

AFC Stadia Regulations for AFC Champions League & AFC Cup







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Appendix A: AFC Competitions



DEFINITIONS

The terms in Capital letters used in these Regulations (as hereinafter defined) shall have the following meaning(s):

AFC The Asian Football Confederation.

- AFC Competitions The AFC Committee consisting of a Chairman and eleven (11) members whose duties are to organise and manage competitions on behalf of the Confederation including making decisions on any matters related to these Competitions; to arrange the groups, venues and dates for competitions and matches and delegate, if necessary, the organisation of the same to any Member or Committee; to appoint officials for its competitions; to recommend to the Executive Committee amendments or alterations to the Rules, Regulations and Instructions for competitions and matches; to submit reports on competitions and matches to the Secretariat.
- AFC Delegation Any officials appointed by AFC, including but not limited to the Head of Delegation, Head of Administration, Tournament Director, AFC General Coordinator, AFC Assistant General Coordinator, Match Commissioner, Referee Assessor, Referee, Assistant Referees, Fourth Official, Media Officer, Security Officer, Medical Officer and Technical Study Group Officer.
- AFC Headquarters AFC House, Jalan 1/155 B, Bukit Jalil, 57000 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- AFC's Commercial Partner The marketing company, if any, that AFC has contracted the Commercial Rights for the Competition.
- AFC Website www.the-afc.com
- *Clean Stadia* The Stadia shall be free from commercial or promotional messages, advertising, displays or facilities of any kind except for those installed, erected or otherwise authorised by AFC from the period commencing 48 hours prior to each Match or other event comprising the Competitions until 24 hours thereafter so that the Commercial Rights shall be fully



available to AFC without hindrance.

Clubs	Clubs which exist within the geographical territory of Member Association, and who shall be under the control and jurisdiction of Member Association whilst participating in the Competition.
Commercial Rights	All rights of commercial exploitation of the Competition, including without limitation all rights of commercial exploitation of the Advertising Rights, Broadcast Rights, Concession Rights, Hospitality Rights, Image Rights, Merchandising Rights, Promotional Rights, Sponsorship Rights, and Travel and Tour Rights, by New Media Rights, Video Rights and/or commercial exploitation by any other means.
Competition	AFC Champions League and AFC Cup which shall include the Matches as set out in the Match Schedule, including any qualifying matches, activities on the field of play (other than matches), opening ceremonies, presentation or closing ceremonies, press conferences or official functions connected therewith.
FIFA	The Federation International de Football Association.
Force Majeure	Any event affecting the performance or any provision of this Agreement 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.
Host Broadcaster	The organisation appointed by AFC directly or indirectly to ensure and provide the production of the broadcast signals of the Matches and other events of the Competition, and the provision of all related services in accordance with the Broadcast Rights.
Hosting Club	A club appointed by a National Association and approved by AFC to organise, stage and host the



Competition.

- *Match(es)* Each football match(es) in its entirety (including extra time and penalty kick) of the Competition, and including any delayed, deferred Matches and/or replays.
- MediaAll members of the written press, on-line editors,
photographers, television news crews and the
representatives of the Broadcast Rights Holders
entitled to media accreditation as determined by AFC.
- Member(s) / Club, Member Association(s) Those National Associations who are members of FIFA, and who have applied for and been granted Ordinary, Provisional or Associate membership of AFC. For the purpose of this definition "Ordinary", "Provisional" and "Associate" membership shall have the same meaning as contained in AFC Statutes.
- *National Association(s)* The controlling bodies for association football within each country or territory of Asia.
- **Organising Association(s)** A Member Association(s), where applicable the Hosting Club, and their Local Organising Committee appointed by AFC to organise, stage and host the Competition.
- **Regulations** Those regulations controlled and published by AFC to be used in connection with the Competition.
- **Stadia / Stadium** The official stadia (or any stadium) and the airspace and surrounding areas for the Matches, whether under the control of the Hosting Association or otherwise, used for the Matches, including without limitation parking facilities, VIP and hospitality areas, concourses, concession areas, fencing and entrances.
- *Venues* Each host city and the immediately surrounding area in which the Stadia are located.



