



**AFC**  
**U23**  
**CHAMPIONSHIP**  
**QATAR 2016™**

# **AFC U-23 CHAMPIONSHIP QATAR 2016**

## **Competition Regulations**



# Regulations

## AFC U-23 Championship Qatar 2016

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## DEFINITIONS

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

<i>Accommodation</i>	Hotels or any other locations providing accommodation to guests for the Competition.
<i>Accreditation or Accredited</i>	The giving of authority to a person or a group of persons, involving certification, which allows the accredited person(s) to undertake specified activities within the Controlled Access Areas.
<i>AFC</i>	The Asian Football Confederation.
<i>AFC Committees</i>	AFC Committees including The Disciplinary Committee, Appeals Committee, Referees Committee, Technical Committee, Finance Committee, Marketing Committee, AFC Executive Committee, AFC Competitions Committee and such other committees of the AFC as advised by AFC from time to time.
<i>AFC Competitions Committee</i>	The AFC Committee consisting of a Chairman and 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 competition and matches; to submit reports on competitions and matches to the Secretariat.
<i>AFC Delegation</i>	Any officials appointed by AFC, including but not limited to the Head of Delegation, Head of Administration, Tournament Director, General Coordinator, Match Commissioner, Referee Instructor/Assessor, Referee, Assistant Referees, Fourth Official, Media Officer, Marketing Officer, Security Officer, Medical Officer and Technical Study Group Officer.
<i>AFC Headquarters</i>	AFC House, Jalan 1/155 B, Bukit Jalil, 57000 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
<i>AFC Logo(s)</i>	The official logo of AFC, and/or such other official logo, which shall be the only marks used by AFC, where otherwise mutually agreed by the parties.

<i>AFC Official Merchandise</i>	The official merchandise of AFC, to which the AFC Logo and the Competition Marks may be applied, to those products at the sole discretion of AFC.
<i>AFC Website</i>	<a href="http://www.the-afc.com">www.the-afc.com</a>
<i>AFCAS</i>	AFC Administration System (AFCAS), a web-based system to manage the AFC's operations and monitor the status of competition and individual registrations.
<i>Best Category Ticket</i>	The best tickets available in the best category seats entitling the ticket holder to sit in the sector immediately adjacent to the VIP area whether in or directly opposite Area to the main stand.
<i>Broadcast Affiliates</i>	Any entity, including the Host Broadcaster, which has acquired from AFC directly or from AFC's Marketing Partner any rights in respect of the Broadcast Rights of the Competition.
<i>Broadcast Rights</i>	The right to broadcast the Competition and the right of access to the Stadia to the exclusion of all others, for the purposes of producing a live television and/or radio signal and/or recordings of the Competition in any form of audio and/or audio-visual medium and the right to license the right to exhibit such live signal and/or recordings and/or part thereof by any and all forms of television and/or radio and/or any media now existing or as may be developed in the future, including, all forms of terrestrial, cable and satellite television, IPTV, broadband (fixed and/or wireless), Internet and Interactive Television on a world-wide basis.
<i>Competition</i>	AFC U-23 Championship 2016 which shall include the Matches as set out in the Match Schedule, activities on the field of play (other than matches), opening ceremonies, presentation or closing ceremonies, press conferences or official functions connected therewith.
<i>Competition Data</i>	Any and all information related to the Competition, including Fixture Lists, Image Rights, information and/or statistics about the Participating Member Associations and/or Participating Players, information and/or statistics about their participation and/or performance in the Competitions, match analysis, referee decisions, and any other information

in relation to the Competition.

*Competition Marks*

Any and all current and future competition Trademark's and/or logos, copyrights and/or designs whether or not registered or applied for and whether registered in part or in whole including any and or present and future names, designations, symbols, logos or identifying music or sounds of AFC or the Competition, the AFC Fair Play name and device mark, the official logo, the Competition Trophy and other artistic and autographic representations in one, two or three dimensional proportions used by or in association with the Competition.

*Competition Website*

The official website in relation to a Competition operated exclusively by AFC with a dedicated URL registered, owned and maintained by AFC, at AFC's sole expense, for use exclusively by AFC.

*Complimentary Tickets*

Tickets which are supplied without charge.

*Controlled Access Areas*

The locations of the Matches and other events, such as (without limitation) Stadia and their fences and perimeters, the aerial space above the Stadia, and all other locations associated with the Competitions, including the media centres, international broadcast centres, Official Training Sites, designated official hotels (including but not limited to the official hotels for the Participating Member Associations), hospitality and VIP areas and facilities, other areas to which admission is regulated by the accreditation system, and surrounding and adjacent areas to the locations described above.

*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.

<i>Host Broadcaster</i>	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.
<i>Match(es)</i>	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.
<i>Match Schedule</i>	The published schedule containing details of the Competition (which details shall include but not be limited to the names of the Participating Member Associations, Venues, Stadia, and details of the Match kick-off times).
<i>Media</i>	All 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.
<i>Member(s)/Member Association(s)</i>	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”, “Associate” membership shall have the same meaning as contained in AFC Statutes.
<i>National Association(s)</i>	The controlling bodies for association football within each country or territory of Asia.
<i>Neutral Venue Organising Association</i>	Association where the match is being played as a neutral venue and appointed to assist to organise, stage and host the competition.
<i>Official Functions</i>	Any official event organised in connection with the Competitions, including but not limited to press conferences, official dinners or lunches and banquets.
<i>Official Training Sites</i>	Training sites designated by the Organising Association for use by the Participating Member Associations throughout the duration of the Competition.
<i>Organising Association(s)</i>	A Member Association(s) and their Local Organising Committee appointed by AFC to organise stage and host the Competition.

<i>Participating Players</i>	Those players registered and participating in the Competition and any other players under the authority of AFC during the Competition.
<i>Participating Team(s) / Participating Member Association(s)</i>	Those teams participating in the Competitions, under the authority of the Member Associations and AFC during the Competition.
<i>Regulations</i>	Those regulations controlled and published by AFC to be used in connection with the Competition.
<i>Stadia</i>	The official stadia (or any stadium) and the airspace and surrounding areas for the Matches, whether under the control of the Organising Association or otherwise, used for the Matches, including without limitation parking facilities, VIP and hospitality areas, concourses, concession areas, fencing and entrances.
<i>Team's Official Delegation</i>	The Participating Member Association's Official Delegation will comprise of a maximum of twenty-three (23) players and eight (8) officials who are named in the Final Registration for the Competition.
<i>Team's Official Duration</i>	The period of time from the official arrival date, to be determined by AFC, till one (1) day after the Participating Member Association's last Match in the Competition.
<i>Ticketing</i>	All operational measures to provide tickets to all spectators of every Match and for Official Functions of the Competition allowing them to enter the Stadia and for a Venue. Ticketing shall include the management of operation necessary for the production, sale, distribution, delivery and payment of the tickets of the Competition.
<i>Venues</i>	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 Organising committees.

## SECTION 1: REPRESENTATION

### 1. The Asian Football Confederation

- a) The AFC stages the AFC U-23 Championship (hereafter the “Competition”) for under 23 men’s national teams with Qualifying Stage (hereafter the “Qualifiers”) and Final Stage (hereafter the “Finals”) once every two (2) years according to Competitions Calendar.
- b) Any rights associated with the Competition which has not been granted by these Regulations and/or specific agreements to a Participating Member Association in the Competition belong to AFC.
- c) AFC stages the Competition with AFC’s Member Association(s) (hereinafter the Organising Association(s)) following the appointment of these Association(s) by the AFC Executive Committee.
- d) The current AFC Statutes, all AFC Regulations, Guidelines, Circulars and Codes are binding for all parties participating and involved in the preparation, organisation and hosting of the Competition. Any reference in these Regulations to the AFC Statutes refers to the Statutes valid at the time of entry and to all relevant AFC Regulations, Guidelines, Circulars and Codes.
- e) The top three (3) ranked teams of the Final Competition shall qualify and undertake to take part in the following competitions:
  - i. Men’s Olympic Football Tournament Rio 2016; and
  - ii. Intercontinental competitions arranged by AFC with other Confederations, if any.
- f) Member Associations are not authorised to represent AFC or the Competition without AFC’s prior written approval.
- g) AFC may appoint match officials including General Coordinator, Match Commissioner, Referee Instructor/Assessor, Referees, Media Officer, Medical Officer, Doping Control Officer, Marketing Officer, Security Officer, etc. (hereafter the “AFC Delegation”) for each match of the Competition for the purpose of match organisation.

