



ELITE YOUTH SCHEME REGULATIONS

2021 EDITION





AFC ELITE YOUTH SCHEME
REGULATIONS (2021 EDITION)

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**THE FOUNDATION OF ANY SUCCESSFUL
TEAM IS BUILT AT ELITE YOUTH LEVEL.
THE AFC'S DESIRE TO DEVELOP OUR
FUTURE GENERATION - THE STARS OF
TOMORROW - HAS NEVER BEEN STRONGER.**

Salman

**SHAIKH SALMAN BIN EBRAHIM AL KHALIFA
AFC PRESIDENT**

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WHAT IS ELITE YOUTH FOOTBALL?

Football Played by Talented Teenagers (A Transitional Stage in Development)

OUR AIM

We express our passion for the game by helping young players realise their dreams/potential and by producing the next generation of club professionals/national team players.



DEFINITION OF TERMS

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

Academy	A centre for the development of talented youth players, established by the government, Member Association or professional club.
AFC	Asian Football Confederation.
AFC Committee	Any Committee of the AFC as constituted in accordance with the AFC Statutes.
AFC Youth Panel	The panel of specialists in the field of elite youth football development, appointed in accordance with these Regulations.
Endorsement	The AFC's recognition of Member Association work in youth development.
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.
Key Criteria	The criteria set by the AFC for each performance category of the Scheme as described in Part D of Annex 1.
Member Association	A football association which is a member of the AFC pursuant to the AFC Statutes.
Regulations	These AFC Elite Youth Scheme Regulations.
Scheme	The AFC Elite Youth Scheme, as described in these Regulations.
Scheme Member	A Member Association that has joined the Scheme by satisfying the criteria for Member Associations as described in Part G of Annex 1, including the grading of its Academies in accordance with the Key Criteria.

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) references to natural persons shall include any legal person or corporation;
- (d) references to the AFC shall include its successors and permitted assigns, and the AFC Committees.

INTRODUCTION AND CONCEPT

An integral part of the AFC's Vision and Mission is to improve playing standards and increase the possibility of success at the top level. The development of aspiring young talents is at the core of these objectives, and the AFC recognises and supports the Member Associations in their efforts to further develop their elite youth programme, including the grading of Academies, in line with the criteria set by the AFC.

Together, the AFC and the Member Associations will set the benchmark for elite player development in training centres and support the clubs and their Academies in nurturing the next generation of top-level professional players.

A number of factors influence the standard of football in a country e.g. coaching levels, competition structures, grassroots football, talent identification and elite player development. The Scheme targets the latter and is used to support and endorse the talent development work of each Member Association, including its Academies.

The Member Associations will be evaluated in 11 areas of core activity, including youth Academies as described in Part G of Annex 1. Full membership of the Scheme will require the grading of at least one youth Academy at club or national level. If the Member Association is yet to establish any Academies, their membership can be granted on a provisional basis, assuming all other ten criteria as described in Part G of Annex 1 are satisfied.

SCOPE AND PHILOSOPHY

The AFC defines elite youth football as that which is played by selected, talented teenagers, boys and girls, either at the national level or in a professional club environment.

The scope of the Scheme will be limited to the work of the Member Associations and to the Academies which are attached to top division clubs or are classed as national training centres. The evaluation of these Academies will be graded according to the following three categories;



For the AFC, youth development is a core responsibility and certain principles are considered fundamental:

1. Each youth player's welfare is a priority.
2. Education, on and off the pitch, takes precedence over short-term results. Tomorrow is more important than today.
3. Good coaching is indispensable.
4. The development of each youth's personality, good habits, emotional stability, commitment, physical attributes, technical ability and game appreciation are all important.
5. Between players, staff and parents, mutual respect is a must.

WHY?

Why is the Scheme important to Asian Football?

1. The Scheme will help to improve the game in Asia by stimulating a greater interest in structured, high-quality elite player development programmes at the national and club level.
2. The AFC will recognise and support the Member Associations with their programmes, including the establishment/development of their youth Academies.
3. The production of Asia's next generation of star players will be the aim and basic guidelines for their education will be provided.
4. Helping the Member Associations and their clubs to conform to the club licensing requirements will be a key objective of the Scheme.
5. The vital role of the Member Association, including its Academies, as a link between grassroots football and the professional game will be highlighted.
6. Establishing Academies will help to develop professional players who have a relationship/an identity with the Member Association and the training club.
7. Talent identification and recruitment policies will be addressed and elaborated.
8. The requirement to employ appropriately educated youth coaches, at national and club level, will have a significant impact on player development.
9. Benchmarks will be set, comparisons will be made and healthy competition between Member Associations will follow. The same will apply to club Academies.
10. Promoting elite youth football in Asia through national programmes and specialised training centres will have a long-term impact on raising playing standards.

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THE ACADEMY

THE AIM IS TO CREATE A
MOTIVATING ENVIRONMENT, A
STRUCTURED PROGRAMME, A PATHWAY
TO THE TOP, AND TO PRODUCE PLAYERS
WITH A CLUB IDENTITY.

ERIC ABRAMS
PVF ACADEMY DIRECTOR (VIETNAM)

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AFC ELITE YOUTH SCHEME REGULATIONS (2021 EDITION)

Article 1: INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. These Regulations govern the implementation and operation of the Scheme.
- 1.2. These Regulations, *inter alia*:
 - 1.2.1. define the rights and duties of the Member Associations and the AFC regarding the Scheme;
 - 1.2.2. set the Key Criteria for the evaluation of Member Associations and the three (3) levels of Academy recognition as described in Part C of Annex 1;
 - 1.2.3. set out the Endorsement process and application process in Part E of Annex 1.
- 1.3. Any rights and proprietary interests associated with the Scheme that are not granted by these Regulations and/or specific agreements to any Member Association or third-party shall vest in the AFC.
- 1.4. Any reference to the AFC Statutes and to the AFC and FIFA Regulations refer to those valid at the time of application.

Article 2: RIGHTS OF THE AFC

- 2.1. As the governing body of the Scheme, the AFC has the following rights:
 - 2.1.1. to monitor the implementation of the Scheme;
 - 2.1.2. to appoint specific member(s) of the AFC Youth Panel to assess a Member Association's work in elite youth development, including the grading of elite youth Academies, in accordance with the Key Criteria;
 - 2.1.3. to confirm or downgrade a Scheme Member's Endorsement status or the rating of a specific Academy;
 - 2.1.4. to make any decision deemed necessary to achieve the aims set out in the Scheme and take any measure deemed appropriate in the event of a breach of these Regulations by a Member Association or one of its member clubs.