For the purposes of this Regulation and provided the context so permits:

- (a) The singular shall include the plural and vice versa.
- (b) The masculine gender shall include the feminine and vice versa.
- (c) Reference to persons shall include any legal person or corporation.
- (d) References to AFC shall where the context permits include its successors and permitted assigns and, in relation to the availability of the Commercial Rights, its respective members, national bodies and hosting committees.



INTRODUCTION

The main objective of the AFC Stadia Regulations for the AFC Champions League and AFC Cup is to define for all Member Association and Clubs who are participating in these Competitions what is required before a stadia can be nominated and approved as a Venue to host Matches in these Competitions.

Unless specifically mentioned, all the requirements in these Regulations apply to all Matches in the AFC Champions League and AFC Cup.



Section I: General Provisions

1. Certification

- a) The Stadia must be certified according to national/local law and must include provisions related to safety and an evacuation plan.
- b) The certificate must be issued by the appropriate body and must not be older than two years from the first Match day of the Competition.

2. Use of Stadia

- a) The Stadia must not be used for any other matches and/or activities and a Clean Stadia must be made available to AFC from two days prior to the Match day until one (1) day after the Match.
- b) The Stadia nominated must meet all criteria stipulated in these Requirements and the field of play, accessories, equipment and facilities shall be in optimum condition and comply with the Laws of Game published by FIFA.

3. Location

- a) The Stadia must be located in a city which has an international airport within a radius of two hundreds (200) kilometers and a journey time of no more than two hours and thirty (150) minutes between the Venue of the Match and the international airport.
- b) Otherwise, the Stadia must be located in a city which has at least four
 (4) connecting flights daily from the nearest international airport to the Venue of the Match.



Section 2: Structural criteria

Chapter 1: Surrounding pitch area

4. Field of play

- a) All Competition Matches should only be played on natural turf or artificial turf that meets recognised FIFA standards in accordance with the FIFA Quality Concept.
- b) Artificial turf must meet the following condition:
 - It must have been granted the required FIFA licence, which can only be delivered after the turf in question has been tested by a FIFA-accredited laboratory as meeting the FIFA quality standards for artificial turf;
 Its surface must be green
 - ii. Its surface must be green.
- c) The field of play must have the following dimensions:
 - i. Length: minimum 100m ~ maximum 110m
 - ii. Width: minimum 64m ~ maximum 75m
- d) The field of play must be smooth and level.
- e) It must be equipped with a drainage system so that it cannot become unplayable due to flooding.

5. Warm-up area

a) A warm-up area for substitutes must be made available along the touchlines or behind the advertising boards behind the goal.

6. Goals and spare goals

- a) Goalposts and crossbars must be made out of aluminum or similar material and must be round or elliptical. Moreover, they must be in compliance with the Laws of the Game as promulgated by the International Football Association Board (IFAB) which means, in particular, that:
 - i. The distance between the posts must be 7.32m;
 - ii. The distance from the lower edge of the crossbar to the ground must be 2.44m;
 - iii. The goalposts and crossbars must be white;



- iv. They must not pose any danger to players.
- b) A spare goal, which can be easily installed if the circumstances so require, must be available within the Stadia.

7. Floodlights

- a) The Stadia must be equipped with a floodlighting system maintaining the following minimum average of 1200 lux.
- b) In order to ensure that the Match can proceed in the event of a power failure, an independent back-up power supply system which is able to provide the full equivalent light intensity values instantaneously and without interruption must be provided.

8. Clocks

- a) The Stadia must have a clock which shows playing time during the Match.
- b) The time must run from zero to forty-five (45) minutes for the first half and from forty-five (45) to ninety (90) minutes for the second half. Time must be stopped at the end of normal playing time in each half, i.e. after forty-five (45) and ninety (90) minutes respectively.
- c) This stipulation shall also apply if extra time is played (i.e. after fifteen (15) minutes of each half).