### 2. Participating Member Associations

- a) The obligations and responsibilities of the Participating Member Associations are stipulated in the Participating Team Agreement (hereinafter, PTA), its annexes and amendments, the AFC List of Requirements (hereinafter, LOR) and in these Regulations and other AFC regulations, guidelines and circulars and any other agreements reached between AFC and the Participating Member Associations.

- b) Each Member Association taking part in the Competition shall ensure, as a condition of its participation in the Competition that every member of its delegation (players and officials) complies with a Participating Team Agreement to be issued by AFC.
- c) The eligible Member Association shall complete the Participating Team Agreement in full and submit it to the AFC Secretariat not later than the entry deadline communicated to the Member Association. If the Participating Team Agreement does not reach the AFC Secretariat by the entry deadline, the participation of the eligible Member Association will be cancelled.
- d) Only the Participating Team Agreement submitted to the AFC Secretariat by facsimile, electronic mail and courier post will be valid and taken into consideration.
- e) The Participating Member Associations shall automatically undertake:
  - i. To observe any agreements entered into with AFC as well as AFC Statutes, Regulations, policies, decisions, guidelines and circulars issued by AFC and the applicable national and supra-national laws;
  - ii. To comply with the Laws of the Game laid down by the IFAB and published by FIFA;
  - iii. To accept that all the administrative, disciplinary and refereeing matters connected with the Competition shall be settled by AFC in compliance with these Regulations or the decisions of relevant AFC Committee(s);
  - iv. To field their strongest team throughout the Competition;
  - v. To observe the principles of Fair Play;
  - vi. To be responsible for the behaviour of their players, officials, members, supporters and any person carrying out duties on their behalf throughout the Competition, either at home or from their arrival in the host country until their departure;
  - vii. To accept all the arrangements made by the Organising Association in agreement with the AFC;
  - viii. To attend and participate in all official activities and events such as Match Coordination Meeting, Press Conferences, other Media and Marketing activities, etc. organised by AFC and/or the Organising Association in accordance with guidelines and/or instructions in circulars issued by AFC regarding, in particular, Media access to Teams. Failure to attend the Match Coordination Meeting, Press Conference and other official function in the Competition will result in the Member Association being fined USD 5,000.00 (Five Thousand US Dollars only);

- ix. To provide AFC prior to the Competition with individual player and coach/manager statistics and photographs, historical information on its national team, stadium and a photograph thereof, and further data as requested by AFC for Media and promotional purposes when requested;
  - x. To accept the use and/or sub-license by AFC of any of the records, names and images of the Member Association (including its mark), players and officials, including any still and moving representation thereof, which must appear or be generated in connection with the Participating of the Member Association and its Players and Officials in the Competition.
- f) All Players and Officials who participate in this Competition shall undertake to ensure their presence at the AFC Awards Night of the AFC Competitions Calendar Year if they are nominated for an award. Any player or official failing to do so shall be referred to the AFC Disciplinary Committee.

### 3. Organising Association

- a) For the duration of the Competition, the Organising Association(s), and the relevant government authorities are responsible the following:
- i. Concluding – with reputable insurers at their own cost – all necessary insurance in connection with the staging and organising of the matches, including third-party liability and spectator accident coverage;
  - ii. Guaranteeing law and order as well as safety at the venue and in the stadiums, thus ensuring the application of the FIFA Safety Regulations;
  - iii. Complying with the guidelines and instructions issued by AFC.
- b) The Organising Association(s) shall discharge AFC and hold it harmless from all responsibility and relinquish any claim against AFC and the members of its delegation for any damages resulting from any act or omission relating to the organisation and course of the Competition to the exclusion of damages caused by AFC or the members of its delegation acting with intent or gross negligence.
- c) The Organising Association(s) shall exempt (indemnify and hold harmless) AFC from all third party claims for damages relating to Match organisation, regardless of whether individual Matches in question take place or not.
- d) The Organising Association shall automatically undertake:
- i. To make the appropriate arrangements for the staging of their matches, visiting teams and AFC Delegation in accordance with the Regulations;

- ii. To guarantee that access to the stadium will be granted to the AFC Delegation, officials and players of the visiting teams, sponsors, travelling fans and media without any discrimination of gender, race or nationality.

## SECTION 2: TECHNICAL REGULATIONS

### 4. Matches Played in Accordance with the Laws of the Game

- a) All Matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game laid down by the International Football Association Board (IFAB) and published by FIFA.
- b) In case of any discrepancy in the interpretation of the Laws of the Game, the English version shall prevail and is authoritative.
- c) Only three (3) substitutes listed on the Match Starting List may take part in the Match. A player who has been substituted out may take no further part in the Match.
- d) If there are fewer than seven (7) players on either of the teams, the Match shall be abandoned. In this case, the AFC Competitions Committee (and if required the AFC Disciplinary Committee) shall decide on the consequences.

### 5. Duration of Matches

#### 5.1 Qualifiers:

- a) Each Match shall last ninety (90) minutes, comprising two periods of forty-five (45) minutes (hereinafter, normal playing time).
- b) There shall be an interval of fifteen (15) minutes between the periods, commencing from the whistle ending the first period and ending upon the whistle starting the second period.

#### 5.2 Finals:

- a) Each Match shall last ninety (90) minutes, comprising two periods of forty-five (45) minutes (hereinafter, normal playing time)
- b) There shall be an interval of fifteen (15) minutes between the periods, commencing from the whistle ending the first period and ending upon the whistle starting the second period.
- c) If the result is level at the end of normal playing time during the Knock-Out Stage matches from the quarter-finals up to the final, extra time shall be played.
- d) Extra Time shall consist of two (2) periods of fifteen (15) minutes each, with an interval of five (5) minutes at the end of normal playing time, but no interval between the two periods of Extra Time.

- e) If the result is still a draw after the two (2) periods of Extra Time, Penalty Kicks shall be taken to determine the winner, in accordance with the procedures described in the Laws of the Game.
- f) If Penalty Kicks cannot be completed because of weather conditions or for any Force Majeure reasons, the results shall be decided by the drawing of lots by the Referee in the presence of the AFC Match Commissioner and the two (2) captains of the Participating Teams.
- g) If, through the fault of a Participating Team, the Penalty Kicks cannot be completed, *Article 19 c)* of these Regulations shall apply.

## 6. Cancellation of Matches

- a) If a Match cannot commence on time due to Force Majeure, the pitch not being fit for play, weather conditions, floodlight failure or any other reason, the following procedure shall be followed:
  - i. The Match must first be delayed for a minimum of thirty (30) minutes, unless the Referee decides that the Match can commence earlier, before a decision to reschedule the Match is taken.
  - ii. At the discretion of the Referee, another delay of a maximum of thirty (30) minutes shall be allowed if in his opinion this extra period of delay will allow the Match to commence. Otherwise, at the end of this second thirty (30) minute period, the Referee must declare the Match to have been cancelled.
  - iii. In the case of a cancelled Match, the AFC shall decide within two (2) hours of the Referee's decision to cancel the Match whether the Match can be rescheduled, taking sporting and organisational considerations into account, or whether any other action and decision is needed to continue with the Competition. Any disciplinary sanctions resulting from the cancelled Match shall remain in force.
- b) No appeals may be lodged against decisions stated in *clause a)* above.

## 7. Abandonment of Matches

- a) If the Match is stopped by the Referee before the end of normal time or during any extra time because of any Force Majeure or any other incidents such as, but not limited to, the field is not fit for play, weather conditions, floodlight failure, etc. the following procedures must be followed:
  - i. The Match is automatically suspended for the duration of thirty (30) minutes to allow conditions to improve sufficiently to restart the Match, unless the referee decides that the Match can be resumed earlier.

