AFC Cup Regulations

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**DEFINITIONS**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accommodation</td>
<td>Any location approved by the AFC which provides accommodation to the AFC Delegation and Participating Clubs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accreditation Card</td>
<td>Any physical item which is issued by the AFC and/or Host Club which provides the recipient the right to access a Controlled Access Area (or part thereof) where the Controlled Access Area is under the control of the AFC, Host Club or the Host Association.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advertising Rights</td>
<td>The right to promote brand and/or corporate names and/or products and/or services at and/or in relation to the Competition by whatever means available, whether existing now or to be developed in the future, whether at the Stadia or Facility Areas or within the Controlled Access Areas, in association with the Competition Marks and/or AFC Marks, by in-stadium/out-stadium perimeter signage and other advertising, digital signage and screens, closed circuit television, equipment usage or other methods and through printed matter (including digitally delivered printed matter) such as programme, posters, letterheads, press releases, newsletters and Tickets, and subject to any AFC regulations, the right to display such advertising on the clothing or footwear worn, or on any equipment used, carried or transported by officials (including for the avoidance of doubt Match Officials), medical and security staff, ball kids, player escorts, flag bearers and/or photographers. The display of the name and/or logo of the bona fide supplier of clothing on the strip of the uniforms of the officials are also included. For the avoidance of doubt, advertising on the strip of Participating Players is excluded, other than where it is the trade mark of the bona fide manufacturer and is in accordance with any FIFA and/or AFC regulations. Similarly, branding on any equipment, goods and/or services used in connection with the Competition, save where supplied by a Licensee, may only include customary branding of the bona fide manufacturer and may not be associated in any way with the Commercial Rights.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFC</td>
<td>The Asian Football Confederation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFCAS</td>
<td>The AFC Administration System, the AFC online competition management and registration system.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**AFC Cup**

The Competition.

**AFC Commercial Rights Partner**

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.

**AFC Committee**

One (1) or more (as the context defines) of the Standing Committees of the AFC as promulgated within the AFC Statutes.

**AFC Competitions Committee**

The AFC 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.

**AFC Delegation**

(i) AFC staff;

(ii) Match Officials;

(iii) other officials appointed by the AFC;

(iv) AFC Committee members; and

(v) AFC guests.

**AFC Marks**

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.

**AFC Official Merchandise**

Official merchandise of the Competition to which the AFC Marks and the Competition Marks may be applied at the sole discretion of the AFC.

**AFC Website**

http://www.the-afc.com

**Away Club**

A Participating Club who is playing a Match in the Competition away from their home Stadium.

**Away Goals Rule**

At the end of the second Match of a tie played in a knockout home and away format, the Participating Club which has scored the higher number of goals away from home shall be declared the Winner, if the Participating Clubs have both scored the same number of goals across both Matches.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Broadcaster</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Champion</td>
<td>The Participating Club who is the Winner in the Final.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Club</td>
<td>A professional club or an amateur club which participates in Leagues or competitions under the auspices of a Football Association.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Competition</td>
<td>The AFC Cup, which includes without limitation, all Matches as set out in the Match Schedule, all qualifying, Preliminary Stage and Playoff Stage Matches, all activities on the Field of Play (other than Matches), opening ceremonies, presentation or closing ceremonies, press conferences or Official Functions connected therewith.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Competition Data</td>
<td>Any and all information related to the Competition, including fixture lists, Image Rights, information and/or statistics about the Participating Clubs and/or Participating Players, information and/or statistics about their participation and/or performance in the Competition, Match analysis, Referee decisions, and any other information in relation to the Competition.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Competition Marks</td>
<td>Either cumulatively, or individually:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(i) the competition logo officially adopted by the AFC as a visual design symbol of the Competition;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(ii) any mascot officially adopted by the AFC for the Competition;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(iii) any graphic representation of the Competition trophy;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(iv) the official name of the Competition (in any language); and/or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(v) any and all current and future trademarks, and/or logos, and/or copyrights and/or designs whether or</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.

**Concession Rights**
Sampling, vending, display and other distribution methods and payment methods connected therewith for and of products or services, including pourage rights at the Stadia and Facility Areas.

**Controlled Access Area**

(i) any Stadium;

(ii) any Official Training Site;

(iii) any official hotel (public areas being excepted), subject to and to the extent agreed in any 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 Card, Ticket, and/or other officially-sanctioned entry permit.

