



AFC Stadium Regulations

Edition 2021



AFC STADIUM REGULATIONS

EDITION 2021

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DEFINITIONS

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

Control Room	A room reserved for the staff and officials with overall responsibility for 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.
FIFA Quality Programme	FIFA's programme aiming to endorse products that meet strict quality requirements to improve the game and to protect the players, clubs, and associations.
Regulations	These Stadium Regulations.
STA	The Stadium Technical Annex, a technical document detailing the requirements of the Stadiums and Official Training Sites selected for use in a Competition.
Stadium	Any Stadium at which a Match is played. For the avoidance of doubt, this includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the entire premises (to the extent that a valid Accreditation Card or Ticket is required in order to gain access) of a stadium facility inside the outer stadium perimeter fence and (on Match days and any day on which any official training takes place within the stadium), the aerial space above such stadium premises; (ii) parking facilities; (iii) VIP and hospitality areas (including any hospitality village); (iv) concession areas; (v) commercial display areas; (vi) buildings; (vii) the Field of Play; (viii) the media tribune; (ix) any broadcast compound; (x) the stadium media centre; (xi) the press conference room; (xii) the mixed zone; (xiii) any stands; and (xiv) any areas beneath the stands.

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 Regulations

- 1.1. These Regulations shall apply to all football Competitions organised by the AFC, unless expressly stated otherwise.
- 1.2. These Regulations set out the minimum requirements to be fulfilled in order for a Stadium to host Matches in an AFC football Competition.
- 1.3. The relevant Competition regulations, AFC Competition Operations Manual, STA and/or other bidding documents may define further and/or stricter requirements than those set out in these Regulations. To the extent that the Competition Regulations, Competition Operations Manual, STA and/or other bidding documents are inconsistent with any aspect of these Regulations, in descending order the Competition Regulations, STA and/or other bidding documents, and Competition Operations Manual shall take precedence. The relevant terms of these Regulations shall be deemed amended accordingly.
- 1.4. These Regulations do not affect any legal obligations arising from any applicable national legislation.

2. Responsibilities

- 2.1. Host Organisations shall, at their own cost, be solely responsible for:
 - 2.1.1. complying with the requirements set out in these Regulations and all other relevant AFC regulations, directives, guidelines and circulars, and all applicable laws;
 - 2.1.2. ensuring that each Stadium is certified with a safety certificate from an appropriate body in compliance with the requirements set out in the AFC Safety and Security Regulations. The certificate issued by the appropriate body shall be valid for a maximum of two (2) years and shall be valid on the Match day;
 - 2.1.3. 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; and
 - 2.1.4. 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.

- 2.2. The AFC reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to decide on the Stadiums to be used for a Competition on the basis of the assurances and confirmation provided by the Host Organisation(s) and any other information gathered by the AFC. Such decisions are final and binding and not appealable. The AFC may inspect Stadiums at any time before and during the Competition in which they are used to check whether the requirements are met.

3. Use of Stadium

- 3.1. The relevant Competition regulations or AFC instructions provide the time periods whereby a Stadium:
 - 3.1.1. shall not be used for any other matches, events and/or activities;
 - 3.1.2. shall be delivered to the AFC for its exclusive use; and
 - 3.1.3. shall be delivered to the AFC as a Clean Stadium.
- 3.2. All Stadiums shall be equipped with basic infrastructural requirements, including power supply, hot and cold water, heating and cooling systems with air-conditioning and internet connection, which shall be sufficient for use and accessible by the AFC and all related stakeholders in connection with the Match.

4. Location

- 4.1. A Stadium shall be located in a Venue which has an international airport within a radius of 200km (two hundred kilometres) and a journey time of no more than one hundred fifty (150) minutes between the Stadium and the international airport.
- 4.2. Alternatively, the Stadium must be located in a well-connected Venue which has an airport with at least four (4) connecting flights daily from the nearest international airport.

SECTION 2 | AREAS RELATING TO THE FIELD OF PLAY**5. Field of Play**

- 5.1. The Field of Play shall be provided in accordance with the terms and requirements of the Laws of the Game.
- 5.2. All Matches shall be played on:
 - 5.2.1. a natural playing surface (100% natural grass);
 - 5.2.2. a hybrid playing surface (an integrated combination of artificial fibres and natural grass); or
 - 5.2.3. an artificial playing surface in accordance with the FIFA Quality Programme for Football Turf (100% artificial fibres), subject to Article 5.3.
- 5.3. In order to be used for Matches, artificial turf must:
 - 5.3.1. be granted the required FIFA certification; and
 - 5.3.2. have a green surface with white lines.
- 5.4. Stadiums shall be equipped with the following facilities to ensure that the Field of Play is in Match-condition at all times:
 - 5.4.1. equipment (e.g. brushes) to assist with the draining of the Field of Play in case of heavy rain;
 - 5.4.2. equipment (e.g. blowers and shovels) to clear the Field of Play in case of snow; and
 - 5.4.3. sufficient personnel to facilitate with related matters including during unexpected adverse weather conditions.
- 5.5. The Field of Play shall be:
 - 5.5.1. equipped with an appropriate watering system; and
 - 5.5.2. equipped with an appropriate drainage system to prevent flooding.
- 5.6. In Stadiums with a moveable pitch, the Host Organisation shall ensure that the moveable pitch is in position no later than the morning of Match day-2.

