



AFC Safety and Security Regulations

Edition 2021



AFC SAFETY AND SECURITY REGULATIONS

EDITION 2021

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DEFINITIONS

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

Closed-Circuit Television System (CCTV)	Fixed cameras with pan and tilt facilities for monitoring spectators, Stadium approaches and entrances, and all viewing areas within the Stadium.
Control Room	A Room reserved for the staff and officials with overall responsibility for all match-related Safety and Security matters, namely the Police commander for the match, the Host Organisation Safety and Security Officer, the stadium Security officer and their staff.
Host Organisation	A Member Association (or any local organising committee established by the Member Association) and/or Club approved by the AFC to organise, stage and host Matches. Where the context so permits, reference to the Host Organisation shall mean the host association and/or host Club as defined in the relevant Competition regulations.
Police	The Public Authority responsible for maintaining public order and Security at the Match.
Private Security	A trained individual (whether directly employed or contracted) assessed as competent to undertake their designated Safety and Security functions. This role differs from that of a Steward insofar as Private Security may have additional roles requiring a specific licence under national legislation.
Public Address System	An electronic system of loudspeakers capable of communicating clear messages to all spectators instantaneously.
Public Authority	Any national or local authority with any responsibility in the preparation and implementation of Safety, Security or Service measures in connection with a football match (e.g. Police, first aid, medical Services and fire Services).
Regulations	These Safety and Security Regulations.
Safety	Any measure designed to protect the health and well-being of individuals and groups who attend, work or take part in the Match.
Safety Certificate	A document which certifies a Stadium for Safety. The certification is defined according to national law and shall include provisions related to Safety. If such law does not exist, the Host Organisation shall establish its content in close cooperation with the appropriate bodies (e.g. local Security authorities, the local hospital, fire brigade, Police, etc.)
Security	Any measure designed to prevent, reduce the risk and respond to criminal activity or disorder committed in connection with the Match.

Security Personnel	Police officers, Private Security and Stewards.
Safety and Security Officer	The individual responsible for Safety and Security matters at a Match in accordance with these Regulations.
Service	Any measure designed to make individuals or groups feel welcome and comfortable when attending the Match.
Steward	A trained individual (whether directly employed or contracted) assessed as competent to undertake designated Safety and Security functions in and around the Stadium.
Supporter Liaison Officer	Person acting as the key contact point for supporters of a Member Association or Club.

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

- (a) the singular shall include the plural and vice-versa;
- (b) the feminine gender shall include the masculine and vice-versa;
- (c) reference to natural persons shall include any legal person or corporation;
- (d) references to the AFC shall include its successors and permitted assigns, and where the context requires, the AFC Committees;
- (e) reference to the AFC Commercial Rights Partner or Commercial Affiliates shall include, where advised by the AFC, their successors and permitted assigns; and
- (f) all defined terms, unless otherwise stated herein shall bear the same meaning as ascribed in the AFC Statutes and the AFC Competition Operations Manual, unless the context indicates otherwise.

SECTION 1 | GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. Scope of Application

- 1.1. These Regulations shall apply to all Competitions organised by the AFC, unless expressly stated otherwise.
- 1.2. These Regulations govern the organisational measures intended to ensure Safety and Security in and around a Stadium before, during and after every Match in a Competition.
- 1.3. These Regulations do not constitute an exhaustive list of the organisational measures required to be taken by a Host Organisation. The Host Organisation shall take all reasonable measures necessary to ensure Safety and Security at the Stadiums.
- 1.4. These Regulations shall be used as a guideline for all Matches authorised by the AFC in accordance with the FIFA Regulations Governing International Matches and AFC Regulations Governing International Matches.
- 1.5. These Regulations constitute minimum requirements and do not affect any legal obligations arising from any applicable national legislation.

2. Purpose

- 2.1. The purpose of these Regulations is to ensure that Host Organisations are aware of their Safety and Security duties and responsibilities before, during and after a Match, and in particular to safeguard and provide Service to everyone present, as well as of the Stadium and its installations.

