

# COMPETITION REGULATIONS

AFC ASIAN CUP AUSTRALIA 2015™

# Competition Regulations

## AFC Asian Cup Australia 2015

### CONTENTS

DEFINITIONS	4
1. AFC ASIAN CUP AUSTRALIA 2015™	13
2. RESPONSIBILITIES	14
The Asian Football Confederation	14
Member Associations and Participating Teams	15
Organising Association	17
3. ENTRY, WITHDRAWAL, MATCH SCHEDULE, COMPETITION SYSTEM	19
Entry	19
Withdrawal Prior to Commencement of the Competition	19
Withdrawal After Commencement of the Competition	20
Match Schedule	21
Competition System	21
Group Stage	21
Knockout Stage	22
4. TECHNICAL REGULATIONS	24
Matches Played in Accordance with the Laws of the Game	24
Duration of Matches	24
Extra Time	24
Determining the Winner by Penalty Kicks	24
Cancellation of Matches	25
Abandonment of Matches	25
Field of Play	26
Team Bench and Technical Area	27
Warming Up	27
Official Training Sessions at Stadia	27
Footballs	28
5. TEAM OFFICIAL DELEGATION	29
Eligibility of Players	29
Registration of Players	29
Documents for Registration of Players	30
Preliminary Registration	31
Final Registration	31
Player Selection List	32
Match Starting List	32
Registration of Officials	33
Documents for Registration of Officials	35
Size of Delegation at Matches	35

<b>6.</b>	<b>LOGISTICAL ARRANGEMENTS</b>	<b>37</b>
	Arrival and Departure	37
	Airfares	37
	Accommodation, Meals, and Refreshments	37
	Team Liaison Officer	38
	Local Land Transportation	38
<b>7.</b>	<b>MEDIA</b>	<b>40</b>
	Media Access in Stadia	40
	Training Sessions	40
	Press Conferences	40
	Mixed Zone	41
	Interviews	41
	Flash Interviews	41
	Recording of Matches	42
<b>8.</b>	<b>EQUIPMENT</b>	<b>43</b>
	AFC Equipment Regulations	43
	AFC Badges	43
	Kit Approval Procedure	43
	Responsibility	43
<b>9.</b>	<b>TICKETING</b>	<b>45</b>
	Terms and Conditions	45
	Complimentary Tickets	45
	Purchase of Tickets	45
<b>10.</b>	<b>MEDICAL AND ANTI-DOPING</b>	<b>46</b>
	Medical Facilities and Treatment	46
	Anti-Doping	46
<b>11.</b>	<b>DISCIPLINARY</b>	<b>47</b>
	Disciplinary Measures	47
	Protest	47
	Arbitration	48
<b>12.</b>	<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>	<b>50</b>
	Awards	50
	Trophy and Medals	50
	Prize Presentation Ceremony	51
	Protocol	51
	Special Instructions	51
	Force Majeure	51
	Matters Not Provided For	52
	Ratification	52

APPENDIX1: Determining the Ranking in a Group using Fair Play Criteria	53
APPENDIX 2: Registration of Players who have Acquired a New Nationality	54
APPENDIX 3: Registration of Players who have a Nationality Entitling them to Represent more than One Association	55

## DEFINITIONS

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

<b>Accreditation Card</b>	Any physical item which is issued by the AFC which provides the recipient the right to access a Controlled Access Area (or part thereof) which the Controlled Access Area is under the control of the AFC or the Organising Association.
<b>AFC</b>	The Asian Football Confederation.
<b>AFCAS</b>	The AFC Administration System, the AFC's online competition management and registration system.
<b>AFC Asian Cup</b> or <b>AFC Asian Cup 2015</b> or <b>AFC Asian Cup Australia 2015™</b>	The Competition.
<b>AFC Commercial Rights Partner</b>	The entity appointed by the AFC as the sole and exclusive representative of the AFC with regard to the sale of the Commercial Rights (or any part thereof) and the provision of services in relation thereto.
<b>AFC Committee</b>	One (1) or more (as the context defines) of the Standing Committees of the AFC as promulgated within the AFC Statutes.
<b>AFC Delegation</b>	(i) AFC staff;  (ii) Match Officials;  (ii) AFC Committee members;  (iii) AFC guests;  (iv) Referees; and,  (v) all Team Official Delegations.

<b>AFC Organising Committee or Organising Committee for the AFC Asian Cup 2015</b>	The AFC's internal organising committee for the Competition which has been appointed in accordance with the AFC Statutes, and which has ultimate authority over all matters relating to the organisation of the Competition.
<b>AFC Marks</b>	All design marks, slogans, designations, names, logos, insignia, emblems or devices (in any application) owned and/or controlled by the AFC (in any language) relating to the AFC itself, but excluding the Competition Marks.
<b>AFC Official Merchandise</b>	Official merchandise of the Competition to which the AFC Marks and the Competition Marks may be applied at the sole discretion of the AFC.
<b>Broadcaster</b>	Any entity, including the Host Broadcaster, which has acquired from the AFC or the AFC Commercial Rights Partner, any rights in respect of the Media Rights of the Competition.
<b>Champion</b>	The Participating Team who is the Winner in the Final.
<b>Commercial Rights</b>	Advertising Rights, Concession Rights, Hospitality Rights, Image Rights, Media Rights, Merchandising Rights, Promotional Rights, Sponsorship Rights, and Travel and Tour Rights.  For the purposes of these Regulations, the definitions of Image Rights and Media Rights are replicated from the full list of definitions contained within private agreements between the AFC and the AFC Commercial Rights Partner, and the AFC and the Organising Association.
<b>Competition</b>	The AFC Asian Cup Australia 2015™, which includes without limitation, all Matches as set out in the Match Schedule, all qualifying matches, all activities on the Field of Play (other than Matches), opening ceremonies, presentation or closing ceremonies, press conferences or Official Functions connected therewith.
<b>Competition Marks</b>	(i) the competition logo officially adopted by the AFC

as a visual design symbol of the Competition;

(ii) any mascot officially adopted by the AFC for the Competition;

(iii) any two-dimensional representation of the Competition trophy;

(iv) the official name of the Competition (in any language); and/or

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

**Complimentary Tickets**

Tickets which are supplied without charge.

**Controlled Access Areas**

(i) any Stadium;

(ii) any Training Site;

(iii) any official hotel (public areas being excepted), subject to and to the extent agreed in an executed Hotel Agreement;

(iv) any official exclusion zone encircling a Stadium on a Match Day;

(v) any official parking area, accreditation centre, International Broadcast Compound, and/or hospitality area;

(vi) the venue of any Official Function;

(vii) any official AFC fan park;

(viii) Facility Areas; and/or

(ix) any other location and/or facility designated by the AFC as a Controlled Access Area and to which

access is permitted only to those in possession of an Accreditation Device, Ticket, and/or other officially-sanctioned entry permit.

<b>Extra Time</b>	Two (2) equal periods of additional time which shall be played in accordance with these Regulations should there be no Winner at the conclusion of a Match in the Knockout Stage.
<b>Facility Areas</b>	The location of Official Functions, ceremonies, press centres, ticket offices, competition hotels, media areas (including without limitation areas used for viewing of any public exhibition), sponsor village areas (including without limitation “AFC fan park” areas, and areas used for the activation of the Commercial Rights), official hospitality areas (including without limitation areas used for the exploitation of the Hospitality Rights), and information centres controlled by or on behalf of the AFC and used in connection with the Competition whether at the Stadium or elsewhere at the Venues.
<b>Field of Play</b>	The area described in Law 1 of the Laws of the Game issued by the IFAB and administered by FIFA.
<b>FIFA</b>	The Federation International de Football Association.
<b>Final</b>	The final Match of the Competition which determines the Champion.
<b>Force Majeure</b>	Any event affecting the performance or any provision of these Regulations arising from or attributable to acts, events, omissions or accidents which are beyond the reasonable control of a party, and shall include but not be limited to abnormally inclement weather, flood, lightning, storm, fire, explosion, earthquake, structural damage, epidemic or other natural disaster, failure or shortage of power supplies, war, terrorist action, military operations, riot, crowd disorder, strike, lock-outs or other industrial action, or civil commotion.
<b>Group Stage</b>	The first stage of the Competition held in accordance with these Regulations.
<b>Host Broadcaster</b>	The organisation appointed by the AFC 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 Media Rights.