9. Benches

- a) The Stadia must be equipped with two covered benches at pitch level for the hosting club and the visiting club, each with seating room for at least twenty (20) people and positioned at least five metres from the touchline.
- b) The Stadia must be equipped with one covered bench at pitch level for Fourth Official with seating room for at least three (3) people.



Chapter 2: Teams and AFC Delegation facilities

10. Team's dressing rooms

- a) The Stadia must have a minimum of two (2) dressing rooms.
- b) Each dressing room must be equipped with a minimum of:
 - i. four showers and four individual seated toilets
 - ii. seating room for at least thirty (30) persons together with thirty (30) chairs
 - iii. one massage table
 - iv. one tactical board with marker pens and 'eraser'
 - v. one refrigerator
- c) Team's dressing room must be air-conditioned.
- d) The Stadia must guarantee direct, private and protected access for the teams from their dressing rooms to the playing area and ensure their safe arrival at/departure from the Stadia. Access paths for teams can only be shared by the AFC Delegation.

11. Referee's dressing room

- a) The Stadia must be equipped with a dressing-room for the Referees with a minimum of:
 - i. One shower and one individual seated toilet
 - ii. seating room for at least five (5) persons
 - iii. one table and four (5) chairs
 - iv. one refrigerator
- b) The referee's dressing room must be air-conditioned.
- c) The Stadia must guarantee direct, private and protected access for the Referees from their dressing rooms to the playing area and ensure their safe arrival at/departure from the Stadia. Access paths for referees' room can only be shared by the AFC Delegation.



12. Office space and meeting room

- a) The Stadia must be equipped with the following room:
 - i. A room for AFC Delegation including AFC match commissioners with seating room for at least five (5) persons (one table and five chairs);
 - ii. In case of the Final Match of the Competition, an additional room for AFC Delegation with seating room for at least five (5) persons (one table and five chairs);
 - iii. A room for AFC's Commercial Partners with seating room for at least five persons (one table and five chairs);
 - iv. A room for the ball boys and flag bearers with nearby toilet facilities. Room to accommodate at least twenty (20) persons;
 - v. A meeting room (minimum 40m2) to accommodate twenty (20) persons. Tables and chairs to be arranged in a u-shape.
- b) Rooms for the AFC Delegation and AFC's Commercial Partners must be equipped with the following minimum requirement:
 - i. Wireless broadband internet connections;
 - ii. IDD lines for one telephone and one fax machine and its consumables such as but not limited to paper, toner and cartridges;
 - One (1) desktop or laptop with the following specifications (minimum): Pentium 4, 512 MB RAM, connected to the Internet, connected to a printer, Windows 2000/XP Pro/Window Vista, Microsoft Office 2000 and above, Adobe Reader version 7.0. Operating languages for the software must be in English;
 - iv. One (1) printer and its consumables such as but not limited to paper, toner and cartridges;
 - v. One (1) medium duty photocopy machine with sorting facilities and its consumables such as but not limited to paper, toner and cartridges.
- c) The AFC Delegation's room must be located nearby, and with easy access to the team and referee's dressing rooms.
- d) All rooms must be air-conditioned.
- e) The Stadia must guarantee that all the rooms are in a protected area from the public and Media.



13. Storage Facilities

- a) The Stadia must have a minimum of two storage rooms that can be secured, with an area of 10 sq. meters and close access to the pitch.
- b) The rooms must be air-conditioned.
- c) The Stadia must guarantee that the storage rooms are in a protected area from the public and Media.

14. Match officials' seating area

- a) The Stadia must have a covered area, with a minimum of three (3) seats, dedicated for AFC match commissioner and AFC referee instructor which is in a protected area from the public and Media.
- b) The match officials' seating area must be located centrally, as close to the halfway line as possible, between the two penalty areas, and with easy access to the team and referee's dressing rooms.
- c) The match official's seating area must be equipped with the following:
 - i. Tables and chairs
 - ii. A television monitor to receive live feed of the Match
 - iii. Two (2) power sockets
 - iv. Wireless broadband internet connection