3. Responsibilities

- 3.1. Host Organisations shall, at their own cost, be solely responsible for:
 - 3.1.1. complying with the requirements set out by the AFC in these Regulations and all other relevant AFC regulations, directives, guidelines and circulars;
 - 3.1.2. complying with all applicable laws;
 - 3.1.3. payment of all taxes, fees, duties and any other costs payable in relation to the implementation of and compliance with these Regulations, except where expressly identified otherwise in these Regulations or any other relevant AFC regulations;
 - 3.1.4. indemnifying, defending, and holding 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 breach of these Regulations or non-compliance with these Regulations by the Host Organisation, their affiliates and any third-parties contracted to them; and

- 3.1.5. appointing a Safety and Security Officer.
- 3.2. Safety and Security Officers shall:
 - 3.2.1. develop, implement and review Safety and Security policy and procedure, including risk management and planning;
 - 3.2.2. be the main point of contact between the Public Authorities and the Host Organisation in respect of Safety and Security organisation for Matches;
 - 3.2.3. manage the Match Safety and Security operations including resourcing, briefing, deployment and debriefing; and
 - 3.2.4. ensure that Stadium infrastructure, systems and equipment are certified as fit for purpose.
- 3.3. The Safety and Security Officers shall be trained and experienced in matters of crowd control and Safety and Security at football events and be qualified in accordance with the relevant national legal framework (if any).

SECTION 2 | COOPERATION

4. Cooperation and Communication with Supporters

- 4.1. Member Associations and Clubs shall develop and maintain proactive and regular communication with supporters and their representatives in order to generate a partnership as well as resolve problems.
- 4.2. Member Associations and Clubs should consider preparing a supporter's charter outlining mutual expectations and obligations.
- 4.3. Member Associations and Clubs should appoint a Supporters' Liaison Officer.

5. Duty to Cooperate with the Public Authorities

- 5.1. Host Organisations must ensure an effective and efficient exchange of information with public authorities to guarantee a safe, secure and welcoming event.
- 5.2. Host Organisations must ensure that local, national and international coordination arrangements are established to ensure an integrated approach to Safety, Security and Service. This includes implementing measures in cooperation with Public Authorities to prevent the attendance of persons excluded from attending Matches by either administrative or judicial orders.
- 5.3. The Host Organisation is responsible for liaising with Public Authorities in the host country/city to ensure that they work towards the implementation of the measures contained in these Regulations.
- 5.4. In conjunction with the Public Authorities, the Host Organisation must implement clear policies and procedures on matters that might impact on crowd management and Safety and Security risk, including but not limited to, the use of pyrotechnics, violent behaviour and racist or discriminatory behaviour.

6. Identification of Persons Responsible

- 6.1. The Host Organisation shall identify:
 - 6.1.1. the Police commander for the Match and/or Safety and Security Officer with overall responsibility for Safety and Security in relation to the Match; and
 - 6.1.2. all other individuals responsible for Safety and Security, medical and fire Services.

7. Security Personnel

- 7.1. In cooperation with the Public Authorities, the Host Organisation shall ensure that there are Stewards and Private Security to ensure the Safety of the general public and the Match participants within the Stadium and its immediate environs. Where required, Police should be available to support Stewards and Private Security to deal with any outbreak of violence or disorder.
- 7.2. The Host Organisation shall ensure that Security Personnel enforce all ticketing prohibitions implemented for the Match.
- 7.3. The Host Organisation shall provide all assistance and support to the AFC in respect to the protection of the AFC's Commercial Rights and shall ensure that Security Personnel enforce against any infringement or breach of such rights.

8. Liaison Group

- 8.1. The Host Organisation should establish a liaison group which includes;
 - 8.1.1. A senior official acting on behalf of the Host Organisation;
 - 8.1.2. A senior representative of:
 - 8.1.2.1. each of the Public Authorities concerned;
 - 8.1.2.2. the Stewards;
 - 8.1.2.3. the Stadium owner;
 - 8.1.2.4. the Participating Teams;
 - 8.1.3. Host Organisation Safety and Security Officer;
 - 8.1.4. The AFC General Coordinator or Match Commissioner;
 - 8.1.5. The AFC Safety and Security Officer, if any.
- 8.2. The Host Organisation shall identify a suitable meeting place within the Stadium where the group should meet in the event of an emergency.
- 8.3. The members of the liaison group shall go to the designated meeting place without unnecessary delay. The Host Organisation shall ensure that the members of the liaison group are able to communicate freely by telephone or radio with the Stadium Control Room or the designated liaison group meeting place.