Article 3: DUTIES OF THE AFC

- 3.1. As the governing body of the Scheme, the AFC has the following duties:
 - 3.1.1. to organise regular events for Member Association youth leaders which are relevant to the development of the Scheme;

- 3.1.2.** to make decisions regarding the assessment of a Member Association's application for membership and to further develop the Scheme;
- 3.1.3.** to collaborate closely with the Member Association on the application, implementation and maintenance of the Scheme;
- 3.1.4.** to communicate regularly with each Scheme Member about elite youth development;
- 3.1.5.** to respect its own duties and the rights of each Scheme Member.

Article 4: RIGHTS OF THE MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

- 4.1.** Each Scheme Member has the following rights:
 - 4.1.1.** to implement its own elite youth programme, including Academy grading (i.e. for top clubs/national centres) at the AFC approved levels as described in Part C of Annex 1;
 - 4.1.2.** to inform and allow the AFC, at any time but at least three (3) months after the initial Endorsement, to assess any of its elite Academies for a higher level of recognition;
 - 4.1.3.** to submit a re-evaluation request to the AFC within three (3) months of a downgrading (i.e. a non-fulfilment of any Key Criteria) to regain its previous Scheme Member status or the grading level of an Academy;
 - 4.1.4.** to terminate its Scheme Membership at any time by informing the AFC in writing.

Article 5: DUTIES OF THE MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

- 5.1.** Each Scheme Member has the following duties:
 - 5.1.1.** to promote and develop its elite youth programme, in collaboration with its clubs/national centres, and top-level youth Academies;
 - 5.1.2.** to protect young people in their programmes and at their clubs (including the introduction of a child protection policy) and to respect all participants in their elite youth activities;
 - 5.1.3.** to maintain and monitor its elite youth programme at the level approved by the AFC, and where possible, to improve and develop this programme;
 - 5.1.4.** to provide information about its elite youth activities;
 - 5.1.5.** to set up and maintain a database that provides elite youth facts/numbers for the Member Association and the AFC, in a format acceptable to the AFC;
 - 5.1.6.** to use the AFC branding solely in compliance with the instructions issued by the AFC and only with the express written approval of the AFC;
 - 5.1.7.** to contribute to the achievement of the aims of the Scheme;
 - 5.1.8.** to respect its own duties and the AFC's rights as defined in these Regulations, as well as any decision made by an official AFC body.

Article 6: RENEWAL

- 6.1. A Scheme Member will be subject to re-evaluation three years after its last Endorsement approval.

Article 7: AFC YOUTH PANEL

- 7.1. The AFC Technical Committee has the responsibility for monitoring and supporting all matters relating to the Scheme.
- 7.2. The AFC Technical Committee delegates the responsibility for the implementation, assessment and decision making on Member Association evaluations under these Regulations (including decisions regarding Member Association applications to join the Scheme in accordance with the procedure in Part E of Annex 1 of these Regulations) to the AFC Youth Panel, subject to the approval of the AFC Executive Committee.
- 7.3. All decisions of the AFC Youth Panel will be communicated to the AFC Technical Committee. The AFC Technical Committee will thereafter communicate such decisions to the AFC Executive Committee.
- 7.4. The AFC General Secretariat shall provide administrative and secretarial support to the AFC Technical Committee and/or the AFC Youth Panel (as appropriate) in connection with the implementation and operation of the Scheme.
- 7.5. The AFC Technical Committee delegates the responsibility for selecting and appointing members of the AFC Youth Panel to the AFC General Secretariat.

Article 8: REQUIREMENTS

- 8.1. Both the AFC and the Scheme Member must identify the person(s) responsible in each organisation for managing the Scheme agreement. Any change of personnel must be communicated to the other party without delay.
- 8.2. Both the AFC and the Scheme Member are duty bound to inform the other party of any elite youth developments or changes.
- 8.3. In principle, all eleven (11) Member Association criteria must be fulfilled for full membership to be awarded. In the case of a Member Association which has still to establish any Academies, membership can be granted on a provisional basis, assuming all other ten (10) criteria as described in Part G of Annex 1 are met.

Article 9: DISPUTES

- 9.1. These Regulations are subject to the laws of Malaysia.
- 9.2. The Scheme Members agree that any dispute arising from or related to the Regulations which cannot be settled amicably shall be resolved in accordance with the relevant provisions of the AFC Statutes.
- 9.3. Disputes involving domestic club Academies programmes should be resolved by the respective Scheme Member.

Article 10: LANGUAGES

- 10.1.** These Regulations are written in English but can be translated into other languages with the approval of the AFC.
- 10.2.** In case of any differences in interpretation, the English text shall prevail.

Article 11: TAXES, DUTIES, FEES, EXPENSES

- 11.1.** Member Associations are responsible for the payment of all taxes, duties, and other charges payable in relation to the implementation of the Scheme in their territory.
- 11.2.** Member Associations are responsible for the payment of all fees and expenses in relation to the implementation of the Scheme in their territory, except where expressly identified otherwise in these Regulations.
- 11.3.** For the avoidance of doubt, this includes all professional (e.g. legal, accounting), banking, and monetary exchange costs.

Article 12: INDEMNIFICATION

- 12.1.** Member Associations shall indemnify, hold harmless and defend the AFC, its officers, Committee members, members, agents, auxiliary persons, representatives, and employees from and against all liabilities, obligations, damages, losses, claims, demands, recoveries, deficiencies, costs or expenses (including without limitation all costs and expenses for withdrawal from the Scheme or a Scheme agreement and/or all attorneys' fees and expenses) which such parties may suffer or incur in connection with, resulting from, or arising out of any breach by the Member Association (including its officers, directors, representatives, auxiliary persons, employees or agents) or any act or omission of the Member Association (including its officers, directors, representatives, auxiliary persons, employees or agents) in connection with the performance of its obligations pursuant to these Regulations.

Article 13: DISCIPLINARY MEASURES

- 13.1.** All disciplinary measures in relation to these Regulations shall be undertaken in accordance with the current AFC Statutes, AFC Disciplinary and Ethics Code, and all relevant AFC regulations and circulars.