<b>Host City</b>	Any city and/or identifiable metropolitan area in which any Match is staged.
<b>Host Country</b>	Australia.
<b>Image Rights</b>	The right to use still and/or moving images and/or representations of images of Participating Teams, all members of Team Official Delegations, and Match Officials.
<b>Knockout Stage</b>	The second stage of the Competition held in accordance with these Regulations.
<b>Licensee</b>	Any entity to which the AFC or the AFC Commercial Rights Partner has granted any aspect of the Commercial Rights in respect of the Competition, including but not limited to Official Sponsors, Official Supporters, Official Licensees and Official Media Partners.
<b>Loser</b>	The Participating Team who scores the lower number of goals in a Match.
<b>Match</b>	A football match in its entirety (including a replayed and/or deferred football match, Extra Time and Penalty Kicks) which takes place as part of the Competition in accordance with the Match Schedule
<b>Match Officials</b>	Individually or collectively, any official appointed to one of the following roles in relation to any aspect of a Match in the Competition:  (i) Referees (separately defined below);  (ii) Head of Delegation;  (iii) Head of Administration;

- (iv) AFC General Coordinator;
- (v) AFC Match Commissioner;
- (vi) Referee Assessor;
- (vii) Media Officer;
- (viii) Security Officer;
- (ix) Medical Officer;
- (x) Technical Study Group Officer; and,
- (xi) any other official designation which the AFC deems to be required.

**Match Schedule**

The official schedule which sets out ,without limitation, the dates and times on which Matches will be played, the Stadia at which the will be played, the names of the Participating Teams.

**Media**

Any individual entitled to a media Accreditation Card as determined by the AFC.

**Media Rights**

The right and license to produce, edit, and transmit, for intelligible reception throughout the world in any language and in any format, and on any platform including film, fixed media, games, internet, public exhibition, radio, mobile, and television, visual, audio-visual, and/or audio signal and/or image or recording (including without limitation the basic feed, multi feeds, additional feeds, audio feeds, a feed incorporating competition data, basic feed, and unilateral feeds) of the Competition, and all interview activities and action during and forming part of the Competition including Official Functions and the Image Rights by any and all means of transmission distribution, exhibition and reception, now existing or hereinafter developed including but not limited to analogue, digital, satellite cable and interactive communication systems, on a live, delayed, and unlimited repeat basis, in full or in part (including without limitation by way of clips and/or highlights and/or support programmes and/or magazine shows and/or news access), and all rights to exploit any and all commercial opportunities (including for example broadcast sponsorship and commercial airtime

opportunities) arising from and/or in connection with such rights.

<b>Member Association</b>	Any national football association who is a member of the AFC as set out in Article 8 of the AFC Statutes.
<b>Official Function</b>	<p>Any event which is officially organised or sanctioned by the AFC in connection with the Competition.</p> <p>For the avoidance of doubt, this expressly includes, without limitation, all matches and/or events held at Official Training Sites, the Opening Ceremony, the Closing Ceremony, any AFC gala dinner, lunch, or banquet, cultural events, official press conferences, and launch events.</p>
<b>Official Training Site</b>	Any site designated by the Organising Association and approved by the AFC for use by the Participating Teams throughout the duration of the Competition for training purposes.
<b>Organising Association</b>	Collectively, Football Federation Australia and its wholly-owned Local Organising Committee, appointed and supervised by the AFC, to organise, stage and host the Competition.
<b>Participating Official</b>	Any official who is registered as part of a Team Official Delegation in the Competition.
<b>Participating Player</b>	Any player who is registered as part of a Team Official Delegation in the Competition.
<b>Participating Team</b>	Any representative team of a Member Association who has qualified for, and participates in, the Competition.
<b>Penalty Kicks</b>	“Kicks from the Penalty Mark” as described in the Laws of the Game.
<b>Quarter Final</b>	The first round of Matches in the Knockout Stage.
<b>Referee</b>	Any individual appointed to officiate a Match in the Competition in the role of referee, assistant referee,

fourth official, or fifth official.

<b>Regulations</b>	These Competition Regulations.
<b>Runner Up</b>	The Participating Team who is the Loser in the Final.
<b>Semi Final</b>	The second round of Matches in the Knockout Stage.
<b>Stadium</b>	<p>Any stadium at which a Match is played. For the avoidance of doubt, this includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(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 Team practice session takes place within the stadium), the aerial space above such stadium premises;</li><li>(ii) parking facilities;</li><li>(iii) VIP and hospitality areas (including any hospitality village);</li><li>(iv) the media tribune;</li><li>(v) concessions areas;</li><li>(vi) commercial display areas;</li><li>(vii) buildings;</li><li>(viii) the Field of Play;</li><li>(ix) any broadcast compound or stadium media centre;</li><li>(x) any stands; and,</li><li>(xi) any areas beneath the stands.</li></ul>
<b>Subsidy</b>	Any allowance or payment made by the AFC to each Member Association as a result of their participation in the Competition.
<b>Team Official Delegation</b>	The final-registered delegation of a Participating

Team for the Competition which shall comprise of twenty three (23) Participating Players and eleven (11) Participating Officials

<b>Third Place</b>	The Participating Team who is the Winner of the 3/4 Playoff.
<b>Ticket</b>	A pass providing access to a venue for the purpose of attending either a Match or Training Site or Official Function.
<b>Venue</b>	The Host City and immediately surrounding area in which a Stadium is located.
<b>Winner</b>	The Participating Team who scores the highest number of goals in a Match, or where applicable, the higher number of Penalty Kicks.

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

- (a) the singular shall include the plural and vice-versa.
- (b) the masculine gender shall include the feminine and vice-versa.
- (c) reference to natural persons shall include any legal person or corporation.
- (d) references to the AFC shall include its successors and permitted assigns and, in relation to the availability of the Commercial Rights, its respective Member Associations, national football associations, and AFC Committees.

## ARTICLE 1: AFC ASIAN CUP AUSTRALIA 2015™

1. The AFC Asian Cup Australia 2015™ is an AFC event embodied in the AFC Statutes.
2. The AFC stages the Competition for senior representative teams of Member Associations once every four (4) years.
3. These Regulations set out the rights, duties, and responsibilities of the AFC, the Organising Association, and all Participating Teams taking part in the Competition, and form an integral part of the Organising Association Agreement, its annexes and amendments.
4. These Regulations and all directives, decisions, guidelines, and circulars issued by the AFC shall be binding upon all parties participating and involved in the preparation, organisation, and hosting of the Competition.
5. Any rights associated with the Competition that are not granted by these Regulations and/or specific agreements to any Member Association in the preliminary stage or final stage of the Competition, belong to the AFC.
6. The AFC Statutes and all AFC and FIFA regulations in force at the time of the final stage of the Competition shall apply. Any reference to the AFC Statutes and to AFC and FIFA regulations refer to those valid at the time of application.

## SECTION 2: RESPONSIBILITIES

### The Asian Football Confederation

1. The Organising Committee for the AFC Asian Cup 2015, appointed by the AFC Executive Committee, shall be responsible for organising the AFC Asian Cup Australia 2015™ in accordance with the AFC Statutes.
2. The responsibilities of the AFC Organising Committee shall include, but are not limited to:
  - 2.1 supervising general preparations and deciding on the Competition format, the draw, and the formation of the groups;
  - 2.2 determining the Match Schedule(*cf*Article 3.12);
  - 2.3 selecting Stadia and Official Training Sites for the Competition after consultation with the Organising Association;
  - 2.4 appointing Match Officials for each Match of the Competition;
  - 2.5 choosing the official football and stipulated technical material;;
  - 2.6 approving the choice of the WADA-accredited laboratory that will carry out the doping analyses (*cf*Article 10.6);
  - 2.7 reporting cases where appropriate to the AFC Disciplinary Committee for its deliberation;
  - 2.8 judging protests and taking appropriate steps to verify their admissibility, with the exception of protests concerning the eligibility of players, which are dealt with by the AFC Disciplinary Committee (*cf*Article 11.19);
  - 2.9 replacing Member Associations that have withdrawn from the Competition (*cf*Article 3.5);
  - 2.10 dealing with cases of abandoned Matches or cancelled Matches (*cf* Articles 4.12, 4.14);
  - 2.11 dealing with cases of force majeure (*cf*Article 12.18); and,
  - 2.12 dealing with any other aspect of the Competition that is not the responsibility of any other body of the AFC pursuant to these Regulations or the AFC Statutes (*cf*Article 12.19).