**Digital Media**
Any digitalised media (including the AFC Website and any related Competition website) created by AFC in relation to
the Competition, including but not limited to any mobile website, mobile application (app), online video channel, data product, photo-sharing account, social media account, and any further form of digital media developed herewith.

Extra Time

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 normal playing time in a Match.

Facility Areas

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.

Field of Play

The area described in Law 1 of the Laws of the Game issued by the IFAB and administered by FIFA.

FIFA

The Federation International de Football Association.

Final

The final Match of the Competition which determines the Champion.

Fixed Media

Any magnetic, electronic or digital storage device or method including without limitation DVD, VHS or CD-ROM.

Football Association

The controlling body for football within a country or territory recognised by the AFC.

Force Majeure

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.
<table>
<thead>
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<th><strong>Group Stage</strong></th>
<th>The third stage of the Competition held in accordance with these Regulations.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hospitality Rights</strong></td>
<td>The opportunity to offer and sell hospitality and entertainment facilities at the Venues or within the Controlled Access Areas in combination with the Tickets as may be purchased from the Host Association whether such facilities are in boxes, marquees or otherwise, but excluding those private facilities reserved for AFC officials and its guests not forming part of the Commercial Rights.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Host Broadcaster</strong></td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Host Association</strong></td>
<td>A Member Association approved by the AFC to organise, stage, and host Matches in the Competition.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Host City</strong></td>
<td>Any city and/or identifiable metropolitan area in which any Match is staged.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Host Club</strong></td>
<td>A Participating Club who is approved by the AFC to organise, stage, and host Matches in the Competition in conjunction with their respective Host Association.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Image Rights</strong></td>
<td>The right to use still and/or moving images and/or representations of images of Participating Clubs and Participating Players participating in the Competition, and including, for the avoidance of doubt, images of Participating Officials, Match Officials, and other officials forming part of the Competition.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Knockout Stage</strong></td>
<td>The fourth stage of the Competition held in accordance with these Regulations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>League</strong></td>
<td>A professional league and/or amateur league which consists of a combination of Clubs within the territory of a Football Association and which is subordinate to and under the authority of that Football Association.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Licensee</strong></td>
<td>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</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term</td>
<td>Definition</td>
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<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loser</td>
<td>For the Preliminary Stage, Playoff Stage and Group Stage, the Participating Club at the conclusion of a Match who is not the Winner. For the Knockout Stage, the Participating Club at the conclusion of the second Match who is not the Winner.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Match</td>
<td>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</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Match Officials</td>
<td>Any individual appointed to officiate a Match in the Competition in the role of referee, assistant referee, fourth official or fifth official, and the appointed Referee Assessor(s).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Match Schedule</td>
<td>The official schedule which sets out, without limitation, the dates and times on which Matches will be played, the Stadia at which the Matches will be played, and the names of the Participating Clubs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Match Subsidy</td>
<td>The payment made to a Participating Club as a result of its participation in a Match, comprised of the travel subsidy and any other payment as informed by the AFC.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Media</td>
<td>Any individual entitled to a media Accreditation Card as determined by the AFC.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Media Rights</td>
<td>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, Digital Media, games, internet, public exhibition, radio, mobile, and television, a 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, world 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</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
(including without limitation by way of clips and/or highlights and/or support programme 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Member Association</strong></th>
<th>A Football Association which is a member of the AFC.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Merchandise Rights</strong></td>
<td>The right to exploit the Competition Marks and/or Official Status in the manufacture, packaging, distribution, and sale of goods and services of all kinds, including items of equipment (i.e. footballs), clothing, coins, medals, games (electronic or otherwise), other collectibles and premiums related to the Competition.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Neutral Venue</strong></td>
<td>Any Stadium utilised for a Match which is not the regular home Stadium or Venue utilised by the Participating Club designated as the Home Club, unless expressly authorised by the AFC. The designation of a Stadium as a Neutral Venue must be expressly authorised by the AFC in accordance with <strong>Appendix 2</strong> to these Regulations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Official Function</strong></td>
<td>Any event which is officially organised or sanctioned by the AFC in connection with the Competition. 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, official draw, workshop and launch events.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Official Training Site</strong></td>
<td>Any site designated by the Host Association and approved by the AFC for use by the Participating Clubs throughout the duration of the Competition for training purposes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Participating Club</strong></td>
<td>A Club who is approved by the AFC to participate in the Competition.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Participating Official</strong></td>
<td>Any official who is registered as part of a Team Official Delegation in the Competition.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Participating Player</strong></td>
<td>Any player who is registered as part of a Team Official</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term</td>
<td>Definition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delegation in the Competition.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Penalty Kicks</td>
<td>“Kicks from the Penalty Mark” as described in the Laws of the Game.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playoff Stage</td>
<td>The second stage of the Competition held in accordance with these Regulations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preliminary Stage</td>
<td>The first stage of the Competition held in accordance with these Regulations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Premiums</td>
<td>Any promotional item (including packaging, labeling, and/or containers thereof) which incorporates a mark and/or logo of the AFC and/or the Competition, and which is distributed free of charge or via prize competitions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promotional Rights</td>
<td>Any rights to official publications, official suppliers, official products, sales promotion including but not limited to the right to organise promotional competitions (including without limitation any sweepstakes or lotteries) and to make awards and give prizes, official music rights, the right to use an official designation and all other rights of commercial value in regard to the Competition.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proprietary Interests</td>
<td>Without limitation, intellectual property, copyright and analogous rights, trademark rights, moral rights, performing rights, personality rights, and all remedies available under the applicable laws of unfair competition comprised in the Commercial Rights. For the purpose of this definition, “moral rights” shall mean a privilege, right, or claim which is based on moral considerations or ethical principles and which should be recognised by law, but which may not be legally imposed or enforced as such.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quarter Final</td>
<td>The second round of Matches in the Knockout Stage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regulations</td>
<td>These Competition Regulations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Round of 16</td>
<td>The first round of Matches in the Knockout Stage.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Runner Up  The Participating Club who is the Loser in the Final.

