

FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup Portugal 2015 – AFC Qualifier Qatar Regulations

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DEFINITIONS

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

Accommodation	Any location approved by the AFC which provides accommodation to the AFC Delegation.
Accreditation Card	Any physical item which is issued by the AFC and/or the AFC Commercial Rights Partner which provides the recipient the right to access a Controlled Access Area (or part thereof) where the Controlled Access Area is under the control of the AFC or the Organising Association.
Advertising Rights	The right to promote brand and/or corporate names and/or products and/or services at and/or in relation to the Competition by whatever means available, whether existing now or to be developed in the future, whether at the Stadia or Facility Areas or within the Controlled Access Areas, in association with the Competition Marks and/or AFC Marks, by in-stadium/out-stadium perimeter signage and other advertising, digital signage and screens, closed circuit television, equipment usage or other methods and through printed matter (including digitally delivered printed matter) such as programmes, posters, letterheads, press releases, newsletters and Tickets, and subject to any AFC regulations the right to display such advertising on the clothing or footwear worn, or on any equipment used, carried or transported by officials (including for the avoidance of doubt referees and linesmen), medical and security staff, ballboys, player escorts, flag bearers and/or photographers. The display of the name and/or logo of the bona fide supplier of clothing on the strip of the uniforms of the officials are also included. For the avoidance of doubt, advertising on the strip of Participating Players is excluded, other than where it is the trade mark of the bona fide manufacturer and is in accordance with any FIFA and/or AFC regulations. Similarly, branding on any equipment, goods and/or services used in connection with a Competition, save where supplied by a Licensee, may only include customary branding of the bona fide manufacturer and may not be associated in any way with the Commercial Rights.
AFC	The Asian Football Confederation.

AFCAS	The AFC Administration System, the AFC's online competition management and registration system.
AFC Commercial Rights Partner	The entity appointed by the AFC as the sole and exclusive representative of the AFC with regard to the sale of the Commercial Rights (or any part thereof) and the provision of services in relation thereto.
AFC Committee	One (1) or more (as the context defines) of the Standing Committees of the AFC as promulgated within the AFC Statutes.
AFC Delegation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) AFC staff; (ii) Match Officials; (ii) AFC Committee members; (iii) AFC guests; and (iv) other persons officially Accredited or to be Accredited at the directive of the AFC.
AFC Futsal and Beach Soccer Committee	The AFC's internal organising committee for the Competition which has been appointed in accordance with the AFC Statutes, and which has ultimate authority over all matters relating to the organisation of the Competition.
AFC Marks	All design marks, slogans, designations, names, logos, insignia, emblems or devices (in any application) owned and/or controlled by the AFC (in any language) relating to the AFC itself, but excluding the Competition Marks.
AFC Website	http://www.the-afc.com
Beach Soccer Worldwide	The AFC Commercial Rights Partner.
Broadcaster	Any entity, including the Host Broadcaster, which has acquired from the AFC or the AFC Commercial Rights Partner, any rights in respect of the Media Rights of

the Competition.

Champion	The Participating Team who is the Winner in the Final.
Commercial Rights	Advertising Rights, Concession Rights, Hospitality Rights, Image Rights, Media Rights, Merchandise Rights, Promotional Rights, Sponsorship Rights, and Travel and Tour Rights.
Competition	The FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup Portugal 2015 – AFC Qualifier Qatar, which includes without limitation, all Matches as set out in the Match Schedule, all activities on the Field of Play (other than Matches), opening ceremonies, presentation or closing ceremonies, press conferences or Official Functions connected therewith.
Competition Data	Any and all information related to the Competition, including fixture lists, Image Rights, information and/or statistics about the Participating Teams and/or Participating Players, information and/or statistics about their participation and/or performance in the Competition, Match analysis, Referee decisions, and any other information in relation to the Competition.
Competition Marks	Either cumulatively, or individually: (i) the competition logo officially adopted by the AFC as a visual design symbol of the Competition; (ii) any mascot officially adopted by the AFC for the Competition; (iii) any two-dimensional representation of the Competition trophy; (iv) the official name of the Competition (in any language); and/or (v) any and all current and future trademarks, and/or logos, and/or copyrights and/or designs whether or not registered or applied for and whether registered in part or in whole including any present and/or future names, designations, symbols, logos or identifying music or sounds of the AFC or the Competition, the AFC Commercial Rights Partner, the AFC Fair Play name and device mark, and other artistic and

autographic representations in one, two or three dimensional proportions used by or in association with the Competition.

Concession Rights	Sampling, vending, display and other distribution methods and payment methods connected therewith for and of products or services, including pourage rights at the Stadia and Facility Areas.
Controlled Access Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) any Stadium;(ii) any Official Training Site;(iii) any official hotel (public areas being excepted), subject to and to the extent agreed in any executed hotel agreement;(iv) any official exclusion zone encircling a Stadium on a Match day;(v) any official parking area, accreditation centre, broadcast compound, and/or hospitality area;(vi) the venue of any Official Function;(vii) any official AFC fan park;(viii) Facility Areas; and/or(ix) any other location and/or facility designated by the AFC as a Controlled Access Area and to which access is permitted only to those in possession of an Accreditation Card, Ticket, and/or other officially-sanctioned entry permit.
Digital Media	Any digitalised media (including the AFC Website and any related Competition website) created by the AFC in relation to the Competition, including but not limited to any mobile website, mobile application (app), online video channel, data product, photo-sharing account, social media account, and any further form of digital media developed herewith.
Extra Time	The additional period(s) of time which shall be played in accordance with these Regulations should there be no Winner at the conclusion of a Match.

Facility Areas	The location of Official Functions, ceremonies, press centres, ticket offices, competition hotels, media areas (including without limitation areas used for viewing of any public exhibition), sponsor village areas (including without limitation “AFC fan park” areas, and areas used for the activation of the Commercial Rights), official hospitality areas (including without limitation areas used for the exploitation of the Hospitality Rights), and information centres controlled by or on behalf of the AFC and used in connection with the Competition whether at the Stadium or elsewhere at the Venues.
Field of Play	The area described in the Beach Soccer Laws of the Game issued by FIFA.
FIFA	The Federation International de Football Association.
Final	The final Match of the Competition which determines the Champion.
Fixed Media	Any magnetic, electronic or digital storage device or method including without limitation DVD, VHS or CD-ROM.
Football Association	The controlling body for football within a country or territory recognised by the AFC.
Force Majeure	Any event affecting the performance or any provision of these Regulations arising from or attributable to acts, events, omissions or accidents which are beyond the reasonable control of a party, and shall include but not be limited to abnormally inclement weather, flood, lightning, storm, fire, explosion, earthquake, structural damage, epidemic or other natural disaster, failure or shortage of power supplies, war, terrorist action, military operations, riot, crowd disorder, strike, lock-outs or other industrial action, or civil commotion.
Group Stage	The first stage of the Competition held in accordance with these Regulations.

Hospitality Rights	The opportunity to offer and sell hospitality and entertainment facilities at the Venues or within the Controlled Access Areas in combination with the Tickets as may be purchased from the Organising Association whether such facilities are in boxes, marquees or otherwise, but excluding those private facilities reserved for AFC officials and its guests not forming part of the Commercial Rights.
Host Broadcaster	The organisation appointed by the AFC to ensure and provide the production of the broadcast signals of the Matches and other events of the Competition, and the provision of all related services in accordance with the Media Rights.
Host City	Any city and/or identifiable metropolitan area in which any Match is staged.
Image Rights	The right to use still and/or moving images and/or representations of images of Participating Teams and Participating Players, all members of the AFC Delegation, Team Official Delegations, Referees, and Match Officials, forming part of the Competition.
Knockout Stage	The second stage of the Competition held in accordance with these Regulations.
Licensee	Any entity to which the AFC or the AFC Commercial Rights Partner has granted any aspect of the Commercial Rights in respect of the Competition, including but not limited to Official Sponsors, Official Supporters, Official Licensees and Official Media Partners.
Loser	The Participating Team at the conclusion of a Match who is not the Winner.
Match	A beach soccer match in its entirety (including a replayed and/or deferred beach soccer match, Extra Time and Penalty Kicks) which takes place as part of the Competition in accordance with the Match Schedule
Match Officials	Individually or collectively, any official appointed to

one of the following roles in relation to any aspect of a Match in the Competition:

- (i) Head of Delegation;
- (ii) General Coordinator;
- (iii) Match Commissioner;
- (iv) Referee Assessor;
- (v) Media Officer;
- (vi) Security Officer;
- (vii) Medical Officer;
- (viii) Technical Analyst; and,
- (ix) any other official designation which the AFC deems to be required.