3. All decisions made by the AFC Organising Committee are final and binding and not appealable.
4. All decisions made by the AFC Disciplinary Committee in relation to the Competition are subject to the operation of the AFC Disciplinary Code.

#### **Member Associations and Participating Teams**

5. The principal obligations and responsibilities of each Member Association and their Participating Team are stipulated in the Participating Team Agreement (hereinafter, PTA), these Regulations, the AFC Statutes, and all other AFC regulations, directives, guidelines and circulars.
  - 5.1 A Member Association whose Participating Team has qualified for the Competition (*cf* Article 3.1) must submit a PTA, either prior to the preliminary competition, or prior to the Competition.
  - 5.2 The PTA shall be completed and submitted to the AFC not later than the deadline provided by the AFC via facsimile, electronic mail, and registered post.
  - 5.3 Failure to submit the PTA to the AFC by the deadline by a Member Association shall result in the participation of their Participating Team being cancelled.
6. Each Member Association whose Participating Team is participating in the Competition shall ensure as a condition of its participation that every member of the Team Official Delegation is aware of and agrees to comply with the PTA.
7. Each Member Association shall undertake to:
  - 7.1 observe all obligations set out in the PTA, these Regulations, the AFC Statutes, and all other AFC regulations, directives, guidelines and circulars, and applicable national and supra-national laws;
  - 7.2 comply with the Laws of the Game laid down by the IFAB and published by FIFA;
  - 7.3 accept that all the administrative, disciplinary and refereeing matters connected with the Competition shall be settled by the AFC in compliance with these Regulations;
  - 7.4 field their strongest representative team throughout the Competition;
  - 7.5 observe the principles of Fair Play;

- 7.6 ensure the good conduct of its Team Official Delegation who have been provided with an Accreditation Device and of any person carrying out duties on behalf of its Participating Team throughout the Competition, from their arrival in the Host Country until their departure;
  - 7.7 accept all the arrangements made by the Organising Association in agreement with the AFC;
  - 7.8 attend and participate in all official activities and events, including without limitation any team arrival meeting, match coordination meeting, press conferences, and other media and marketing activities in accordance with the instructions issued by the AFC;
    - 7.8.1 failure to attend any official activity or event shall result in the Member Association being fined USD5,000.00 (Five Thousand US Dollars only);
  - 7.9 provide to the AFC, prior to the Competition, statistics and photographs of its Participating Players and Participating Officials, historical information related to its Participating Team and national stadium (including photographs), and any further data as requested and in accordance with instructions issued by the AFC; and,
  - 7.10 link the official URL for the Competition on its official website.
8. Each Member Association is responsible throughout the Competition for:
- 8.1 the insurance coverage (including but not limited to, hospitalisation and surgical operations, team equipment) of their Team Official Delegation, at their own expense, from the date of their arrival in the Host Country until their departure from the Host Country;
  - 8.2 payment of incidental expenses and for any costs incurred by its Team Official Delegation (*cf* Article 6.8);
  - 8.3 payment of any costs of extending the stay of any member of its Team Official Delegation, the duration of which is determined by the AFC (*cf* Article 6.10); and,
  - 8.4 obtaining visas to the Host Country of the Competition not later than two (2) months prior to their first Match. This includes all costs related to the visa application process.

9. Should a Member Association fail to secure the necessary visas in time for their arrival to the Competition as a result of non-compliance with Article 2.8, they shall be considered to have withdrawn in accordance with Article 3.4.
10. Each Member Association shall indemnify, defend, and hold the AFC, the Organising Association, and all of their 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 non-compliance with these Regulations by the Member Associations, Participating Teams, their Team Official Delegation, their affiliates and any third-parties contracted to the Member Associations.
11. The Champion may qualify directly and shall undertake, if required, to take part in the following competitions:
  - 11.1 the FIFA Confederations Cup 2017; and,
  - 11.2 any intercontinental competition(s) arranged by the AFC with other confederations.
12. Member Associations are not authorised to represent the AFC or the Competition without the prior written approval of the AFC.
13. All Participating Players and Participating Officials who participate in competitions within Asia shall ensure their presence at the AFC Awards Night in the 2015 calendar year if they are nominated for an annual AFC award.

#### **Organising Association**

14. The principal obligations and responsibilities of the Organising Association are regulated in the Organising Association Agreement, its annexes and amendments, these Regulations, all AFC directives, decisions, guidelines, and circulars, as well as the AFC Statutes and various AFC regulations.
15. For the duration of the Competition, the Organising Association, in cooperation with the relevant government authorities, is responsible for:
  - 15.1 payment of all taxes, fees, duties and any other costs related to the importation and/or exportation of equipment, merchandise and/or goods to be used for the Competition;
  - 15.2 concluding all necessary insurance in connection with the staging and organising of Matches, including third-party liability and spectator accident coverage;

- 15.3 guaranteeing law and order as well as safety at each Venue; and,
- 15.4 complying with all guidelines and instructions issued by the AFC.
16. The Organising Association(s) shall discharge the AFC and hold it harmless from all responsibility and relinquish any claim against the AFC and the members of its delegation for any damages resulting from any act or omission relating to the organisation of the Competition to the exclusion of damages caused by AFC or the members of its delegation acting with intent or gross negligence.
17. The Organising Association shall ensure that any decision made by the AFC Organising Committee relating to its duties and responsibilities is enforced immediately.

## ARTICLE 3: ENTRY, WITHDRAWAL, MATCH SCHEDULE, COMPETITION SYSTEM

### Entry

1. Qualification to participate in the Competition for the sixteen (16) Member Associations may occur by virtue of:
  - 1.1 being the Host Country;
  - 1.2 being the champion, runner-up, or third-place from the AFC Asian Cup 2011<sup>TM</sup>;
  - 1.3 being the champion of the AFC Challenge Cup 2012;
  - 1.4 being the champion of the AFC Challenge Cup 2014;
  - 1.5 qualifying through a preliminary competition; or
  - 1.6 being invited by the AFC.
2. Eligible Member Associations shall complete a PTA and submit it to the AFC in accordance with Article 2.5.
3. All decisions by the AFC Organising Committee regarding entry to the Competition are final and not appealable.

### Withdrawal Prior to Commencement of the Competition

4. Any Member Association that withdraws or is excluded from the Competition prior to its commencement may be replaced by another Member Association.
5. The AFC Organising Committee shall be responsible for making any necessary decisions, including without limitation whether to:
  - 5.1 replace the Member Association;
  - 5.2 change the competition system (*cf* Article 3.15); and/or
  - 5.3 change the technical rules (*cf* Article 4).
6. All decisions of the AFC Organising Committee in this regard are final and non-appealable.
7. Any Member Association who withdraws from the Competition in accordance with Article 3.4 may be referred to the AFC Disciplinary Committee.

## Withdrawal After Commencement of the Competition

8. Any Member Association that:
  - 8.1 withdraws from the Competition after it has commenced; or
  - 8.2 does not report for any of its Matches; or
  - 8.3 refuses to continue any of its Matches at any stage; or
  - 8.4 leaves the Stadium prior to the completion of any of its Matches,shall be considered to have withdrawn from the Competition after its commencement.
  
9. The Participating Team of any Member Association that withdraws from the Competition after it has commenced shall:
  - 9.1 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 the Group Stage pursuant to Article 3.20 and Article 3.21;
  - 9.2 be required to pay compensation for any and all damages or losses suffered by the other Member Associations, the AFC, the AFC Commercial Rights Partner, Broadcasters, and the Organising Association. The amount of compensation shall be determined by the Organising Committee;
  - 9.3 be disqualified from participating in the AFC Asian Cup 2019™ and its qualifying competitions (if any);
  - 9.4 be disqualified from participating in any tournaments listed in Article 2.11, if qualification has been attained;
  - 9.5 be referred to the AFC Disciplinary Committee for possible additional sanctions; and,
  - 9.6 return to the AFC any Subsidy that had been paid in support of their participation in the Competition or if not yet paid, forfeit their right to said Subsidies.
  
10. The above Article 3.8 and Article 3.9 are not applicable in cases of Force Majeure recognised by the AFC Organising Committee.

11. The AFC Organising Committee shall take whatever action it deems necessary in cases of Force Majeure.

#### **Match Schedule**

12. All Matches shall be played according to the dates, kick-off times, and in the Stadia as determined by the AFC Organising Committee.
13. The Match Schedule shall be determined following the Final Draw.
14. The AFC Organising Committee retains final discretion to amend the Match Schedule.