- ii. At the discretion of the Referee, another suspension of a maximum of thirty (30) minutes shall be allowed if in his opinion this extra period of suspension will allow the Match to be resumed. Otherwise, at the end of this second thirty (30) minute period, the Referee must declare the Match to have been abandoned.
  - iii. In the case a match is abandoned as a result of Force Majeure for any reason after it has already kicked off, the match shall recommence with the same score at the minute at which play was interrupted rather than being replayed in full.
  - iv. The following principles shall apply to the recommencement of the match:
    - the match shall recommence with the same players on the pitch and substitutes available as when the match was initially abandoned;
    - no additional substitutes may be added to the 'Match Starting List';
    - the teams can make only the number of substitutions to which they were still entitled when the match was abandoned;
    - players sent off during the abandoned match cannot be replaced;
    - any sanctions imposed before the match was abandoned remain valid for the remainder of the match;
    - the kick-off time, date (foreseen for the following day) and location shall be decided by the AFC;
    - any matters requiring further decision shall be treated by the AFC.
- b) No appeals may be lodged against decisions stated in *clause a)* above.

## 8. Stadiums (Stadia)

- a) The Stadium for the matches in the Competition shall be nominated upon bidding to host by the Member Association and subject to inspection and approval by AFC. All costs related to the inspection visit shall be borne by the bidding Member Association.
- b) Unless stipulated otherwise in the requirements, matches in the Competition must be played in a stadium which meets all the requirement of and standards stated in the "AFC Stadia Regulations" and in compliance with the safety and security standards and other AFC guidelines and instructions for international matches.
- c) The Organising Association shall ensure that no Matches and/or other activities are held at the Stadium(s) nominated for the Matches at least ten (10) days prior to the Competition, unless written permission has been obtained from AFC. Unless specified or directed by AFC otherwise, the Stadia shall be made available

for use for the Competition as of seven (7) working days prior to the first Match of the Competition until one (1) day after the last Match of the Competition.

## 9. Team Bench and Technical Area

- a) Up to a maximum of eight (8) team officials and a maximum of twelve (12) players (substitutes, injured or not playing) are allowed to sit on the team bench during the Match, provided they are in possession of the appropriate accreditation and access card.
- b) All officials and players on the team bench must wear their accreditation card at all times. The accreditation cards shall always be available for inspection prior to the start of the match.
- c) All persons on the bench must wear kits that are contrasting with the kit of the players and referees on the pitch. These kits must comply with the AFC Equipment Regulations.
- d) Team 'A' shall occupy the left hand side bench and Team 'B' shall be on the right hand side as viewed from the Fourth Official Bench.

## 10. Warming up

- a) The Participating Member Associations shall be entitled to warm up on the field of play before the Match if the weather permits.
- b) During actual play, a maximum of six (6) players from each team may warm up at the same time but without a ball (except for the goalkeeper), behind the goal closest to their substitutes' bench or in a space determined by the AFC Match Commissioner. The players may be assisted by two (2) officials from the team bench.
- c) Players warming-up during actual play shall wear bibs that are contrasting with the kit of the players and referee on the pitch.

## 11. Official Training Sessions at the Stadia

- a) Depending on the weather and condition of the pitch, the Participating Member Association will be entitled to one (1) one-hour Official Training Session in the Stadium where they are due to play on one (1) day or two (2) days before the Participating Member Association's first Match in the Stadium concerned.
- b) The field of play must be prepared to match conditions for this session. If the field of play is not in good condition, the AFC Match Commissioner may shorten or cancel the Training Session and direct the teams to inspect the field of play wearing training shoes only.

- c) If an artificial pitch is to be used for the matches, the Participating Member Associations are entitled to have either a two (2) one-hour official training sessions or one (1) two-hour official training session in the Stadium where they are due to play on, one (1) day or two (2) days before their first match.
- d) If the Participating Member Associations choose not to train at the match stadium, they have to inform AFC Match Commissioner of their Official Training time at other designated Official Training Site approved by AFC. This shall be treated as Official Training Session.

## 12. Official Training Sites

- a) Official Training Sites in good condition and situated near the Teams' hotel shall be made available to the Participating Member Associations at least five (5) full days prior to the first Match in the Competition.
- b) The Participating Member Associations in the Competition shall use only those Training Sites which have been officially designated for training by AFC.
- c) These official training sites are reserved for training and practice matches and shall not be used for other matches and events as from five (5) days prior to the first match in the competition, unless written permission has been obtained from the AFC.
- d) AFC will decide the specific training schedule for the Participating Member Associations.

## 13. Footballs

### 13.1 Qualifiers:

- a) The footballs for the Qualifiers shall be selected and supplied by the Organising Association as follows:
  - i. Organising Association shall provide ten (10) new match balls for each match of the Qualifiers;
  - ii. Organising Association shall provide ten (10) new training balls to the Participating Member Associations at the Qualifiers venue before the competition;
- b) Only FIFA Approved ball are allowed to be used for the Qualifiers.

### 13.2 Finals:

- a) The footballs for the Final Stage shall be selected and supplied by AFC.

- b) Each Participating Member Association will receive twenty (20) training balls before the competition.
- c) Participating Member Associations are only allowed to use the training balls provided by AFC for training and warming-up purposes.
- a) Whenever the footballs are delivered to Organising Association, the Organising Association is responsible to cover the cost of storage, any taxes and/or fees pertaining to the clearance of these footballs.

## 14. Match Schedule

- a) All Matches shall be played according to the dates, stadium and kick-off times as set by AFC.

## 15. Competition System

- a) The Competition shall consist of following Stages:
  - i. Qualifying Stage
  - and
  - ii. Final Stage consisting of Group stage (League System) and Knockout Stage (Quarter-Finals, Semi-Finals,  $\frac{3}{4}$  place playoff and Final)
    - A. The winner and runner-up of each group in the Group stage shall qualify for the Quarter-Finals;
    - B. The winning teams of the Quarter-Finals shall qualify for the Semi-Finals;
    - C. The winning teams of the Semi-Finals shall qualify for the Final while the losing teams shall play in the  $\frac{3}{4}$  place playoff match.
- b) The AFC Competitions Committee may form groups and/or subgroups for the Qualifying Stage by drawing lots whilst taking sports, geographic and economic factors into consideration, as far as possible.

## 16. Technical Rules of the Competition

- a) In groups composed of several teams, three (3) points shall be awarded for a win, one (1) point for a draw and zero (0) point for a loss
- b) The ranking in each group shall be determined as follows:
  - i. Greater number of points obtained in all group Matches;

- ii. If two or more Teams are equal on the basis of the above criterion, their places shall be determined, in the given order, as follows:
  - A) Greater number of points obtained in the Group Matches among the Teams concerned;
  - B) Greater goal difference resulting from the Group Matches among the Teams concerned (if more than two teams finish on equal points);
  - C) Greater number of goals scored in the Group Matches among the Teams concerned (if more than two teams finish equal on points);
  - D) If, after applying above criteria to several teams, two or more teams still have an equal ranking, the above criteria shall be reapplied, in the order given, to determine the ranking of these teams. If this procedure does not lead to a decision, below criteria shall apply
  - E) Greater goal difference in all the Group Matches;
  - F) Greater number of goals scored in all the Group Matches;
  - G) Kicks from the penalty mark (if only two Teams are involved and they are both on the field of play);
  - H) Fewer score calculated according to the number of yellow and red cards received in the Group Matches (please see *Appendix 1*);
  - I) Drawing of lots.

### 16.1 Qualifiers:

- a) Should the best/better ranked teams from among different groups be required to participate in the Final Competition, eligible teams shall be determined, in the order given, as following:
  - A. Greater number of points obtained in the Group Matches;
  - B. Greater goal difference in the Group Matches;
  - C. Greater number of goals scored in the Group Matches;
  - D. Greater number of wins in the Group Matches;
  - E. Fewer score calculated according to the number of yellow and red cards received in the Group Matches (please see *Appendix 1*);
  - F. Drawing of lots.