Match Schedule

The official schedule which sets out, without limitation, the dates and times on which Matches will be played, the Stadia at which the Matches will be played, and the names of the Participating Teams.

Media

Any individual entitled to a media Accreditation Card as determined by the AFC.

Media Rights

The right and license to produce, edit, and transmit, for intelligible reception throughout the world in any language and in any format, and on any platform including film, Fixed Media, Digital Media, games, internet, public exhibition, radio, mobile, and television, visual, audio-visual, and/or audio signal and/or image or recording (including without limitation the basic feed, multi feeds, additional feeds, audio feeds, a feed incorporating competition data, basic feed, and unilateral feeds) of the Competition, and all interview activities and action during and forming part of the Competition including Official Functions and the Image Rights by any and all means of transmission distribution, exhibition and reception, now existing or hereinafter developed including but not limited to analogue, digital, satellite cable and interactive communication systems, on a live, delayed, and unlimited repeat basis, in full or in part (including without limitation by way of clips and/or highlights

and/or support programmes and/or magazine shows and/or news access), and all rights to exploit any and all commercial opportunities (including for example broadcast sponsorship and commercial airtime opportunities) arising from and/or in connection with such rights.

Member Association	A Football Association which is a member of the AFC.
Merchandise Rights	The right to exploit the Competition Marks and/or Official Status in connection with the promotion, manufacture, packaging, distribution and sale of goods and services of all kinds, including items of clothing, coins, medals, other collectibles and premiums related to the Competition.
Official Function	<p>Any event which is officially organised or sanctioned by the AFC or the AFC Commercial Rights Partner in connection with the Competition.</p> <p>For the avoidance of doubt, this expressly includes, without limitation, all matches and/or events held at Official Training Sites, the opening ceremony, the closing ceremony, any AFC gala dinner, lunch, or banquet, cultural events, official press conferences, and launch events.</p>
Official Training Site	Any site designated by the Organising Association and approved by the AFC for use by the Participating Teams throughout the duration of the Competition for training purposes.
Organising Association	The Member Association approved by the AFC to organise, stage, and host Matches in the Competition in conjunction with the AFC Commercial Rights Partner.
Participating Official	Any official who is registered as part of a Team Official Delegation in the Competition.
Participating Player	Any player who is registered as part of a Team Official Delegation in the Competition.
Participating Team	A representative team of a Member Association who is

approved to participate in the Competition.

Penalty Kicks	“Kicks from the Penalty Mark” as described in the Beach Soccer Laws of the Game.
Promotional Rights	Any rights to official publications, official suppliers, official products, sales promotion including but not limited to the right to organise promotional competitions (including without limitation any sweepstakes or lotteries) and to make awards and give prizes, official music rights, the right to use an official designation and all other rights of commercial value in regard to the Competition.
Proprietary Interests	Without limitation, intellectual property, copyright and analogous rights, trademark rights, moral rights, performing rights, personality rights, and all remedies available under the applicable laws of unfair competition comprised in the Commercial Rights. For the purpose of this definition, “moral rights” shall mean a privilege, right, or claim which is based on moral considerations or ethical principles and which should be recognised by law, but which may not be legally imposed or enforced as such.
Quarter Final	The first round of Matches in the Knockout Stage.
Referee	Any individual appointed to officiate a Match in the Competition in the role of referee, second referee, third officials, or timekeeper.
Regulations	These Competition Regulations.
Runner Up	The Participating Team who is the Loser in the Final.
Semi Final	The second round of Matches in the Knockout Stage.
Sponsorship Rights	An association with the Competition by any combination of Commercial Rights.
Stadium	Any stadium at which a Match is played. For the

avoidance of doubt, this includes:

(i) the entire premises (to the extent that a valid Accreditation Card or Ticket is required in order to gain access) of a stadium facility inside the outer stadium perimeter fence and (on Match days and any day on which any official Team practice session takes place within the stadium), the aerial space above such stadium premises;

(ii) parking facilities;

(iii) VIP and hospitality areas (including any hospitality village);

(iv) the media tribune;

(v) concessions areas;

(vi) commercial display areas;

(vii) buildings;

(viii) the Field of Play;

(ix) any broadcast compound or stadium media centre;

(x) any stands; and,

(xi) any areas beneath the stands.

Team Official Delegation The Final Registration of a Participating Team for the Competition which shall comprise of a maximum twelve (12) Participating Players and seven (7) Participating Officials.

Travel and Tour Rights The exclusive right to organise and/or sub-license official travel and tour activities in relation to the Competition, which travel and tour activities shall, for the avoidance of doubt, include the provision of Tickets to a Match and/or Official Function of the Competition.

Venue The Host City and immediate surrounding area in which a Stadium is located.

Winner The Participating Team who scores the higher number

of goals in a Match, or where applicable, the higher number of Penalty Kicks.

For the purposes of these Regulations, 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) reference to natural persons shall include any legal person or corporation; and
- (d) references to the AFC shall include its successors and permitted assigns and, in relation to the availability of the Commercial Rights, its respective Member Associations, Football Associations, and AFC Committees.

SECTION 1: FIFA BEACH SOCCER WORLD CUP PORTUGAL 2015 – AFC QUALIFIER QATAR

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup Portugal 2015 – AFC Qualifier Qatar is an official tournament sanctioned by FIFA. This Competition shall also serve as the AFC Beach Soccer Championship 2015. The AFC stages the Competition biannually for Participating Teams.
- 1.2. These Regulations set out the rights, duties, and responsibilities of the AFC and the Participating Teams taking part in the Competition.
- 1.3. These Regulations and all directives, decisions, guidelines, and circulars issued by the AFC shall be binding upon all parties participating and involved in the preparation, organisation, and hosting of the Competition.
- 1.4. Any rights associated with the Competition that are not granted by these Regulations and/or specific agreements to any Member Association belong to the AFC.
- 1.5. The AFC Statutes and all AFC and FIFA regulations in force at the time of entry into the Competition shall apply. Any reference to the AFC Statutes and to AFC and FIFA regulations refer to those valid at the time of application.
- 1.6. The AFC has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the AFC Commercial Rights Partner to, *inter alia*, organise and stage the Competition on behalf of the AFC. All directives, decisions, guidelines, and circulars approved by the AFC and issued by the AFC Commercial Rights Partner shall be binding upon all parties participating and involved in the preparation, organisation, and hosting of the Competition.

SECTION 2: RESPONSIBILITIES

2. The Asian Football Confederation

- 2.1. The AFC Futsal and Beach Soccer Committee shall be responsible for organising the Competition in accordance with the AFC Statutes. The AFC General Secretariat shall carry out the necessary administrative work in support of the AFC Futsal and Beach Soccer Committee, in conjunction with the AFC Commercial Rights Partner.
- 2.2. The responsibilities of the AFC (and/or the AFC Commercial Rights Partner) shall include, but are not limited to:
 - 2.2.1. supervising general preparations and deciding on the Competition format, the draws, and the entries to the Competition;
 - 2.2.2. determining the Match Schedule;
 - 2.2.3. selecting Stadia for the Competition;
 - 2.2.4. appointing Match Officials for each Match;
 - 2.2.5. choosing the official football and stipulated technical material;
 - 2.2.6. reporting cases where appropriate to the AFC Disciplinary Committee;
 - 2.2.7. replacing Participating Teams that have withdrawn from the Competition;
 - 2.2.8. dealing with cases of abandoned Matches or cancelled Matches;
 - 2.2.9. dealing with cases of force majeure;
 - 2.2.10. providing insurance coverage for any AFC staff, Referees, and Match Officials appointed to any Match from the time of their departure from their home Member Association to their departure from the Organising Association; and
 - 2.2.11. dealing with any other aspect of the Competition that is not the responsibility of any other body of the AFC pursuant to these Regulations or the AFC Statutes.
- 2.3. All decisions made by the AFC Futsal and Beach Soccer Committee are final and binding and not appealable.
- 2.4. All decisions made by the AFC Disciplinary Committee in relation to the Competition are subject to the operation of the AFC Disciplinary Code.

