved by the competent local authorities. The emergency lighting system shall be utilised in the event of a general lighting failure in the Stadium to which the public has access, including, without limitation, to all exit and evacuation routes.

51. Venue Operation Centre

- 51.1. Stadiums shall be equipped with a venue operation centre that meets the following requirements as per the respective Stadium Category:

	CAT A	CAT B	CAT C	CAT D	CAT E
51.1.1. Overall view of the Stadium interior and exterior	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
51.1.2. Television surveillance system with screen monitors that feature pan, tilt, and zoom capabilities, covering all entrances, approaches, public areas, and blind spots and also ensuring an overall view of the vicinity of the Stadium, including, without limitation, entrances and viewing areas within the entire Stadium	✓	✓	✓	△	△
51.1.3. Communication facilities enabling communication between staff and officials for safety and security purposes	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

52. Public Address System

- 52.1. Stadiums shall be equipped with a powerful and reliable public address system (PA system) to be used for infotainment programmes and ensure pre-approved messages can be delivered to the public clearly inside and outside the Stadium, including, without limitation, on and around the Field of Play.
- 52.2. The PA system shall deliver high-quality sound, without echoes and other electroacoustic defects.
- 52.3. The PA system may only be used for announcements requested by the AFC, Match Officials and local security authorities, as well as for announcements related to the Match (e.g. goal scorers, substitutions, attendance, minimum additional time decided by the Referee, etc.) and infotainment activities as approved by the AFC.
 - 52.3.1. The PA system may not be used to disseminate commercial messages (apart from the AFC's approved Commercial Affiliates' promotions) without the written approval of the AFC at its sole discretion.
- 52.4. Host Organisations shall provide an emergency alternative power supply to ensure the PA system remains operative, without interruption, in the event of a power failure for a minimum period of three (3) hours.

53. Sanitary Facilities

- 53.1. The Host Organisation shall ensure that a sufficient number of permanent, clean and hygienic sanitary facilities is available in every sector. Such facilities shall be accessible and distributed evenly throughout all sectors. The sanitary facilities shall operate for as long as spectators have access to the Stadium. These areas shall be bright, clean and hygienic and be kept in consistently hygienic condition throughout each Match day.
- 53.2. Sanitary facilities shall be equipped with:
 - 53.2.1. seated toilets;
 - 53.2.2. urinals that flush (for male section);
 - 53.2.3. sinks with clean water;
 - 53.2.4. toilet paper;
 - 53.2.5. towels and/or hand dryers; and
 - 53.2.6. filled soap dispensers firmly fixed in place.
- 53.3. Sanitary facilities shall be provided based on the following minimum ratios:
 - 53.3.1. one (1) seated toilet and one (1) sink per two hundred fifty (250) male spectators;

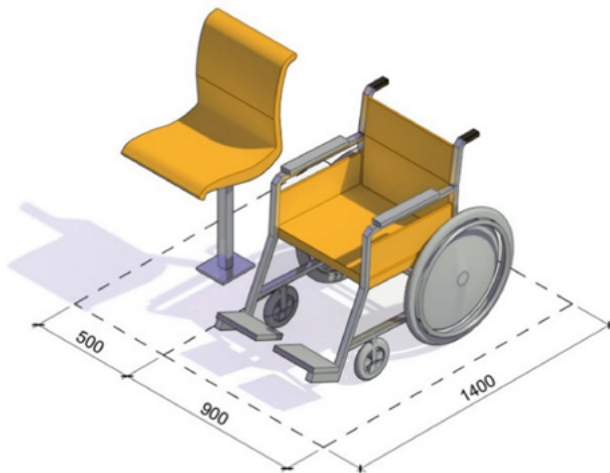
- 53.3.2. one (1) urinal per one hundred twenty-five (125) male spectators;
- 53.3.3. one (1) seated toilet and one (1) sink per one hundred twenty (120) female spectators in the home sectors; and/or
- 53.3.4. one (1) seated toilet and one (1) sink per eighty (80) female spectators in the visiting sector.

54. First Aid Facilities

- 54.1. Fully equipped first aid facilities, approved by the competent local authorities, shall be made available for spectators in each sector of the spectator areas. Details of the facilities and requirements are set out in the Manual.
- 54.2. The first aid facilities shall be clearly identified and access to such facilities shall be clearly signposted.

55. Facilities for Spectators with Disabilities

- 55.1. Stadiums shall have dedicated access and seats for spectators with disabilities and their respective helpers.
- 55.2. The recommended dimensions for a wheelchair position with sufficient space for a helper are 1.4 metres x 1.4 metres (minimum), allowing a width of 900 millimetres for the wheelchair and 500 millimetres for the helper's seat.



Wheelchair user and helper space requirements (example)

- 55.3. Stadiums shall have dedicated sanitary facilities, refreshment and catering facilities in the vicinity of such seats.
- 55.4. The safety of visually impaired and blind spectators and disabled people shall include, without limitation, easy access (both entry and exit), toilet facilities and support services.