### 16.2 Finals:

- a) The teams of the sixteen (16) Participating Member Associations taking part in the Competition shall be divided into two (4) groups of four (4) teams each.

## SECTION 3: ENTRIES FOR COMPETITION

### 17. Entries

#### 17.1 Qualifiers:

- a) The AFC shall determine the Member Associations who are eligible for the Competition.
- b) The eligible Member Associations shall complete an official entry documents in full and submit to the AFC not later than the entry deadline communicated to the Member Associations.
- c) All decisions by the AFC Competitions Committee regarding the entries are final and not subject to appeal.

#### 17.2 Finals:

- a) Sixteen (16) Member Associations may participate in this stage of the Competition by virtue of:
  - i. Qualifying through a preliminary competition (Qualifiers);
  - ii. Being Host / Organising Association;
  - iii. Being invited

### 18. Eligible Teams

- a) The U-23 men's National Team of Participating Member Associations shall be eligible to participate provided all other terms of these Regulations have been met.

### 19. Withdrawal, penalty for failing to play and replacement

#### 19.1 Withdrawal Prior to Commencement of the Competition

- a) Any Participating Member Association that withdraws or is excluded from the Competition prior to its commencement may be replaced by another Participating Member Association.
- b) The AFC Competitions Committee shall be responsible for making any necessary decisions, including without limitation whether to:
  - i. replace the Participating Member Association;
  - ii. change the competition system; and/or
  - iii. change the technical rules.

- c) All decisions of the AFC Competitions Committee in this regard are final and binding and not appealable.
- d) Any Participating Member Association who withdraws from the Competition in accordance with this Article may be referred to the AFC Disciplinary Committee.

## 19.2 Withdrawal After Commencement of the Competition

- a) Any Participating Member Association that:
  - i. withdraws from the Competition after it has commenced; or
  - ii. does not report for any of its Matches; or
  - iii. refuses to continue any of its Matches at any stage; or
  - iv. leaves the Stadium prior to the completion of any of its Matches,shall be considered to have withdrawn from the Competition after its commencement.
- b) The Participating Member Association that withdraws from the Competition after it has commenced shall:
  - i. have all its Matches cancelled and considered null and void. For the avoidance of doubt, all points and goals in those Matches shall not be taken into consideration when determining the final rankings in any group;
  - ii. be required to pay compensation for any and all damages or losses suffered by, where applicable, the other Participating Member Associations, the AFC, the AFC Commercial Rights Partner, Licensees, and Broadcasters. The amount of compensation shall be determined by the AFC Executive Committee;
  - iii. be disqualified from participating in the next edition of the Competition;
  - iv. be disqualified from participating in the Finals, if qualification is attained;
  - v. be disqualified from participating in any tournaments listed in Article 1, if qualification has been attained;
  - vi. be referred to the AFC Disciplinary Committee for possible additional sanctions; and
  - vii. return to the AFC any Match Subsidy that had been paid in support of their participation in the Competition or if not yet paid, forfeit their right to those Match Subsidies.
- c) This Article is not applicable in cases of Force Majeure recognised by the AFC Competitions Committee.
- d) The AFC Competitions Committee shall take whatever action it deems necessary in cases of Force Majeure.

## SECTION 4: TEAM'S OFFICIAL DELEGATION: OFFICIALS AND PLAYERS

### 20. Size of Delegation Attending Matches

- a) Each Participating Member Association is entitled to an Official Delegation of a maximum of twenty three (23) players and eight (8) officials who must be registered by the Member Association as per *Articles 21-30*. The team's Official Delegation will be receiving full board, Accommodation and transportation benefits as well as full access to the official Competition areas including the field of play and other Controlled Accessed Areas.
- b) At their own cost, each Participating Member Association can nominate, up to an additional four (4) officials, who will receive the same access to all competition areas. However, the total number of officials who will sit on the team bench must not exceed eight (8) officials, including head coach, as confirmed by the "Officials on the Team Bench" form submitted prior to the start of the match.

### 21. Eligibility of Players

- a) A player is eligible to play in the Competition provided he fulfils all the following conditions:
  - i. He is duly registered with the AFC by the Member Association according to the provisions of these Regulations;
  - ii. He is a bona fide citizen of the country he represents, provided he fulfils the provision of *Article 23*.
  - iii. He was born on or after 1 January 1993.
- b) A player is deemed ineligible if:
  - i. There is a violation of *clause a)* above;
  - ii. He is fielded despite being served a suspension;
  - iii. AFC finds that document(s) submitted during registration is/are false.
- c) The approval of the registration of a player by the AFC General Secretariat does not automatically provide for the eligibility of the player. Each Participating Member Association is responsible for and bears the onus of fielding only eligible players in a Match. Failure to do so shall lead to the consequences stipulated in the AFC Disciplinary Code.

### 22. Stages of Registration of Players

- a) There are three (3) stages of player's registration:

- i. Preliminary Registration to determine a squad of a minimum of eighteen (18) players and up to a maximum of fifty (50) players;
- ii. Final Registration to specify a minimum of eighteen (18) players and up to a maximum of twenty-three (23) players from the squad declared in the Preliminary Registration for the Competition;
- iii. Start List to identify the starting eleven (11) and up to twelve (12) substitute players for each Match during the Competition.

## 23. Documentation for Registration of Players

- a) For the registration of players for the Competition, players must be registered via AFCAS Online Registration with the supporting documents in accordance with *clause b)* below by the deadline announced by AFC.
- b) Documentations for the registration of players are, but not limited to, the following (unless already previously submitted to AFC and available in AFCAS):
  - i. Colour copy of valid passport containing full name, passport number, date of birth, date of issue, date of expiry and nationality (group passport will not be accepted);
  - ii. Colour copy of national ID (when applicable);
  - iii. Birth Certificate;
  - iv. Passport-size coloured photo (taken within 3 months prior to the submission of the registration)
- c) In cases of registration of naturalised players, the Member Associations concerned must present proof of naturalisation by providing supporting documents issued by the competent authorities of their countries as proof of the Player's nationality in accordance with the Regulations Governing the Application of the FIFA Statutes. The supporting documents are, but not limited, to those listed in *Appendices 3 and 4*.
- d) AFC reserves the right to request for additional documents than those stipulated in *clauses b) and c)* above.

## 24. Principles for Registration of Players

- a) A Participating Member Association can register no less than eighteen (18) players and no more than fifty (50) players for the Competition in the Preliminary Registration in accordance with *Article 25*.
- b) If a Participating Member Association fails to register a minimum of eighteen (18) players, the team will be considered to have withdrawn in accordance with *Article 19 c)*.

c) Throughout the every Stage and for each match to which he is registered, each player shall wear the same number allocated to him on the AFC Official Registration submitted to AFC during the registration.

- For Qualifiers – from 1-50
- For Finals - from 1-23

Jersey number 1 shall be reserved for a Goalkeeper:

d) Participating Member Association must register a minimum of three (3) goalkeepers in their Preliminary and Final Registration for the players without any condition.

e) Each column in the AFC Official Registration must be completed with correct information.

f) Players with missing documentations will not be eligible for registration. All eligible players will be issued with official eligibility cards (Accreditation Card). Should the card have been misplaced, the teams shall be required to pay a USD 1,000 (US Dollar One thousand only) production fee for every card lost, to replace it.

g) In case any Participating Member Association found guilty of violating *Article 21 b)*, the sanction will be pronounced in accordance with AFC Disciplinary Code.

h) It is responsibility of the Member Association to ensure that all forms and supporting documents in accordance with *Article 23* are submitted via AFCAS online registration before the deadline announced by AFC. Proof of submission is not proof of receipt.

i) Should the AFC Secretariat not receive the AFC Official Registration with all required document by the deadline announced by AFC, the Participating Member Association shall be automatically disqualified from the Competition and be considered to have withdrawn in accordance with *Article 19 c)*.