Semi Final  The third round of Matches in the Knockout Stage.

Sponsorship Rights  The right, in any and all media, throughout the world, and in all languages, to promote an association between the Competition and certain products, services, and/or brands, and shall include (by way of illustration only) the exclusive right to exercise rights of association with the Competition, including without limitation the right to (a) use an official designation; (b) use the AFC Marks and/or applicable Competition Marks on branded products and/or product packaging (including Premiums, and in relation to the Competition Marks only on items for retail sale) and/or advertising; (c) receive commercial programme Tickets, and (d) the right to receive broadcast sponsorship opportunities in connections with broadcasts of a Match or Official Function.

Stadium  Any stadium at which a Match is played. For the avoidance of doubt, this includes:

(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;

(ii) parking facilities;

(iii) VIP and hospitality areas (including any hospitality village);

(iv) the Media tribune;

(v) concessions areas;

(vi) commercial display areas;

(vii) buildings;

(viii) the Field of Play;

(ix) any broadcast compound or stadium media centre;
(x) any stands; and,

(xi) any areas beneath the stands.

**Team Official Delegation**

The final-registered delegation of a Participating Club for each Match of the Competition subject to the limits set out in these Regulations.

**Ticket**

A pass providing access to a venue for the purpose of attending either a Match or Official Training Site or Official Function.

**Ticketing**

All operational measures to provide Tickets to all spectators of every Match and for Official Functions of the Competition allowing them to enter the Stadium or a Venue. Ticketing shall include the management of the operation necessary for the production, sale, distribution, delivery and payment of the Tickets of the Competition.

**Travel and Tour Rights**

The right to organise and/or sub-license official travel and tour activities in relation to the Competition, which travel and tour activities shall, for the avoidance of doubt, include the provision of Tickets to a Match and/or Official Function of the Competition.

**Venue**

The Host City and immediate surrounding area in which a Stadium is located.

**Winner**

In the Preliminary Stage, Playoff Stage or Group Stage, the Participating Club who scores the higher number of goals in a Match, or where applicable, the higher number of Penalty Kicks.

In the Knockout Stage, the Participating Club who:

(i) scores the higher number of goals over both Matches; or

(ii) if tied, through the application of the Away Goals Rule; or

(iii) if still tied, 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 and AFC Committees.
1. Introduction

1.1. The AFC stages the AFC Cup annually for Participating Clubs.

1.2. These Regulations set out the rights, duties, and responsibilities of the AFC and the Participating Clubs (as well as their Member Associations and Leagues) taking part in the Competition.

1.3. 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.

1.4. Any rights and Proprietary Interests associated with the Competition that are not granted by these Regulations and/or specific agreements to any Member Association and/or any Participating Club(s) belong to the AFC.