6. Warm-up Area

- 6.1. A warm-up area for substitutes shall be made available in accordance with the AFC Competition Operations Manual.

7. Goalposts, Crossbars and Spare Goals

- 7.1. Goalposts and crossbars shall be provided in accordance with the terms and requirements of the Laws of the Game, in particular:
- 7.1.1. distance between the inside of the posts shall be 7.32m (seven point three two metres);
 - 7.1.2. distance from the lower edge of the crossbar to the ground shall be 2.44m (two point four four metres);
 - 7.1.3. goalposts and crossbars shall be white and have the same width and depth, not exceeding 12cm (twelve centimetres) and shall not have any markings, while the sub-posts to support the goal net shall be made available and of a dark colour;
 - 7.1.4. goalposts and crossbars must be made of approved material. They must be square, rectangular, round or elliptical in shape;
 - 7.1.5. goalposts and crossbars shall not pose any danger to Participating Players; and
 - 7.1.6. goalposts (including spare goalposts) must be firmly secured to the ground.
- 7.2. Spare goals (consisting of goalposts and crossbars), which can be easily installed shall be made available within the Stadium.

8. Floodlights

- 8.1. Stadiums shall be equipped with floodlights integrated with an illumination system that is capable of maintaining at least the following average illuminance levels:

AFC Lighting Category	Horizontal Illuminance	Vertical Illuminance
<u>Category 1</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AFC Asian Cup Finals • FIFA World Cup Final Qualification Round 	2,400 lux with uniformity ratios of $U_{1h} > 0.5$ and $U_{2h} > 0.7$	1,200 lux on each reference plane with uniformity ratios of $U_{1v} > 0.4$ and $U_{2v} > 0.5$
<u>Category 2</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AFC Champions League (ACL) Finals 	2,000 lux with uniformity ratios of $U_{1h} > 0.5$ and $U_{2h} > 0.7$	1,100 lux on each reference plane with uniformity ratios of $U_{1v} > 0.4$ and $U_{2v} > 0.5$

<p><u>Category 3</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACL Group Stage, Round of 16, Quarter/ Semi Finals • AFC Cup (ACC) Final • AFC U23 Asian Cup Finals • AFC Women's Asian Cup Finals 	<p>1,800 lux with uniformity ratios of $U1h > 0.5$ and $U2h > 0.7$</p>	<p>1,000 lux on each reference plane with uniformity ratios of $U1v > 0.4$ and $U2v > 0.5$</p>
<p><u>Category 4</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AFC Asian Cup Qualifiers Final Round • ACL Preliminary, Playoff Stage • ACC Group Stage, Knockout Stage (excluding Final) • AFC U23 Asian Cup Qualifiers • AFC U20/U17 Asian Cup Finals • AFC U20/U17 Women's Asian Cup Finals • AFC Women's Asian Cup Qualifiers • Preliminary Joint Qualification Round 2 	<p>1,400 lux with uniformity ratios of $U1h > 0.5$ and $U2h > 0.7$</p>	<p>750 lux on each reference plane with uniformity ratios of $U1v > 0.4$ and $U2v > 0.5$</p>
<p><u>Category 5</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AFC Asian Cup Qualifiers Playoff Round • ACC Preliminary, Playoff Stage • AFC Solidarity Cup • AFC U20/U17 Asian Cup Qualifiers • AFC U20/U17 Women's Asian Cup Qualifiers • Preliminary Joint Qualification Round 1 	<p>1,200 lux with uniformity ratios of $U1h > 0.4$ and $U2h > 0.6$</p>	<p>500 lux on each reference plane with uniformity ratios of $U1v > 0.35$ and $U2v > 0.45$</p>

- 8.2. Such illumination system must have a main and backup power supply, which shall be independent of each other to ensure Matches can proceed in the event of a power failure.
- 8.3. The AFC may request the Host Organisation to submit a lighting certificate. The AFC may appoint an independent Stadium lighting consultant to check the Stadium illumination system. Host Organisations shall cooperate fully with such inspections.
- 8.3.1. The lighting certificate shall be issued for a maximum of one (1) year and be valid on the date of a Match.