## 25. Preliminary Registration of Players

a) Each Member Association entering the Competition shall submit to AFC Secretariat, via fax, courier or online registration, the AFC Official Registration for the Players and the supporting documents in accordance with *Article 23* by the deadline announced by AFC.

b) Once the AFC Official Registration has been received by AFC and after the deadline under no circumstances will the Member Associations be allowed to submit additional names or replacement of players for registrations, even if their quota of fifty (50) players has not been fulfilled.

## 26. Final Registration of Players

- a) Participating Member Associations are required to submit a final registration of a minimum of eighteen (18) players and a maximum of twenty-three (23) players from the squad list of fifty (50) players in the Preliminary Registration:
  - For Qualifiers – at the Match Coordination Meeting;
  - For Finals – by ten (10) days before the First Match in the Competition;
- b) Once the final registration have been submitted and received by AFC, Participating Member Associations can still replace any of these players on any grounds, up until six (6) hours before their first Match in the Competition.
- c) However, the replacement player (i.e. 'new player') must be nominated from the list of up to fifty (50) players already registered in accordance to the Preliminary Registration of Players.
- d) New players registered as replacements for the Final Competition can only be allocated vacant shirt numbers from 1 to 23, or numbers made vacant by the non-registration of players bearing these numbers.
- e) Participating Member Association must hand over the Accreditation card of the player to be replaced to the AFC Match Commissioner. The AFC Match Commissioner will then, in exchange, hand over the Accreditation card of the replacement player.
- f) Only when the replacement player has received his Accreditation card will he be considered to be registered for the Competition and eligible to participate in the Competition.

## 27. Match Starting List

- a) Participating Member Associations must hand their 'Officials on the bench' list with the names of eight (8) officials who shall be entitled to sit on the bench and 'Player Selection List' with the names of eleven (11) players who will start the Match and other twelve (12) players who are designated as either substitutes, suspended or not playing, to the AFC Match Commissioner at least ninety (90) minutes before the kick-off of their Match. The team captain must be identified on the 'Player Selection List'.
- b) After the 'Match Starting List' has been completed and signed by both Teams and returned to the AFC Match Commissioner, and if the Match has not yet kicked-off, the following instructions apply:
  - i. If any of the eleven (11) players listed on the Match Starting List selected to start the Match are not able to start the Match for any reason, they may be replaced by any of the substitutes listed on the

- Match Starting List. During the Match, three (3) players may still be replaced;
- ii. The replaced players shall no longer be eligible to participate in the match.

## 28. Registration of Officials

- a) Each Member Association entering the Competition shall submit to AFC Secretariat, via fax, courier or online registration, the AFC Official Registration for Officials and the supporting documents in accordance with *Articles 29-30* by the deadline announced by AFC.

## 29. Documentation for Registration of Officials

- a) For the registration of officials for the Competition, officials must be registered via AFCAS Online Registration with the supporting documents in accordance with *clause b)* below by the deadline announced by AFC.
- b) Documentations for the registration of Officials are, but not limited to, as following (unless already previously submitted to AFC and available in AFCAS);
  - i. Passport-size coloured photo (taken within 3 months prior to the submission of the registration);
  - ii. Colour copy of valid passport containing full name, passport number, date of birth, date of issue, date of expiry and nationality (group passport will not be accepted);
  - iii. Colour copy of National ID (when applicable, unless the official is a foreigner from a non AFC Member Association);
  - iv. Certificate/Qualifications based on his/her function:
    - A. Head coach and Assistant Coach: Individual's coaching certificate or coaching license;
    - B. Doctor: Medical Qualification.
- c) AFC has the right to ask further documentations for the clarification of the eligibility of the officials other than documentations listed in the *clause b)* above.

## 30. Principles for Registration of Officials

- a) The Participating Member Associations can nominate maximum twelve (12) officials in the registration.
- b) The Participating Member Association is entitled to register 'Video Analyst', as one of officials who will record the Matches in the Competition while this recording shall be strictly used only for technical purpose and not interfere with match operation.

- c) Each column in the AFC Official Registration for the Officials shall be filled up with correct information.
- d) Officials with missing documentations will not be eligible for registration. All eligible Officials will be issued with Accreditation card. Should the card have been misplaced, the Member Association shall be required to pay a USD 1,000 (US Dollars One thousand only) production fee for every card lost, to replace it.
- e) It is responsibility of the Member Associations to ensure that all forms and supporting documents in accordance with *Articles 29-30* are submitted via AFCAS online registration before the deadline announced by AFC. Proof of submission is not proof of receipt.
- f) Should the AFC Secretariat not receive the AFC Official Registration with all required document in accordance with *Article 29*, the team shall be automatically disqualified from the Competition and be considered to have withdrawn in accordance with *Article 19 c*.
- g) Member Association may replace or add any of its officials on any grounds until seven (7) days before their first Match in the Competition provided all necessary documents have been submitted as per *Articles 29-30*. Further, the Accreditation Card of the replaced official must be returned to the AFC before the Accreditation Card of the new official can be produced. The new official is not considered part of the Team's Official Delegation until he/she receives his/her Accreditation card.

## SECTION 5: LOGISTICS

### 31. Visa Application

- a) Participating Member Association must apply for entry visas to the country hosting the Competition not later than one (1) month before the first match of the Competition and to pay all visa application costs for itself.
- b) If a Participating Member Association fails to secure a visa in time for their match as a result of non-compliance of *clause a)* above, the Participating Member Association will be considered to have withdrawn in accordance to *Article 19 c)*.
- c) The Organising Association must guarantee and ensure that entry visa will be granted to AFC Delegation, officials and players of the visiting teams, sponsors, travelling fans and media without any discrimination of gender, race or nationality.
- d) The Organising Association should assist broadcasters visiting from overseas in providing them with any documents or approvals they need for visas, accreditations, temporarily importing television equipment and shooting in the host city.

### 32. Taxes

- a) The Organising Association must cover all taxes and/or fees related to any importation and/or exportation of equipment, merchandise and/or goods to be used for the Competition.
- b) The Organising Association is required to cover the cost of any advertising taxes and/or fees or similar taxes at the stadia and/or within the Venue.

### 33. Arrival, Departure and Travel Arrangements

- a) Each Participating Member Association taking part in the Competition shall arrive in the team hotel reserved for it in the host country by the official arrival date to be determined by AFC and depart one (1) day after the team's last Match in the Competition.
- b) All Participating Member Associations shall pay for their own airfares (international and domestic airfares) from the Participating Member Associations home venue to the venue of the Competition and vice-versa.
- c) Participating Member Associations are required to purchase the published-fare air tickets (full fare air tickets) for their delegation to and from the Host Country

to allow for potential change of departure dates. Tickets must be endorsable and date changes must be allowed with or without any penalties. AFC will not be responsible for any penalties incurred for date changes.

- d) Participating Member Association shall undertake not to play in any commercially driven Matches when travelling to and from the venue of the Competition.
- e) Any costs relating to non-compliance to *clause b) c) or d)* shall be borne by the Participating Member Association concerned.

### 34. Accommodation, Local Hospitality, Meals and Refreshments

- a) Only official hotels approved by AFC shall be used for Accommodation.
- b) The Participating Member Associations will be provided with the following in the official hotel for the Official Delegation for the Team's Official Duration:
  - i) Accommodations for the Team's Official Delegation as per *Article 20*, not exceeding thirty-one (31) persons [Eleven (11) double rooms, nine (9) single rooms]. All rooms must be on the same floor whenever possible or split to two floors, depending on the hotel floor layout.
  - ii) Facilities to be provided shall be for the whole duration of the Tournament. In the event of genuine unavailability of flights to and from the Host Venue (Confirmed by AFC Travel Office) the Host Organising Association must look after the visiting team's welfare upon arrival and to departure.
  - iii) One (1) empty room shall be set aside for each Participating Member Association at the team's hotel for the purposes of medical treatment and storage.
  - iv) Minimum of one (1) meeting room for every four (4) teams on sharing basis for the whole duration of the Competition shall be set aside at the team's hotel equipped with whiteboard/marker pens and LCD projector or TV/DVD player. The meeting room shall be able to accommodate at least thirty-one (31) persons in classroom layout setting.
  - v) Suitable meals three (3) times a day in international buffet style of sufficient quantity and an additional light meal on Match days in a dedicated dining area for each Participating Member Association's Official Delegation.