9. Spectator Segregation and Crowd Dispersal Strategy

- 9.1. For a Match where spectators are segregated, a segregation strategy shall be drawn up by the Host Organisation in consultation with the Safety and Security Officer and Police. If necessary, this strategy will also include a parking strategy for the different groups of supporters.
- 9.2. The end-of-match crowd dispersal strategy shall be discussed at the Match coordination meeting before the Match.

10. Stadium Inspection

- 10.1. The Host Organisation shall ensure that the Stadium has been inspected by the respective Public Authorities and is certified with a Safety Certificate by an appropriate body.
- 10.2. The Safety Certificate shall provide at least the following information:
 - 10.2.1. Safety status of the Stadium structure and building fitness;
 - 10.2.2. compliance statement regarding the Safety and Security regulations of the competent civil authority; and
 - 10.2.3. approval of the entire Stadium capacity (individual seats, terraces and total number).
- 10.3. The Safety Certificate issued by the appropriate body shall be valid for a maximum of two (2) years and shall be valid on Match day. The Safety Certificate shall be made available to the AFC upon request.

11. First Aid for Spectators

- 11.1. The Host Organisation shall ensure that the qualifications of the first aiders appointed to provide first aid treatment to spectators are approved by the Public Authorities concerned, without prejudice, to any additional requirements set out in the AFC Competition Operations Manual or otherwise instructed by the AFC. The Public Authorities will also determine the number of ambulances to be stationed on site during the Match.
- 11.2. The first aiders must be easily identifiable.

12. Emergency Services

- 12.1. Adequate rooms and facilities within and around the Stadium shall be provided for the Police, medical Services and fire Services, in accordance with the requirements of the Public Authorities concerned.

SECTION 3 | TICKETING

13. Ticket Sales

- 13.1. Ticket sales shall be strictly controlled.
- 13.2. Any arrangements for Tickets to be sold on Match days, whether at the Stadium or anywhere else in the same town/city shall be made in consultation and with the approval of the Police and/or other competent authorities.

14. Ticket Allocation

- 14.1. Each Participating Team, to which Match Tickets are allocated, is responsible for ensuring that these Tickets are allocated only to its own supporters.
- 14.2. When a Match is played at a neutral venue, the Host Organisation is responsible for ensuring that none of its Ticket allocation is provided to supporters of the visiting Participating Team, unless both Participating Teams agree.
- 14.3. Host Organisations and Participating Teams shall ensure that their allocated Tickets shall be free from any black market activity and that they are not utilised and exploited by unauthorised individuals or agencies.

15. Ticket Holder Details

- 15.1. Travel agents, Host Organisations and Participating Teams upon distributing allocated Match Tickets shall ensure that:
 - 15.1.1. spectators' personal identification might be required to purchase Tickets; and
 - 15.1.2. Tickets are not distributed to other sources where they have no control over their distribution.
- 15.2. Host Organisations and Participating Teams that distribute Tickets shall keep detailed records of sales. This information shall be made available to the AFC upon request.
- 15.3. All such personal information, as well as any information gathered regarding supporters travelling without Match Tickets or believed to be doing so, shall be made available, if required, to the AFC, the Public Authorities in the country where the Match is being staged or in countries through which supporters will travel en route to the Match.

16. Ticket Allocation Strategy

- 16.1. In consultation with the Police and/or other Public Authorities, the Host Organisation shall ensure that the Tickets are allocated in such a way as to ensure optimum segregation of the different groups of supporters, bearing in mind that, for a Match played at a neutral venue, there could be three (3) groups of spectators.