9. Clocks, Display Boards and Giant Screens

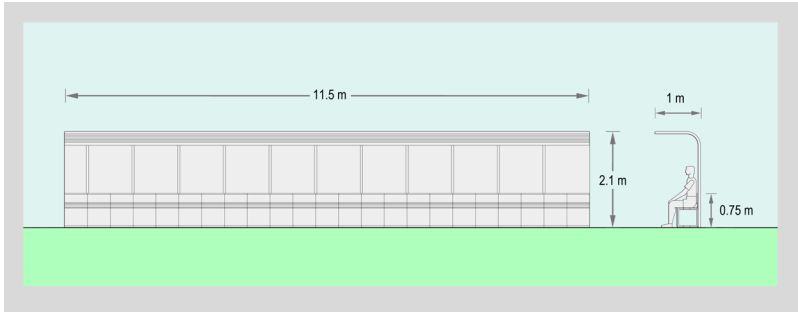
- 9.1. Stadiums shall have a clock which shows the playing time during the Match.
- 9.2. The time shall run from zero (0) to forty-five (45) minutes during the first half and from forty-five (45) to ninety (90) minutes during the second half.
- 9.3. The time shall stop at the end of normal playing time in each half (at forty-five [45] and ninety [90] minutes respectively). This stipulation shall also apply if extra time is played (at fifteen [15] minutes of each half).
- 9.4. Panels or electronic display boards, with displays on both sides, shall be used to indicate the substitution of Participating Players and the number of minutes to be allowed for time lost.
- 9.5. Stadiums shall have a scoreboard which shows the score of the Match at all times.
- 9.6. Stadiums must have a giant screen integrated with a display system that provides optimal viewing for all spectators which shall be placed in an area which provides no risk to the spectators or disturbance to play.
- 9.7. The aspect ratio of 16:9 for the video area of the screen is recommended, which may be extended if scoring and substitution details are also to be inserted around the main video content.
- 9.8. The giant screen is part of the public address system (cf. Article 45) and shall be used to deliver messages or public announcements in the case of an emergency.

10. Referee Review Area

- 10.1. In Matches where video assistant referee ("VAR") is implemented, the Stadium shall have sufficient space in a visible location outside the Field of Play for the installation of at least one (1) referee review area ("RRA").
- 10.2. The Stadium shall provide stable and reliable technical power supply to the RRA in accordance with the AFC's requirements and instructions.

11. Team Benches and Fourth Official Bench

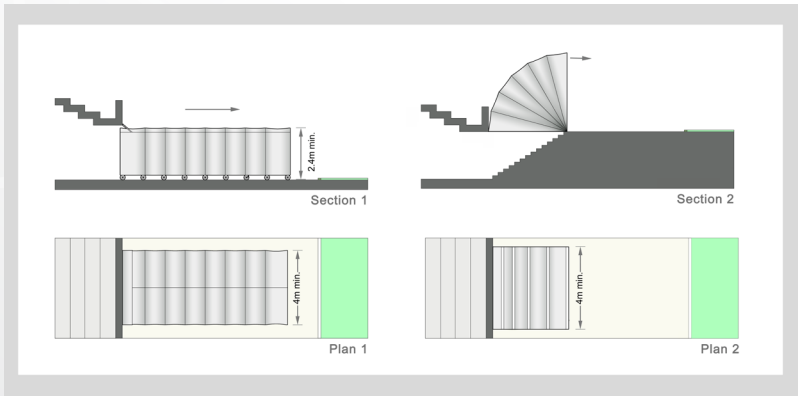
- 11.1. Stadiums shall be equipped with two (2) covered benches (or dugouts) at Field of Play level for both teams, each with seating room for at least twenty (20) persons, or in accordance with the Team Official Delegation number stipulated in the relevant Competition regulations.
- 11.2. Stadiums shall be equipped with one (1) covered bench at Field of Play level for the fourth official with seating room and table(s) for at least three (3) persons.
- 11.3. These benches shall be positioned at least 5m (five metres) from the touchline. Benches placed at Field of Play level shall not obstruct the view of spectators.
- 11.4. These benches shall be protected by a transparent "plexiglas-type shell" against bad weather or objects if thrown by spectators.



Team Bench (example)

12. Player Tunnel

- 12.1. In the event a Stadium has a player tunnel, it shall be a minimum of 4m (four metres) wide and a minimum of 2.4m (two point four metres) high.
- 12.2. The point where the Participating Players and Match Officials enter the playing area shall be protected by means of a fireproof telescopic tunnel and shall extend into the playing area far enough to prevent the risk of injury to the Match participants caused by objects thrown by spectators.
- 12.3. Such telescopic tunnels shall be capable of being extended or closed quickly so that they may be used during the Match when a Participating Player is entering or leaving the field, without causing a lengthy viewing obstruction.



Access from team area to playing field (example)

13. Flagpoles

- 13.1. Stadiums shall be equipped with flagpoles within the precinct of the Stadium. The Stadium shall be equipped with facilities to hang flags on the roof structure as instructed by the AFC.

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

14. Team Dressing Rooms

- 14.1. Stadiums shall have a minimum of two (2) team dressing rooms.
 - 14.1.1. For 'double-header' Matches, a Stadium is recommended to have four (4) team dressing rooms of equal size and comfort.
- 14.2. Each team dressing room shall be equipped with a minimum of:
 - 14.2.1. four (4) showers and four (4) individual seated toilets;
 - 14.2.2. seating for at least thirty (30) persons with clothes-hanging facilities or lockers;
 - 14.2.3. one (1) massage table;
 - 14.2.4. one (1) tactical board with marker pens and a board eraser; and
 - 14.2.5. one (1) refrigerator.
- 14.3. Each team dressing room shall be adequately air-conditioned or heated, depending on the weather conditions.
- 14.4. Stadiums shall guarantee a direct, private and protected area which can be accessed by team buses, cars and ambulances, from which the Team Official Delegation can enter or leave the Stadium safely, away from the public, the Media and any unauthorised persons.
- 14.5. Access routes designated solely for teams may be shared by the Match Officials.