Article 14: DECISIONS

- 14.1.** 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.

Article 15: AMENDMENTS

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

Article 16: FORCE MAJEURE

16.1. The AFC Technical Committee is the only body capable of declaring a Force Majeure event.

Article 17: MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR

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

Article 18: ENFORCEMENT

18.1. These Regulations were ratified by the AFC Executive Committee on 25 November 2020 and will come into force on 1 January 2021.

For the AFC Executive Committee



Shaikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa
President



Dato' Windsor John
General Secretary

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ACADEMIES

**SOME YOUTH
ACADEMIES WORRY
ABOUT WINNING –
WE (BARCELONA
FC) WORRY ABOUT
EDUCATION**

**XAVI HERNANDEZ
(AL SAAD, BARCELONA
FC AND SPAIN)**



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ANNEX 1

A. AFC ELITE YOUTH SCHEME – THE WHY, HOW & WHAT

WHY?

To provide your Member Association with Continental recognition for your elite youth programmes and to help you succeed in your efforts to nurture talented footballers. Remember, an Endorsement by the AFC will provide a number of benefits for you and your Member Association in relation to licensing, sponsorship, promotion, recruitment and reputation.

HOW?

Your Member Association applies for the Scheme membership. Enrolment will depend on satisfying the Scheme's 11 Key Criteria. If you do not have any youth Academies at this stage, you can still participate, but on a provisional basis. On request, the AFC's Youth Panel will support your application and evaluation process.

WHAT?

An AFC certificate will confirm your Member Association's Endorsement and identify your Academies which have been approved at the Continental level through a star system (3-star recognition being the highest). Thereafter, you will be authorised to use the AFC's logo to confirm your Scheme status and to aid your work in elite player development.

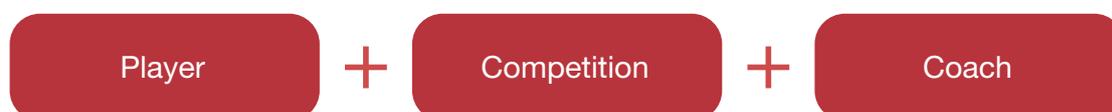
B. DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ELITE FOOTBALL & GRASSROOTS FOOTBALL

THE DIFFERENCE?

ELITE	GRASSROOTS
THE BEST	THE MANY
TOP COMPETITIONS	MASS PARTICIPATION
NATIONAL / PROFESSIONAL	LOCAL / REGIONAL
SELECTION	CHOICE
EXCELLENCE	FUN / SERIOUS FUN




SUCCESS



C. ACADEMY GRADING GUIDELINES



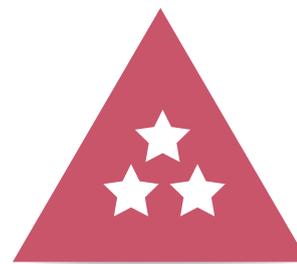
One-Star

Basic, essential ingredients for an elite youth Academy



Two-Star

Higher standards (i.e. better quality and quantity) than a one-star Academy



Three-Star

A reference point: a wide range of services, top infrastructure and elite-level, successful outcomes

D. PERFORMANCE CATEGORIES AND KEY CRITERIA

The performance categories and Key Criteria of each level of the Elite Youth Scheme are specified below:

PERFORMANCE CATEGORIES	KEY CRITERIA		
	ONE-STAR	TWO-STAR	THREE-STAR
1 LEADERSHIP > Direction > Philosophy > Key People	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is there a written commitment to the Academy by the owner/board? 2. Is there a head of the Academy? 3. Is there a written football philosophy and an approach to player development? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is there a system for liaison between the Academy and the first team? 2. Is there a board member responsible for the Academy? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Does the club operate a technical board and a technical director? 2. Does the club comply with good governance standards? (Member Association approval) 3. Is there a vision and mission document for the club and the Academy?

PERFORMANCE CATEGORIES	KEY CRITERIA		
	ONE-STAR	TWO-STAR	THREE-STAR
2 PLANNING > Plans > Schedules > Strategy	1. Is there a written youth development plan for the Academy?	1. Is there a plan for the continued professional development of the Academy staff? 2. Is there a yearly or monthly development plan for the Academy?	1. Is there a written, regularly updated, long-term business plan for the Academy, approved by the club board?
	1. Is there an Academy management structure document (i.e. a chart with all staff positions identified)? 2. Is there adequate administrative support?	1. Are there job descriptions for each member of staff? 2. Are there arrangements for meals, transport, etc.?	1. Is there a clear decision-making process for the Academy? 2. Is there comprehensive administration support? 3. Are there arrangements for the player's school studies, further education, etc?
	1. Does each squad in the Academy have a minimum of one youth coach? 2. Is there an Academy secretary? 3. Does the Academy have basic medical support, approved by the Member Association? 4. Is there evidence of regular meetings and ongoing educational opportunities for the staff eg. methods, trends, psychology, study visits, etc.?	1. Is there a goalkeeper specialist available? 2. Does the Academy have a logistics manager? 3. Does the Academy have adequate support staff ie. doctor, physio, physical trainer, etc?	1. Does the Academy have appropriate/ adequate ground staff? 2. Does the Academy have a comprehensive dedicated staff i.e. coaches, doctor, physio, physical trainer, etc? 3. Does each team have an assistant coach, and do they have a B licence, as a minimum? 4. Is there evidence of a policy supporting continuity of staff?