1.5. Any reference to the AFC Statutes and to AFC and FIFA regulations refer to those valid at the time of application.
SECTION 2: RESPONSIBILITIES

2. **The Asian Football Confederation**

2.1 The AFC Competitions Committee shall be responsible for organising the Competition in accordance with the AFC Statutes. The AFC General Secretariat shall carry out the necessary administrative work in support of the AFC Competitions Committee.

2.2 The responsibilities of the AFC shall include, but are not limited to:

2.2.1. supervising general preparations and deciding on the Competition format, the draws, and the entries to the Competition;

2.2.2. determining the Match Schedule (cf Article 8);

2.2.3. selecting Stadia for the Competition after consultation with the Participating Clubs and their Member Associations (cf Article 19);

2.2.4. appointing Match Officials for each Match;

2.2.5. choosing the official football and stipulated technical material;

2.2.6. approving the choice of the WADA-accredited laboratories that will carry out the doping analyses (cf Article 68);

2.2.7. reporting cases where appropriate to the AFC Disciplinary Committee (cf Article 69);

2.2.8. replacing Participating Clubs that have withdrawn from the Competition (cf Articles 6 and 7);

2.2.9. dealing with cases of cancelled Matches or abandoned Matches (cf Articles 17 and 18);

2.2.10. dealing with cases of Force Majeure (cf Article 83);

2.2.11. providing insurance coverage for the AFC Delegation appointed to any Match from the time of their departure from their home Member Association to their departure from the Host Association (cf Article 74); and

2.2.12. dealing with any other aspect of the Competition that is not the responsibility of any other body of the AFC pursuant to these Regulations and/or the AFC Statutes (cf Article 84).
2.3. All decisions made by the AFC Competitions Committee and/or AFC General Secretariat are final and binding and not appealable.

2.4. All decisions made by the AFC Disciplinary Committee in relation to the Competition are subject to the operation of the AFC Disciplinary Code.

3. Participating Clubs and Member Associations

3.1. The principal obligations and responsibilities of each Participating Club and its Member Association are stipulated in the Participating Team Agreement (“PTA”), these Regulations, the AFC Statutes, and all other AFC regulations, directives, guidelines and circulars.

3.1.1. Each Participating Club that has qualified for the Competition (cf Article 5) must submit a PTA.

3.1.2. The PTA shall be completed and submitted to the AFC not later than the deadline provided by the AFC.

3.1.3. Failure to submit the PTA to the AFC by the deadline shall result in the non-participation of the Participating Club.

3.2. Each Participating Club shall ensure as a condition of its participation that every member of its Team Official Delegation for each Match is aware of and agrees to comply with the PTA.

3.3. Each Participating Club shall undertake to:

3.3.1. 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;

3.3.2. comply with the Laws of the Game laid down by the IFAB and published by FIFA;

3.3.3. accept that all the administrative, disciplinary and refereeing matters connected with the Competition shall be settled by the AFC in compliance with these Regulations;

3.3.4. field their strongest team throughout the Competition;

3.3.5. observe the principles of Fair Play;
3.3.6. ensure the good conduct of its Team Official Delegation who have been provided with an Accreditation Card and of any person carrying out duties on its behalf throughout the Competition, which includes but is not limited to their arrival on the territory of any Host Association until their departure;

3.3.6.1. failure to ensure the good conduct of its Team Official Delegation may result in the Participating Club being issued with a fine;

3.3.6.2. the AFC Disciplinary Committee may issue further sanctions in its discretion;

3.3.7. as Host Club, make the appropriate arrangements for the staging of Matches, in conjunction with its Member Association and the AFC General Secretariat, in accordance with these Regulations;

3.3.8. accept all the arrangements made by any Host Association in agreement with the AFC;

3.3.9. 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;

3.3.9.1. failure to attend and/or participate any official activity or event shall result in the Participating Club being fined at least USD10,000;

3.3.9.2. the AFC Disciplinary Committee may issue further sanctions in its discretion;

3.3.10. provide to the AFC, prior to the Competition, statistics and photographs of its Participating Players and Participating Officials, historical information related to its Participating Club and approved Stadium (including photographs), and any further data as requested and in accordance with instructions issued by the AFC; and

3.3.11. link the official URL for the Competition on its official website.