15. Referee Dressing Room

- 15.1. Stadiums shall have a minimum of one (1) referee dressing room which shall be equipped with a minimum of:
 - 15.1.1. two (2) showers and one (1) individual seated toilet;
 - 15.1.2. seating for at least five (5) persons;
 - 15.1.3. one (1) table; and
 - 15.1.4. one (1) refrigerator.
- 15.2. Each referee dressing room shall be adequately air-conditioned or heated, depending on the weather conditions.
- 15.3. Stadiums shall guarantee direct, private and protected access from the referee drop-off area to the referee dressing room and from the referee dressing room to the Field of Play.

- 15.4. Stadiums shall have designated pathways specifically for Match Officials' movements around the Stadium to ensure that their safety upon arrival and until their departure is always protected.

16. Office Space and Meeting Rooms

- 16.1. Stadiums shall be equipped with a minimum of:
 - 16.1.1. one (1) room designated as the AFC Secretariat, with seating room for at least ten (10) persons (i.e. two [2] tables that can accommodate ten [10] chairs);
 - 16.1.2. one (1) room for the AFC Commercial Rights Partner (as applicable), close to the AFC Secretariat, with seating room for at least six (6) persons (i.e. one [1] table that can accommodate six [6] chairs) and equipped with wired and wireless broadband internet connection for a minimum of ten (10) users in accordance with the technical requirements set out in Article 16.2.1;
 - 16.1.3. one (1) room for the ball kids and flag bearers with nearby toilet facilities which accommodates at least twenty (20) persons; and
 - 16.1.4. one (1) room for player escorts (if any) with nearby toilet facilities which accommodates at least twenty-five (25) persons.
- 16.2. The AFC Secretariat shall be equipped with a minimum of:
 - 16.2.1. wired and wireless broadband internet connection which shall be dedicated with a minimum symmetrical bandwidth of 10Mbps (ten megabits per second), dynamic host configuration protocol (DHCP), and all ports open so virtual private networks can be used;
 - 16.2.1.1. the wireless access point provided to the AFC shall support a minimum of fifty (50) users.
 - 16.2.2. one (1) desktop or laptop computer that is connected to the internet and to a printer. The operating language of the computer and for its software shall be in English;
 - 16.2.3. one (1) printer as well as all relevant consumables (including without limitation paper, toner and cartridges); and
 - 16.2.4. one (1) enterprise-grade photocopy machine with sorting facilities as well as all relevant consumables (including without limitation paper, toner and cartridges) or one (1) enterprise-grade multi-function printer (MFP-colour).
 - 16.2.5. The AFC may alter the specifications and requirements mentioned in Article 16.2.
- 16.3. The AFC Secretariat shall have easy access and be located near to the team dressing rooms and to the Field of Play
- 16.4. All rooms shall be adequately air-conditioned or heated depending on the weather conditions.

- 16.5. All rooms shall be in an area protected from the public and Media.
- 16.6. The AFC reserves the right to amend the requirements of the AFC Secretariat at its discretion.

17. Storage Facilities

- 17.1. Stadiums shall have a minimum of one (1) storage room with an area of 10m² (ten square metres) that can be secured with close access to the Field of Play.
- 17.2. All storage rooms shall be in an area protected from the public and Media.

18. Match Commissioner and Referee Assessor Seating Area

- 18.1. Stadiums shall have a covered seating area with a minimum of three (3) seats, dedicated for the AFC Match Commissioner and AFC Referee Assessor, in an area protected from the public, VVIP/VIP and Media.
 - 18.1.1. This dedicated seating area shall be equipped with television monitor(s) to receive the live feed of the Match as instructed by the AFC.
- 18.2. The AFC Match Commissioner and AFC Referee Assessor seating area shall be located centrally, as close to the halfway line as possible, and with easy access to the Field of Play, the team dressing rooms and referee dressing room.
- 18.3. The AFC Match Commissioner and AFC Referee Assessor seating area shall be equipped with:
 - 18.3.1. tables and chairs;
 - 18.3.2. power sockets; and
 - 18.3.3. wireless broadband internet connection.
- 18.4. The AFC may amend these requirements in the event it appoints additional officials and/or individuals.

19. Technical Study Group Seating Area

- 19.1. Stadiums shall have a covered seating area with a minimum of three (3) seats, dedicated for the AFC technical study group (TSG), in an area protected from the public.
- 19.2. The TSG seating area shall be located centrally, as close to the halfway line as possible, with easy access to the Field of Play, the team dressing rooms and referee dressing room.
- 19.3. The TSG seating area shall be equipped with:
 - 19.3.1. table and chairs;
 - 19.3.2. power sockets; and

19.3.3. wired and wireless AFC dedicated broadband internet connection.

19.4. The AFC may amend these requirements in the event it appoints additional officials and/or individuals.

20. Video Operation Room

20.1. In Matches with VAR, Stadiums shall have a room available to be used as a video operation room (VOR) in the Stadium or in close proximity to the Stadium adjacent to the broadcast compound.

20.2. The space provided shall be a minimum of 32m² (thirty-two square metres) in size and be in a suitable condition in accordance with the Laws of the Game. If an area of the required minimum size is not available for use, an enclosed space such as a portable cabin, as instructed by the AFC, shall be provided by the Host Organisation.