3
ORGANISATION
> Structure
> Arrangements
> Organisation

4
STAFFING
> Coaches
> Specialists
> Support Staff

PERFORMANCE CATEGORIES	KEY CRITERIA		
	ONE-STAR	TWO-STAR	THREE-STAR
5 RECRUITMENT > Scouting > Talent > Identification	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is there a written recruitment policy / identification process? 2. Is there a reporting mechanism? 3. Does the Academy have a simple database? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is there a head scout? 2. Is there a well-maintained system for recording training and match information? 3. Are there arrangements for trials and for integrating new players? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is there a scouting team for the Academy? 2. Is there a comprehensive digital system/tool for data collection? 3. Is there an annual review of the talent identification system?
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is there a written annual budget? 2. Does the Academy work within its annual budget and who audits it? 3. Who supplies the budget? 4. Does the budget meet the needs of the AFC's one-star Endorsement criteria? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Does the budget meet the needs of AFC's two-star Endorsement criteria? 2. Does the budget cover the expense of team travelling and away training or matches facilities? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is long-term funding for the Academy guaranteed? 2. Are the financial accounts and records kept in accordance with club licensing guidelines? 3. Does the budget meet the needs of the AFC's Three-Star Endorsement criteria?
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Do the youth teams have the use of a full-side field for playing/training? (half field for U12)? 2. Is there a minimum/adequate number of rooms for medical treatment, admin, fitness? 3. Are there adequate dressing rooms reserved for the Academy? 4. Is there an adequate/safe supply of equipment? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Are there sufficient grass pitches of appropriate size to enable the Academy to play all its matches and to carry out its coaching programme? 2. Does the Academy have access to floodlights, artificial turf and indoor facilities? 3. Is there a pitch(es) reserved for the Academy? 4. Is the quality of the playing surfaces of a high enough standard for an elite youth Academy? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Are the facilities fully comprehensive (eg. dressing rooms, medical centre, pitches, etc.) and do they meet the needs of the Academy's technical programme?
6 FINANCE > Funding > Budgets > Accounts			
7 FACILITIES > Pitches > Buildings > Equipment			

PERFORMANCE CATEGORIES	KEY CRITERIA		
	ONE-STAR	TWO-STAR	THREE-STAR
8 TEAMS > Players > Squads > Categories	1. Are there at least 3 youth teams i.e. U14, U16 and U19s? 2. Are there at least 18 players in each squad, including 2 goalkeepers?	1. Are there at least 4 teams in the age category U13 to U19s? 2. Are there at least 18 players in each squad?	1. Are there at least 6 teams, including one U12 squad which plays small-sided games? 2. Are there at least 18 players in each squad?
	1. Is there a minimum of 2 training sessions per week for teams U14 to U19? 2. Is there a basic coaching curriculum at each age level? 3. Does the Head of the Academy have a contract and as a minimum, an AFC A Licence? 4. Does each team coach have, as a minimum, an AFC B Licence? 5. Is there a regular review of the coaching staff? 6. If there are assistant coaches, do they have, as a minimum, a C Licence? 7. Is there evidence that the club's vision/philosophy is reflected in the coaching programme?	1. Is there a minimum of 3 training sessions per week for teams U14 to U19? 2. Does the Academy director have an AFC Pro Licence? 3. Does each team coach (U14 to U19) have at least an AFC A Licence? 4. Is individual coaching provided? 5. Is specialist coaching for goalkeepers provided? 6. Is there a policy regarding teaching methods?	1. Is there a minimum of 4 training sessions per week for teams U14 to U19? 2. Does each coach with the youth age-group teams have at least an AFC A Licence and the assistants a B Licence?
9 COACHING > Sessions > Methods > Licences			

PERFORMANCE CATEGORIES	KEY CRITERIA		
	ONE-STAR	TWO-STAR	THREE-STAR
10 PLAYING > Matches > Competitions > Levels	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is there a regular (eg. 20 matches/1 or 2 per week) elite, competitive match schedule organised by the FA/League for the Academy teams? 2. Is the match programme appropriate for the stage of development? 3. Are there guidelines on playing time (i.e. official matches)? 4. In general, do the U12s play small-sided games? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is there an opportunity for international exchange? 2. Are there arrangements for less well-developed players in each age category? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is there a games programme which meet the individual player's needs? 2. Do the top players have the opportunity against older, more mature players?
	11 PLAYER PERFORMANCE > Analysis > Reviews > Feedback	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is there evidence of player objectives and the use of feedback: verbal, through online, etc.? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is there a computer programme for analysis in use? 2. Are parents given regular feedback on the player's performance?

PERFORMANCE CATEGORIES	KEY CRITERIA		
	ONE-STAR	TWO-STAR	THREE-STAR
12 HEALTH > Medicine > Injuries > Prevention	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Are there regular health check-ups? 2. Is there an injury-prevention programme? 3. Are there rehabilitation arrangements? 4. Are the coaches trained in First Aid? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Are there rehabilitation protocols? 2. Is there medical support at each game? 3. Is there an appropriate medical room? 4. Is there an educational programme about health and performance issues eg. doping, smoking, diet, etc? 5. Is there a head doctor and head physio appointed for the Academy? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is there an appropriate, fully qualified medical team? 2. Is there research into player injuries? 3. Are there protocols on returning to play and activities with the first team?
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Are there regular fitness tests for the Academy players? 2. Are the workloads of the players managed (eg. periodisation) in and out of Academy? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is there a well-equipped fitness room/gym? 2. Is there a strength and condition specialist? 3. Are workloads of the players monitored? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Are there individual strength and conditioning programmes? 2. Is there comprehensive sports science support? 3. Are fitness sessions integrated with technical work?
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Do the players have support/guidance on leadership, concentration, mental health, emotional stability, confidence, motivation, behaviour, etc. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is there a programme of psychological development? 2. Is psychological support available? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is there a comprehensive psychological assessment for each individual player? 2. Is there access to professional help?

12

HEALTH

- > Medicine
- > Injuries
- > Prevention

13

FITNESS

- > Fitness
- > Training
- > Sports

14

PSYCHOLOGY

- > Assessments
- > Psychologists
- > Mental Training

PERFORMANCE CATEGORIES	KEY CRITERIA		
	ONE-STAR	TWO-STAR	THREE-STAR
15 WELFARE > Protection > Lifestyle > Accommodation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is there a policy of child protection in action i.e. have all Academy personnel been checked under the child protection legislation? 2. Is there a basic welfare policy and welfare support available? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is there a welfare officer? 2. Is there a basic lifestyle programme eg. nutrition, hygiene, mental health, etc? 3. Are there arrangements for boarding, host families, etc.? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is there a comprehensive welfare support system in place?
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Does the Academy liaise/cooperate with the education authorities? 2. Are there reports on the player's educational progress? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is there a head of education i.e. someone responsible for guiding/supporting the players with their academic development? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is there an approved arrangement for academic education? 2. Are there individual educational plans? 3. Does the Academy develop university students, successful employees in business, etc?
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is there collaboration with the local clubs, regional associations, the national youth teams and the schools? 2. Is there a direct link with the first team? 3. Are there meetings with parents? Introductory sessions? 4. Does the Academy co-operate with other Academies eg. knowledge sharing? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To what extent does the Academy collaborate with the club's communications department eg. with the Academy section on the website? 2. Do Academy players help in the community and support grassroots projects? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is there an identified network of collaborating clubs/schools/universities/government agencies/businesses? 2. Is someone responsible for this liaison?
16 EDUCATION > Academic > Study > Schools			
17 COLLABORATION > Parents > Grassroots > Authorities			