#### **Competition System**

15. The Competition shall consist of two (2) stages:
  - 15.1 the Group Stage; and,
  - 15.2 the Knockout Stage.

#### **Group Stage**

16. The Participating Teams of the sixteen (16) Member Associations shall be divided into four (4) groups of four (4) teams each.
17. Each Participating Team shall play against the other Participating Teams within its group once in accordance with the Match Schedule.
18. The duration of Matches shall be played in accordance with Article 4.5 and Article 4.6.
19. At the conclusion of each Match:
  - 19.1 three (3) points shall be awarded to the Winner.
  - 19.2 one (1) point shall be awarded to each Participating Team in the event of a drawn result.
  - 19.3 zero (0) points shall be awarded to the Loser.
20. The ranking in each group shall be determined in descending order as follows:
  - 20.1 greater number of points obtained in group Matches;

- 20.2 if two (2) or more Participating Teams have obtained equal number of points in group Matches:
  - 20.2.1 greater number of points obtained in the group Matches between the Participating Teams concerned;
  - 20.2.2 goal-difference resulting from the group Matches between the Participating Teams concerned;
  - 20.2.3 greater number of goals scored in the group Matches between the Participating Teams concerned;
  - 20.2.4 goal-difference resulting from all group Matches;
  - 20.2.5 greater number of goals scored in all group Matches;
  - 20.2.6 Penalty Kicks, only if two (2) Participating Teams are involved and they are both on the Field of Play;
  - 20.2.7 the lowest score, calculated according to the formula set out in Appendix 1 to these Regulations, relating to the number of yellow and red cards received in group Matches; or,
  - 20.2.8 the drawing of lots.
- 21. On the basis of Article 3.20, at the conclusion of the Group Stage:
  - 21.1 the first-placed and second-placed Participating Team in each group shall qualify for the Knockout Stage; and,
  - 21.2 the third-placed and fourth-placed Participating Team in each group shall be eliminated from the Competition.

#### **Knockout Stage**

- 22. The Knockout Stage shall consist of the Quarter Finals, Semi Finals, 3/4 Playoff, and Final.
- 23. Each round of the Knockout Stage shall be conducted in accordance with the Match Schedule.
- 24. The duration of Matches, including Extra Time and Penalty Kicks (if required), shall be played in accordance with Articles 4.5 to 4.11.
- 25. At the conclusion of each Quarter Final:

- 25.1 the Participating Team who is the Winner shall qualify for the Semi Finals; and,
- 25.2 the Participating Team who is the Loser shall be eliminated from the Competition.
- 26. At the conclusion of each Semi Final:
  - 26.1 the Participating Team who is the Winner shall qualify for the Final; and,
  - 26.1 the Participating Team who is the Loser shall qualify for the 3/4 Playoff.
- 27. At the conclusion of the 3/4 Playoff:
  - 27.1 the Participating Team who is the Winner shall be declared Third-Place; and,
  - 27.2 the Participating Team who is the Loser shall be declared Fourth-Place.
- 28. At the conclusion of the Final:
  - 28.1 the Participating Team who is the Winner shall be declared Champion; and,
  - 28.1 the Participating Team who is the Loser shall be declared Runner-Up.

## ARTICLE 4: TECHNICAL REGULATIONS

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

1. All Matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game laid down by the IFAB and published by FIFA.
2. In case of any discrepancy in the interpretation of the Laws of the Game, the English version shall prevail and is authoritative.
3. Only three (3) substitutes listed on a Match Starting List (*cf* Article 5.27) may take part in the relevant Match. Any Participating Player who has been substituted may take no further part in that Match.
4. If a Participating Team, at any stage of a Match, is only able to field fewer than seven (7) players, the Match shall be abandoned and Article 4.14 shall apply.

### Duration of Matches

5. Each Match shall last ninety (90) minutes, comprising of two (2) periods of forty-five (45) minutes (hereinafter, normal playing time).
6. 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.

### Extra Time

7. If no Winner is determined at the end of normal playing time during the Knock-Out Stage, Extra Time shall be played.
8. Extra Time shall consist of two (2) periods of fifteen (15) minutes, with an interval of five (5) minutes at the end of normal playing time, but no interval between the periods of Extra Time.

### Determining the Winner by Penalty Kicks

9. If a Match is level 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.
10. If Penalty Kicks cannot be completed because of weather conditions or for any Force Majeure reason, the result shall be decided by the drawing of lots by the Referee in the presence of the AFC General Coordinator and the two (2) captains of the Participating Teams.

11. If, through the fault of a Participating Team, the Penalty Kicks cannot be completed, Article 3.8 of these Regulations shall apply.

#### **Cancellation of Matches**

12. 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:
- 12.1 the Match must be delayed for a minimum of thirty (30) minutes. During this delay, the Referee may decide that the Match can commence prior to the completion of the delay;
- 12.2 following the first delay, either:
- 12.2.1 an additional delay of thirty (30) minutes shall occur if in the discretion of the Referee this second delay may allow the Match to commence; or
- 12.2.2 the Match is declared cancelled by the Referee;
- 12.3 following two (2) delays of third (30) minutes, the Referee must declare the Match cancelled;
- 12.4 within two (2) hours of the decision to cancel the Match, the AFC Organising Committee must decide, taking all sporting and organisational considerations into account, whether the Match can be rescheduled, 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.
13. Decisions made pursuant to Article 4.12 are non-appealable.

#### **Abandonment of Matches**

14. If a Match is stopped by the Referee before the end of normal playing time or during any Extra 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:
- 14.1 the Match is stopped for thirty (30) minutes. During this stoppage, the Referee may decide that the Match can commence prior to the completion of the stoppage;
- 14.2 subsequent to the first stoppage, either:

- 14.2.1 an additional stoppage of thirty (30) minutes shall occur if in the discretion of the Referee this second stoppage may allow the Match to be resumed; or
  - 14.2.2 the Match is declared abandoned by the Referee;
- 14.3 following two (2) stoppages of thirty (30) minutes, the Referee must declare the Match abandoned;
- 14.4 within two (2) hours of the decision to abandon the Match, the AFC Organising Committee must decide, taking all sporting and organisational considerations into account, whether the Match result at the time of abandonment is valid, whether the Match can be rescheduled and completed, or whether any other action and decision is needed to continue with the Competition.
- 15. Should the AFC Organising Committee, pursuant to Article 4.14.4, determine that an abandoned Match should be rescheduled and completed, the following principles shall apply:
  - 15.1 the Match shall recommence with the same score at the minute at which play was interrupted rather than being replayed in full;
  - 15.2 the Match shall recommence with the same Participating Players on the Field of Play and same substitutes at the time it was initially abandoned;
  - 15.3 no additional substitutes may be added to the Player Selection List or Match Starting List;
  - 15.4 the Participating Teams may only make the number of substitutions to which they were still entitled when the Match was abandoned;
  - 15.5 any Participating Player sent off during the abandoned Match may not be replaced;
  - 15.6 any sanction imposed before the Match was abandoned remain valid for the remainder of the rescheduled Match;
  - 15.7 any other matters not set out above shall be decided by the AFC Organising Committee in its sole discretion.
- 16. Decisions made pursuant to Article 4.14 and Article 4.15 are non-appealable.

## Field of Play

17. If there is any doubt regarding the condition of the Field of Play, the Referee shall decide whether the Field of Play is playable or not. If the Referee declares that the Match cannot commence on time, Article 4.12 is applicable.
18. All Matches shall be played on a Field of Play with the following dimensions:
  - 18.1 Length: 105 metres (115 yards); and,
  - 18.2 Width: 68 metres (75 yards).

#### **Team Bench and Technical Area**

19. A maximum of eleven (11) Participating Officials and a maximum of twelve (12) Participating Players are permitted to sit on the team bench during a Match, provided they are in possession of the appropriate Accreditation Card.
20. Participating Officials and Participating Players on the team bench must wear their Accreditation Card at all times.
21. All individuals on the team bench must wear kit that contrasts with the kit of the Participating Players and Referees present on the Field of Play. This kit must comply with the AFC Equipment Regulations (*cf* Article 8).
22. Team 'A' shall occupy the team bench on the left when facing the Field of Play when viewed from the VIP Tribune.