- 16.2. As part of the segregation arrangements, prospective spectators shall be informed:
 - 16.2.1. of the Stadium sector(s) for which they are allowed to purchase Tickets; and
 - 16.2.2. that if they are identified in the wrong sector they may be moved to a preferred sector, as decided by the Safety and Security Officer, Police and/or other Public Authorities.
- 16.3. Once the Ticket allocation strategy has been agreed with the Police and/or other Public Authorities and Tickets have been distributed accordingly, no considerations of any kind will be taken into account to alter the said strategy, unless the segregation of supporters requires some Tickets to be withheld from sale for any given sector.

17. Black Market and Anti-Counterfeit Measures

- 17.1. The Host Organisation shall, if necessary, discuss with the Police and/or other Public Authorities the action to take against black market ticket sellers around the Stadium, particularly bearing in mind that such activities can jeopardise the segregation strategy.
- 17.2. Such action can include limiting the number of Tickets sold per person.
- 17.3. The most sophisticated anti-counterfeit measures shall be incorporated into Match Tickets, and all Security Personnel on duty in and around the Stadium shall be familiar with these measures, to facilitate the rapid identification of counterfeit Tickets.
- 17.4. As soon as the Host Organisation becomes aware that counterfeit Tickets may be in circulation, it shall contact the Police and/or other Public Authorities to agree on a strategy for dealing with the problem.

18. Ticket Quotas and Prices

- 18.1. The Ticket quotas for Participating Teams shall be distributed upon the instruction of the AFC with reference to any relevant Competition regulations.
- 18.2. Even if the segregated area of the Stadium for visiting supporters constitutes more than the number of Tickets granted to the visiting Participating Team, all places in the segregated area shall be made available.
- 18.3. Unless the Participating Teams agree otherwise (and approved by the AFC), the price of Tickets for supporters of the visiting Participating Team shall not exceed the price paid for Tickets of a comparable category that are sold to supporters of the home Participating Team.

19. Information on Tickets

- 19.1. Tickets shall provide holders with all the information required such as the names of the Competition, Participating Teams and Stadium, the date, kick-off time and a clear seat location indication (including sector, row and seat number).
- 19.2. Tickets shall include serial numbering.

20. Information for All Supporters

- 20.1. The Host Organisation shall provide the following information to all supporters (e.g. on the Ticket, online and/or at the outside Stadium arrival points):
 - 20.1.1. Stadium opening time;
 - 20.1.2. Stadium map, including approach roads, car parks, public transport stops and location of viewing sectors (A, B, C or as appropriate);
 - 20.1.3. Stadium code of conduct, including the prohibition of items from entering Stadiums and offensive articles as well as the procedure for searching spectators.
- 20.2. Guidelines for a Stadium code of conduct can be found in Annex A.

21. Ticket Counting System

- 21.1. Each Host Organisation shall establish a system that records the number of spectators that have entered and are present in the Stadium.
- 21.2. The rate of flow and numbers of spectators inside the Stadium shall be regularly updated at every fifteen (15) minutes from the time the Stadium gates are open until kick-off plus thirty (30) minutes. This information shall be provided to the AFC Safety and Security Officer and/or AFC Match Commissioner when it is requested.
- 21.3. For Stadiums that have more than one (1) Match being played on the same day, entry monitoring shall be maintained until kick-off plus thirty (30) minutes of the last game. The counting system shall take into account the spectators in hospitality facilities within the Stadium.

SECTION 4 | VISITING PARTICIPATING TEAM AND SUPPORTERS

22. Safety of the Visiting Participating Team and Match Officials

- 22.1. The Host Organisation shall seek the cooperation of the Police to ensure the Safety of the visiting Participating Team and Match Officials in relation to their movement to attend Official Functions, trainings and the Match.
- 22.2. The Host Organisation shall undertake an appropriate risk assessment on the safety of the visiting Participating Team and Match Officials in conjunction with the Police and, whenever Police escorts are not to be provided for movements of Participating Teams and Match Officials, the reason should be recorded in this risk assessment and provided to the AFC at the Match coordination meeting.