PERFORMANCE CATEGORIES	KEY CRITERIA			
	ONE-STAR	TWO-STAR	THREE-STAR	
<h1>18</h1> <h2>ASSESSMENT</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Reviews > Records > Appraisals 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is there an annual self-assessment by the Academy? 2. Is there a basic record (a logbook) for each player (i.e. playing/learning/training time)? 3. Is there a release policy/process? 4. Is there an appraisal procedure? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is there an individual performance review for each player every year? 2. Is there an individual performance review for each member of staff every year? 3. Is there an independent review of the Academy at least every two years? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is there ongoing support for those who leave the Academy? 2. Is there a performance profile (i.e. detailed record) for each player throughout their Academy career? 3. Is the Academy routinely and comprehensively monitored by the football authorities? 	
	<h1>19</h1> <h2>RULES</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Conduct > Behaviour > Regulations 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Does the club fully comply with the AFC/ Member Associations club licensing – sporting criteria? 2. Are there basic rules about registration, travel times, etc? 3. Is there a code of conduct for players? For staff? For parents? 4. Is there an attendance register? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Does the Academy have detailed Regulations about all aspects of its operation? 2. Are there rules about expulsion/dismissal from the Academy? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Does the Academy have professional support i.e. legal and administrative for contracts, disputes, etc.? 2. Are there rules about agents, compensation, etc.?
		<h1>20</h1> <h2>RESULTS</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Outcomes > Success > Returns 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Does the Academy produce an annual report for the club board? 2. Do the Academy's players get the opportunity to train/play with the first team? 3. Does the Academy produce players for regional selections, national trials, etc.? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Does the Academy produce players for national youth squads? 2. Does the Academy regularly produce players who graduate to a professional contract?

FOOTBALL

A THREE-TIER CAKE

TOP LEVEL

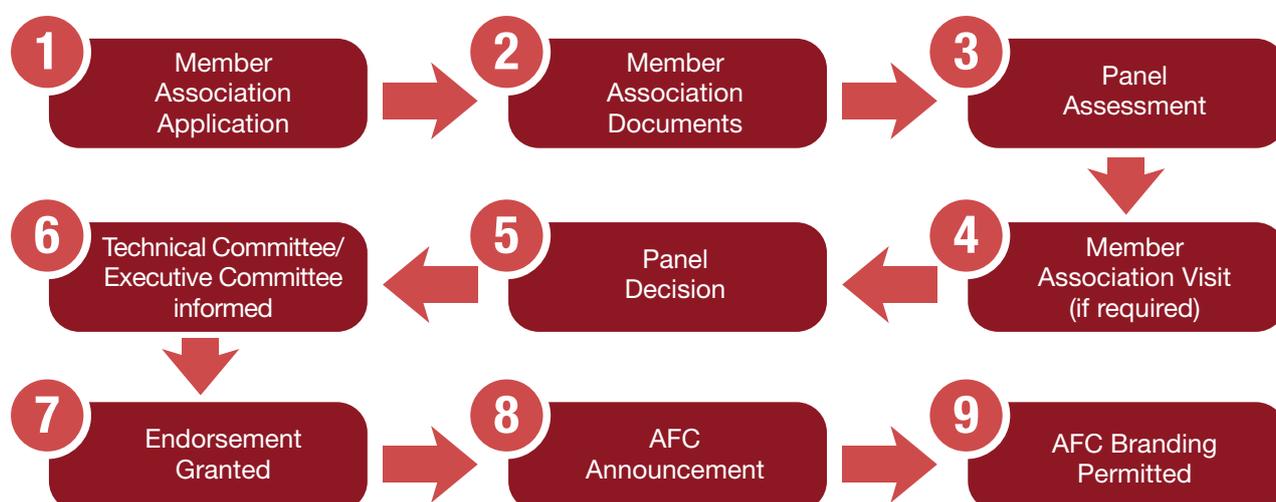
ELITE YOUTH

GRASSROOTS

E. APPLICATION PROCESS

1. Following a process of self-evaluation, the Member Association applies for the AFC Elite Youth Scheme Endorsement based on the eleven (11) Member Association Core Activities.
2. The Member Association sends its supporting documents (a completed Member Association checklist, a brief summary of the Member Association's elite youth programme and Academy information based on the AFC's criteria) within one month of the application date.
3. Two selected AFC Youth Panel members assess the Member Association's documentation (within four weeks of receiving the material).
4. If a Member Association assessment visit is required, this should be completed within three months of the application date.
5. On completing the evaluation, the two AFC Youth Panel members forward an assessment report. This is sent to the full AFC Youth Panel for their consideration and decision. The result is then communicated to the AFC's Technical Committee.
6. The AFC's Technical Committee, which monitors the AFC Elite Youth Scheme, informs the AFC Executive Committee of the Scheme's progress on a regular basis.
7. The Member Association Endorsement is granted, an agreement is signed by both parties, and an AFC certificate is sent to the Member Association. The certificate will include the names of the Academies approved at each grading level. As a minimum requirement of membership, a Member Association needs the grading of one Academy to be accepted by the AFC Youth Panel.
8. The AFC publishes the Endorsement of the Member Association.
9. The Member Association concerned is permitted to use the AFC Elite Youth Scheme branding for promotional purposes as per the AFC regulations.

THE APPLICATION PROCESS



APPLICATION FORM



AFC TECHNICAL DIVISION

AFC ELITE YOUTH SCHEME (APPLICATION FORM)

Member Association

We would like to apply for the level of:

Level	Please tick ✓	Supporting Documents
1. Provisional Membership (i.e. satisfying the first 10 areas of core activity, but excluding academies)		
OR		
2. Full Membership (i.e. satisfying all 11 areas of core activity, including the grading of at least one youth academy)		

No	Name of Academy(ies)	Please choose	Supporting Documents
1		★ ★★ ★★★★★	
2		★ ★★ ★★★★★	
3		★ ★★ ★★★★★	
4		★ ★★ ★★★★★	
5		★ ★★ ★★★★★	
6		★ ★★ ★★★★★	

MA Staff member(s) nominated to liaise with the AFC with regard to the AFC Elite Youth Scheme:

Name	Designation	Email Address	Contact Number

Remark or Comment:

.....
Name & Signature of General Secretary

Date:

.....
Seal of Member Association

F. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Can a Member Association apply to have its national Academy endorsed?