20.3. The room shall be equipped with a minimum of:

20.3.1. six (6) ergonomic chairs and sufficient desk space for authorised personnel to work from;

20.3.2. a wired broadband internet connection which shall be dedicated with a minimum symmetrical bandwidth of 50Mbps (fifty megabits per second); and

20.3.3. a stable and reliable technical power supply.

20.4. The room/cabin provided shall be adequately air-conditioned or heated, depending on the weather conditions, and shall have secure accessibility.

21. Parking Area for Team Official Delegation and AFC Delegation

21.1. Stadiums shall be equipped with parking spaces for a minimum of:

21.1.1. two (2) buses for the teams; and

21.1.2. ten (10) cars for the teams and AFC Delegation.

21.2. Designated parking spaces shall be provided free of charge for the use of the AFC, the AFC Commercial Rights Partner and Commercial Affiliates.

21.3. The parking spaces shall be safe and secure and allow easy access to the relevant operational areas.

21.4. To gain access to these parking spaces, the AFC will normally provide a car parking pass design to be displayed clearly on the windscreen. Should a Host Organisation prefer to utilise an existing parking pass system, it shall be clear of any third-party branding and an example of the parking pass shall be sent to the AFC for approval one (1) month prior to the relevant Match.

SECTION 4 | FACILITIES FOR THE BROADCAST PARTNERS AND MEDIA

22. Media Centre

- 22.1. Stadiums shall have a media centre which is located on the same side as the media tribune, press conference room, and mixed zone. The capacity of the media centre shall be specified by the AFC. It shall be adequately air-conditioned or heated, depending on the weather conditions, and equipped with the following unless otherwise instructed by the AFC:
- 22.1.1. tables, chairs, power sockets and internet connection;
 - 22.1.2. enterprise-grade office multi-function printer (MFP-colour) with all relevant consumables;
 - 22.1.3. pigeonholes and a secured storage room for Media representatives; and
 - 22.1.4. information services, catering and transport office, if required by the AFC.
- 22.2. A separate office or dedicated area within the media centre may be required for professional photography servicing.
- 22.3. There shall be a secure and exclusive access route for the Media from the media centre to the press conference room, media tribune and mixed zone.

23. Media Tribune

- 23.1. Stadiums shall have a media tribune which is preferably located in a central position and on the same side as the media centre, press conference room and mixed zone. The capacity of the media tribune shall be specified by the AFC. It shall be equipped with the following unless otherwise instructed by the AFC:
- 23.1.1. seats with and without desks. Seats with desks shall be equipped with power supply, wired and wireless internet connection. The desks shall be big enough to accommodate a laptop computer and note pad.
- 23.2. There shall be a secure and exclusive access route for the Media from the media tribune to the media centre, press conference room and mixed zone.

24. Press Conference Room

- 24.1. Stadiums shall have one (1) press conference room. The capacity of the press conference room shall be specified by the AFC. It shall be adequately air-conditioned or heated, depending on the weather conditions, and equipped with the following unless otherwise instructed by the AFC:
- 24.1.1. desks and chairs arranged in classroom style;

- 24.1.2. a podium at the front, together with tables and chairs, large enough to accommodate at least six (6) persons and a backdrop;
 - 24.1.3. a stable camera platform at the rear;
 - 24.1.4. a multi-output audio split box at the camera platform to distribute public address (PA) audio to ENG cameramen;
 - 24.1.5. a sound system (which includes microphones, an audio mixer, loudspeakers and, in the case of simultaneous interpretation, booths and headsets); and
 - 24.1.6. sufficient lighting at the podium for broadcast coverage.
- 24.2. There shall be a secure and exclusive access route for the Media from the press conference room to the media centre, media tribune and mixed zone.

25. Mixed Zones

- 25.1. Stadiums shall allocate a well-lit area to be used as the mixed zone which shall be located in an area along the pathway to/from the team dressing rooms and the team drop-off area.
- 25.2. The mixed zone shall be secured and accessible only to the Team Official Delegation, Host Broadcaster, Broadcast Partners and Media.
- 25.3. The dimensions of the mixed zone shall be specified by the AFC and divided into two (2) areas:
 - 25.3.1. broadcast (Host Broadcaster and Broadcast Partners); and
 - 25.3.2. press (print journalists, radio reporters and non-rights holders).
- 25.4. A single mixed zone shall be used for both Participating Teams rather than separate mixed zones for home and away teams and shall be sufficiently lit to facilitate broadcast coverage.
- 25.5. There shall be a secure and exclusive access route for the Media from the mixed zone to the media centre, media tribune, and press conference room.

26. Photographers' Working Area

- 26.1. Host Organisations shall provide seating for photographers at pitch-side positions which are equipped with chairs, wired and wireless internet connections.
- 26.2. In principle, photographers shall work behind the advertising boards behind the goals. If space and safety considerations permit, the AFC may grant special dispensation for photographers to work behind the advertising boards along the touch line opposite the team benches.

27. Internet Connectivity

- 27.1. Host Organisations shall provide sufficient internet coverage for the number of Media representatives present, in accordance with the minimum levels as follows:
 - 27.1.1. minimum 10Mbps (ten megabits per second) can be shared between the Media working area and Media seating;
 - 27.1.2. photographers need greater bandwidth than representatives of the written press because of higher upload usage at Matches, the upload-download ratio shall also be symmetrical; and
 - 27.1.3. any wireless networks shall be password-protected.
- 27.2. All internet connections shall be provided free of charge.