23. Information to Visiting Supporters

- 23.1. The Host Organisation shall provide the visiting Participating Team with as much information as possible about the country concerned to pass on to the visiting supporters, on for example but not limited to their website or digital channels, including:
 - 23.1.1. visa requirements, if any;
 - 23.1.2. customs import restrictions and limitations;
 - 23.1.3. currency units and equivalent value;
 - 23.1.4. distance from various arrival points (airport, station) to the town/city centre and Stadium;
 - 23.1.5. address of the emergency contact point and name of the Host Organisation contact;
 - 23.1.6. address and telephone number of the local embassy or consulate of the visiting Participating Team;
 - 23.1.7. map of the Stadium showing the various sectors, access routes from town/city and the location of parking area;
 - 23.1.8. details of public transport services from town/city centre to the Stadium;
 - 23.1.9. specific legal provisions regarding misbehaviour at football matches in the host country;
 - 23.1.10. forbidden items inside the Stadium; and
 - 23.1.11. local health warning, if any.

SECTION 5 | STADIUM CONTROL AND ADMISSION

24. Checking and Guarding of the Stadium

- 24.1. The Host Organisation shall ensure that:
 - 24.1.1. the Stadium is guarded against any unauthorised intrusion for the period determined by the AFC; and
 - 24.1.2. a comprehensive Security check of the Stadium (to search for unauthorised persons or prohibited objects/substances) is carried out before spectators are admitted inside the Stadium on Match day.

25. Segregation of Spectators

- 25.1. The segregation of the different groups of supporters shall begin as far from the Stadium as possible, to safeguard against the undesirable mixing of the various groups in close proximity of the Stadium or turnstile areas.
- 25.2. Separate car and bus parks, preferably on different sides of the Stadium and as near as possible to their respective viewing sectors, shall be provided.

26. Information for Spectators

- 26.1. The Host Organisation shall ensure that spectators are made aware before the match by Public Address System announcements or any other appropriate means of all prohibitive measures and controls related to the match.
- 26.2. The Host Organisation shall remind spectators of the importance of not attempting to take prohibited items or substances into the Stadium, of the need to behave in a sporting and reasonably restrained manner, and of the potentially serious consequences any breach of these obligations could have for the Participating Players and Participating Teams they support, including disqualification from Competitions.

27. Presence of Safety and Security Personnel

- 27.1. Security Personnel, first aiders, medical and fire Services personnel, and public address announcer(s) shall be in their allocated positions in and around the Stadium before the Stadium gates are opened to the public as per the official countdown.
- 27.2. Security Personnel, first aiders, medical and fire Services personnel, and public address announcer(s) shall remain in their allocated positions in and around the Stadium for the entire time that spectators are in the Stadium until they have dispersed, in accordance with the instructions of the Police commander for the Match or Stadium Safety and Security Officer.

28. Opening of the Stadium Gates to Spectators

- 28.1. The Host Organisation in consultation with the AFC General Coordinator or Match Commissioner, together with the Safety and Security Officer and the Police commander for the Match or Stadium Security officer, decides the time the Stadium gates should be opened to spectators, taking into account the following criteria:
 - 28.1.1. the entry capacity, which is determined by the maximum number of spectators that can safely enter the Stadium in a one-hour period, based on access or turnstile flow rate, for the Stadium as a whole and each sector of the Stadium;
 - 28.1.2. anticipated number of spectators and the overall maximum safe capacity of the Stadium;
 - 28.1.3. segregation strategy outside the Stadium; and
 - 28.1.4. any circumstances for a particular Match that require additional measures (e.g. body search).

29. Signposting

- 29.1. Where the Ticketing system is colour-coded to represent the respective sector layout, the corresponding colours shall be displayed on all signs guiding the spectators to the various sectors of the Stadium.

30. Security Personnel

- 30.1. Entry points, exit doors, gates, and turnstiles (if any) shall be operational and manned by properly trained Security Personnel.
- 30.2. Adequate Security Personnel shall be made available at all entry points of the Stadium, at the turnstiles (if any), and throughout the interior of the Stadium. The placement of the security personnel will be at the discretion of the Police commander for the Match or the Stadium Security officer, as appropriate.
- 30.3. Sufficient and properly trained Stewards shall be on duty within the Stadium to ensure that spectators are directed to their seats efficiently and smoothly without any delay and confusion.
- 30.4. All Security Personnel should be familiar with the layout of the Stadium and in particular its Safety, emergency and evacuation procedures.