56. Parking for Spectators

- 56.1. All parking places shall be on-site, affording spectators direct entrance to the Stadium.
- 56.2. The car parks around the Stadium shall be brightly lit and clearly signposted, with numbered and/or lettered sectors. Parking places shall be guarded and secure against unauthorised intrusion and theft.
- 56.3. Where an outer Stadium perimeter is implemented, the majority of car parking facilities shall be located outside this perimeter with the exception of dedicated and marked parking areas for the Official Team Delegations, VVIPs, VIPs, Broadcasters' technical vehicles, equipment and emergency services.

57. VVIP and VIP Parking

- 57.1. There shall be sufficient parking space in the Stadium compound, which shall be located near the VVIP and VIP entrance, for cars used by VVIPs and VIPs. This parking space is separate from public car parks.

SECTION 7: FACILITIES FOR COMMERCIAL AFFILIATES

58. Promotional Areas

- 58.1. Upon request, Host Organisations shall provide the Commercial Affiliates with a designated area and facilities free of charge based on the AFC’s instructions.
- 58.2. The space provided shall be a minimum of 40 square metres in a suitable condition with associated storage rooms and parking areas to enable Commercial Affiliates to carry out their promotions.

59. Hospitality Areas and Facilities

- 59.1. Where applicable, Stadiums shall be equipped with a dedicated hospitality area:

	CAT A	CAT B	CAT C	CAT D	CAT E
59.1.1. Hospitality area	✓	✓	✓	△	△

- 59.2. The hospitality areas and facilities shall include, without limitation, skyboxes, corporate boxes, lounges and suites for the use of the AFC during the Competition period, unless otherwise instructed by the AFC.
- 59.3. It is recommended that a space of at least 1.2 square metres per guest is provided within the facility areas.

60. Concession Stands

- 60.1. Host Organisations shall ensure that the AFC and its Commercial Affiliates are provided with sufficient space and appropriate infrastructure (including, without limitation, access to power supply and wireless internet connection). The Host Organisation shall provide details to the AFC of any fixed concession stands, including, without limitation, the type of items being sold and the layout of the concession stands in the Stadium.
- 60.2. Concession stands shall be placed in a way that will attract spectators without causing congestion in the Stadium concourses.
- 60.3. The AFC reserves the right to disapprove the set-up of concession stands and/or the position of the concession stands in the Stadium at its sole discretion.

61. Signage

- 61.1. Signage at the Stadiums shall be comprehensible to all.
- 61.2. The purpose of wayfinding is to ensure that the route from outside the Stadium to the spectator seat, lounge or other destination is clear. Signage shall facilitate convenient navigation between the local transport system, car parks, fan zones, entrances and areas within the Stadium. The Host Organisation shall clearly define the following information on the signage:

- 61.2.1. Stadium sectors;
 - 61.2.2. entrance gates;
 - 61.2.3. levels;
 - 61.2.4. seating blocks;
 - 61.2.5. seating rows; and
 - 61.2.6. individual seats.
- 61.3. Safety signage shall communicate emergency egress and evacuation routes, first-aid and emergency medical facilities, and include signs that identify prohibited access and prohibited behaviours (e.g. smoking).

SECTION 8: CLOSING PROVISIONS

62. Disciplinary Measures

- 62.1. Failure to comply with any matter set out within these Regulations is an offence and may be sanctioned accordingly by the AFC Disciplinary and Ethics Committee.
- 62.2. All disciplinary measures in relation to these Regulations shall be undertaken in accordance with the current AFC Statutes, AFC Disciplinary and Ethics Code and any relevant AFC circular.

63. Decisions

- 63.1. All decisions made in accordance with these Regulations, except where expressly identified otherwise, are final and binding and not appealable in accordance with the AFC Statutes.

64. Amendments

- 64.1. The AFC reserves the right to make amendments to any part of these Regulations for any reason whatsoever. Such amendments shall be duly communicated in due course.

65. Force Majeure

- 65.1. The AFC Competitions Committee is the only body capable of declaring a Force Majeure event pursuant to these Regulations.

66. Matters Not Provided For

- 66.1. Matters not provided for in these Regulations shall be decided by the AFC Competitions Committee. Such decisions are final and binding and not appealable.

67. Implementing Provisions

- 67.1. The AFC General Secretariat is entrusted with the operational management of these Regulations and is therefore entitled to make decisions and adopt the detailed provisions necessary for implementing these Regulations.

68. Enforcement

- 68.1. These Regulations were ratified by the AFC Executive Committee on 11 February 2026 and, subject to Articles 68.2 and 68.3 below, came into force immediately.
- 68.2. These Regulations shall be applicable to: (i) all AFC club Competitions from the 2026/27 sporting season onwards; and (ii) all AFC national team Competitions taking place from 1 June 2026 onwards.
- 68.3. For the avoidance of doubt, the AFC Stadium Regulations Edition 2021 shall remain in force for the purposes of any Competitions taking place prior to the dates referred to in Article 68.2.

For the AFC Executive Committee

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