Yes, if it satisfies the Key Criteria of the Scheme.

2. Can a club apply directly to AFC for Endorsement?

No. The Scheme is a partnership between the AFC and its Member Associations.

3. When can a Member Association apply for the Scheme Membership?

When it can satisfy the eleven (11) core criteria on the elite youth evaluation checklist. Provisional membership can be applied for if, as yet, there are no Academies in operation.

4. Who evaluates/grades the clubs?

The Member Association (with partners), using these Regulations.

5. What is the difference between Endorsement and membership?

The Member Associations become Scheme members, when they are granted the AFC Endorsement.

6. Who are the main collaborators in the evaluation process?

AFC's Youth Panel members and the Member Association's head of youth or technical director.

7. If a Member Association already has an Academy Endorsement, can this be recognised by the AFC?

A Member Association or a private endorsement project can be used as a reference, but the AFC criteria still has to be satisfied.

8. What happens to a club Academy's Endorsement if the club is relegated from the top league?

The Academy will retain its AFC/Member Association recognition provided that it continues to satisfy the grading criteria.

9. In the context of the Scheme, what is a Member Association elite youth scheme portfolio?

The list of approved Academies that a Member Association is responsible for.

10. Can a professional league become a member of the Scheme?

No. Only Member Associations can be recognised as members by the AFC, but professional leagues can be involved as active partners.

G. CHECKLISTS

MEMBER ASSOCIATION CRITERIA CHECKLIST

CORE AREAS	CRITERIA	YES	NO	EVIDENCE
1 STAFF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organigram • Job Descriptions • Qualifications 			
2 PLANS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A document summarising the Member Association's youth development plan. 			
3 COMPETITIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirmation of the Member Association's programme of international matches and training camps • Proof of regular youth league participation. 			
4 COACHES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A list of Member Association employed national youth coaches, including AFC required qualifications. 			
5 TALENT ID	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A paper describing the Member Associations scouting arrangements, including development centres and links to grassroots, schools, local clubs, etc. 			
6 MEDICAL SERVICES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Details of the medical staff, the support provided, and the checks carried out. 			
7 SPORTS SCIENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information about data collection, performance analysis, fitness, diet, individual records and results. 			
8 EDUCATION & WELFARE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verification of a child protection policy • Describe the educational arrangements with the school's authorities. • A copy of the staff and player Codes of Conduct, rules, evaluations, etc. 			
9 FACILITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide material to show the quality of the facilities used by the youth staff and players eg. training/playing pitches, changing rooms, medical facilities, equipment, etc. 			
10 PHILOSOPHY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present (in writing) a description of the Member Association's playing philosophy, style and technical emphasis with youth players. 			
11 ACADEMIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A catalogue of the national and club (top league) youth Academies • Details of a grading system (if in use) • An evaluation form for at least one Academy that satisfies the Key Criteria (one, two or three stars) 			

AFC ELITE YOUTH SCHEME



THE AFC YOUTH PANEL WILL EVALUATE EACH MEMBER ASSOCIATION IN ELEVEN AREAS OF CORE ACTIVITY



ACADEMY CRITERIA

G.1: ONE-STAR

CATEGORY	CRITERIA	YES	NO	EVIDENCE
1 LEADERSHIP > Direction > Philosophy > Key People	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Is there a written commitment to the Academy by the owner/board?2. Is there a head of the Academy?3. Is there a written football philosophy and an approach to player development?			
2 PLANNING > Plans > Schedules > Strategy	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Is there a written youth development plan for the Academy?			
3 ORGANISATION > Structure > Arrangements > Organisation	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Is there an Academy management structure document (i.e. a chart with all staff positions identified)?2. Is there adequate administrative support?			
4 STAFFING > Coaches > Specialists > Support Staff	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Does each squad in the Academy have a minimum of one youth coach?2. Is there an Academy secretary?3. Does the Academy have basic medical support, approved by the Member Association?4. Is there evidence of regular meetings and ongoing educational opportunities for the staff eg. methods, trends, psychology, study visits, etc.?			

CATEGORY	CRITERIA	YES	NO	EVIDENCE
<p>5</p> <p>RECRUITMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Scouting > Talent > Identification 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is there a written recruitment policy/identification process? 2. Is there a reporting mechanism? 3. Does the Academy have a simple database? 			
<p>6</p> <p>FINANCE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Funding > Budgets > Accounts 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is there a written annual budget? 2. Does the Academy work within its annual budget and who audits it? 3. Who supplies the budget? 4. Does the budget meet the needs of the AFC's one-star Endorsement criteria? 			
<p>7</p> <p>FACILITIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Pitches > Buildings > Equipment 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Do the youth teams have the use of a full-side field for playing/training? (half field for U12)? 2. Is there a minimum/ adequate number of rooms for medical treatment, admin, fitness? 3. Are there adequate dressing rooms reserved for the Academy? 4. Is there an adequate/safe supply of equipment? 			
<p>8</p> <p>TEAMS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Players > Squads > Categories 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Are there at least 3 youth teams i.e. U14, U16 and U19s? 2. Are there at least 18 players in each squad, including 2 goalkeepers? 			

CATEGORY	CRITERIA	YES	NO	EVIDENCE
<p>9</p> <p>COACHING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Sessions > Methods > Licences 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is there a minimum of 2 training sessions per week for teams U14 to U19? 2. Is there a basic coaching curriculum at each age level? 3. Does the Head of the Academy have a contract and as a minimum, an AFC A Licence? 4. Does each team coach have, as a minimum, an AFC B Licence? 5. Is there a regular review of the coaching staff? 6. If there are assistant coaches, do they have, as a minimum, a C Licence? 7. Is there evidence that the club's vision/philosophy is reflected in the coaching programme? 			
<p>10</p> <p>PLAYING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Matches > Competitions > Levels 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is there a regular (eg. 20 matches/1 or 2 per week) elite, competitive match schedule organised by the FA/League for the Academy teams? 2. Is the match programme appropriate for the stage of development? 3. Are there guidelines on playing time (i.e. official matches)? 4. In general, do the U12s play small-sided games? 			
<p>11</p> <p>PLAYER PERFORMANCE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Analysis > Reviews > Feedback 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is there evidence of player objectives and the use of feedback: verbal, through online, etc.? 			