3. Participating Teams and Member Associations

- 3.1. The principal obligations and responsibilities of each Participating Team and its Member Association are stipulated in the Participating Team Agreement (hereinafter, PTA), these Regulations, the AFC Statutes, and all other AFC regulations, directives, guidelines and circulars.
 - 3.1.1. A Participating Team (and its Member Association) that has qualified for the Competition must submit a PTA.
 - 3.1.2. The PTA shall be completed and submitted to the AFC not later than the deadline provided by the AFC via facsimile, electronic mail, and registered post.
 - 3.1.3. Failure to submit the PTA to the AFC by the deadline shall result in the non-participation of the Participating Team.
- 3.2. Each Participating Team shall ensure as a condition of its participation that every member of its Team Official Delegation for each Match is aware of and agrees to comply with the PTA.
- 3.3. Each Participating Team shall undertake to:
 - 3.3.1. observe all obligations set out in the PTA, these Regulations, the AFC Statutes, and all other AFC regulations, directives, guidelines and circulars, and applicable national and supra-national laws;
 - 3.3.2. comply with the Beach Soccer Laws of the Game as issued by FIFA;
 - 3.3.3. accept that all the administrative, disciplinary and refereeing matters connected with the Competition shall be settled by the AFC or the AFC Commercial Rights Partner in compliance with these Regulations;
 - 3.3.4. field their strongest team throughout the Competition;
 - 3.3.5. observe the principles of Fair Play;
 - 3.3.6. ensure the good conduct of its Team Official Delegation who have been provided with an Accreditation Card and of any person carrying out duties on its behalf throughout the Competition, which includes but is not limited to their arrival on the territory of the Organising Association until their departure;
 - 3.3.7. accept all the arrangements made by the Organising Association in agreement with the AFC;

- 3.3.8. attend and participate in all official activities and events, including without limitation any team arrival meeting, match coordination meeting, press conferences, and other media and marketing activities in accordance with the instructions issued by the AFC;
 - 3.3.9. failure to attend any official activity or event shall result in the Participating Team being fined a minimum of USD5,000;
 - 3.3.10. provide to the AFC, prior to the Competition, statistics and photographs of its Participating Players and Participating Officials, historical information related to its Participating Team and approved Stadium (including photographs), and any further data as requested and in accordance with instructions issued by the AFC; and
 - 3.3.11. link the official URL for the Competition on its official website.
- 3.4. Each Participating Team (and its Member Association), at their own expense, are solely responsible throughout the Competition for:
- 3.4.1. the insurance coverage of its Team Official Delegation (including but not limited to, hospitalisation and surgical operations, team equipment), for all Matches;
 - 3.4.2. all other necessary insurance policies, which must provide an appropriate guaranteed sum for injury and damage to persons, objects, and property, and correspond to the specific circumstances of the Participating Team. Such policies must cover all risks connected with the staging of the Competition, exempt the AFC from all claims and liabilities, and name the AFC as a co-insured. The AFC must be notified of all insurance policies, and may request copies of any and all policies at its discretion.
 - 3.4.3. payment of all Accommodation expenses incurred by its Team Official Delegation; and
 - 3.4.4. obtaining visas to enter the territory of the Organising Association no later than one (1) month prior to the Competition. This includes all costs related to the visa application process.
- 3.5. Each Participating Team and/or its Member Association shall indemnify, defend, and hold the AFC and all of its officers, directors, employees, representatives, agents, and all other auxiliary persons free and harmless against any and all liabilities, obligations, losses, damages, penalties, claims, actions, fines, and expenses (including reasonable legal expenses) of whatsoever kind or nature resulting from, arising out of, or attributable to, any non-compliance with these

Regulations by the Member Associations, Participating Teams, their Team Official Delegation, their affiliates and any third-parties contracted to the Participating Teams or Member Associations.

- 3.6. The Champion, Runner-Up, and third-placed Participating Team shall qualify directly and undertake, if required, to take part in the following competitions:
 - 3.6.1. the FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup Portugal 2015; and
 - 3.6.2. any intercontinental competition(s) arranged by the AFC with other confederations.
- 3.7. Participating Teams are not authorised to represent the AFC or the Competition without the prior written approval of the AFC.
- 3.8. All Participating Players and Participating Officials ensure their presence at the AFC Awards Night in the 2015 calendar year if they are nominated for an annual AFC award.

4. Organising Association

- 4.1. The principal obligations and responsibilities of the Organising Association are regulated in its agreement with the AFC Commercial Rights Partner, these Regulations, all AFC directives, decisions, guidelines, and circulars, as well as the AFC Statutes and various AFC regulations.
- 4.2. For the duration of the Competition, the Organising Association, in cooperation with the relevant government authorities, is responsible for:
 - 4.2.1. payment of all taxes, fees, duties and any other costs related to the importation and/or exportation of equipment, merchandise and/or goods to be used for the Competition;
 - 4.2.2. concluding all necessary insurance in connection with the staging and organising of Matches, including third-party liability and spectator accident coverage;
 - 4.2.3. guaranteeing law and order as well as safety at each Venue; and,
 - 4.2.4. complying with all guidelines and instructions issued by the AFC and/or the AFC Commercial Rights Partner.
- 4.3. The Organising Association(s) shall discharge the AFC and hold it harmless from all responsibility and relinquish any claim against the AFC and the members of its delegation for any damages resulting from any act or omission relating to

the organisation of the Competition to the exclusion of damages caused by AFC or the members of its delegation acting with intent or gross negligence.

- 4.4. The Organising Association shall ensure that any decision made by the AFC Organising Committee relating to its duties and responsibilities is enforced immediately.

5. Security and Safety

- 5.1. The Organising Association shall, in conjunction with the AFC Commercial Rights Partner and relevant government authorities and/or Stadium owners, devise, plan, and implement adequate security and safety measures for the Competition at all Controlled Access Areas within the Venue and other relevant locations to protect all relevant persons, including without limitation the AFC Delegation, Referees, Team Official Delegations, Licensees, Broadcasters, Media, and spectators.
- 5.2. The Organising Association shall issue a detailed security plan in the form of a binding agreement with, without limitation, the management of the Stadium, Official Training Site(s), and the Accommodation of the AFC Delegation, Referees, and Team Official Delegations. This security plan shall be based upon the principles set out in the FIFA Stadium and Safety Regulations.

SECTION 3: ENTRY, WITHDRAWAL, MATCH SCHEDULE, COMPETITION SYSTEM

6. Entry

- 6.1. Entry to the Competition is at the invitation of the AFC.
- 6.2. Eligible Participating Teams shall complete a PTA and submit it to the AFC in accordance with Article 3.
- 6.3. All decisions by the AFC regarding entry to the Competition are final and binding and not appealable.

7. Withdrawal Prior to Commencement of the Competition

- 7.1. Any Participating Team that withdraws or is excluded from the Competition prior to its commencement may be replaced by another Participating Team.
- 7.2. The AFC Futsal and Beach Soccer Committee shall be responsible for making any necessary decisions, including without limitation whether to:
 - 7.2.1. replace the Participating Team;
 - 7.2.2. change the competition system; and/or
 - 7.2.3. change the technical rules.
- 7.3. All decisions of the AFC Futsal and Beach Soccer Committee in this regard are final and binding and not appealable.
- 7.4. Any Participating Team who withdraws from the Competition in accordance with Article 7 may be referred to the AFC Disciplinary Committee.

8. Withdrawal After Commencement of the Competition

- 8.1. Any Participating Team that:
 - 8.1.1. withdraws from the Competition after it has commenced; or
 - 8.1.2. does not report for any of its Matches; or
 - 8.1.3. refuses to continue any of its Matches at any stage; or
 - 8.1.4. leaves the Stadium prior to the completion of any of its Matches,shall be considered to have withdrawn from the Competition after its commencement.