#### **Warming up**

23. Each Participating Team shall be entitled to warm-up on the Field of Play before a Match if the weather permits.
24. During a Match, a maximum of six (6) Participating Players from each Participating Team may warm-up simultaneously without a ball (except for the goalkeeper), behind the goal closest to their team bench, or alternatively in a space determined by the AFC General Coordinator. These Participating Players may be assisted by two (2) Participating Officials.

#### **Official Training Sessions at Stadia**

25. Depending on the weather and condition of the Field of Play, each Participating Team is entitled to an official training session of sixty (60) minutes duration in each Stadium in which are due to play either one (1) or two (2) days prior to their first Match in each Stadium.
26. The Field of Play must be prepared to match-condition for this official training session. If the Field of Play is not in good condition, the AFC General

Coordinator may shorten or cancel the official training session and direct the Participating Teams to inspect the Field of Play wearing training shoes only.

27. If a Participating Team chooses not to train at a Stadium, they must provide the AFC General Coordinator with the time and location of their official training session at another designated Official Training Site approved by the AFC. This shall be treated as their official training session and they shall forfeit the right to train at that particular Stadium in future.
28. The AFC will decide the official training schedule for the Participating Teams.

#### Footballs

29. The footballs for the Competition shall be selected and supplied by the AFC.
30. Each Participating Team shall receive forty (40) training balls which they are required to bring to, and utilise throughout, the Competition:
  - 30.1 twenty (20) training balls prior to the Competition; and,
  - 30.2 twenty (20) training balls upon their official arrival date (as determined by the AFC) in the Host Country.
31. Participating Teams are only permitted to use the training balls provided by the AFC for training and warming-up purposes.
32. Participating Teams that utilise training balls not provided by the AFC shall be referred to the AFC Disciplinary Committee.
33. Each Member Association is responsible for any taxes and/or fees pertaining to the customs clearance of footballs delivered to their Member Association.

## ARTICLE 5: TEAM OFFICIAL DELEGATION

### Eligibility of Players

1. Each Member Association shall ensure that when selecting its representative team that all players:
  - 1.1 are duly registered with the AFC pursuant to these Regulations;
  - 1.2 hold the nationality of its country and are subject to its jurisdiction;
  - 1.3 are eligible to participate for the representative team of the Member Association in accordance with Article 5-8 of the Regulations Governing the Application of the FIFA Statutes.
2. Individuals who meet the criteria set out in Article 5.1 are Participating Players and eligible to participate in the Competition, subject to the provisions of the AFC Disciplinary Code.
3. Each Member Association is responsible for fielding only eligible Participating Players. Failure to do so shall lead to the consequences stipulated in the AFC Disciplinary Code.
4. A Participating Player shall be deemed ineligible, without limitation, if:
  - 4.1 there is a violation of Article 5.1; or
  - 4.2 he participates in a Match contrary to a decision of the AFC Disciplinary Committee, these Regulations, or the operation of the AFC Disciplinary Code; or
  - 4.3 the AFC determines that any document submitted during registration is false.

### Registration of Players

5. There are three (3) stages of player registration:
  - 5.1 Preliminary Registration: each Member Association must submit a squad of minimum eighteen (18) players and maximum fifty (50) players (*cf* Articles 5.15-5.19);
  - 5.2 Final Registration: each Member Association must submit minimum eighteen (18) players and maximum twenty-three (23) players from the Preliminary Registration squad (*cf* Articles 5.20-5.22).

- 5.3 Player Selection List: each Member Association must submit a Player Selection List prior to each Match which identifies the starting eleven (11) and up to twelve (12) substitutes (*cf* Articles 5.23-5.26).
6. Throughout the Competition, each Participating Player shall wear the same number allocated during the Final Registration. Jersey number 1 shall be reserved for a goalkeeper.
7. Each column in the “AFC Official Registration Form for Players” must be completed with the correct information.
8. Any individual with missing documentation shall not be eligible for registration as a Participating Player.
9. All Participating Players will be issued with Accreditation Cards authorised by the AFC Organising Committee. Should a card be misplaced, the relevant Member Association shall be required to pay USD1,000 (one thousand US Dollars only) as a replacement production fee.
10. Should the AFC not receive the “AFC Official Registration Form for Players” with all required documents by the stipulated deadline, the Member Association concerned shall be considered to have withdrawn from the Competition in accordance with Article 3.8.

#### Documents for Registration of Players

11. Participating Players must be registered on the “AFC Official Registration Form for Players” submitted via the AFCAS online system, with the supporting documents set out below (unless already previously submitted to the AFC and available in AFCAS):
- 11.1 “AFC Official Registration Form for Players”;
- 11.2 a colour copy of a validly-issued passport, containing the full name, passport number, date of birth, date of issue, date of expiry and nationality of the relevant individual. Group passports shall not be accepted;
- 11.3 a colour copy of a national identification card (where applicable);
- 11.4 one (1) passport-size colour photo (taken within three (3) months of the registration)
12. In cases of registration of players who have acquired a new nationality (*cf* Article 7, FIFA Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes), the

Member Association concerned must additionally provide the supporting documents set out in **Appendix 2**.

13. In cases of registration of players who hold a passport entitling them to represent more than one Member Association (*cf* Article 6, FIFA Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes), the Member Association must provide the supporting documents set out in **Appendix 3**.
14. The AFC reserves the right to request additional documents than those set out above.

### **Preliminary Registration**

15. Each Member Association shall submit to the AFC via the AFCAS online system, the “AFC Official Registration Form for Players” and the supporting documents in accordance with Articles 5.11-5.14 by **9 December 2014**.
16. Each Member Association shall register no less than eighteen (18) players and no more than fifty (50) players for the Competition in the Preliminary Registration squad.
17. If a Member Association fails to register a minimum of eighteen (18) players, it shall be considered to have withdrawn in accordance with Articles 3.4-3.7
18. Each Member Association must register a minimum of three (3) goalkeepers in their Preliminary Registration squad.
19. Once the “AFC Official Registration Form for Players” has been received by the AFC, and after the deadline has passed, under no circumstances shall Member Associations be permitted to submit additional names or replace any registered individual, even if their quota of fifty (50) players has not been filled.

### **Final Registration**

20. Member Associations are required to submit a Final Registration squad of minimum eighteen (18) players and maximum twenty-three (23) players by **30 December 2014**.
  - 20.1 The Final Registration squad may only be comprised from those maximum fifty (50) players selected in the Preliminary Registration squad.
  - 20.2 The Participating Players must be assigned jerseys numbered from 1-23. Number 1 shall be reserved for a goalkeeper.
21. Member Associations must register a minimum of three (3) goalkeepers in their Final Registration squad.

22. Once the Final Registration squad has been received by the AFC, Member Associations may replace any of the registered Participating Players up to six (6) hours prior to their first Match in the Competition, subject to the below conditions:
- 22.1 Any replacement player(s) must have been registered in the Preliminary Registration squad.
  - 22.2 Replacement players shall only be allocated vacant shirt numbers.
  - 22.3 To replace a Participating Player, a Member Association must provide his Accreditation Card to the AFC General Coordinator. The AFC General Coordinator shall provide the Accreditation Card of the replacement player in exchange.
  - 22.4 Only when a replacement player has received his Accreditation Card will he be considered to be registered as a Participating Player and eligible to participate in the Competition.

#### **Player Selection List**

23. For each Match in the Competition, each Participating Team will receive a 'Player Selection List' on which the numbers and full names (last name, first name) of up to twenty-three (23) Participating Players are listed prior to their arrival at the Stadium.
24. Each Participating Team must indicate on the Player Selection List the eleven (11) Participating Players, including the team captain, who will start the Match and the twelve (12) Participating Players who are designated as either substitutes, suspended or not selected.
25. Each Participating Team must hand their Player Selection List together with the 'Officials on the Team Bench' List with the names of the eleven (11) Participating Officials who shall be entitled to sit on the team bench to the AFC Match Commissioner at latest ninety (90) minutes prior to the commencement of each Match.
26. Failure to adhere with Articles 5.23-5.25 shall result in the matter being referred to the AFC Disciplinary Committee.

#### **Match Starting List**

27. Upon receipt of the Player Selection List, the AFC Match Commissioner will produce, through AFCAS, the 'Match Starting List'.