- vi) A minimum of three (3) litres of water per person per day for each Participating Member Association's Official Delegation, ice and refreshments for the teams at the hotel.
  - vii) A minimum of three (3) litres of water per person per day for each Participating Member Association's Official Delegation, ice and refreshments for the teams per training session and per Match.
  - viii) Laundry but no dry cleaning or pressing for playing and training outfits (eight pieces per day per person) for each Participating Member Association's Official Delegation.
  - ix) Liaison Officers proficient in English and the language of the Organising Member Association.
- c) The Participating Member Associations shall pay for incidental expenses incurred by its delegation members during the course of their stay in the host country and for any costs incurred by additional members of the delegation and extending their stay other than those mentioned in these Regulations.
- d) The Organising Association shall assist AFC's Commercial Affiliates to secure Accommodation, on the same terms and conditions as are available to AFC, on reasonably sufficient quantity of hotel Accommodation in first class hotels in the Venue, transportation services from the hotel Accommodation and the centre of Venue and, if applicable, air transportation to the Venue.

## 35. Local Land Transportation

- a) The Participating Member Associations will be provided with the following for the Official Delegation for the Team's Official Duration:
- i. One (1) bus with forty-five (45) seats and one (1) sedan car for training, Matches, transfers to and from the airport of the Venue and Official Functions;
  - ii. One (1) luggage truck during airport transfers, on Match days, and during hotel transfers between venues (if applicable).

## SECTION 6: MEDIA

### 36. General requirements

- a) The Organising Association is responsible to ensure all Media requirements and facilities, as stated in the AFC Stadia Regulations and Organising Association Agreement (OAA) are met at its own cost.
- b) The Participating Member Associations are encouraged to link the AFC website ([www.the-afc.com](http://www.the-afc.com)) to its own website respectively upon entry to the Competition.

### 37. Media Accreditation

- a) The Organising Association must implement a media accreditation programme as instructed by AFC to control and manage access to the Stadiums.
- b) When required, the Organising Association shall be responsible for the production of media bibs for photographers, TV and ENG crews under supervision by AFC. The Organising Association shall be responsible for their distribution before and collection after the match.
- c) All reasonable security measures must be put in place, at the cost of the Organising Association, to protect the commentary area, camera positions and the equipment of the broadcasters.

### 38. Media Access Areas

- a) No representatives of the written press or radio journalists are allowed on the field of play or the area between the boundaries of the field and the spectators.
- b) Only those accredited photographers, TV cameramen of the Host Broadcaster and the main visiting broadcaster and the personnel required to operate the electronic television cameras of the Host Broadcaster are allowed in the area between the boundaries of the field of play and the spectators, where they will carry out their work in the specific locations assigned to them.
- c) The team dressing-rooms are strictly off limits to representatives of the Media before, during and after the Match.
- d) The Organising Association shall ensure that AFC, the Host Broadcaster and all Broadcast Affiliates have free access to the Stadia from three days prior to Match Day until one day after the Match, in order to access the technical issues and to assemble and construct the relevant infrastructure required for the execution of the Broadcast Rights.

- e) The Organising Association is responsible for ensuring that AFC's Broadcast Rights are protected and that no broadcaster and/or video or ENG camera crews are allowed access to the stadium without the prior written permission of AFC.

## 39. Training Session

- a) All Training Sessions must be opened to the Media. Should the Participating Member Associations wish to close its Training Session to the Media, it shall open for at least the first fifteen (15) minutes of the training. If the Official Training is to be held at the Match stadium, the areas accessible by the Media shall be the same areas available to them on Match day, and the access to such areas must be security controlled.

## 40. Press Conferences

- a) The Head Coach of each Participating Member Associations is obliged to attend and participate in a Pre-Match/Pre-Tournament press conference to be held at least one day before the Match/Tournament. The Team Media Officer must ensure attendance of the Head Coach and the teams will be responsible for interpretation from the Head Coach's language into English. Interpretation into local language will be the responsibility of the Organising Association.
- b) Both teams are obliged to ensure attendance of their Head Coach at Post-Match press conference after each match.
- c) Interpretation of the coaches and players' language into English during the interview with media and at the press conferences is the responsibility of each participating team. Interpretation into local language will be the responsibility of the Organising Association.
- d) Non-compliance with *clauses a) and b)* above will result in disciplinary action which may include a fine of a minimum of USD 1,000 (US Dollars One thousands only) against the Participating Member Association and the Head Coach may be subject to a ban from the dressing room and/or the substitutes' bench.

## 41. Mixed Zone

- a) Players and officials of the Participating Member Associations shall enter the Mixed Zone on their way from the team dressing room to the team bus after the Match. Players and officials violating this Article will be subject to disciplinary measures.

## 42. Interviews

- a) If requested by AFC, the Participating Member Associations should have their Head Coach and one player available for the day before each Match and/or on the Match day for an interview of up to ten (10) minutes, to be recorded by the main TV rights-holding broadcaster (or local TV rights-holding broadcaster) or by AFC's official website [www.the-afc.com](http://www.the-afc.com) in the territory of the relevant Team, for the purpose of continental news-exchange distribution to all Competition Right holders.
- b) Players and officials of Participating Member Associations are not permitted to give interviews during the Match on the field of play or in its immediate vicinity. However, the AFC Media Officer and/or AFC Match Commissioner may designate an area between the substitutes' benches and dressing rooms in which "flash" interviews for the Host Television Broadcaster only, including the visiting TV rights-holding broadcaster if there is, can take place at the end of the Match. Players and officials violating this Article will be subject to disciplinary measures.
- c) If requested by AFC for the 'flash' interviews, the Head Coach and at least one (1) key player from both Participating Member Associations must be available for at least the Host Broadcaster and the TV rights-holding broadcaster.
- d) All interview locations should be assigned by AFC Media Officer and/or AFC Match Commissioner.

## 43. Audio/Video Recording of Matches

- a) The Organising Association is responsible, at its own cost, to provide four (4) copies of Digital Video Disc (DVD) of each match of the competition to AFC Match Commissioner immediately after the match. The Organising Association shall guarantee the DVD is of good quality and cover entire duration of the match.
- b) Failure to provide any of the provision of *clause a)* above will result in a minimum fine of USD 5.000 (US Dollar Five thousand) and any further action that AFC Disciplinary Committee may deem necessary, which may include the forfeiture of host subsidies (if any) due to the Organising Association.
- c) The Participating Member Associations of the Finals will be provided with DVD of each Match of the Final Stage by AFC.

## SECTION 7: EQUIPMENT/KIT

### 44. AFC Equipment Regulations

- a) The Participating Member Associations must comply with the AFC Equipment Regulations governing the AFC Competitions.
- b) The AFC Equipment Regulations are in force from the time the Participating Member Association's Official Delegation arrive at a Controlled Access Areas until the time the Team's Official Delegation depart from such areas.

### 45. Sleeve Badges

- a) Each Participating Member Association shall, for each Final Stage Match in which it participates, allow space on the sleeves of the players uniform available (or such other part of the player uniform as AFC may determine) to affix to the relevant Match identifier in a form, manner and position to be determined by AFC as below.
  - i) AFC U-23 Championship sleeve badge on the right;
  - ii) AFC Campaign sleeve badge on the left.