- 8.2. The Participating Team that withdraws from the Competition after it has commenced shall:
- 8.2.1. have all its Matches cancelled and considered null and void. For the avoidance of doubt, all points and goals in those Matches shall not be taken into consideration when determining the final rankings in the Group Stage pursuant to Article 11.5;
 - 8.2.2. be required to pay compensation for any and all damages or losses suffered by, where applicable, the other Participating Team(s), the AFC, the AFC Commercial Rights Partner, Licensees, Broadcasters, and the Member Associations. The amount of compensation shall be determined by the AFC Executive Committee;
 - 8.2.3. be disqualified from participating in the next two (2) editions of the Competition;
 - 8.2.4. be disqualified from participating in any tournaments listed in Article 3.6, if qualification has been attained; and
 - 8.2.5. be referred to the AFC Disciplinary Committee for possible additional sanctions.
- 8.3. The above Articles 8.1 and 8.2 are not applicable in cases of Force Majeure recognised by the AFC Futsal and Beach Soccer Committee.
- 8.4. The AFC Futsal and Beach Soccer Committee shall take whatever action it deems necessary in cases of Force Majeure.
- 9. Match Schedule**
- 9.1. All Matches shall be played according to Match Schedule.
- 9.2. The Match Schedule shall be determined following the official draw for the Competition. The date and format of the official draw shall be determined by the AFC Futsal and Beach Soccer Committee.
- 9.3. The AFC Futsal and Beach Soccer Committee retains final discretion to amend the Match Schedule. Such amendments are final and binding and not appealable.
- 10. Competition System**
- 10.1. The Competition shall consist of two (2) stages:
- 10.1.1. the Group Stage; and

10.1.2. the Knockout Stage.

10.2. The AFC Futsal and Beach Soccer Committee shall decide upon the format of the competition system. Such decisions are final and binding and not appealable.

10.3. Depending on the number of entries, or in the case of withdrawal or suspension of any Participating Teams, the AFC Futsal and Beach Soccer Committee may change the competition system and/or technical rules. Such decisions are final and binding and not appealable.

11. Group Stage

11.1. The fifteen (15) Participating Teams entered in the Group Stage shall be undertaken in accordance with the Manual. They shall be drawn into three (3) groups of four (4) teams each and one (1) group of three (3) teams.

11.2. Each Participating Team shall play once against the other Participating Teams within its group in accordance with the Match Schedule.

11.3. The duration of Matches shall be played in accordance with Articles 14–16.

11.4. At the conclusion of each Match:

11.4.1. three (3) points shall be awarded to the Winner in normal time;

11.4.2. two (2) points shall be awarded to the Winner in Extra Time;

11.4.3. one (1) point shall be awarded to the Winner via Penalty Kicks; and

11.4.4. zero (0) points shall be awarded to the Loser.

11.5. The ranking in each group shall be determined in descending order as follows:

11.5.1. greatest number of points obtained in all group Matches;

11.5.2. if two (2) or more Participating Teams are equal on the basis of the above criterion, their rankings will be determined as follows:

11.5.2.1. greatest number of points obtained in the group Matches between the Participating Teams concerned;

11.5.2.2. greatest goal difference resulting from the group Matches between the Participating Teams concerned;

11.5.2.3. greatest number of goals scored in all group matches between the Participating Teams concerned;

11.5.2.4. greatest goal difference in all group Matches;

11.5.2.5. greatest number of goals scored in all group Matches;

11.5.2.6. drawing of lots by the AFC.

11.6. On the basis of Article 11.5, at the conclusion of the Group Stage:

11.6.1. the first-placed and second-placed Participating Team in each group shall qualify for the Knockout Stage; and

11.6.2. the third-placed and (where applicable) fourth-placed Participating Team in each group shall be eliminated from the Competition.

12. Knockout Stage

12.1. The Knockout Stage shall consist of the Quarter Finals, Semi Finals, Semi Finals (5-8), 3-4 Playoff, 5-6 Playoff, 7-8 Playoff, and Final, all played in a single match knockout system.

12.2. Each round of the Knockout Stage shall be conducted in accordance with the Match Schedule.

12.3. The duration of Matches, including Extra Time and Penalty Kicks (if required), shall be played in accordance with Articles 14 to 16.

12.4. The Quarter Finals shall be contested as follows:

Quarter Final (QF) 1: Winner Group C vs Runner-Up Group D;

QF2: Winner Group D vs Runner-Up Group C;

QF3: Winner Group A vs Runner-Up Group B;

QF4: Winner Group B vs Runner-Up Group A.

12.5. The Semi Finals and Semi Finals (5-8) shall be contested as follows:

Semi Final (SF) 1: Winner Q1 vs Winner Q3;

SF2: Winner Q2 vs Winner Q4;

SF1 (5-8): Loser Q1 vs Loser Q3;

SF2 (5-8): Loser Q2 vs Loser Q4.

12.6. The 3-4 Playoff, 5-6 Playoff, and 7-8 Playoff shall be contested as follows:

3-4 Playoff: Loser SF1 vs Loser SF2;

5-6 Playoff: Winner SF1 (5-8) vs Winner SF2 (5-8);

7-8 Playoff: Loser SF1 (5-8) vs Loser SF2 (5-8).

12.7. The Final shall be contested as follows:

Final: Winner SF1 vs Winner SF2.

SECTION 4: TECHNICAL REGULATIONS

13. Matches Played in Accordance with the Laws of the Game

13.1. All Matches shall be played in accordance with the Beach Soccer Laws of the Game issued by FIFA.

13.2. In case of any discrepancy in the interpretation of the Beach Soccer Laws of the Game, the English version shall prevail and is authoritative.

13.3. Only five (5) starting Participating players and five (5) substitutes listed on a Match Starting List (*cf* Article 31) may take part in a Match.

13.4. At any stage of a Match, if a Participating Team is only able to field fewer than three (3) players, the Match shall be abandoned and Article 18.3 shall apply.

14. Duration of Matches

14.1. Each Match shall last thirty six (36) minutes, comprising of three (3) periods of twelve (12) minutes (**normal playing time**). Matches shall start at the time set out in the Match Schedule.

14.2. There shall be an interval of three (3) minutes between the periods, commencing from the whistle ending a period and ending upon the whistle starting the subsequent period.

15. Extra Time

15.1. If no Winner is determined at the end of normal playing time, Extra Time shall be played.

15.2. Extra Time shall consist of one (1) period of three (3) minutes, with administration time at the end of normal playing time.

16. Determining the Winner by Penalty Kicks

16.1. If a Match is level after Extra Time, Penalty Kicks shall be taken to determine the Winner, in accordance with the procedures described in the Beach Soccer Laws of the Game.

16.2. If Penalty Kicks cannot be completed because of weather conditions or for any Force Majeure reason, the result shall be decided by the drawing of lots by the Referee in the presence of the Match Commissioner and the two (2) captains of the Participating Teams.

16.3. If, through the fault of a Participating Team, the Penalty Kicks cannot be completed, Article 8 of these Regulations shall apply.

17. Cancellation of Matches

17.1. If a Match cannot commence on time due to Force Majeure, the pitch not being fit for play, weather conditions, floodlight failure or any other reason, the following procedure shall be followed:

17.1.1. the Match must be delayed for a minimum of thirty (30) minutes. During this delay, the Referee may decide that the Match can commence prior to the completion of the delay;

17.1.2. following the first delay, either:

17.1.2.1. an additional delay of thirty (30) minutes shall occur if in the discretion of the Referee this second delay may allow the Match to commence; or

17.1.2.2. the Match is declared cancelled by the Referee;

17.1.3. following two (2) delays of thirty (30) minutes, the Referee must declare the Match cancelled;

17.1.4. within two (2) hours of the decision to cancel the Match, the AFC must decide, taking all sporting and organisational considerations into account, whether the Match can be rescheduled, or whether any other action and decision is needed to continue with the Competition. Any disciplinary sanctions resulting from the cancelled Match shall remain in force.