3.4. Each Participating Club (and its Member Association), at their own expense, are solely responsible throughout the Competition for:

3.4.1. the insurance coverage of:
3.4.1.1. its Team Official Delegation (including without limitation hospitalisation and surgical operations, team equipment), for all Matches;

3.4.1.2. its approved Stadium. A release of liability must be signed and returned to the AFC at least thirty (30) days before the start of the Competition. If such an indemnification is not received in due time, the Host Club agrees that the necessary insurance coverage may be concluded by the AFC and expensed to the Host Club;

3.4.2. all other necessary insurance policies, which must provide an appropriate guaranteed sum for injury and damage to persons, objects, and property, and correspond to the specific circumstances of the Participating Club. Such policies must cover all risks connected with the organising, hosting, and staging of the Competition, exempt the AFC from all claims and liabilities, and name the AFC as a co-insured. The AFC must be notified of all insurance policies, and may request copies of any and all policies at its discretion;

3.4.3. payment of incidental expenses and for any costs incurred by its Team Official Delegation (cf Article 43);

3.4.4. payment of any costs of extending the stay of any member of its Team Official Delegation in any Host Association (cf Article 43);

3.4.5. obtaining visas to enter the territory of a Host Association. This includes all costs related to the visa application process (cf Article 41);

3.4.6. 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 (cf Article 42); and

3.4.7. guaranteeing safety and security at its Venue and Stadium (cf Articles 4 and 19).

3.5. Each Participating Club and/or its Member Association shall indemnify, defend, and hold the AFC and all of its officers, directors, employees, representatives, agents, and all other auxiliary persons free and harmless against any and all liabilities, obligations, losses, damages, penalties, claims, actions, fines, and expenses (including reasonable legal expenses) of whatsoever kind or nature resulting from, arising out of, or attributable to, any non-compliance with these Regulations by the Member Associations, Participating Clubs, their Team Official Delegation, their affiliates and any third-parties contracted to the Participating Clubs or Member Associations.
3.6. The Champion may qualify directly and shall undertake, if required, to take part in the following competitions:

3.6.1. any intercontinental competition(s) arranged by the AFC with other confederations.

3.7. Participating Clubs are not authorised to represent the AFC or the Competition without the prior written approval of the AFC.

3.8. All Participating Players and Participating Officials ensure their presence at the AFC Awards Night in the calendar year if they are nominated for an annual AFC award.

3.9. Each Host Club and its Member Association shall ensure that any decision made by the AFC relating to its duties and responsibilities is enforced immediately.

4. Safety and Security

4.1. Each Host Club and its Member Association shall, in conjunction with the relevant government authorities and/or Stadium owners, devise, plan, and implement adequate security and safety measures for the Competition at all Controlled Access Areas within the Venue and other relevant locations to protect all relevant persons, including without limitation the AFC Delegation, Team Official Delegations, AFC Commercial Rights Partner, Licensees, Broadcasters, Media, and spectators.

4.2. Each Host Club and its Member Association shall issue a detailed security plan in the form of a binding agreement with, without limitation, the management of the Stadium, Official Training Site(s), and the Accommodation of the AFC Delegation and Team Official Delegations. This security plan shall be based upon the principles set out in the FIFA Stadium and Safety Regulations.

4.3. Each Host Club and its Member Association 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.
SECTION 3: ENTRY, WITHDRAWAL, MATCH SCHEDULE, COMPETITION SYSTEM

5. Entry

5.1. The AFC Competitions Committee shall determine which Participating Clubs shall be eligible to enter the Competition. Such determination shall be undertaken with reference to the AFC Member Association Ranking (MA Ranking).

5.2. Eligible Participating Clubs must complete the PTA and submit it to the AFC in accordance with Article 3 to confirm their entry into the Competition.

5.2.1. The name and/or logo of a Participating Club shall not directly refer to the name and/or logo of any third-party entity, whether or not that third-party entity is a commercial partner or sponsor of the Participating Club.

5.2.2. The AFC may grant an exception if one (1) of the following requirements are met:

5.2.2.1. the name of the Participating Club is a pre-existing name with long-term use. The third-party entity must have been directly involved in the creation of the Participating Club itself (by financial or other means); or

5.2.2.2. the Participating Club previously competed in an AFC competition utilizing the name.

5.3. All decisions by the AFC regarding entry to the Competition are final and binding and not appealable.

6. Withdrawal Prior to Commencement of the Competition

6.1. Any Participating Club that enters the Competition undertakes that it shall play all of its Matches as set out in the Match Schedule.