### 46. Kit Approval Procedure

- a) The Equipment Regulations require the Participating Member Associations to submit to AFC, for AFC's approval, one sample of all kit which the AFC Equipment Regulations cover. At the same time, when required, the Participating Member Associations shall submit also to AFC, for AFC's approval, one sample of all other apparel to be worn by their Team's Official Delegation within the Controlled Access Areas during the Competition Period.
- b) The Participating Member Association shall submit to the AFC Secretariat the above-mentioned equipment by a date to be determined by AFC. If any equipment submitted infringes any of the AFC Equipment Regulations and/or event Regulations, AFC will require the Participating Member Associations to take corrective action and resubmit to AFC the corrected equipment.
- c) All items to be used by a Participating Member Associations within the Controlled Access Areas during the Competition period shall be subjected to AFC's approval in accordance with the procedure set forth by AFC.
- d) The AFC Match Commissioner, the AFC General Coordinator and/or the AFC Marketing Manager has/have the right and duty to check kit items at the Match venue and are entitled to send such items to the AFC Headquarters for further control after the Match.

## 47. Responsibility

- a) AFC takes final decisions regarding the approval of kits and other items mentioned in the AFC Equipment Regulations. AFC declines all responsibility and authority in the event of conflicts arising from contract between a Member Association and its sponsor(s) on account of the advertising provisions of the AFC Equipment Regulations. The teams agree to hold AFC harmless from any and all damages which may arise from decisions regarding kits.

## SECTION 8: TICKETING

### 48. Ticketing Policy

#### 48.1 Qualifiers:

- a) The entire Ticketing system regulating ticket design, pricing policy, procedures, and implementation shall be approved by AFC.
- b) Cost of printing match tickets shall be borne by the Organising Association.

#### 48.2 Finals:

- a) The entire Ticketing system regulating ticket design, printing, pricing strategy, procedures, and implementation plan is AFC's responsibility and will be drawn up in cooperation with the Organising Association.
- b) The Organising Association shall ensure that printed tickets include, where available, seat numbering and/or serial numbering. All tickets shall incorporate only those Logos and Marks of the Competition and the official Commercial Affiliates and Broadcast Affiliates as requested and/or agreed by AFC as parts of the ticket design.

### 49. Ticketing Terms and Conditions

- a) For the Finals, AFC will, in collaboration with the Organising Association, issue special Ticketing terms and conditions which will apply to all ticket holders, including but not limited to National Associations, and which must be communicated to all relevant parties.

### 50. Complimentary Tickets

- a) The Organising Association shall set aside the following number of complimentary tickets for each participating team, where all tickets shall be provided in a continuous block of tickets:
  - i. One (1) VVIP ticket per match it features in;
  - ii. Five (5) VIP tickets per match it features in;
  - iii. Twenty (20) 1<sup>st</sup> best category non-VIP tickets per match it features in;
  - iv. Two (2) 1<sup>st</sup> best category non-VIP tickets per match other teams feature in.

## 51. Purchasable Tickets

- a) Each Participating Member Association has the right to purchase up to 8% of net saleable capacity of each stadium for the Match it features in, in segregated and safe area determined by AFC and the Organising Association.
- b) This 8% allocation shall be comprised of a mixture of 'Category 1' and 'Category 2' tickets. The Participating Member Associations must declare the number of seats required (up to 8% of the net saleable capacity) one month prior to the start of the competition. The Participating Member Associations is responsible for the cost of all seats declared.

## SECTION 9: MEDICAL AND ANTI-DOPING

### 52. Medical Facilities and Treatment

- a) Participating Member Associations must pay for any and all costs of hospitalisation, surgical operation and specialised investigative procedures for all members of its delegation.
- b) The Organising Association must provide, at its own cost, the following to the Participating Member Associations from the Team's Official Duration and to the AFC Delegation from the moment they arrive to the Venue until one (1) day after the Competition:
  - i. Medical treatment, including hospital facilities for injuries and emergencies related to the Match, sustained/occurring during their stay in the host country. The treatment must cover basic/primary medical care as listed below:
    - Outpatient treatment
    - Minor surgeries (suturing, etc.)
    - Radiological Investigation
    - Emergency Treatment
  - ii. An emergency medical room located in close proximity to player's dressing room/field of play, fully equipped with emergency medical supplies.
  - iii. An air-conditioned, brightly lit and well ventilated doping control room is to be made available at all times at the stadium, equipped with necessary facilities.

### 53. Medical Personnel

- a) The Organising Association must provide, at its own cost, the following medical personnel on match day at the Stadium where the match is organised:
  - i. On-Pitch Medical Services:
    - One (1) on pitch Medical Officer trained in Emergency Medicine
    - Eight (8) trained stretcher bearers in good physical condition
    - A team of support Para-medical staff trained in emergency medical care (CPR/ATLS)

- ii. Doping control personnel:
  - One Doping Control Assistant (must be physician)
  - Four (4) Doping Stewards
  - One (1) Security Officer

## 54. Anti-Doping

- a) Doping is prohibited. AFC shall inform the Participating Member Associations by means of a circular of the doping control procedure. List of prohibited substances / methods can be downloaded from the AFC or WADA website ([www.wada-ama.org](http://www.wada-ama.org))
- b) The AFC Organising Committee shall be responsible for the approval of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) accredited laboratory which will carry out the analysis of samples.
- c) The AFC Disciplinary Code, the AFC Anti-Doping Regulations, as well as all relevant AFC directives will apply to this tournament.

## SECTION 10: DISCIPLINARY LAWS AND PROCEDURES

### 55. Disciplinary Measures

- a) All disciplinary measures in relation to the Competition shall be undertaken in accordance with the current AFC Statutes, AFC Disciplinary Code, AFC Code of Ethics and any relevant AFC circular.
- b) The AFC may introduce new disciplinary rules and sanctions for the duration of the Competition. Such rules shall be communicated to the Participating Member Associations one (1) month before the first Match of the Competition (either Qualifiers or Finals) at latest.
- c) All players agree to:
  - i. respect the spirit of fair play, non-violence, and the authority of the Match Officials;
  - ii. behave accordingly; and,
  - iii. refrain from doping.

### 56. Cautions and Expulsions

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

### 57. Indiscipline or Violent Conduct

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

## 58. Protest

- a) A protest is an objection of any kind to any matter that has a direct effect on Matches and any matters related to breach of these Regulations.
- b) Unless otherwise stipulated, protests shall be:
  - i. submitted in writing to the AFC Match Commissioner within two (2) hours of the Match in question;
  - ii. followed up with a full written report, including a copy of the original protest, sent to the AFC General Secretariat by facsimile or registered letter to the AFC within forty eight (48) hours of the end of the Match.;
  - iii. accompanied by a fee of USD500 submitted within forty eight (48) hours of the end of the Match,  
  
to be considered valid.
- c) Protests regarding the age of a player shall be accompanied by the necessary evidence to support the protest. Failure to provide any such evidence shall result in the protest not being admitted.
- d) No protest shall be lodged relating to the Referee's decisions regarding facts connected with play. Such decisions are final and not subject to appeal, unless expressly otherwise stipulated in the AFC Disciplinary Code.
- e) Should the AFC Disciplinary Committee determine that a protest is unfounded or irresponsible, it may impose a fine and the protest fee shall be forfeited.
- f) If any of the formal conditions of a protest as set out in these Regulations are not met, such protest shall be disregarded. Following the completion of the final Match of the Competition, all protests shall be disregarded.
- g) The AFC Disciplinary Committee shall make decisions on protests. The AFC Disciplinary Committee may transfer a protest to the AFC Competitions Committee for its decision if it is deemed to be purely operational in nature.

## 59. Arbitration

- a) Any dispute in connection with the Competition shall be promptly settled by negotiation.
- b) In compliance with the AFC Statutes, the Participating Member Associations, players, and officials are prohibited from initiating disputes in an ordinary court of law and must submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the AFC.

- c) Participating Member Associations, players, and officials acknowledge and accept that, once all internal channels have been exhausted at the AFC, their sole recourse shall be to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS). The Code of Sports-related Arbitration shall be applicable. The language of arbitration shall be English.
- d) The jurisdiction of the CAS to resolve disputes is only available where it has not been expressly excluded or a decision is declared as final and binding and not subject to appeal.