15. Technical Study Group (TSG) seating area

- a) In case AFC appoints Technical Study Group members, the Stadia must have a covered area, with a minimum of six (6) seats, dedicated for AFC Technical Study Group members, which is in a protected area from the public and Media.
- b) The TSG seating area must be located centrally, as close to the halfway line as possible, between the two penalty areas and must be equipped with the following:
 - i. Tables and chairs
 - ii. A television monitor to receive live feed of the Match
 - iii. Two (2) power sockets
 - iv. Wireless broadband internet connection



16. Parking area

- a) The Stadia must provide parking space for a minimum of two (2) buses and ten (10) cars for teams and officials
- b) In addition, for the Final Match of the Competition, 20 additional parking spaces in a safe and secure area must be made available to AFC.



Chapter 3: Media-related areas

17. Media centre

- a) At least one air-conditioned room (100m2) must be provided for Media representatives equipped with desks and access to communication facilities.
- b) The media centre must be located on the same side as the media tribune, press conference room and mixed zone area.
- c) The room must be equipped with the following:
 - i. Tables, chairs and internet connection for 70 persons
 - ii. One (1) photocopy machine with all its consumables
 - iii. One (1) fax machine with all its consumables
 - iv. Pigeon Holes for Media representatives and the Host Broadcaster
 - v. Information services, catering and transport office if required by AFC

18. Media tribune

- a) The Stadia must have a media tribune for Media representatives that meets the following requirements:
 - i. All area of the media tribune must be covered
 - ii. 20 seats without desks
 - iii. 50 seats with desks. These seats must be equipped with a power supply and internet connection. The desks must be big enough to accommodate a laptop computer and a note pad.
- b) The media tribune must be located in a central position in the grandstand and must be on the same side as the media centre, press conference room and mixed zone.
- c) There must be an exclusive access path for the Media from the media tribune to the press conference room and the media centre.

19. Press conference room

- a) The Stadia must have one air-conditioned press conference room which fulfill the following requirements:
 - i. A desk and chairs to accommodate at least five (5) persons
 - ii. A podium
 - iii. A camera platform measuring 0.5m in height, 6m in width and 2m in depth and power extension lines for ENG cameras



- iv. A split box
- v. Sound system with more than six sound outputs
- vi. Chairs arranged in classroom seating style to accommodate at least 70 persons.
- b) The press conference must be located on the same side as the media centre, media tribune and mixed zone.
- c) There must be an exclusive access path for the Media from/to the press conference room to/from the media tribune and media centre.

20. Mixed zones

- a) The Stadia must allocate an area for the mixed zone. This area must be well-lit and must be the area which is on the way to/from the dressing rooms and the team transport area.
- b) The mixed zone must be secure and must be accessible only to coaches, players and representatives of the Media.
- c) The mixed zone must be divided into three areas: one for broadcaster crews, one for radio reporters and one for print journalists.

21. Camera positions

- a) One main camera platform must be provided in the grandstand. It must be centrally situated and at a height above the pitch which guarantees optimum picture quality.
- b) The main position must be exactly in line with the halfway line and be at a height which forms an angle of 15-20 degrees from the horizontal plane to the centre plan.
- c) The platform for the main camera must be at least 12m2 in dimension.
- d) In addition to the main camera position, offside camera positions level with each penalty area must be allocated.
- e) Camera positions for goal and reverse camera positions must be identified and reserved.



22. TV and radio commentary positions

- a) The Stadia must have a minimum of six (6) fully-enclosed and airconditioned rooms which have unobstructed views of the entire pitch.
- b) The commentary positions must be located on the same side as the main camera positions and must be at least 5m in width at the front by 3m depth by 2.5m in height for an enclosed position. If a non-enclosed position is required by AFC and WSTV, it must be at least 3m in width at the front by 2m in depth.
- c) Each commentary position requires minimum two (2x) power jacks and two (2x) phone jacks which should be connectable to IDD/ISDN. Commentary positions should have facility to patch video from the OB van to the position, and to patch audio from commentary positions to OB van.
- d) There must be main and back-up power supply to the commentary positions and compound.
- e) Each commentary positions must have at least three (3) seats.