CATEGORY	CRITERIA	YES	NO	EVIDENCE
12 HEALTH > Medicine > Injuries > Prevention	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Are there regular health check-ups? 2. Is there an injury-prevention programme? 3. Are there rehabilitation arrangements? 4. Are the coaches trained in First Aid? 			
13 FITNESS > Fitness > Training > Sports	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Are there regular fitness tests for the Academy players? 2. Are the workloads of the players managed (eg. periodisation) in and out of Academy? 			
14 PSYCHOLOGY > Assessments > Psychologists > Mental Training	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Do the players have support/guidance on leadership, concentration, mental health, emotional stability, confidence, motivation, behaviour, etc. 			
15 WELFARE > Protection > Lifestyle > Accommodation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is there a policy of child protection in action i.e. have all Academy personnel been checked under the child protection legislation? 2. Is there a basic welfare policy and welfare support available? 			
16 EDUCATION > Academic > Study > Schools	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Does the Academy liaise/cooperate with the education authorities? 2. Are there reports on the player's educational progress? 			

CATEGORY	CRITERIA	YES	NO	EVIDENCE
<p>17</p> <p>COLLABORATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Parents > Grassroots > Authorities 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is there collaboration with the local clubs, regional associations, the national youth teams and the schools? 2. Is there a direct link with the first team? 3. Are there meetings with parents? Introductory sessions? 4. Does the Academy co-operate with other Academies eg. knowledge sharing? 			
<p>18</p> <p>ASSESSMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Reviews > Records > Appraisals 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is there an annual self-assessment by the Academy? 2. Is there a basic record (a logbook) for each player (i.e. playing/learning/training time)? 3. Is there a release policy/process? 4. Is there an appraisal procedure? 			
<p>19</p> <p>RULES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Conduct > Behaviour > Regulations 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Does the club fully comply with the AFC/Member Associations club licensing – sporting criteria? 2. Are there basic rules about registration, travel times, etc? 3. Is there a code of conduct for players? For staff? For parents? 4. Is there an attendance register? 			
<p>20</p> <p>RESULTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Outcomes > Success > Returns 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Does the Academy produce an annual report for the club board? 2. Do the Academy's players get the opportunity to train/play with the first team? 3. Does the Academy produce players for regional selections, national trials, etc.? 			



ACADEMY CRITERIA

G.2: TWO-STAR

CATEGORY	CRITERIA	YES	NO	EVIDENCE
1 LEADERSHIP > Direction > Philosophy > Key People	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is there a system for liaison between the Academy and the first team? 2. Is there a board member responsible for the Academy? 			
2 PLANNING > Plans > Schedules > Strategy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is there a plan for the continued professional development of the Academy staff? 2. Is there a yearly or monthly development plan for the Academy? 			
3 ORGANISATION > Structure > Arrangements > Organisation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Are there job descriptions for each member of staff? 2. Are there arrangements for meals, transport, etc.? 			
4 STAFFING > Coaches > Specialists > Support Staff	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is there a goalkeeper specialist available? 2. Does the Academy have a logistics manager? 3. Does the Academy have adequate support staff ie. doctor, physio, physical trainer, etc? 			
5 RECRUITMENT > Scouting > Talent > Identification	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is there a head scout? 2. Is there a well-maintained system for recording training and match information? 3. Are there arrangements for trials and for integrating new players? 			

CATEGORY	CRITERIA	YES	NO	EVIDENCE
<p>6</p> <p>FINANCE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Funding > Budgets > Accounts 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Does the budget meet the needs of AFC's two-star Endorsement criteria? 2. Does the budget cover the expense of team travelling and away training or matches facilities? 			
<p>7</p> <p>FACILITIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Pitches > Buildings > Equipment 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Are there sufficient grass pitches of appropriate size to enable the Academy to play all its matches and to carry out its coaching programme? 2. Does the Academy have access to floodlights, artificial turf and indoor facilities? 3. Is there a pitch(es) reserved for the Academy? 4. Is the quality of the playing surfaces of a high enough standard for an elite youth Academy? 			
<p>8</p> <p>TEAMS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Players > Squads > Categories 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Are there at least 4 teams in the age category U13 to U19s? 2. Are there at least 18 players in each squad? 			
<p>9</p> <p>COACHING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Sessions > Methods > Licences 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is there a minimum of 3 training sessions per week for teams U14 to U19? 2. Does the Academy director have an AFC Pro Licence? 3. Does each team coach (U14 to U19) have at least an AFC A Licence? 4. Is individual coaching provided? 5. Is specialist coaching for goalkeepers provided? 6. Is there a policy regarding teaching methods? 			

CATEGORY	CRITERIA	YES	NO	EVIDENCE
10 PLAYING > Matches > Competitions > Levels	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is there an opportunity for international exchange? 2. Are there arrangements for less well-developed players in each age category? 			
11 PLAYER PERFORMANCE > Analysis > Reviews > Feedback	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is there a computer programme for analysis in use? 2. Are parents given regular feedback on the player's performance? 			
12 HEALTH > Medicine > Injuries > Prevention	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Are there rehabilitation protocols? 2. Is there medical support at each game? 3. Is there an appropriate medical room? 4. Is there an educational programme about health and performance issues eg. doping, smoking, diet, etc? 5. Is there a head doctor and head physio appointed for the Academy? 			
13 FITNESS > Fitness > Training > Sports	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is there a well-equipped fitness room/gym? 2. Is there a strength and condition specialist? 3. Are workloads of the players monitored? 			
14 PSYCHOLOGY > Assessments > Psychologists > Mental Training	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is there a programme of psychological development? 2. Is psychological support available? 			