17.2. Decisions made pursuant to Article 17.1.4 are final and binding and not appealable.

18. Abandonment of Matches

18.1. If a Match is stopped by the Referee before the end of normal playing time or during any Extra Time due to Force Majeure, the pitch not being fit for play, weather conditions, floodlight failure, or any other reason except for that set out in Article 13.4, the following procedure shall be followed:

18.1.1. the Match is stopped for thirty (30) minutes. During this stoppage, the Referee may decide that the Match can commence prior to the completion of the stoppage;

18.1.2. subsequent to the first stoppage, either:

18.1.2.1. an additional stoppage of thirty (30) minutes shall occur if in the discretion of the Referee this second stoppage may allow the Match to be resumed; or

- 18.1.2.2. the Match is declared abandoned by the Referee;
 - 18.1.3. following two (2) stoppages of thirty (30) minutes, the Referee must declare the Match abandoned;
 - 18.1.4. within two (2) hours of the decision to abandon the Match, the AFC must decide, taking all sporting and organisational considerations into account, whether the Match result at the time of abandonment is valid, whether the Match can be rescheduled and completed, or whether any other action and decision is needed to continue with the Competition.
- 18.2. Should the AFC, pursuant to Article 18.1.4, determine that an abandoned Match should be rescheduled and completed, the following principles shall apply:
- 18.2.1. the Match shall recommence with the same score at the minute at which play was interrupted rather than being replayed in full;
 - 18.2.2. the Match shall recommence with the same Participating Players on the Field of Play and same substitutes at the time it was initially abandoned;
 - 18.2.3. no additional substitutes may be added to the Player Selection List or Match Starting List;
 - 18.2.4. the Participating Teams may only make the number of substitutions to which they were still entitled when the Match was abandoned;
 - 18.2.5. any Participating Player sent off during the abandoned Match cannot be replaced;
 - 18.2.6. any sanction imposed before the Match was abandoned remain valid for the remainder of the rescheduled Match;
 - 18.2.7. the kick-off time, date and Stadium of the re-scheduled Match shall be decided by the AFC; and
 - 18.2.8. any other matters not set out above shall be decided by the AFC in its sole discretion.
- 18.3. If a Match is stopped by the Referee before the end of normal playing time or during any Extra Time as a result of a Participating Team being able to only field fewer than three (3) Participating Players, the Match shall be declared abandoned and the Participating Team who is able to field more than three (3) Participating Players shall be declared the Winner by the score 3-0, or the score at the time of abandonment, whichever is higher.

18.4. Decisions made pursuant to Article 18.1.4 and Article 18.2.8 are final and binding and not appealable.

19. Stadium

19.1. Unless stipulated in these Regulations, Matches must be played in a Stadium which complies with:

19.1.1. any relevant AFC or FIFA Stadium Regulations;

19.1.2. any relevant AFC Marketing & Media Regulations; and

19.1.3. any other safety and security standards issued by or contained within relevant AFC guidelines, directives, or circulars.

19.2. The Stadium to be utilised shall be nominated by the Organising Association and subject to inspection and confirmation by the AFC.

19.3. The AFC Commercial Rights Partner shall ensure that no Matches and/or other activities are held at the Stadium at least ten (10) days prior to the Competition, unless written permission has been obtained from the AFC. The Stadium shall be made available to the AFC at least two (2) days prior to the first Match of the Competition until one (1) day after the final Match of the Competition, unless expressly specified or directed otherwise.

20. Field of Play

20.1. The AFC Commercial Rights Partner shall ensure that the Field of Play is in playable condition.

20.2. The Match Commissioner will inspect each Stadium prior to the Match and ensure that all arrangements are in accordance with the Beach Soccer Laws of the Game. If the conditions of the Field of Play including the dimension of the goal and field are not in accordance with the Beach Soccer Laws of the Game, the Match Commissioner shall issue instructions to ensure rectification.

20.3. All Matches shall be played on a Field of Play in accordance with the Beach Soccer Laws of the Game

20.4. If there is any doubt regarding the condition of the Field of Play prior to the Match, the Referee shall decide whether the Field of Play is playable. If the Referee declares that the Match cannot commence on time, Article 17 shall apply.

21. Team Bench and Technical Area

- 21.1. A maximum of three (3) Participating Officials and a maximum of five (5) Participating Players are permitted to sit on the team bench during a Match, provided they are in possession of the appropriate Accreditation Card.
- 21.1.1. In addition to the three (3) Participating Officials, the Participating Team may appoint one (1) interpreter to sit on the team bench during a Match, upon request to and approval of the AFC.
- 21.1.2. For the avoidance of doubt, the interpreter shall be one of the seven (7) Participating Officials registered in the Team Official Delegation.
- 21.2. Participating Officials and Participating Players on the team bench must wear their Accreditation Card at all times.
- 21.3. All individuals on the team bench must wear kit that contrasts with the kit of the Participating Players and Referees present on the Field of Play. This kit must comply with the AFC Equipment Regulations (*cf* Article 48).
- 21.4. Team A shall occupy the team bench on the left when facing the Field of Play when viewed from the Timekeeper Bench.
- 22. Warming up**
- 22.1. Each Participating Team shall be entitled to warm-up on the Field of Play before a Match if possible. Participating Teams will be advised accordingly by the AFC and/or AFC Commercial Rights Partner if the warm-up is not possible.
- 23. Official Training Sessions at the Stadium**
- 23.1. Depending on the weather and condition of the Field of Play, each Participating Team is entitled to an official training session of forty five (45) minutes duration in the Stadium in which are due to play either one (1) or two (2) days prior to their first Match.
- 23.2. The Field of Play must be prepared to match-condition for official training sessions. If the Field of Play is not in match-condition, the Match Commissioner may shorten or cancel the official training session and direct the Participating Teams to inspect the Field of Play only.
- 23.3. If a Participating Team chooses not to train at a Stadium, they must provide the Match Commissioner with the time and location of their official training session at another designated Official Training Site approved by the AFC. This shall be treated as their official training session and they shall forfeit the right to train at that particular Stadium.
- 23.4. The Organising Association is required to provide at least one (1) ambulance during the official training session at the Stadium.

24. Footballs

- 24.1. The footballs for the Competition shall be selected and supplied by the AFC.
- 24.2. Each Participating Team shall be provided ten (10) footballs for their official training session. Such training footballs remain the property of the AFC Commercial Rights Partner.
- 24.3. Participating Teams are only permitted to use the training footballs provided by the AFC for training and warming-up purposes.
- 24.4. Participating Teams that utilise training balls not provided by the AFC shall be referred to the AFC Disciplinary Committee.

SECTION 5: TEAM OFFICIAL DELEGATION

25. Eligibility of Players

25.1. Each Participating Team shall ensure that all players:

25.1.1. are duly registered with the AFC pursuant to these Regulations;

25.1.2. hold the nationality of its country and are subject to its jurisdiction;

25.1.3. are eligible to participate for the representative team of the Member Association in accordance with Article 5-8 of the Regulations Governing the Application of the FIFA Statutes.

25.2. Individuals who meet the criteria set out in Article 25.1 are Participating Players and eligible to participate in the Competition, subject to the provisions of the AFC Disciplinary Code.

25.3. The approval of the registration of a Participating Player by the AFC General Secretariat does not automatically provide for the eligibility of the Participating Player. Each Participating Team is responsible for and bears the onus of fielding only eligible Participating Players in a Match. Failure to do so shall lead to the consequences stipulated in the AFC Disciplinary Code.

25.4. A Participating Player shall be deemed ineligible, without limitation, if:

25.4.1. there is a violation of Article 25.1; or

25.4.2. he participates in a Match contrary to a decision of the AFC Disciplinary Committee, these Regulations, or the operation of the AFC Disciplinary Code; or

25.4.3. the AFC determines that any document submitted during registration is false.

26. Stages of Registration of Players

26.1. There are three (3) stages of player registration:

26.1.1. Preliminary Registration: each Member Association must submit a squad of minimum ten (10) players and maximum eighteen (18) players (*cf* Article 28);

26.1.2. Final Registration: each Member Association must submit minimum ten (10) players and maximum twelve (12) players from the Preliminary Registration squad (*cf* Article 29).

- 26.1.3. Player Selection List: each Member Association must submit a Player Selection List prior to each Match which identifies the starting five (5) and up to five (5) substitutes (*cf* Article 30).
- 26.2. Throughout the Competition, each Participating Player shall wear the same number allocated during the Final Registration. Jersey number 1 shall be reserved for a goalkeeper.
- 26.3. Each column in the “AFC Official Registration Form for Players” must be completed with the correct information.
- 26.4. Any individual with missing documentation shall not be eligible for registration as a Participating Player.
- 26.5. All Participating Players will be issued with Accreditation Cards authorised by the AFC Futsal and Beach Soccer Committee. Should a card be misplaced, the relevant Member Association shall be required to pay USD1,000 (one thousand US Dollars only) as a replacement production fee.
- 26.6. Should the AFC not receive the “AFC Official Registration Form for Players” with all required documents by the stipulated deadline, the Member Association concerned shall be considered to have withdrawn from the Competition in accordance with Article 7.
- 27. Documents for Registration of Players**
- 27.1. Participating Players must be registered on the “AFC Official Registration Form for Players” submitted via the AFCAS online system, with the supporting documents set out below (unless already previously submitted to the AFC and available in AFCAS):
- 27.1.1. “AFC Official Registration Form for Players”;
- 27.1.2. a colour copy of a validly-issued passport, containing the full name, passport number, date of birth, date of issue, date of expiry and nationality of the relevant individual. Group passports shall not be accepted;
- 27.1.3. a colour copy of a national identification card (where applicable);
- 27.1.4. one (1) passport-size colour photo (taken within three (3) months of the registration)
- 27.2. In cases of registration of players who have acquired a new nationality (*cf* Article 7, Regulations Governing the Application of the FIFA Statutes), the

Member Association concerned must additionally provide the supporting documents set out in **Appendix 1**.