23. TV studios

a) The Stadia must be equipped with TV studios meeting the following requirements:

Number required	Size required	Additional requirements
3	5m long x 5m wide x 2.3m high	Including a presentation studio with view of the pitch. Adequate space for a secured mixed zone

b) TV Studios shall preferably have a glass wall and a view across the pitch.



24. OB van

a) The Stadia must have an OB van area meeting the following requirement:

Location						Surface dimensions
Located or	n the	same	side	of	the	At least 600m ²
Stadia as the main camera						

- b) Stadia should supply access to the main back-up power for the OB compound as required by the host broadcaster.
- c) The area must be appropriate for the Host Broadcaster's and Media Rights Licensee's multilateral and unilateral television and radio broadcast operations including up/down-linking to domestic and international satellites and easy access for large vehicles.
- d) Adequate office space in the broadcast compound at each Venue for Host Broadcaster's technical, administrative and production offices and rooms with necessary air conditioning and/or heating.
- e) Security must be provided at all times for all television broadcast areas.

25. Parking area

- a) The Stadia must provide a minimum of twenty (20) parking places for exclusive use by AFC, the Host Broadcaster, and Media Rights Licensees. Such parking spaces shall be of adequate size to accommodate the technical vehicles of the Host Broadcaster and Media Rights Licensees.
- b) All parking spaces for the Host Broadcaster shall be designated in preferential locations adjacent to, or as close as possible to, the Host Broadcaster working areas and shall provide direct access to such areas.
- c) At least one-third (1/3) of such parking spaces shall be situated in close proximity to the Stadium entrances so as to facilitate the loading and unloading of unilateral equipment. Where the physical configuration of any stadium does not allow for all such parking spaces to be situated, the LOC shall designate a dedicated unilateral equipment and personnel drop-off point for Media Rights Licensees, such drop-off to be situated as close as possible to stadium entrances.



Chapter 4: Medical Facilities

26. First aid and treatment facilities for players and officials

- a) An emergency medical room located in close proximity to player's dressing room and the field of play, fully equipped with emergency medical supplies and supported by Medical Officer and trained medical staff in Emergency Medicine must be provided. Facilities must include the following:
 - i. Oxygen with appropriate masks/oral airway
 - ii. Splints (Spinal injuries)
 - iii. Stretchers
 - iv. Suction machine
 - v. I/V drip sets with emergency injections and medication
 - vi. Minor surgery supplies and equipment
 - vii. Automated External Defibrillator
- b) Parking spaces within the Stadia must be identified for two ambulances with designated drivers equipped with oxygen, masks, defibrillator, I/V drip sets, emergency medicaments and trained medical staff, which shall be provided by the hosting club at its own expenses.

27. Doping control room

- a) The Stadia must be equipped with a dedicated air-conditioned doping control room that is located near the team dressing rooms and is inaccessible to the public and the Media.
- b) The room must be at least 20m² and comprise of a waiting room, testing room and toilet area with attached bathroom, all adjoining.
- c) The waiting room forms part of or is immediately adjacent to the testing room (a partition dividing the two areas is also acceptable). It must contain sufficient seating for eight people, a television, and a refrigerator equipped with non-alcoholic drinks in sealed mineral water bottles and canned juices.
- d) The testing room must, at least, contain one table, four chairs, a sink with running water, a lockable cabinet and a toilet.
- e) The toilet area must be within the testing room or immediately next to it and with direct private access to the testing room. It must contain a seated toilet as well as a sink with running water.



Chapter 5: VIP & Hospitality area

28. VIP and hospitality areas

- a) The Stadia must be equipped with at least 50 number of VIP seats have a single exclusive hospitality area (200m²).
- b) The VIP seats must be situated in the grandstand and as close to the halfway line as possible, between the two penalty areas.



Chapter 6: Spectator-related areas

29. Stands and spectator facilities

- a) Each stand within the Stadia must be capable of being divided into separate sectors.
- b) Seats for spectators must be individual, fixed (eg. to the floor), separated from one another, shaped, numbered, made of an unbreakable and non-flammable material and have a backrest of a minimum height of 30cm when measured from the seat.
- c) The use of temporary stands is prohibited.