CATEGORY	CRITERIA	YES	NO	EVIDENCE
<p>15</p> <p>WELFARE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Protection > Lifestyle > Accommodation 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is there a welfare officer? 2. Is there a basic lifestyle programme eg. nutrition, hygiene, mental health, etc? 3. Are there arrangements for boarding, host families, etc.? 			
<p>16</p> <p>EDUCATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Academic > Study > Schools 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is there a head of education i.e. someone responsible for guiding/supporting the players with their academic development? 			
<p>17</p> <p>COLLABORATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Parents > Grassroots > Authorities 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To what extent does the Academy collaborate with the club's communications department eg. with the Academy section on the website? 2. Do Academy players help in the community and support grassroots projects? 			
<p>18</p> <p>ASSESSMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Reviews > Records > Appraisals 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is there an individual performance review for each player every year? 2. Is there an individual performance review for each member of staff every year? 3. Is there an independent review of the Academy at least every two years? 			
<p>19</p> <p>RULES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Conduct > Behaviour > Regulations 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Does the Academy have detailed Regulations about all aspects of its operation? 2. Are there rules about expulsion/dismissal from the Academy? 			
<p>20</p> <p>RESULTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Outcomes > Success > Returns 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Does the Academy produce players for national youth squads? 2. Does the Academy regularly produce players who graduate to a professional contract? 			



ACADEMY CRITERIA

G.3: THREE-STAR

CATEGORY	CRITERIA	YES	NO	EVIDENCE
<p>1</p> <p>LEADERSHIP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Direction > Philosophy > Key People 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Does the club operate a technical board and a technical director? 2. Does the club comply with good governance standards? (Member Association approval) 3. Is there a vision and mission document for the club and the Academy? 			
<p>2</p> <p>PLANNING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Plans > Schedules > Strategy 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is there a written, regularly updated, long-term business plan for the Academy, approved by the club board? 			
<p>3</p> <p>ORGANISATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Structure > Arrangements > Organisation 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is there a clear decision-making process for the Academy? 2. Is there comprehensive administration support? 3. Are there arrangements for the player's school studies, further education, etc? 			
<p>4</p> <p>STAFFING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Coaches > Specialists > Support Staff 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Does the Academy have appropriate/adequate ground staff? 2. Does the Academy have a comprehensive dedicated staff i.e. coaches, doctor, physio, physical trainer, etc? 3. Does each team have an assistant coach, and do they have a B licence, as a minimum? 4. Is there evidence of a policy supporting continuity of staff? 			

CATEGORY	CRITERIA	YES	NO	EVIDENCE
5 RECRUITMENT > Scouting > Talent > Identification	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is there a scouting team for the Academy? 2. Is there a comprehensive digital system/tool for data collection? 3. Is there an annual review of the talent identification system? 			
6 FINANCE > Funding > Budgets > Accounts	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is long-term funding for the Academy guaranteed? 2. Are the financial accounts and records kept in accordance with club licensing guidelines? 3. Does the budget meet the needs of the AFC's Three-Star Endorsement criteria? 			
7 FACILITIES > Pitches > Buildings > Equipment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Are the facilities fully comprehensive (eg. dressing rooms, medical centre, pitches, etc.) and do they meet the needs of the Academy's technical programme? 			
8 TEAMS > Players > Squads > Categories	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Are there at least 6 teams, including one U12 squad which plays small-sided games? 2. Are there at least 18 players in each squad? 			
9 COACHING > Sessions > Methods > Licences	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is there a minimum of 4 training sessions per week for teams U14 to U19? 2. Does each coach with the youth age-group teams have at least an AFC A Licence and the assistants a B Licence? 			
10 PLAYING > Matches > Competitions > Levels	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is there a games programme which meet the individual player's needs? 2. Do the top players have the opportunity against older, more mature players? 			

CATEGORY	CRITERIA	YES	NO	EVIDENCE
<p>11</p> <p>PLAYER PERFORMANCE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Analysis > Reviews > Feedback 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Are all matches/training sessions filmed and analysed? 2. Is there a regular, comprehensive performance review for each player? 3. Is there performance analysis guidance for each player? 			
<p>12</p> <p>HEALTH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Medicine > Injuries > Prevention 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is there an appropriate, fully qualified medical team? 2. Is there research into player injuries? 3. Are there protocols on returning to play and activities with the first team? 			
<p>13</p> <p>FITNESS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Fitness > Training > Sports 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Are there individual strength and conditioning programmes? 2. Is there comprehensive sports science support? 3. Are fitness sessions integrated with technical work? 			
<p>14</p> <p>PSYCHOLOGY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Assessments > Psychologists > Mental Training 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is there a comprehensive psychological assessment for each individual player? 2. Is there access to professional help? 			
<p>15</p> <p>WELFARE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Protection > Lifestyle > Accommodation 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is there a comprehensive welfare support system in place? 			
<p>16</p> <p>EDUCATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Academic > Study > Schools 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is there an approved arrangement for academic education? 2. Are there individual educational plans? 3. Does the Academy develop university students, successful employees in business, etc? 			

CATEGORY	CRITERIA	YES	NO	EVIDENCE
17 COLLABORATION > Parents > Grassroots > Authorities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is there an identified network of collaborating clubs/ schools/ universities/government agencies/businesses? 2. Is someone responsible for this liaison? 			
18 ASSESSMENT > Reviews > Records > Appraisals	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is there ongoing support for those who leave the Academy? 2. Is there a performance profile (i.e. detailed record) for each player throughout their Academy career? 3. Is the Academy routinely and comprehensively monitored by the football authorities? 			
19 RULES > Conduct > Behaviour > Regulations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Does the Academy have professional support i.e. legal and administrative for contracts, disputes, etc.? 2. Are there rules about agents, compensation, etc.? 			
20 RESULTS > Outcomes > Success > Returns	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Does the Academy produce players for top international level? 2. Does the Academy produce players for top professional football, including the club's first team or other professional clubs? 3. Is there evidence of transfer fees or compensation for Academy players? 			

H. AFC YOUTH PANEL MEMBERS

AFC YOUTH PANEL MEMBERS FOR TERM 2020-2021

NAME	MEMBER ASSOCIATION
Li Chunman	China PR
Sun Wen	China PR
Chan Yuen Ting	Hong Kong
Kageyama Masanaga	Japan
Soleen Al-Zoubi	Jordan
Seo Hyowon	Korea Republic
Peter de Roo	Malaysia
Rastislav Bozik	Mongolia
Letecia C. Bautista	Philippines
Fahad Abdulla Al Zarraa	Qatar
Mohammed Ameen Haidar	Saudi Arabia
Withaya Laohakul	Thailand
Islam Akhmedov	Uzbekistan

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Head of Football Development Services

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**IT TAKES TALENT TO
DEVELOP TALENT**

**ANDY ROXBURGH
(AFC TECHNICAL DIRECTOR)**

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