6.2. In the case of a Participating Club withdrawing or being excluded from the Competition, the AFC Competitions Committee shall be responsible for making any necessary decisions, including without limitation whether to:

6.2.1. replace the Participating Club;

6.2.2. change the competition system (cf Article 9); and/or
6.2.3. change the technical rules (cf Section 4).

6.3. All decisions of the AFC Competitions Committee in this regard are final and binding and not appealable.

6.4. Any Participating Club that withdraws up to thirty (30) days before its first Match shall be fined at least USD10,000.

6.5. Any Participating Club that withdraws less than thirty (30) days before its first Match shall be fined at least USD20,000.

6.6. The AFC Disciplinary Committee may impose further sanctions in its discretion.

7. Withdrawal After Commencement of the Competition

7.1. Any Participating Club that:

7.1.1. withdraws from the Competition after it has commenced; or

7.1.2. does not report for a Match; or

7.1.3. refuses to continue a Match; or

7.1.4. leaves the Stadium prior to the completion of a Match,

shall be considered to have withdrawn from the Competition after its commencement.

7.2. A Participating Club that withdraws from the Competition after it has commenced shall:

7.2.1. 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 11.5;

7.2.2. be required to pay compensation for any and all damages or losses suffered by, where applicable, the other Participating Club(s), the AFC, the AFC Commercial Rights Partner, Licensees, Broadcasters, and the Member Associations. The amount of compensation shall be determined by the AFC Executive Committee;

7.2.3. be disqualified from participating in the next two (2) editions of the Competition;
7.2.4. be disqualified from participating in any tournaments listed in Article 3.6, if qualification has been attained;

7.2.5. be fined:

7.2.5.1. USD20,000 if it withdraws after the commencement of the Preliminary Stage; or

7.2.5.2. at least USD30,000 if it withdraws after the commencement of the Playoff Stage; or

7.2.5.3. at least USD50,000 if it withdraws after the commencement of the Group Stage; or

7.2.5.4. at least USD100,000 if it withdraws after the commencement of the Knockout Stage.

7.2.6. be referred to the AFC Disciplinary Committee which may impose further sanctions in its discretion; and

7.2.7. 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 that Match Subsidy.

7.3. The AFC Competitions Committee shall take whatever action it deems necessary against a Member Association of a Participating Club that withdraws from the Competition after it has commenced.

7.4. The above Articles 7.1, 7.2 and 7.3 are not applicable in cases of Force Majeure recognised by the AFC Competitions Committee.

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

8. **Match Schedule**

8.1. All Matches shall be played in accordance with the AFC Competitions Calendar. The dates are final and binding and not appealable.

8.1.1. Participating Clubs shall indicate their preferred kick-off times upon entry to the Competition.

8.1.2. Where necessary for sporting reasons and taking into consideration the time zones, Matches in the same group of the Group Stage may be played simultaneously as instructed by AFC.
8.1.3. All kick-off times shall be determined by the AFC Competitions Committee, taking into consideration sporting, marketing, and broadcasting matters. Such decisions are final and binding and not appealable.

8.2. The Match Schedule shall be determined following the official draws for the Preliminary Stage, Playoff Stage, Group Stage and Knockout Stage. The date and format of the official draws shall be determined by the AFC Competitions Committee.

8.3. The AFC Competitions Committee retains final discretion to amend the Match Schedule.

9. **Competition System**

9.1. The Competition shall consist of four (4) stages:

9.1.1. the Preliminary Stage;

9.1.2. the Playoff Stage;

9.1.3. the Group Stage; and

9.1.4. the Knockout Stage.

9.2. The AFC Competitions Committee shall decide upon the format of the competition system. Such decisions are final and binding and not appealable.

9.3. Depending on the number of entries, or in the case of withdrawal or suspension of any Participating Clubs, the AFC Competitions Committee may change the competition system and/or technical rules. Such decisions are final and binding and not appealable.

10. **Preliminary Stage and Playoff Stage**

10.1. Each round of the Preliminary Stage and Playoff Stage shall be conducted in accordance with the Match Schedule. The Participating Club from the higher-ranked Member Association pursuant to the MA Ranking shall host the Match, which shall be played on a single knock-out basis.