31. Screening and Searching of Spectators

- 31.1. Spectators shall be initially screened by Security Personnel at the outer perimeter fence if there is one, or at the outer cordon created by Security Personnel in venues which does not have an outer perimeter fence. This is to ensure that only Ticket holders approach the entrances, and to facilitate the first checks to prevent the introduction of prohibited objects/substances into the Stadium.

- 31.2. Final screening and searches shall be carried out by Security Personnel outside the entrances to ensure that:
- 31.2.1. spectators enter the correct part of the Stadium;
 - 31.2.2. spectators do not bring any prohibited items such as but not limited to alcohol, fireworks of any kind; and/or any objects/substances into the Stadium that are likely to be used in acts of violence; and
 - 31.2.3. access is forbidden to potential troublemakers, or persons who are under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- 31.3. Each spectator shall be screened and searched by a member of the Security Personnel of the same gender.

32. Expulsion or Refusal of Entry

- 32.1. The Host Organisation shall cooperate with the Police to ensure that any person that has been refused entry to the Stadium for any reason, or who has been expelled from the Stadium, is not admitted or re-admitted thereafter, and that the person in question is kept well away from the Stadium during the Match, at least until all spectators have dispersed.

SECTION 6 | SPECTATOR CONTROL AT THE STADIUM

33. Distribution of Beverages

- 33.1. The Host Organisation shall ensure that:
- 33.1.1. there shall be no consumption, public sale or distribution of alcohol within the Stadium or its private environment, if it is prohibited by national law; and
 - 33.1.2. all drinks which are sold or distributed are dispensed in paper or open plastic containers which cannot be used in a dangerous manner.

34. Limitation of Spectator Movement

- 34.1. The Host Organisation shall take measures and appropriate procedures to ensure that spectators cannot move from one sector to another in the Stadium.
- 34.2. In the event there is more than one group of spectators in a particular sector which operationally cannot be avoided, a division shall be maintained between the spectators by means of an insurmountable barrier or fence controlled by Security Personnel, or by the creation of a 'no-entry area' kept free of spectators and occupied only by Security Personnel.

35. Public Passageways

- 35.1. The Host Organisation shall take measures to ensure that all public passageways, corridors, stairs, doors, gates and emergency exit routes are kept free of any obstructions, which could impede the free movement and safety of spectators.

36. Doors and Gates

- 36.1. The Host Organisation shall take measures to ensure that:
- 36.1.1. all exit doors and gates in the Stadium, and all gates leading from the spectator areas into the Field of Play, remain unlocked and will be controlled by Security Personnel while spectators are in the Stadium;
 - 36.1.2. each of these doors and gates is attended at all times by specially appointed Stewards, to guard against abuse and ensure immediate escape routes in the event of an emergency evacuation; and
 - 36.1.3. none of these doors or gates may be locked with a key under any circumstances.

37. Protection of the Field of Play

- 37.1. The Host Organisation shall ensure that Participating Players, Participating Officials and Match Officials are protected against the intrusion of spectators into the Field of Play. This may be accomplished in various ways, subject but not limited to the use of one (1) or more of the following measures, depending on the specific circumstances:

- 37.1.1. the presence of Security Personnel in or near the Field of Play;
 - 37.1.2. moats of a sufficient width and depth;
 - 37.1.3. a seating configuration which situates front-row spectators at a height above the arena which would render intrusion into the Field of Play improbable, if not impossible;
 - 37.1.4. insurmountable transparent screens or fences, which may either be mounted permanently or affixed in such a way that they may be removed whenever it is felt that their use is not necessary for any particular Match.
- 37.2. Whichever form of protection against intrusion is used, it shall incorporate adequate means for spectators to escape into the Field of Play in an emergency.
- 37.3. The type of protection adopted against intrusion shall be approved by the Public Authorities and shall not represent a danger to spectators in the event of panic or an emergency evacuation.