30. Visiting supporters

a) At least eight (8) percent of the total Stadia capacity must be available exclusively for visiting supporters in a segregated area of the Stadia.

31. Public access and egress

- a) Entry gates and/or turnstiles must be designed in such a way as to avoid congestion and ensure the smooth flow of the crowd.
- b) All public passageways and stairways in the spectator area must be painted in a bright colour, as must all gates, leading from the spectator areas into the playing area, and all exit doors and gates leading out of the Stadia.
- c) All exit doors and gates in the Stadia, and all gates leading from the spectator areas into the playing area, must:
 - i. Be fitted with a locking device which may be operated simply and quickly by anyone from the inside in the case of exit doors and gates or from either side in the case of gates leading into the playing area;
 - ii. Be designed to remain unlocked while spectators are in the Stadia
- d) Approaches to the Stadia must be adequately signposted (for example by means of pictograms) to guide spectators to their sectors, and all turnstiles, entry and exit gates and doors must be operational and similarly clearly indicated by signs which are universally understood.



e) In addition, the Stadia in the elite category must be quipped with a modern electronic access control system delivering real time data analysis and preventing the use of counterfeit tickets.

32. Emergency lighting system

a) For the purpose of ensuring safety and guiding spectators, The Stadia must be equipped with an emergency lighting system approved by the competent local authorities for use in the event of a general lighting failure in all parts of the Stadia to which the public has access, including all exit and evacuation routes.

33. Spectator capacity

- a) In terms of spectator capacity, the Stadia must have a minimum capacity of 5,000 seats for clubs participating in AFC Champions League
- b) In terms of spectator capacity, the Stadia must have a minimum capacity of 3,000 seats for clubs participating in AFC Cup.

34. Public address system

- a) The Stadia must be equipped with a public address system including a giant screen with high quality which ensures the messages can be delivered to the public areas inside and outside the Stadia.
- b) The public address system must not be vulnerable to failure of the main power supply.
- c) In addition, the Stadia must be equipped with CD/DVD music player and a giant screen allowing messages to be delivered to the pubic.

35. Sanitary facilities for spectators

a) Seated toilets for all spectators of both sexes, as well as urinals, must be made available in each sector of the Stadia, with a ratio of one seated toilet per 200 spectators and one urinal per 125 spectators.



36. First-aid facilities for spectators

- a) Fully-equipped first-aid facilities approved by the competent local authorities must be made available for spectators in each sector of the Stadia.
- b) These facilities must be clearly identified and access to them must be clearly signposted.

37. Facilities for spectators with disabilities

- a) The Stadia must have dedicated access and seats for spectators with disabilities and their helpers.
- b) In addition, persons with disabilities must have dedicated sanitary facilities as well as refreshment and catering facilities in the vicinity of the sector where they are seated.

38. Control room

- a) The Stadia must have a control room with monitors for the TV surveillance system ensuring an overall view of the inside of the Stadia as well as equipped with communication facilities.
- b) A control room posts for the public address announcers, the video information board (if any) and the police, fire and medical services should be all located in or immediate adjacent to the Stadia control room.



Section 3: Final provisions

39. Special Provisions

- a) The hosting club and its member association shall undertake to comply fully with all AFC Regulations, guidelines, policies and decisions taken by AFC Standing Committees.
- b) The AFC Competitions Committee shall, in conjunction with the hosting club and its member association, issue any special instructions necessitated by special circumstances which might arise in the country. These instructions shall form an integral part of this Stadia Regulations.

40. Matters not provided for

a) Matters not provided for in these Stadia Regulations and cases of Force Majeure shall be decided by the AFC Competitions Committee, whose decision is final.

41. Ratification

a) These regulations were ratified by the AFC Executive Committee on 23 November 2011 and came into force immediately.

For the AFC Executive Committee

Acting President: Zhang Jilong Kuala Lumpur, 23 November 2011 General Secretary: Dato' Alex Soosay