## SECTION 11: ADMINISTRATION

### 60. Awards

- a) For the Finals Competition, the following Player Awards and Team Award will be presented:
  - i. Most Valuable Player of the AFC U-23 Championship 2016;
  - ii. Top Goal Scorer for the AFC U-23 Championship 2016;
  - iii. AFC Fair Play Award for the AFC U-23 Championship 2016.
- b) The Most Valuable Player of the Competition is given to the player who has a major influence on the individual matches, and the Finals Competition overall.
- c) The Top Goal Scorer award is given to a player who has scored the most number of goals in the Finals Competition. This is calculated based on the number of goals scored by an individual player from the group stage to the final in the Finals Competition. In the event that there is a tie in the number of goals scored, the number of assists will be taken into account.
- d) The AFC Fair Play Award is awarded to the team who has collected the most Fair Play points from the group stage to the final in the Finals Competition.
- e) There are no official awards other than those listed above, unless otherwise decided by the AFC.

### 61. Trophy and Medals

- a) AFC Competition trophy is presented to the winner of the Competition for one (1) year. AFC may request for the return of the trophy at an earlier date. AFC is responsible for engraving the trophy with the name of the winning Member Association. The trophy will remain the property of AFC. The champion Member Association will be awarded a scaled-down replica of the trophy by AFC as its permanent possession.
- b) The champion Member Association shall be responsible for the loss or any damage to the trophy (and trophy case) and shall return it in perfect condition when requested to do so by AFC.
- c) The champion Member Association may have a copy of the trophy made, provided the copy is clearly marked as a replica and does not exceed 4/5 (four fifths) of the size of the original).
- d) If for any reason, the Competition should cease to be held, the trophy shall be returned to the AFC Secretariat.

- e) AFC will also be responsible for awarding the following medals:
- i. Thirty five (35) Champions medals to the champion Member Association;
  - ii. Thirty five (35) Runner-up medals to the runner-up Member Association;
  - iii. Thirty five (35) third place medals to the third placed Member Association;
  - iv. Thirty five (35) AFC Fair Play medals to the winner of AFC Fair Play Member Association;
  - v. Five (5) special commemorative medals to the referees of the Final Match.
- f) Additional medals may not be produced.

## 62. Prize Presentation Ceremony

- a) A prize presentation ceremony will be held immediately after the Final match of the Competition to award the Awards, Trophy and Medals.
- b) The teams and individuals that qualify to receive the Awards, Trophy and Medals are required to attend the prize presentation ceremony. Teams may be represented by the Team's Official Delegation for the final match awarding ceremony subject to AFC's prior approval.

## 63. Protocol

- a) The AFC Protocol Guidelines will apply for all the matches in the Competition.

## 64. Special Provisions

- a) Any disputes arising from the application of these Regulations shall be settled by the jurisdiction of AFC and, if subsequently necessary and AFC's decision is not final, by the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne, Switzerland.
- b) The AFC Competitions Committee shall, in conjunction with the Organising Association, issue any instructions necessitated by special circumstances which might arise in the country hosting Matches of the Competition. These instructions shall form an integral part of these Regulations.

## 65. Matters not provided for

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

## 66. Ratification

- a) These Regulations were ratified by the AFC Executive Committee in 29 November 2014 and came into force immediately.

For the AFC Executive Committee

**AFC President:**  
Shaikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa

**General Secretary:**  
Dato' Alex Soosay

Manila, 29 November 2014

## APPENDIX 1: Determining the Ranking in a group using Fair Play criteria

As provided for in this Competition Regulation, the “Fewer score calculated according to the number of yellow and red cards received in the group Matches” shall be calculated as follows:

Each team will receive points for receiving red and yellow cards as indicated below:

- i. Each yellow card (1 point);
- ii. Each red card as a consequence of two yellow cards (3 points);
- iii. Each direct red card (3 points);
- iv. Each yellow card followed by a direct red card (4 points).

The team receiving the least number of points will be ranked the highest.

## APPENDIX 2: Determining the Best Runner-up among the Groups

As provided for in this Competition Regulation, in the event that the best second/third placed teams need to be determined, the following procedure will be applied (example given here is the determination of best runner-up. However, the same principle applies)

Case 1: identifying the best runner-up team if all the groups consists of the same number of teams (please see Illustration 1)

1. Identify the runners-up team in each group.
2. The best runner-up team among those ranked second in the groups will be determined as follows:
  - a. Greater number of points from all their group matches;
  - b. Goal difference resulting from all their group matches;
  - c. Greater number of goals scored in all their group matches;
  - d. Fewer number of points calculated according to the number of yellow and red cards received by the Team in all their group matches;
  - e. Drawing of lots.

Illustration 1:

Group A

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
Team A	3	1	1	1	8	4	4	4
Team B	3	1	1	1	4	3	1	4
Team C	3	1	0	2	7	9	-2	3
Team D	3	0	0	3	5	8	-3	0

Group B

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
Team E	3	2	1	0	14	2	12	7
Team F	3	1	1	1	8	10	-2	4
Team G	3	0	1	2	5	8	-3	1
Team H	3	0	1	3	2	9	-7	1

As teams B and F are runners-up in both groups, both teams are in the running to be selected as the best runner-up. Both teams have four (4) points, therefore, criteria a) does not provide the solution. We then apply criteria b) and in this case, team B with a goal difference of plus one (1) is chosen as the best runner-up since team F has a goal difference of minus two (2).

Case 2: identifying the best runner-up team if the number of teams in each group varies (please see Illustration 2)

1. Identify all the runners-up teams in each group.

2. Due to the varying number of teams per group, teams in different group would have played different number of matches. Therefore, in order to ensure equality when comparing the runner-up teams of all the groups, all teams will be compared across similar number of matches. AFC will decide on the number of matches. In principle, the results of the matches between the runner-up team and the bottom placed team in the group will be considered null and void. All points, goal scored and goals conceded in this match will not be taken into account.
3. As such, the best runner-up team among those ranked second in the groups will be determined as follows:
  - a. Greater number of points obtained from group matches identified by AFC;
  - b. Goal difference resulting from group matches identified by AFC;
  - c. Greater number of goals scored in group matches identified by AFC;
  - d. Fewer number of points calculated according to the number of yellow and red cards received by the Team in the group matches identified by AFC;
  - e. Drawing of lots.

#### Illustration 2:

##### Group A

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
Team A	3	1	1	1	8	4	4	4
Team B	3	1	1	1	4	3	1	4
Team C	3	1	0	2	7	9	-2	3
Team D	3	0	0	3	5	8	-3	0

##### Group B

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
Team E	4	3	1	0	14	2	12	10
Team F	4	2	1	1	8	10	-2	7
Team G	4	1	1	2	5	8	-3	4
Team H	4	0	1	3	2	9	-7	1
Team I	4	0	0	4	2	11	-9	0

Teams in groups A and B have played different number of matches (i.e. teams in group A have played 3 matches while teams in group B have played 4 matches). Therefore, in order to identify the best runner-up among these groups, we need to ensure we are comparing the teams over an equal number of matches.

As the minimum number of matches played is by teams in Group A (i.e. three matches), for the sake of equal comparison, we need to reduce the number of matches played by teams in group B to three matches. As such, the matches between the runner-up team of group B (i.e. team F) and the bottom team of group B (i.e. team I) will be considered null and void. Note: assume team F beats team I: 3-0.

Once this is done, we will have a new calculation for team F (see illustration 3). Only when the number of matches played is equal can criteria a) to d) be applied.

### Illustration 3: New points for Team F:

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
Team F	3	1	1	1	5	10	-5	4

Note: when deleting the matches between the runner-up team and the bottom place team to create a new table, please note that, at this stage, we are not interested in the points or ranking of all the other teams in the group. The above 'new' table is only for purposes of determining the best runner-up among all the other groups.

Therefore, when we compare the results of the runner-up team in group A with the results of runner-up team in group B (see new points for team F), we can conclude that Team B from Group A will qualify as the best runner-up team as they have a better goal difference (+1) as opposed to Team B who has a negative goal difference.

## APPENDIX 3: Registration of Players who have Acquired a New Nationality: Documents to be provided to AFC

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

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

## APPENDIX 4: Registration of Players who have a Nationality Entitling Them to Represent More Than One Association: Documents to be provided to AFC

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