38. Stadium Control Room

- 38.1. The Host Organisation should ensure an integrated approach to Safety, Security and Service activities by means of a Stadium Control Room, Closed-Circuit Television System and monitoring and communication systems.
- 38.2. The Safety and Security Officer, the Police commander for the Match and representatives of other emergency Services should be located in the Stadium Control Room to manage the response to incidents in the Stadium and its environs.
- 38.3. The Stadium Closed-Circuit Television System shall be used by the Police commander for the Match or Stadium Security officer to monitor spectators and all approaches and entrances (entry-points), as well as all viewing areas within the Stadium.
- 38.4. The system shall be managed and controlled from the Stadium Control Room by the Police commander for the Match or Stadium Security officer and/or their staff.
- 38.5. Copies of all emergency and evacuation plans shall be held in the Stadium Control Room to deal with incidents at the Stadium. These plans shall be made available to the AFC upon request.

39. Political Action

- 39.1. The promotion or announcement, by any means, of political messages or of any other political actions inside or in the immediate vicinity of the Stadium is strictly prohibited before, during and after the Match.

40. Provocative Action and Racism

- 40.1. The Host Organisation, together with the Safety and Security Officer and the Police commander for the Match, shall prevent any provocative action being taken by spectators inside or in the immediate vicinity of the Stadium (such as but not limited to, unacceptable levels of verbal provocation from spectators towards Participating Players or opposing supporters, racist behaviour, provocative banners or flags).
- 40.2. Should such action arise, the Host Organisation together with the Safety and Security Officer and the Police commander for the Match or Stadium Security officer shall intervene over the Public Address System or remove any offensive material.
- 40.3. Stewards shall draw the attention of the Police to any serious acts of misconduct, including racist insults, so that offenders may be removed from the Stadium should the Police so decide.

41. Retention of Supporters within the Stadium

- 41.1. If the Police commander for the Match or Stadium Security officer decides that, for Security reasons, a group of supporters should be retained within the Stadium for a period of time while other supporters disperse, whenever possible this decision should be communicated to the visiting Participating Team in advance so that the information can be conveyed to their supporters. In any case, the following principles shall be observed:
 - 41.1.1. the decision to retain a group of supporters shall be announced over the Public Address System in the language of the supporter group concerned;
 - 41.1.2. the announcement shall be repeated shortly before the end of the Match;
 - 41.1.3. the Host Organisation shall ensure that, during this period of retention, the retained supporters have access to refreshments and sanitary facilities;
 - 41.1.4. if possible, the retained supporters shall be entertained (e.g. music, video scoreboard) to help the waiting time pass more quickly and keep them calm; and
 - 41.1.5. they shall be informed regularly of the expected waiting time before being allowed to leave the Stadium.

SECTION 7 | ACCREDITATION AND ACCESS CONTROL**42. Accreditation Device**

- 42.1. On Match days or any other day determined by the AFC or Host Organisation, only persons in possession of a valid permit shall be granted entry to the Stadium. Valid permits include:
 - 42.1.1. Match Tickets;
 - 42.1.2. accreditation devices and, when used, supplementary accreditation devices (SADs); and
 - 42.1.3. other permits as determined by the AFC or Host Organisation.
- 42.2. An accreditation device is a physical item issued by the AFC or Host Organisation which provides the recipient the right to access a Controlled Access Area (or part thereof).
- 42.3. The relevant Competition regulations, the AFC Competition Operations Manual and accreditation guidelines (if applicable) may provide for the granting of an accreditation device.
- 42.4. An accreditation device does not permit the individual to attend a Match or to occupy any seat in the Stadium.
- 42.5. A background/criminal check may be performed by the Host Organisation authorities as part of the accreditation process where necessary.
- 42.6. Provision shall be made for the withdrawal (on a temporary or permanent basis) of accreditation if the holder is acting in a manner that may prejudice the Safety and Security of others, a criminal act has been committed or suspected to have been committed by the holder; the holder's actions are prejudicing the smooth running of the event or the holder has breached the Stadium code of conduct.
- 42.7. Subject to the agreed Security concept and approved accreditation plans, identity cards held by members of the Police and other official agencies (including fire and ambulance Services) that allow them to carry out operational tasks at the Stadium shall also be regarded as valid permits provided the said members are in uniform and clearly identifiable.