27.3. In cases of registration of players who hold a passport entitling them to represent more than one Football Association (*cf* Article 6, Regulations Governing the Application of the FIFA Statutes), the Member Association must provide the supporting documents set out in **Appendix 2**.

27.4. The AFC reserves the right to request additional documents than those set out above.

28. Preliminary Registration

28.1. Each Member Association shall submit to the AFC via the AFCAS online system, the “AFC Official Registration Form for Players” and the supporting documents in accordance with Article 27 by **23 February 2015**.

28.2. Each Member Association shall register no less than ten (10) players and no more than eighteen (18) players for the Competition in the Preliminary Registration squad.

28.3. If a Member Association fails to register a minimum of ten (10) players, it shall be considered to have withdrawn in accordance with Article 7.

28.4. Each Member Association must register a minimum of two (2) goalkeepers in their Preliminary Registration squad.

28.5. Once the “AFC Official Registration Form for Players” has been received by the AFC, and after the deadline has passed, under no circumstances shall Member Associations be permitted to submit additional names or replace any registered individual, even if their quota of eighteen (18) players has not been filled.

29. Final Registration

29.1. Member Associations are required to submit a Final Registration squad of minimum ten (10) players and maximum twelve (12) players one (1) day before the Match Coordination Meeting.

29.1.1. The Final Registration squad may only be comprised from those maximum eighteen (18) players selected in the Preliminary Registration squad.

29.1.2. The Participating Players must be assigned jerseys numbered from 1-18. Number 1 shall be reserved for a goalkeeper.

29.2. Member Associations must register a minimum of two (2) goalkeepers in their Final Registration squad.

29.3. Once the Final Registration squad has been received by the AFC, Member Associations may replace any of the registered Participating Players up to six (6) hours prior to their first Match in the Competition, subject to the below conditions:

29.3.1. Any replacement player(s) must have been registered in the Preliminary Registration squad.

29.3.2. Replacement players shall only be allocated vacant shirt numbers.

29.3.3. To replace a Participating Player, a Member Association must provide his Accreditation Card to the Match Commissioner. The Match Commissioner shall provide the Accreditation Card of the replacement player in exchange.

29.3.4. Only when a replacement player has received his Accreditation Card will he be considered to be registered as a Participating Player and eligible to participate in the Competition.

30. Player Selection List

30.1. For each Match in the Competition, each Participating Team will receive a 'Player Selection List' on which the numbers and full names (last name, first name) of up to twelve (12) Participating Players are listed prior to their arrival at the Stadium.

30.2. Each Participating Team must indicate on the Player Selection List the five (5) Participating Players, including the team captain, who will start the Match and the five (5) Participating Players who are designated as either substitutes, suspended or not selected.

30.3. Each Participating Team must hand their Player Selection List together with the 'Officials on the Team Bench' List with the names of the three (3) Participating Officials who shall be entitled to sit on the team bench to the AFC Match Commissioner at latest seventy five (75) minutes prior to the commencement of each Match.

30.4. Failure to adhere with Article 30 shall result in the matter being referred to the AFC Disciplinary Committee.

31. Match Starting List

31.1. Upon receipt of the Player Selection List, the Match Commissioner will produce, through AFCAS, the 'Match Starting List'.

- 31.2. The Match Starting List must be signed by the Head Coach and Team Manager of each Participating Team and returned to the Match Commissioner, whose signature will make it an official document.
- 31.3. The Match Commissioner will ask to see the Accreditation Cards and kits of the Participating Players listed on the Match Starting List. Each Participating Player must be in possession of their Accreditation Card. Only those Participating Players possessing an Accreditation Card are entitled to participate in Matches.
- 31.4. Following the finalisation of the Match Starting List but prior to the commencement of the Match:
- 31.4.1. If any of the five (5) Participating Players selected to start the Match are unable to start for any reason, they may be replaced by any of the substitutes listed on the Match Starting List.
- 31.4.2. The Team Manager for the Participating Team shall immediately notify the Referees and the Match Commissioner of the change to the Match Starting List.
- 31.4.3. There is no limit to the number of Participating Players that may be replaced pursuant to Article 31.
- 31.5. Failure to adhere with Article 31 shall result in the matter being referred to the AFC Disciplinary Committee.

32. Registration of Officials

- 32.1. There shall only be one (1) registration period for Participating Officials.
- 32.2. Each Member Association shall submit to the AFC, the “AFC Official Registration Form for Officials” and the supporting documents by 23 February 2015.
- 32.3. Each Member Association may register maximum seven (7) Participating Officials.
- 32.3.1. Each Member Association shall nominate, at the commencement of each Match, maximum three (3) Participating Officials and if approved, one (1) interpreter in accordance with Article 21, who shall be entitled to access the Field of Play.
- 32.3.2. Each Member Association must nominate the following Participating Officials:
- 32.3.2.1. Head Coach;
- 32.3.2.2. Team Manager; and

32.3.2.3. one (1) other official of any designation.

32.3.3. Each Member Association is entitled to register a 'Video Analyst' who shall be the only member of a Team Official Delegation entitled to record Matches in the Competition. This recording shall be strictly used only for technical purposes, and should not interfere with Match operations or be utilised by any Broadcasters.

- 32.4. Each Team Manager shall be responsible for coordinating all Participating Team and media-related matters with the AFC. They shall be expected to work in a full-time, exclusive capacity from the Participating Team's arrival at the Venue until one (1) day after the Participating Team's final Match in the Competition. They shall participate in all Official Functions related to Matches in the Competition.
- 32.5. Each column in the "AFC Official Registration Form for Officials" must be completed with correct information.
- 32.6. Any individual with missing documentation shall not be eligible for registration as a Participating Official.
- 32.7. All Participating Officials will be issued with official eligibility cards authorised by the AFC Organising Committee. Should a card be misplaced, the relevant Member Association shall be required to pay USD1,000 (One Thousand US Dollars only) as a replacement production fee.
- 32.8. Should the AFC not receive the "AFC Official Registration Form for Officials" with all required documents by the stipulated deadline, the Member Association concerned shall be considered to have withdrawn from the Competition in accordance with Article 7.
- 32.9. Once the "AFC Official Registration Form for Officials" has been received by the AFC, Member Associations may replace any of the listed Participating Officials at any stage of the Competition with twenty-four (24) hours notice to the AFC, subject to the below conditions:
- 32.9.1. To replace a Participating Official, a Member Association must provide his Accreditation Card to the Match Commissioner. The Match Commissioner shall provide the Accreditation Card of the replacement official in exchange.

32.9.2. Only when a replacement official has received his Accreditation Card will he be considered to be registered as a Participating Official and eligible to participate in the Competition.

33. Documents for Registration of Officials

33.1. Participating Officials must be registered on the “AFC Official Registration Form for Officials” submitted via the AFCAS online system, with the supporting documents set out below (unless already previously submitted to the AFC and available in AFCAS):

33.1.1. “AFC Official Registration Form for Officials”;

33.1.2. a colour copy of a validly-issued passport, containing the full name, passport number, date of birth, date of issue, date of expiry and nationality of the relevant individual. Group passports shall not be accepted;

33.1.3. a colour copy of a national identification card (where applicable);

33.1.4. one (1) passport-size colour photo (taken within three (3) months of the registration).

33.2. The AFC reserves the right to request additional documents than those set out above.

34. Size of Delegation at Matches

34.1. Each Member Association shall register a Team Official Delegation comprising of maximum twelve (12) Participating Players and seven (7) Participating Officials.

34.2. The Team Official Delegation shall be granted full access to all official Competition areas, including the Field of Play (maximum three (3) Participating Officials and if approved, one (1) interpreter) and other necessary Controlled Accessed Areas, as determined by the AFC.

34.3. Each Member Association may nominate maximum three (3) Participating Officials and if approved, one (1) interpreter, to sit on the team bench. The identity of said Participating Officials must be confirmed on the ‘Officials on the Team Bench List’ to be submitted prior to the commencement of each Match.