28. Broadcast Compound

- 28.1. Host Organisations shall provide sufficient space located within the Stadium perimeter for setting up of the broadcast compound (including sufficient space for an outside broadcasting [OB] van area and satellite uplink facilities) with easy access for large vehicles. The dimension of the broadcast compound shall be specified by the AFC.
- 28.2. The broadcast compound shall be secured by a perimeter fence, well-lit and manned by security personnel at all times.
- 28.3. The Host Organisation shall designate a clear cable route between the broadcast compound and all broadcast operational areas inside and outside the Stadium.
- 28.4. All cable routes inside and outside the Stadium must be equipped with cable trays, hooks, bridges and trenches where necessary.
- 28.5. The Host Organisation shall install telecommunication cabling between the broadcast compound and Stadium main distribution frame (MDF) room to facilitate the activation of additional dedicated telecommunication services in the broadcast compound.
- 28.6. The broadcast compound shall have a specified number of office cabins of various sizes as instructed by the AFC.

29. Broadcast Power

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

30. Camera Positions

- 30.1. Host Organisations shall provide space for camera footprints, as well as the installation of camera platforms, as instructed by the AFC. If necessary, this may require the removal of seats, even if this reduces Ticket sales. All camera positions and activities are subject to the written approval of the AFC.
- 30.2. All camera positions shall have an unobstructed view of the entire Field of Play and its immediate vicinity with seats blocked where necessary.
- 30.3. All camera platforms must be stable, secure and surrounded by guard rails for safety purposes.
- 30.4. In an effort to enhance the broadcast production, the Host Broadcaster may require additional camera positions and/or modify the camera position(s). Subject to the availability of space and safety and security considerations, such camera positions may be approved by the AFC on a case-by-case basis in consultation with the Host Organisation.

31. Commentary Positions

- 31.1. A Stadium shall provide a specific number of enclosed and non-enclosed commentary positions which shall be located on the same side as the main camera position and have unobstructed views of the entire Field of Play.
- 31.2. Enclosed commentary positions shall be adequately air-conditioned or heated, depending on the weather conditions.
- 31.3. Non-enclosed commentary positions, which ideally are part of the media tribune, shall have sufficient space to accommodate three (3) commentators per position. The number of non-enclosed commentary positions shall be advised by the AFC.
- 31.4. Each enclosed and non-enclosed commentary position shall be equipped with power sockets, telecommunication sockets for telephone, internet and integrated service digital network (ISDN). Telecommunication sockets shall be cabled to the Stadium main distribution frame (MDF) room to facilitate activation of telecommunication services at the commentary positions.

32. Presentation Studios

- 32.1. Host Organisations shall provide enclosed space for use as presentation studios with a view of the Field of Play.
- 32.2. The presentation studio shall be adequately air-conditioned or heated, depending on the weather conditions.
- 32.3. In the event a suitable facility does not exist within the Stadium, the Host Organisation shall provide an allocated space for a studio to be constructed, which may entail the removal or non-scale of seats.

- 32.3.1. Any seats lost and all safety-related approval and security measures are the responsibility of the Host Organisation.

33. Cabling

- 33.1. Host Organisations shall provide the necessary cabling infrastructure (e.g. cable routes, cable bridges, trenches) to enable the Host Broadcaster and Broadcast Partners to install all broadcaster cables safely and securely.
- 33.1.1. Access to any existing pre-cabled systems in the Stadium shall be free of charge where requested.
- 33.2. Cables shall not cause any obstruction or be a safety hazard to the Team Official Delegation or the public. Necessary measures shall be taken to ensure that cables are as unobtrusive as possible within the Stadium and the area surrounding the Field of Play including through the provision of cable bridges, cable covers, cable hooks, Stadium dressing and other means.

34. Observer Seats

- 34.1. Upon request, Host Organisations shall provide observer seats for Broadcast Partners with pre-and post-Match roles in addition to the seating requirements in the media tribune. The number of observer seats required shall be specified by the AFC.

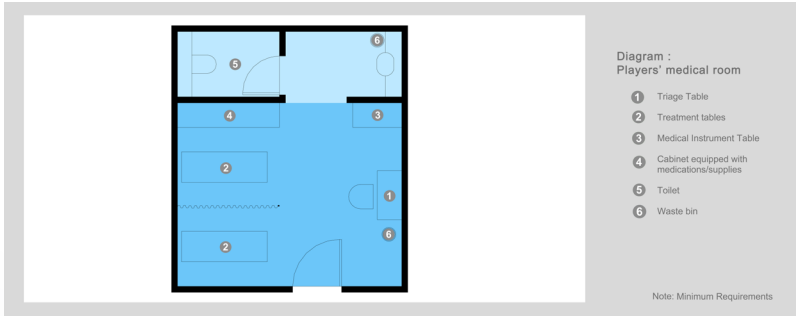
35. Parking Area for Host Broadcasters, Broadcast Partners and the Media

- 35.1. A Stadium shall contain sufficient parking areas for use by the AFC, the Host Broadcaster, Broadcast Partners and Media. Such parking spaces shall be of adequate size to accommodate the technical vehicles of the Host Broadcaster and Broadcast Partners.
- 35.2. 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.
- 35.3. Where the physical configuration of any Stadium does not allow for all such parking spaces to be situated, a dedicated unilateral equipment and personnel drop-off point for Broadcast Partners shall be designated as close as possible to the Stadium entrance.