SECTION 8 | CLOSING PROVISIONS

43. Disciplinary Measures

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

44. Decisions

- 44.1. 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.

45. Amendments

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

46. Matters Not Provided For

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

47. Implementing Provisions

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

48. Enforcement

- 48.1. These Regulations were ratified by the AFC Executive Committee on 25 January 2021 and came into force immediately.

For the AFC Executive Committee

Shaikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa
President

Dato' Windsor John
General Secretary

ANNEX A | RECOMMENDED CONTENT OF THE STADIUM CODE OF CONDUCT

For all AFC Competitions, a formal Stadium code of conduct shall be established between the AFC, the host country, the relevant local authority and the Stadium authority. The Stadium code of conduct shall contain provisions that help to reduce the risk of any spectator behaviour that may threaten Safety, Security or good order. If these provisions are violated, the offender(s) shall be punished in accordance with the host country's laws and subject to eviction and/or banning from Stadiums. When drawing up the Stadium code of conduct, the following should be considered:

1. Entry to the Stadium

This section describes the conditions of entry into the Stadium by visitors and accredited persons. It should include the requirements of producing a valid Ticket or accreditation device and, where requested, proof of identity. Furthermore, Stadium visitors and accredited persons shall submit to searches and agree that access is limited to those areas of the Stadium as specified on the Ticket or accreditation.

2. Prohibited Items

This section deals with all items that Stadium visitors and accredited persons are not permitted to use, possess, hold or bring into the Stadium. Prohibited items are loosely grouped into the following categories:

- 2.1. Any item that could be used as a weapon, cause damage and/or injury or be used as a projectile.
- 2.2. Illegal substances, not just limited to narcotics.
- 2.3. Items of a racist, xenophobic, charitable or ideological nature or items that could detract from the sporting focus.
- 2.4. Items that increase the risk of fire or are harmful to health, not solely pyrotechnics.
- 2.5. Animals, except those used for the purpose of assisting people with disabilities or impairments.
- 2.6. Large, unwieldy objects that cannot be stowed under a seat.
- 2.7. Any item that could distract the Participating Players and/or Participating Officials, including laser pointers and items that produce excessive volumes of noise.
- 2.8. Promotional or commercial materials.
- 2.9. Recording devices or cameras of any kind other than those for personal use.
- 2.10. Any other object that could compromise public Safety and Security and/or harm the reputation of the event.
- 2.11. Any items that could restrict the view of other spectators.

3. Common Sense Conduct Inside the Stadium

This section sets out the required standard of behaviour of Stadium visitors and accredited persons whilst inside the Stadium. It should include, but not be restricted to, such provisions as below:

Stadium visitors and accredited persons shall:

- 3.1. Conduct themselves in a manner that is not offensive to, endangers the Safety of, hinders or harasses others.
- 3.2. Only occupy seats and hospitality facilities as indicated on the Ticket.
- 3.3. Not cause obstructions or restrict the circulation of people or vehicles.
- 3.4. Not drop litter.
- 3.5. Smoke only in designated areas.
- 3.6. Not enter the Field of Play or other restricted areas, unless authorised.
- 3.7. Not obstruct the view of others.
- 3.8. Not throw any objects or substances at others or on to the Field of Play.
- 3.9. Not cause fire or the risk of fire or use pyrotechnics of any kind.
- 3.10. Not act in a manner that could cause offence to others, including but not restricted to acts of racism.
- 3.11. Not act in a manner that could detract from the sporting event.
- 3.12. Not sell goods or Tickets to others unless authorised to do so.
- 3.13. Not create any threat to Safety or life, or harm themselves or others.
- 3.14. Not climb on or over any structures not intended for general use.
- 3.15. Unless authorised to do so, not record, photograph, transmit or disseminate any sound, image, description or result of any activity within the Stadium for commercial use.
- 3.16. Not act in a manner that could distract or harm the Participating Players or Participating Officials.
- 3.17. Not engage in any activity that could compromise the Safety, Security or reputation of the event.

When drawing up the Stadium code of conduct, the local laws, customs and past spectator behaviour will need to be considered.

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