SECTION 6: LOGISTICAL ARRANGEMENTS

35. Arrival and Departure

- 35.1. Each Participating Team shall arrive at the official hotel at the Venue of its first Match in the Competition at least two (2) days before the Match.
- 35.2. Each Participating Team shall depart the Organising Association the day following their final Match in the Competition.

36. Airfares

- 36.1. Each Member Association is responsible for payment of all airfares (international and domestic) for their Team Official Delegation from:
 - 36.1.1. their departure from the territory of their Member Association (or any other location) to the Venue of the Competition; and
 - 36.1.2. their departure from the Venue of their final Match.

37. Visas

- 37.1. Participating Teams, where applicable, must apply for all necessary visas for their Team Official Delegation no later than one (1) month prior to the Competition. The visa application costs shall be borne by the Member Association.
 - 37.1.1. Any Participating Team unable to fulfill a fixture as a result of non-compliance with Article 37 shall be considered to have withdrawn in accordance with Article 7.
- 37.2. The Organising Association must guarantee and ensure that visas are granted to the AFC Delegation, AFC Commercial Rights Partner, Licensees, Broadcasters, Media, and travelling supporters, without any discrimination on the basis of gender, race, or nationality.

38. Taxes

- 38.1. The Organising Association is responsible for all taxes, fees, duties and any other costs related to the importation and/or exportation of equipment, merchandise and/or goods to be used for the Competition.
- 38.2. The Organising Association is responsible for any other taxes, fees, duties, and any other costs as set out in the relevant AFC Marketing and Media Regulations.

39. Accommodation, Meals, and Refreshments for Participating Teams

- 39.1. Only official hotels approved by the AFC shall be used as Accommodation.

- 39.2. Each Member Association is responsible for all costs related to Accommodation incurred by their Team Official Delegation.
- 40. Accommodation, Meals and Refreshments for Match Officials and Referees**
- 40.1. The Accommodation, meals and refreshments for Match Officials and Referees are the subject of an agreement between the AFC and the AFC Commercial Rights Partner.
- 41. Arrangements for Licensees**
- 41.1. The Organising Association must assist any Licensees, upon request, to secure Accommodation of sufficient quality on the same terms as available to the AFC, in first-class hotels in a Venue, as well as reasonable transportations service from the Accommodation and centre of each Venue to a Stadium, and if applicable, air transportation to and between Venues.
- 42. Local Land Transportation**
- 42.1. The Organising Association shall provide at their own cost from two (2) days before the Match until one (1) day after the Match one (1) bus with minimum twenty-five (25) seats for transportation of the Team Official Delegation to training, Matches, Official Functions, and airport transfers.
- 42.2. The Organising Association shall provide at their own cost for the appointed Match Officials and Referees, from their arrival at the Venue of a Match until one (1) day after the Match:
- 42.2.1. one (1) sedan car for the Match Commissioner;
- 42.2.2. one (1) van for the Referee Assessor and Referees; and
- 42.2.3. additional transportation for other appointed Match Officials.

SECTION 7: MEDIA

43. Media Accreditation

- 43.1. The AFC Commercial Rights Partner shall implement an accreditation programme for Media as instructed by the AFC to control and manage access to the Stadium.
- 43.2. The AFC Commercial Rights Partner shall produce media identity bibs for photographers, and television and ENG crews, under the supervision of the AFC. The AFC Commercial Rights Partner shall be responsible for their distribution and collection.
- 43.3. The Organising Association, at its own cost, must put in place all reasonable security measures to protect the commentary area, camera positions, and equipment of the Broadcasters.

44. Media Access

- 44.1. Representatives of the written press and radio journalists are not permitted on the Field of Play or the area between the boundaries of the Field of Play and the spectators, with the exception of accredited Media who shall carry out their duties in the specific locations assigned to them.
- 44.2. Only photographers, cameramen of the Host Broadcaster and the main visiting Broadcaster and the personnel required to operate the electronic television cameras of the Host Broadcaster are allowed in the area between the boundaries of the field of play and the spectators, where they will carry out their work in the specific locations assigned to them.
- 44.3. No Media representatives are permitted to enter any team dressing room at any stage of any Match.
- 44.4. The Organising Association and the AFC Commercial Rights Partner shall ensure that the AFC, the Host Broadcaster, and all Broadcasters have free access to the Stadium from three (3) days prior to each Match until one (1) day following each Match, to allow for the resolution of any technical issues and for the assembly of the relevant infrastructure required to execute the Media Rights.
- 44.5. The Organising Association and the AFC Commercial Rights Partner are responsible for ensuring that the Media Rights are protected and that no unofficial or unauthorised broadcaster and/or video or ENG camera crews are permitted access to any Stadium without the prior written permission of the AFC.

45. Training Sessions

- 45.1. All training sessions are open to the Media.

45.2. If a training session is held at a Stadium, the areas accessible by the Media shall be the same as available to them during Matches. Access to such areas shall be security-controlled by the Organising Association.

46. Mixed Zone

46.1. Following each Match, Participating Players and Participating Officials shall enter the Mixed Zone which will be in operation from fifteen (15) minutes after the completion of a Match.

47. Recording of Matches

47.1. The Organising Association and/or the AFC Commercial Rights Partner is responsible, at its own cost, to provide an electronic recording of each Match in the Competition to the Match Commissioner immediately after the Match.

SECTION 8: EQUIPMENT

48. AFC Equipment Regulations

- 48.1. Each Participating Team must comply with the AFC Equipment Regulations.
- 48.2. The AFC Equipment Regulations are operational from the arrival of each Team Official Delegation at a Controlled Access Area until their departure from such areas.

49. AFC Badges

- 49.1. There shall be no AFC badges affixed to the playing jerseys for the Competition.

50. Kit Approval

- 50.1. Each Participating Team shall submit to the AFC Commercial Rights Partner for its approval one (1) sample of all kit, as defined in the AFC Equipment Regulations.
- 50.2. Should any equipment submitted to the AFC infringe the AFC Equipment Regulations or these Regulations, the Participating Team shall be required to resubmit corrected equipment to the AFC. In addition, the Participating Team may be required to present additional samples at any Team Workshop.
- 50.3. The Match Commissioner and/or the AFC Marketing Manager all have the right and duty to inspect the kit of each Team Official Delegation at each Venue, and are entitled to seize and send such items to the AFC Headquarters for further inspection following each Match.

51. Responsibility

- 51.1. The AFC has the sole authority to approve the equipment (including kit) set out in the AFC Equipment Regulations.
- 51.2. Each Participating Team agrees to indemnify the AFC and hold it harmless from any and all damages in the event that a conflict arises as a result of any endorsement deal existing between itself and its sponsor(s) which contravenes the AFC Equipment Regulations.

SECTION 9: MEDICAL & ANTI-DOPING

52. Medical Facilities and Treatment

52.1. Each Participating Team is responsible, for all members of its Team Official Delegation, for the cost of any:

52.1.1. hospitalisation (admission to hospital);

52.1.2. surgical operations not provided for in Article 52.2; and

52.1.3. specialised investigative procedures.

52.2. The Organising Association is responsible, for each Participating Team from the moment they arrive at the Venue of the Competition until one (1) day after the Competition, the costs of the following medical treatments sustained or occurring within the Organising Association:

52.2.1. outpatient treatment (non-admission to hospital);

52.2.2. minor surgeries (e.g. suturing);

52.2.3. radiological investigations; and

52.2.4. emergency treatment.

52.3. The Organising Association is responsible for the costs of the medical treatment set out at Article 52.1 for the AFC Delegation and the Referees from their arrival at the Venue of the Competition until one (1) day after the Competition.

52.4. The Organising Association, at its own cost, must provide for each Match an emergency medical room located in close proximity to the dressing rooms and Field of Play equipped with the following medical supplies:

52.4.1. oxygen with appropriate masks / oral airway;

52.4.2. splints (for spinal injuries);

52.4.3. stretchers (preferably hardboard);

52.4.4. suction machine;

52.4.5. I/V dripsets with emergency injections and medication;

52.4.6. minor surgery supplies and equipment;

52.4.7. automated external defibrillator.