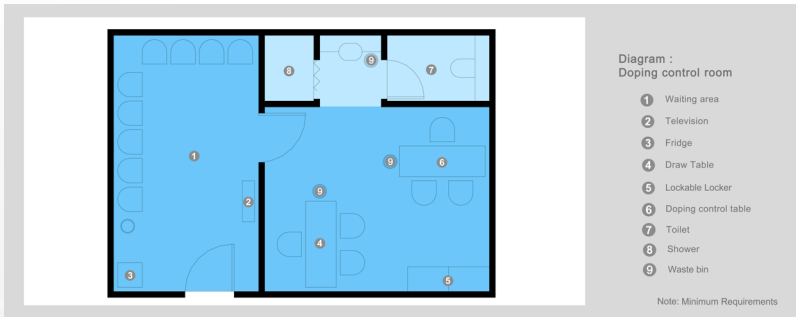
SECTION 5 | FACILITIES FOR MEDICAL AND DOPING CONTROL

36. Infrastructure requirements

36.1. The facilities and requirements for the medical rooms and doping control room shall be in accordance with the AFC Competition Operations Manual and the STA (if applicable).



Medical Room (example)



Doping Control Room (example)

SECTION 6 | FACILITIES FOR SPECTATORS

37. Spectator Capacity

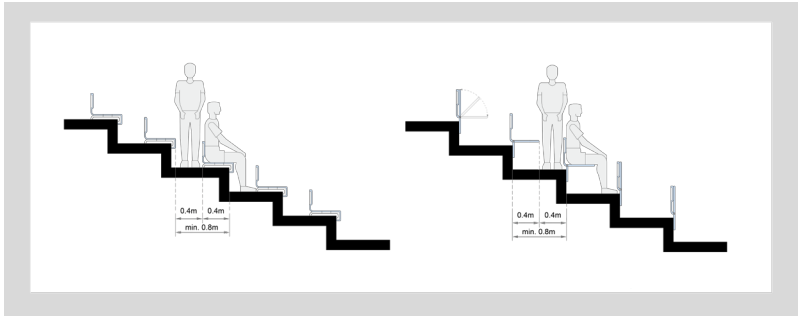
- 37.1. The minimum spectator capacity shall be five thousand (5,000) unless otherwise instructed by the AFC.

38. Stands

- 38.1. Each stand within a Stadium shall be capable of being divided into separate sectors or tribunes, each with its own access points, refreshment outlets and toilet facilities and other essential services, such as spectators' medical centres, security stations and areas for stewards and marshals.
- 38.1.1. Barriers, which are in accordance with national law and approved by the local authorities, shall be used to sub-divide sectors. It shall be possible to see through the barriers.
- 38.1.2. The barriers shall prevent spectators from moving from a sector or sub-sector to another, unless required for the Stadium evacuation process.
- 38.2. The use of temporary stands is prohibited.

39. Seating

- 39.1. All spectators shall be seated. Their seats shall be individual and separated, affixed to the structure (e.g. the floor) and comfortably shaped, with backrests to provide support.
- 39.1.1. Seats shall be unbreakable, fireproof and capable of withstanding the rigours of the prevailing climate.
- 39.1.2. There shall be sufficient leg-room between the rows of the seats behind from the row of the seats in front to ensure that spectators' knees do not touch the seats in front and simultaneously do not obstruct the pathway.
- 39.1.3. The pathway between the rows of seats shall ensure that there is easy access for spectators to move in and out of the rows even when they are full. To achieve reasonable leg room, a minimum distance of 80cm (eighty centimetres) from backrest to backrest is recommended.
- 39.2. Row identification shall be clearly exhibited in the passageways or aisles in an easy-to-find location on the outside of the end seat.
- 39.3. All seats shall be numbered in a way that makes them clearly, easily and immediately identifiable.



Stadium seating (example)

40. Food and Beverage

40.1. Stadiums shall be equipped with refreshment and catering facilities for spectators.

41. VVIP and VIP Seats

- 41.1. Stadiums shall be equipped with the number of VVIP and VIP seats as instructed by the AFC.
- 41.2. The VVIP and VIP seats shall be situated in a covered stand and as close to the halfway line as possible.
- 41.3. The VVIP and VIP area shall be strictly controlled and protected from unauthorised persons or cross-over from other groups (e.g. spectators, Media).

42. Entrances and Exits

- 42.1. Entry gates and/or turnstiles shall be installed and designed in such a way as to avoid congestion and ensure the smooth flow of spectators.
- 42.2. All public passageways and stairways in the spectator area shall be painted in a bright colour, as well as all gates, subject but not limited to the spectator areas, exit doors and gates leading out of a Stadium.
- 42.3. All exit doors and gates in a Stadium, and all gates in the spectator areas in the Stadium shall be:
- 42.3.1. 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 Field of Play; and
 - 42.3.2. designed to remain unlocked while spectators are in a Stadium.