28. The Match Starting List must be signed by the Head Coach and Team Manager of each Participating Team and returned to the AFC Match Commissioner, whose signature will make it an official document.
29. The AFC Match Commissioner will ask to see the Accreditation Cards and kits of the Participating Players listed on the Match Starting List. Each Participating Player must be in possession of their Accreditation Card. Only those Participating Players possessing an Accreditation Card are entitled to participate in Matches.
30. Following the finalisation of the Match Starting List but prior to the commencement of the Match:
  - 30.1 If any of the eleven (11) Participating Players selected to start the Match are unable to start for any reason, they may be replaced by any of the substitutes listed on the Match Starting List.
  - 30.2 The Team Manager for the Participating Team shall immediately notify the Referees and the AFC Match Commissioner of the change to the Match Starting List.
  - 30.3 There is no limit to the number of Participating Players that may be replaced pursuant to Article 5.30.1.
  - 30.4 The replaced player(s) shall no longer be eligible to participate in the Match. The Participating Team may still undertake three (3) substitutions during the Match in accordance with Article 4.3.
31. Failure to adhere with Article 5.30 shall result in the matter being referred to the AFC Disciplinary Committee.

#### **Registration of Officials**

32. There shall only be one (1) registration period for Participating Officials.
33. Each Member Association shall submit to the AFC, the “AFC Official Registration Form for Officials” and the supporting documents by 9 December 2014.
34. Each Member Association may register maximum twenty (20) Participating Officials.
  - 34.1 Each Member Association shall nominate, at the commencement of each Match, maximum eleven (11) Participating Officials who shall be entitled to access the Field of Play.

- 34.2 Each Member Association must nominate the following Participating Officials:
- 34.2.1 Head Coach;
  - 34.2.2 Team Manager;
  - 34.2.3 Team Media Officer; and,
  - 34.2.4 Team Doctor.
- 34.3 Each Member Association is entitled to register a ‘Video Analyst’ who shall be the only member of a Team Official Delegation entitled to record Matches in the Competition. This recording shall be strictly used only for technical purposes, and should not interfere with Match operations or be utilised by any Broadcasters.
35. Each Team Manger and Team Media Officer shall be responsible for coordinating all Participating Team and media-related matters with the AFC. They shall be expected to work in a full-time, exclusive capacity from the Participating Team’s arrival at each Venue until one (1) day after the Participating Team’s final Match in the Competition. They shall participate in all Official Functions related to Matches in the Competition.
36. Each column in the “AFC Official Registration Form for Officials” must be completed with correct information.
37. Any individual with missing documentation shall not be eligible for registration as a Participating Official.
38. All Participating Officials will be issued with official eligibility cards authorised by the AFC Organising Committee. Should a card be misplaced, the relevant Member Association shall be required to pay USD1,000 (One Thousand US Dollars only) as a replacement production fee.
39. Should the AFC not receive the “AFC Official Registration Form for Officials” with all required documents by the stipulated deadline, the Member Association concerned shall be considered to have withdrawn from the Competition in accordance with Articles 3.4-3.7.
40. Once the “AFC Official Registration Form for Officials” has been received by the AFC, Member Associations may replace any of the listed Participating Officials at any stage of the Competition with twenty-four (24) hours notice to the AFC, subject to the below conditions:

- 40.1 To replace a Participating Official, a Member Association must provide his Accreditation Card to the AFC General Coordinator. The AFC General Coordinator shall provide the Accreditation Card of the replacement official in exchange.
- 40.2 Only when a replacement official has received his Accreditation Card will he be considered to be registered as a Participating Official and eligible to participate in the Competition.

#### Documents for Registration of Officials

41. Participating Officials must be registered on the “AFC Official Registration Form for Officials” submitted via the AFCAS online system, with the supporting documents set out below (unless already previously submitted to the AFC and available in AFCAS):

- 41.1 “AFC Official Registration Form for Officials”;
- 41.2 a colour copy of a validly-issued passport, containing the full name, passport number, date of birth, date of issue, date of expiry and nationality of the relevant individual. Group passports shall not be accepted;
- 41.3 a colour copy of a national identification card (where applicable);
- 41.4 one (1) passport-size colour photo (taken within three (3) months of the registration);
- 41.5 evidence of his qualification based upon his function:
  - 41.5.1 Head Coach: required coaching certificate or licenses as decided by the AFC Technical Committee;
  - 41.5.2 Assistant Coach: required coaching certificate or licenses as decided by the AFC Technical Committee;
  - 41.5.3 Team Doctor: relevant medical qualification.

42. The AFC reserves the right to request additional documents than those set out above.

#### Size of Delegation at Matches

43. Each Member Association shall register a Team Official Delegation comprising of twenty-three (23) Participating Players and eleven (11) Participating Officials.

44. The Team Official Delegation shall be granted full access to all official Competition areas, including the Field of Play and other necessary Controlled Accessed Areas, as determined by the AFC.
45. Each Member Association may nominate an additional nine (9) officials, who do not form part of the Team Official Delegation, and whom shall receive the same access rights as set out in Article 5.44.
46. Each Member Association may nominate maximum eleven (11) Participating Officials to sit on the team bench, which must include the Head Coach. The identity of said Participating Officials must be confirmed on the 'Officials on the Team Bench List' to be submitted prior to the commencement of each Match.

## ARTICLE 6: LOGISTICAL ARRANGEMENTS

### Arrival and Departure

1. Each Member Association shall arrive at the official hotel at the Venue of its first Match in the Competition by the arrival date determined by the AFC.
2. Each Member Association shall depart the Host Country the day following their final Match in the Competition.

### Airfares

3. Each Member Association is responsible for payment of all airfares (international and domestic airfares) for their Team Official Delegation from:
  - 3.1 their departure from the territory of the Member Association (or any other location) to the Venue of their first Match; and,
  - 3.2 their departure from the Venue of their final Match.
4. Each Member Association is required to purchase published-fare air tickets which are endorsable and allow for date changes (with or without penalty) for their Team Official Delegation, for travel to and from the Host Country.
5. Any costs relating to non-compliance with Articles 6.3-6.4 shall be borne by the relevant Member Association.

### Accommodation, Meals, and Refreshments

6. Only official hotels approved by the AFC shall be used as accommodation by the Team Official Delegations during the Competition.
7. Each Member Association, from the arrival of their Team Official Delegation (as approved by the AFC) until one (1) day after their final Match in the Competition, shall be provided:
  - 7.1 accommodation in a five-star hotel for the Team Official Delegation, not exceeding thirty-four (34) persons, which shall comprise of eleven (11) double rooms and twelve (12) single rooms;
  - 7.2 two (2) additional empty rooms in said hotel for the purposes of medical treatment and storage;
  - 7.3 one (1) briefing room in said hotel for the duration of the Competition equipped with whiteboard, DVD player and television;

- 7.4 three (3) meals per day (international buffet style) and one (1) additional light meal on Match-days in a dedicated dining area for the Team Official Delegation (not exceeding thirty-four (34) persons);
  - 7.5 minimum three (3) litres of water per person per day for the Team Official Delegation (not exceeding thirty-four (34) persons), as well as ice and refreshments;
  - 7.6 minimum three (3) litres of water per person per day for the Team Official Delegation (not exceeding thirty-four (34) persons), as well as ice and refreshments, for each official training session and each Match; and,
  - 7.7 laundry services (but no dry cleaning or pressing) for playing and training outfits (eight (8) pieces per day per person) for the Team Official Delegation (not exceeding thirty-four (34) persons).
8. Each Member Association shall pay for incidental expenses incurred by its Team Official Delegation during the course of their stay in the Host Country.
  9. Each Member Association shall pay for any costs incurred by additional members of their delegation not part of their Team Official Delegation.
  10. Each Member Association shall pay for any extension of stay in the Host Country of any member of their Team Official Delegation, other than where expressly permitted in these Regulations.

#### **Team Liaison Officer**

11. Each Team Official Delegation shall be provided with a Team Liaison Officer proficient in English and (if applicable) the local language of the Member Association.

#### **Local Land Transportation**

12. Each Member Association, from the arrival of their Team Official Delegation (as approved by the AFC) until one (1) day after their final Match in the Competition, shall be provided:
  - 12.1 one (1) bus with minimum forty-five (45) seats; and
  - 12.2 one (1) multi-purpose van,for transportation of the Team Official Delegation to training, Matches, Official Functions, and airport transfers.

13. Each Member Association shall be provided one (1) additional luggage truck for airport transfers, each Match day, and (if applicable) for hotel transfers between Venues.