53. Medical Personnel

53.1. The Organising Association, at its own cost for each Match, must provide:

53.1.1. one (1) certified medical officer supported by a team of support para-medical staff trained in emergency medical care (CPR/ALTS) in the Stadium emergency medical room;

53.1.2. the following Field of Play medical services:

53.1.2.1. one (1) medical officer trained in emergency medicine;

53.1.2.2. four (4) trained stretcher bearers in good physical condition;
and

53.1.2.3. two (2) ambulances with designated drivers equipped with oxygen, masks, defibrillator, I/V dripsets, emergency medicaments, and trained medical staff;

54. Anti-Doping

54.1. Doping is prohibited. The AFC Anti-Doping Regulations, the AFC Disciplinary Code, and all relevant AFC directives in relation to anti-doping are applicable to the Competition.

SECTION 10: DISCIPLINARY

55. Disciplinary Measures

- 55.1. All disciplinary measures in relation to the Competition shall be undertaken in accordance with the current AFC Statutes, AFC Disciplinary Code, AFC Code of Ethics and any relevant AFC circular.
- 55.2. The AFC may introduce new disciplinary rules and sanctions for the duration of the Competition. Such rules shall be communicated to the Participating Teams and their Member Associations two (2) weeks before the first Match of the Competition at latest.
- 55.3. All Participating Players agree to:
- 55.3.1. respect the spirit of fair play, non-violence, and the authority of the Match Officials;
 - 55.3.2. behave accordingly; and,
 - 55.3.3. refrain from doping.

56. Cautions and Expulsions

- 56.1. All matters relating to cautions and/or expulsions, including the carrying forward of cautions between stages of the Competition, shall be undertaken in accordance with the AFC Disciplinary Code except where expressly set out below.
- 56.2. Any Participating Player who completes the Group Stage having cumulatively received one (1) caution shall carry-over that caution to the Knockout Stage.
- 56.3. Any Participating Player who completes the Quarter Finals having cumulatively received one (1) caution shall not carry-over that caution to the Semi Finals.

57. Indiscipline or Violent Conduct

- 57.1. Any individual reported for any act of indiscipline or violent conduct at the Stadium (including without limitation within the team dressing room or on the Field of Play), Official Training Site, Accommodation, or any other location within the Venue of a Match shall be referred to the AFC Disciplinary Committee.

58. Protest

- 58.1. A protest is an objection of any kind to any matter that has a direct effect on Matches and any matters related to breach of these Regulations.
- 58.2. Unless otherwise stipulated, protests shall be:

- 58.2.1. submitted in writing to the AFC Match Commissioner within two (2) hours of the Match in question;
- 58.2.2. followed up with a full written report, including a copy of the original protest, sent to the AFC General Secretariat by facsimile or registered letter to the AFC within twenty four (24) hours of the end of the Match.;
- 58.2.3. accompanied by a fee of USD500 submitted by the same deadline stipulated in Article 59.2.2 above,
- to be considered valid.
- 58.3. No protest shall be lodged relating to the Referee's decisions regarding facts connected with play. Such decisions are final and not subject to appeal, unless expressly otherwise stipulated in the AFC Disciplinary Code.
- 58.4. Should the AFC Disciplinary Committee determine that a protest is unfounded or irresponsible, it may impose a fine and the protest fee shall be forfeited.
- 58.5. If any of the formal conditions of a protest as set out in these Regulations are not met, such protest shall be disregarded. Following the completion of the final Match of the Competition, all protests shall be disregarded.
- 58.6. The AFC Disciplinary Committee shall make decisions on protests. The AFC Disciplinary Committee may transfer a protest to the AFC Futsal and Beach Soccer Committee for its decision if it is deemed to be purely operational in nature.
- 59. Arbitration**
- 59.1. Any dispute in connection with the Competition shall be promptly settled by negotiation.
- 59.2. In compliance with the AFC Statutes, Participating Teams, Member Associations, Participating Players, and Participating Officials are prohibited from initiating disputes in an ordinary court of law and must submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the AFC.
- 59.3. Participating Teams, Member Associations, Participating Players, and Participating Officials acknowledge and accept that, once all internal channels have been exhausted at the AFC, their sole recourse shall be to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS). The Code of Sports-related Arbitration shall be applicable. The language of arbitration shall be English.

59.4. The jurisdiction of the CAS to resolve disputes is only available where it has not been expressly excluded or a decision is declared as final and binding and not subject to appeal.

SECTION 11: ADMINISTRATION

60. Awards

60.1. The AFC Commercial Rights Partner shall be responsible for designating the relevant awards of the Competition.

61. Trophy and Medals

61.1. The AFC Commercial Rights Partner shall be responsible for the production and awarding of trophies and medals in the Competition.

62. Prize Presentation Ceremony

62.1. A prize presentation ceremony, managed and controlled by the AFC and coordinated with the Organising Association and the AFC Commercial Rights Partner, shall be held immediately after the Final to present the awards, trophies, and medals.

62.2. The Participating Players and Participating Teams that qualify to receive the awards, trophies, and medals are required to attend the relevant prize presentation ceremony. Participating Teams shall be represented by the Team Official Delegation for that Match for the prize presentation ceremony following the Final. No other officials, players, or staff of the Participating Teams may participate in the prize presentation ceremony.

63. Protocol

63.1. The AFC Protocol Guidelines shall apply for all Matches.

64. Special Instructions

64.1. The AFC Futsal and Beach Soccer Committee shall, in conjunction with the Organising Association, issue any instructions necessitated by special circumstances which might arise in the organisation of Matches.

64.2. These instructions shall form an integral part of these Regulations.

65. Force Majeure

65.1. The AFC Futsal and Beach Soccer Committee is the only body capable of declaring a Force Majeure event.

66. Matters not provided for

66.1. Matters not provided for in these Regulations shall be decided by the AFC Futsal and Beach Soccer Committee. Such decisions are final and binding and not subject to appeal.

67. Enforcement

67.1. These Regulations were approved by FIFA on 16 March 2015 and come into force immediately.

For the AFC Executive Committee

President:

Sheikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa

General Secretary:

Dato' Alex Soosay

**APPENDIX 1: Registration of Players who have Acquired a New Nationality:
Documents to be provided to AFC**

No.	Documents	Attached (tick)
1.	Official Registration Form for Players with passport photo.	
2	The player must provide <u>one of the following categories of documents:</u>	
a)	<p>1) Letter from the Member Association of the player's previous nationality or country of birth declaring that the player has never played (either in full or in part) for its representative teams in an official competition of any category of any type of football; and</p> <p>2) Letter from the player declaring that he has never played for any representative teams of any Member Association (either in full or in part) in an official competition of any category of any type of football.</p>	
b)	Decision of the FIFA Players' Status Committee allowing the player to change Association.	
3.	Clear copy of player's passport	
4.	Clear copy of player's national ID card	
5.	If the player seeks to rely on 2(a) as opposed to 2(b), they must provide <u>one of the following categories of documents:</u>	
a)	<p>1) Evidence that their father or mother was born on the territory of the relevant Association; and</p> <p>2) Evidence that such person is their biological parent.</p>	
b)	<p>1) Evidence that their grandfather or grandmother was born on the territory of the relevant Association; and</p> <p>2) Evidence that such person is their biological grandparent.</p>	
c)	Evidence that the player has lived continuously on the territory of the relevant Association for at least five (5) years after the age of 18.	

***Players under the age of 23 must provide a decision of the FIFA Players' Status Committee, regardless of the period of time lived continuously on the territory of the Association.**

APPENDIX 2: Registration of Players who have a Nationality Entitling Them to Represent More Than One Association: Documents to be provided to AFC

No.	Documents	Attached (tick)
1.	Official Registration Form for Players with passport photo.	
2	The player must provide <u>one of the following categories of documents:</u>	
a)	<p>1) Letter from the Member Association of the player's previous nationality or country of birth declaring that the player has never played (either in full or in part) for its representative teams in an official competition of any category of any type of football; and</p> <p>2) Letter from the player declaring that he has never played for any representative teams of any Member Association (either in full or in part) in an official competition of any category of any type of football.</p>	
b)	Decision of the FIFA Players' Status Committee allowing the player to change Association.	
3.	Clear copy of player's passport	
4.	Clear copy of player's national ID card	
5.	If the player seeks to rely on 2(a) as opposed to 2(b), they must provide <u>one of the following categories of documents:</u>	
a)	<p>1) Evidence that their father or mother was born on the territory of the relevant Association; and</p> <p>2) Evidence that such person is their biological parent.</p>	
b)	<p>1) Evidence that their grandfather or grandmother was born on the territory of the relevant Association; and</p> <p>2) Evidence that such person is their biological grandparent.</p>	
c)	Evidence that the player has lived continuously on the territory of the relevant Association for at least two (2) years.	