42.4. Approach routes to a Stadium shall be adequately signposted (e.g. by means of pictograms) to guide spectators to their sectors and all turnstiles. Entry, exit gates and doors shall be operational and similarly clearly indicated by signs which are universally understood.

42.4.1. Prominent, clearly visible signage that guides spectators to sanitary facilities, concessions, retail outlets, exits and other customer service shall be provided.

42.5. The circulation space available immediately outside the exit gates shall be sufficient to guarantee that spectators are not at risk of being crushed in the event of a stampede and/or in any other circumstances and that the spectators can leave the Stadium comfortably.

43. Emergency Lighting System

43.1. Stadiums shall be equipped with an emergency lighting system approved by the competent local authorities. The emergency lighting system shall be utilised in the event of a general lighting failure in all parts of the Stadium to which the public has access, subject but not limited to all exit and evacuation routes.

44. Control Room

44.1. Stadiums shall have a Control Room containing a television surveillance system with screen monitors that ensures an overall view of the vicinity of the Stadium, subject but not limited to entrances and viewing areas within the Stadium. The Control Room shall be equipped with communication facilities.

45. Public Address System

45.1. Stadiums shall be equipped with a public address system (PA system) which ensures that pre-approved messages can be delivered to the public inside the Stadium.

45.2. The PA system may only be used for announcements requested by the AFC, referees or local security authorities, as well as for announcements related to the Match (e.g. goal scorers, substitutions, attendance, minimum additional time decided by the referee).

45.2.1. The PA system may not be used to disseminate commercial messages (apart from Commercial Affiliates promotions) without the written approval of the AFC.

45.3. Host Organisations shall provide an emergency alternative power supply to ensure the PA system remains operative, without interruption, in the event of a power failure for a minimum period of three (3) hours.

46. Sanitary Facilities

46.1. Sufficiently clean and hygienic sanitary facilities shall be located evenly throughout all sectors of a Stadium. Seated toilets for all spectators of both genders, as well as urinals, shall be made available in each sector, and shall be equipped with sinks and amenities such as toilet paper and soap.

- 46.1.1. Private toilet facilities consisting of a single toilet and sink shall be considered throughout the facility, for use by those requiring greater assistance, including disabled persons and young children.
- 46.2. To avoid overcrowding of spectators entering and leaving sanitary facilities, there shall be a one-way access system, or at least doors which are sufficiently wide to permit the division of the passageway into and out of channels.

47. First Aid Facilities

- 47.1. Fully equipped first aid facilities, approved by the competent local authorities, shall be made available for spectators in each sector of the spectator areas. The facilities and requirements shall be in accordance with the AFC Competition Operations Manual.
- 47.2. The first aid facilities shall be clearly identified, and access shall be clearly signposted.

48. Facilities for Spectators with Disabilities

- 48.1. Stadiums shall have dedicated access and seats for spectators with disabilities and their helpers.
- 48.2. Stadiums shall have dedicated sanitary facilities as well as refreshment and catering facilities in the vicinity for this dedicated sector.
- 48.3. The safety of the visually impaired, blind spectators and disabled people shall be provided for. In particular, easy access and exit ways, toilet facilities and support services shall be provided.

49. Parking for Spectators

- 49.1. All parking places shall be on-site, affording spectators direct entrance to the Stadium. The car parks around the Stadium shall be brightly lit and clearly signposted, with numbered or lettered sectors. Parking places shall be guarded against illegal intrusion.

50. VVIP and VIP Parking

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

SECTION 7 | FACILITIES FOR COMMERCIAL AFFILIATES

51. Promotional Areas

- 51.1. Upon request, Host Organisations shall provide the Commercial Affiliates with a designated area and certain facilities free of charge in conjunction with their exclusive event sponsorship and/or product supply rights.
- 51.2. The space provided shall be a minimum of 40m² (forty square metres) in a suitable condition to enable Commercial Affiliates to carry out their promotions with associated storage rooms and parking areas.

52. Hospitality Areas and Facilities

- 52.1. The Stadium shall be equipped with dedicated hospitality areas and facilities including, without limitation, skyboxes, corporate boxes, lounges and suites for use by the AFC during the Competition period or any Match, unless otherwise instructed by the AFC.

53. Merchandise Stands

- 53.1. Host Organisations shall ensure that the AFC and its Commercial Affiliates are provided with sufficient space and appropriate infrastructure (including access to power supply and wireless internet connection). The Host Organisation shall provide details to the AFC of any fixed merchandise stands, including, without limitation, the type of merchandise being sold and the layout of the merchandise stands in the Stadium.
- 53.2. Merchandise stands shall be placed in a way that will attract spectators without causing congestion in the Stadium concourses, subject to the AFC's written approval.
- 53.3. The AFC may decline the placement of merchandise stands in the Stadium.

SECTION 8 | CLOSING PROVISIONS

54. Disciplinary Measures

- 54.1. 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.
- 54.2. 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.

55. Decisions

- 55.1. 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.

56. Amendments

- 56.1. 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.

57. Force Majeure

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

58. Matters Not Provided For

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

59. Implementing Provisions

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

60. Enforcement

- 60.1. 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





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