## ARTICLE 7: MEDIA

### Media access in Stadia

1. No representatives of the written press and radio journalists are permitted on the Field of Play or the area between the boundaries of the Field of Play and the spectators, with the exception of accredited Media who shall carry out their duties in the specific locations assigned to them.
2. Only photographers, 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.
3. No Media representatives are permitted to enter any Participating Team dressing-room at any stage of any Match.
4. The Organising Association shall ensure that the AFC, the Host Broadcaster, and all Broadcasters have free access to each Stadium from three (3) days prior to each Match until one (1) day following each Match, to allow for the resolution of any technical issues and for the assembly of the relevant infrastructure required to execute the Media Rights.
5. The Organising Association is responsible for ensuring that the Media Rights are protected and that no unofficial or unauthorised broadcaster and/or video or ENG camera crews are permitted access to any Stadium without the prior written permission of the AFC.

### Training Sessions

6. All training sessions are open to the Media.
7. Should a Participating Team wish to close its training session to the Media, it shall, as a minimum, open the session for the first fifteen (15) minutes.
8. If a training session occurs at a Stadium, the areas accessible by the Media shall be those same areas available to them during Matches. Access to such areas must be security-controlled by the Organising Association.

### Press Conferences

9. The Head Coach and minimum one (1) of the eleven (11) starting Participating Players of each Participating Team are obliged to attend and participate:

- 9.1 a pre-Match press conference for each Match in the Competition in which their Participating Team competes, to be held at least one (1) day prior to the commencement of the Competition; and,
  - 9.2 a post-Match press conference for each Match in the Competition in which their Participating Team competes.
10. Each Team Media Officer must ensure attendance of the Head Coach and the relevant Participating Player(s).
11. Each Participating Team is responsible (if applicable) for the interpretation of its Head Coach and relevant Participating Players into English. Interpretation into the local language (if applicable) shall be the responsibility of the Organising Association.
12. Non-compliance with Articles 7.9-7.11 shall result in the matter being referred to the AFC Disciplinary Committee. The AFC Disciplinary Committee may issue:
  - 12.1 fines totaling minimum USD5,000 (US Dollars Five thousands only) against the Member Association; and/or
  - 12.2 a ban from the dressing room and/or the substitutes' bench against the Head Coach and/or the relevant Participating Players.

#### **Mixed Zone**

13. Following each Match, Participating Players and Participating Officials shall enter the Mixed Zone on their way from the dressing room to their bus.
14. Non-compliance with Article 7.13 shall result in the matter being referred to the AFC Disciplinary Committee.

#### **Interviews**

15. If requested by the AFC, each Member Association shall make their Head Coach and one (1) Participating Player available the day before each Match and/or the day of the Match for an interview of up to ten (10) minutes, to be recorded by the Host Broadcaster or other Broadcaster, or by the AFC official website.
16. All interview locations shall be assigned by an AFC Media Officer and/or the AFC General Coordinator.
17. Non-compliance with Articles 7.15-7.17 shall result in the matter being referred to the AFC Disciplinary Committee.

### **Flash Interviews**

18. Participating Players and Participating Officials are not permitted to give interviews during the Match, on the Field of Play, or in its immediate vicinity, without the express permission of the AFC.
19. An AFC Media Officer and/or AFC General Coordinator may designate an area between the substitutes' benches and dressing rooms in which 'flash' interviews for the Host Broadcaster and the visiting Media Rights-holding Broadcaster (if applicable), may occur following each Match.
20. If requested by the AFC to participate in 'flash' interviews, the Head Coach and minimum one (1) Participating Player from both Participating Teams must be available.
21. Non-compliance with Article 7.18-7.20 shall result in the matter being referred to the AFC Disciplinary Committee.

### **Recording of Matches**

22. Each Member Association shall be provided with a DVD of each Match of the Competition by the AFC.

## ARTICLE 8: EQUIPMENT

### AFC Equipment Regulations

1. Each Member Association must comply with the AFC Equipment Regulations.
2. The AFC Equipment Regulations are operational from the arrival of each Team Official Delegation at a Controlled Access Area until the departure of each Team Official Delegation from such areas.

### AFC Badges

3. Each Member Association shall allow space on its playing jersey to affix:
  - 3.1 one (1) AFC Asian Cup Australia 2015™ sleeve badge on the right arm; and,
  - 3.2 one (1) AFC campaign sleeve badge on the left arm.

### Kit Approval Procedure

4. Each Member Association shall submit to the AFC for its approval one (1) sample of all kit, as defined in the AFC Equipment Regulations, by 9 October 2014.
5. Each Member Associations shall submit to the AFC for its approval one (1) sample of all other apparel to be worn by their Team Official Delegation within the Controlled Access Areas during the Competition by 9 October 2014.
6. Should any equipment submitted to the AFC infringe the AFC Equipment Regulations or these Regulations, the relevant Member Association shall be required to resubmit corrected equipment to the AFC. In addition, the relevant Member Association may be required to present additional samples at any Team Workshop.
7. The AFC Match Commissioner, the AFC General Coordinator, and/or the AFC Marketing Manager all have the right and duty to inspect the kit of each Team Official Delegation at each Venue, and are entitled to seize and send such items to the AFC Headquarters for further inspection following each Match.

### Responsibility

8. The AFC has the sole authority to approve the equipment (including kit) set out in the AFC Equipment Regulations.
9. Each Member Association agrees to indemnify the AFC and hold it harmless from any and all damages in the event that a conflict arises as a result

of a contract existing between a Member Association and its sponsor(s) which contravenes the AFC Equipment Regulations.

10. Non-compliance with Article 8 shall result in the matter being referred to the AFC Disciplinary Committee.

## ARTICLE 9: TICKETING

### Terms and Conditions

1. In collaboration with the Organising Association, the AFC shall issue special ticketing terms and conditions which are applicable to all Ticket holders, including without limitation Member Associations, and which must be communicated to all relevant parties.

### Complimentary Tickets

2. The AFC shall provide each Member Association with the following Ticket allocation for each of the Matches contested by its Participating Team:
  - 2.1 two (2) VVIP Tickets;
  - 2.2 five (5) VIP Tickets; and,
  - 2.3 twenty-five (25) Category 1 Tickets.
3. The AFC shall provide each Participating Team with two (2) Category 1 Tickets for all other Matches of the Competition.

### Purchasable Tickets

4. AFC will issue ticketing operation guidelines to the Participating Member Associations for purchasable tickets by the end of May 2014.

## ARTICLE 10: MEDICAL & ANTI-DOPING

### Medical Facilities and Treatment

1. The Organising Association is responsible, for each Member Association from the arrival of their Team Official Delegation (as approved by the AFC) until one (1) day after their final Match in the Competition, the costs of the following medical treatments sustained or occurring within the Host Country:
  - 1.1 outpatient treatment (non-admission to hospital);
  - 1.2 minor surgeries (e.g. suturing);
  - 1.3 radiological investigations; and,
  - 1.4 emergency treatment.
2. The Organising Association is responsible for the costs of the medical treatment set out at Article 10.1 for all other categories of the AFC Delegation from their arrival in the Host Country until their departure from the Host Country.
3. Each Member Association is responsible, for all members of its Team Official Delegation, for the cost of any:
  - 3.1 hospitalisation (admission to hospital);
  - 3.2 surgical operations not provided for in Article 10.1; and,
  - 3.3 specialised investigative procedures.

### Anti-Doping

4. Doping is prohibited. The AFC Anti-Doping Regulations, the AFC Disciplinary Code, and all relevant AFC directives in relation to anti-doping are applicable to the Competition.
5. The AFC shall inform each Member Associations by means of a circular of the doping control procedure for the Competition.
6. The AFC Organising Committee shall be responsible for the approval of the WADA-accredited laboratory which shall carry out the analysis of all doping samples.

## ARTICLE 11: DISCIPLINARY

### Disciplinary Measures

1. 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.
2. The AFC may introduce new disciplinary rules and sanctions for the duration of the Competition. Such rules shall be communicated to the Member Associations one (1) month before the first Match of the Competition at latest.
3. All Participating Players agree to:
  - 3.1 respect the spirit of fair play, non-violence, and the authority of the Match Officials;
  - 3.2 behave accordingly; and,
  - 3.3 refrain from doping (*cf*Article 10.4) as defined in the AFC Anti-Doping Regulations as well as to accept all other AFC regulations, circulars, and directives.
4. The Member Associations and their Team Official Delegation shall comply with the AFC Statutes, the AFC Disciplinary Code, and the AFC Code of Ethics, in particular in matters regarding the fight against discrimination, racism, and match-manipulation.

### Protest

5. 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.
6. Unless otherwise stipulated in this section, protests shall be submitted in writing to the AFC Match Commissioner within two (2) hours of the Match in question, and followed up immediately with a full written report, including a copy of the original protest, to be sent in writing and by registered letter to the AFC within twenty-four (24) hours of the end of the Match..
  - 6.1 A protest must be accompanied by a fee of USD500 (US dollars five hundred only) to be considered valid.
7. Protests regarding the eligibility of Participating Players registered in the Final Registration squad by each Member Association must be submitted in writing to the AFC no later than five (5) days before the opening Match of the Competition.

8. Protests regarding the state of the Field of Play, its surroundings, markings, or accessory items (e.g. goals, flag posts, or footballs) shall be made in writing to the Referee before the start of the Match by the Head of Delegation of the Participating Team lodging the protest.
  - 8.1 The Participating Team must subsequently follow the procedure in Article 11.6 for the protest to be considered valid.
9. If the playing surface becomes unplayable during a Match, the captain of the protesting Participating Team shall immediately lodge a protest with the Referee in the presence of the captain of the opposing Participating Team.
  - 9.1 The Participating Team must subsequently follow the procedure in Article 11.6 for the protest to be considered valid.
10. Protests against any incidents that occur during the course of a Match shall be made to the Referee by the captain of the protesting Participating Team immediately after the disputed incident and before play has been resumed, in the presence of the captain of the opposing Participating Team.
  - 10.1 The Participating Team must subsequently follow the procedure in Article 11.6 for the protest to be considered valid.
11. 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.
12. 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.
13. If any of the formal conditions of a protest as set out in these Regulations are not met, such protest shall be disregarded by the competent body. Following the completion of the final Match of the Competition, any protests described in Article 11.5-11.12 shall be disregarded.
14. The AFC Organising Committee shall make decisions on any protests lodged, subject to the exceptions stipulated in these Regulations, the AFC Statutes, the AFC Disciplinary Code, and any other AFC regulations.

#### **Arbitration**

15. Any dispute in connection with the Competition shall be promptly settled by negotiation.

16. In compliance with the AFC Statutes, Member Associations, Participating Players, and Participating Officials are prohibited from initiating disputes in an ordinary court of law and submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the AFC.
17. Member Associations, Participating Players, and Participating 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.
18. 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.

## ARTICLE 12: ADMINISTRATION

### Awards

1. The following awards shall be presented:
  - 1.1 Abdullah Al Dabal Most Valuable Player (of the Competition);
  - 1.2 Most Valuable Player (for each Match);
  - 1.3 Top Goalscorer (of the Competition); and the
  - 1.4 AFC Fair Play Award.
2. The Abdullah Al Dabal Most Valuable Player of the Competition is awarded to the Participating Player who has a major influence on each of his Matches and the Competition overall.
3. The Most Valuable Player of the Match is awarded to the Participating Player who has a major influence on an individual Match.
4. The Top Goalscorer is awarded to the Participating Player who has scored the highest number of goals in the Competition. In the event of a tie, the number of assists will be taken into account to identify the winner.
5. The AFC Fair Play Award is awarded to the Participating Team who has collected the most Fair Play points in the Competition.
6. The AFC Organising Committee may decide to introduce further awards in their discretion.

### Trophy and Medals

7. The original Competition trophy is presented to the Champion for a period one (1) year. The Champion Member Association shall subsequently be awarded a scaled-down replica by the AFC as its permanent possession. The AFC may request for the return of the trophy at an earlier date. The AFC is responsible for engraving the trophy with the name of the winning Member Association. The trophy will remain the property of the AFC.
8. The Champion Member Association shall be responsible for the loss of or any damage to the trophy. It shall be returned in perfect condition when requested by the AFC.
9. The Champion Member Association may produce a copy of the trophy, provided it is clearly marked as a replica and does not exceed 4/5 (four fifths) of the size of the original.

10. If for any reason the Competition should cease to be held, the trophy shall be returned to the AFC.
11. The AFC shall award the following medals:
  - 11.1 forty-three (43) champions medals to the Champion;
  - 11.2 forty-three (43) runner-up medals to the Runner-Up;
  - 11.3 forty-three (43) third-placed medals to the Third Place;
  - 11.4 forty-three (43) Fair Play medals to the winner of the AFC Fair Play award; and
  - 11.5 special commemorative medals for the Referees of the Final.
12. No additional medals may be produced by the AFC or the Member Associations.

#### **Prize Presentation Ceremony**

13. A prize presentation ceremony shall be held immediately after both the 3/4 Playoff and the Final to present the awards, trophies, and medals listed in Articles 12.7-12.12.
14. The Member Associations and Participating Players that qualify to receive the awards, trophies, and medals shall attend the relevant prize presentation ceremony. Participating Teams may be represented by the Team Official Delegation for the prize presentation ceremony following the Final.

#### **Protocol**

15. The AFC Protocol Guidelines shall apply for all Matches.

#### **Special Instructions**

16. The AFC Organising Committee shall, in conjunction with the Organising Association, issue any instructions necessitated by special circumstances which might arise in the Host Country.
17. These instructions shall form an integral part of these Regulations.

#### **Force Majeure**

18. The AFC Organising Committee is the only body capable of declaring a Force Majeure event.

**Matters not provided for**

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

**Ratification**

20. These Regulations were ratified by the AFC Executive Committee in xxx on xxx 2014 and came into force immediately.

For the AFC Executive Committee

**President:**

**His Excellency Shaikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa**

**General Secretary:**

**Dato' Alex Soosay**

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

1. This Appendix 1 sets out the calculation provided for in Article 3.20.2.7 of these Regulations.
2. Each Participating Team shall be awarded points for receiving red and yellow cards as indicated below:
  - 2.1 per yellow card: one (1) point;
  - 2.2 per red card (as a consequence of two yellow cards): three (3) points;
  - 2.3 per red card (direct):three (3) points; and,
  - 2.4 per yellow card followed by a red card (direct): four (4) points.
3. The Participating Team receiving the least number of points shall be ranked highest. The remaining Participating Teams shall be ranked in descending order.

APPENDIX 2: 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.	Must provide <b>one of the following:</b>	
a)	<p>Letter from the Member Association of the player's previous nationality declaring that the player concerned has never played (either in full or in part) for any representative teams of the Member Association in an official competition of any category of any type of football;</p> <p>AND</p> <p>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.</p>	
b)	Decision of the FIFA Player Status Committee allowing the player to change Association. jhjh	
3.	Clear copy of player's passport.	
4.	Clear copy of player's national ID card.	
5.	If Decision at 2(b) not provided, must provide <b>one of the following:</b>	
a)	<p>Birth certificate or passport of father/mother of the player showing he/she was born on the territory of the relevant Association;</p> <p>AND</p> <p>Documents proving that the father/mother is the biological father/mother of the player.</p>	
b)	<p>Birth certificate or passport of grandfather/ grandmother showing he/she was born on the territory of the relevant Association;</p> <p>AND</p> <p>Documents proving that the grandfather/grandmother is the biological grandfather/grandmother of the player.</p>	
c)	Documents from the relevant national Ministry demonstrating that the player has lived continuously on the territory of the relevant Association for at least five (5) years after the age of 18 years old.	

**APPENDIX 3: 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.	Must provide <b>one of the following:</b>	
a)	<p>Letter from the Member Association of the player's nationality declaring that the player concerned has never played (either in full or in part) for any representative teams of that Member Association in an official competition of any category of any type of football;</p> <p>AND</p> <p>Letter from the player declaring that he has never played for any representative teams of any Member Association (either in full or in part) to which he is entitled to participate in an official competition of any category of any type of football.</p>	
b)	Decision of the FIFA Player 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 Decision at 2(b) not provided, must provide <b>one of the following:</b>	
a)	<p>Birth certificate or passport of father/mother of the player showing he/she was born on the territory of the relevant Association;</p> <p>AND</p> <p>Documents proving that the father/mother is the biological father/mother of the player.</p>	
b)	<p>Birth certificate or passport of grandfather/ grandmother showing he/she was born on the territory of the relevant Association;</p> <p>AND</p> <p>Documents proving that the grandfather/grandmother is the biological grandfather/grandmother of the player.</p>	
c)	Documents from the relevant national Ministry demonstrating that the player has lived continuously on the territory of the relevant Association for at least two (2) years.	



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