10.2. The duration of Matches, including Extra Time and Penalty Kicks (if required), shall be played in accordance with Articles 14 to 16. The Away Goals Rule does not apply in the Preliminary Stage and Playoff Stage.
10.3. At the conclusion of each Match in the Preliminary Stage:

10.3.1. the Participating Club who is the Winner shall qualify for the next round of the Preliminary Stage. If it is the final round of the Preliminary Stage, the Participating Club shall qualify for the Playoff Stage; and

10.4. At the conclusion of each Match in the Playoff Stage:

10.4.1. the Participating Club who is the Winner shall qualify for the next round of the Playoff Stage. If it is the final round of the Playoff Stage, the Participating Club shall qualify for the Group Stage; and

10.4.2. the Participating Club who is the Loser shall be eliminated from the Competition.

11. Group Stage

11.1. The thirty two (32) Participating Clubs entered in the Group Stage shall be undertaken in accordance with the Manual. They shall be drawn into eight (8) groups of four (4) teams each.

11.1.1. Four (4) groups shall contain Participating Clubs from the West zone, South zone, and Central zone (West Region), and four (4) groups shall contain Participating Clubs from the East zone and ASEAN zone (East Region). The zones shall be in accordance with the AFC Statutes.

11.1.2. Participating Clubs from the same Member Association shall not be drawn in the same group.

11.1.3. The AFC Competitions Committee may decide to exceptionally depart from this system, taking into account sporting, geographic, and economic factors. Such decisions shall be final and binding and not appealable.

11.2. Each Participating Club shall play against the other Participating Clubs within its group in a home and away format in accordance with the Match Schedule. The match sequence shall be as follows (the number designates the position drawn):

11.2.1. MD 1: 1 v 4; 3 v 2
11.2.2. MD2 : 4 v 3; 2 v 1
11.2.3. MD3 : 4 v 2; 1 v 3
11.2.4. MD4 : 2 v 4; 3 v 1
11.2.5. MD5 : 4 v 1; 2 v 3
11.2.6. MD6 : 1 v 2; 3 v 4

11.3. The duration of Matches shall be played in accordance with Article 14.

11.4. At the conclusion of each Match:

11.4.1. three (3) points shall be awarded to the Winner;
11.4.2. one (1) point shall be awarded to each Participating Club for a draw;
11.4.3. zero (0) points shall be awarded to the Loser.

11.5. The ranking in each group shall be determined in descending order as follows:

11.5.1. higher number of points obtained in group Matches played among the Participating Clubs in question;

11.5.2. if two (2) or more Participating Clubs are equal on points on completion of the group Matches, the following criteria are applied to determine the ranking (in descending order):

11.5.2.1. higher number of points obtained in the group Matches played among the Participating Clubs in question;
11.5.2.2. superior goal difference from the group Matches played among the Participating Clubs in question;
11.5.2.3. higher number of goals scored in the group Matches played among the Participating Clubs in question;
11.5.2.4. higher number of goals scored away from home in the group Matches played among the Participating Clubs in question;
11.5.2.5. if, after having applied the above Articles two (2) or more Participating Clubs still have an equal ranking, they shall be reapplied exclusively to the Matches between the Participating Clubs in question to determine their final rankings. If this procedure is unsuccessful, Articles 11.5.2.6 to 11.5.2.10 shall apply;
11.5.2.6. superior goal difference from all group Matches played;
11.5.2.7. higher number of goals scored from all group Matches played;

11.5.2.8. Penalty Kicks if only the two (2) Participating Clubs are both on the Field of Play;

11.5.2.9. the lower score calculated according to the number of yellow and red cards received in group Matches (Appendix 1); or

11.5.2.10. the Participating Club who belongs to the Member Association with the higher MA Ranking.

11.6. On the basis of Article 11.5, at the conclusion of the Group Stage:

11.6.1. the first and second placed Participating Club in each group shall qualify for the Knockout Stage; and

11.6.2. the third and fourth placed Participating Club in each group shall be eliminated from the Competition.

12. **Knockout Stage**

12.1. The Knockout Stage shall consist of the Round of 16, Quarter Finals, Semi Finals, and Final.

12.2. The Round of 16 and the Final shall be conducted in accordance with the Match Schedule and played on single-Match knock-out basis.

12.3. The Quarter Finals and Semi Finals shall be conducted in accordance with the Match Schedule and played on a home and away knock-out basis.

12.3.1. The Participating Clubs from the West Region shall be drawn to play each other in the Round of 16, Quarter Finals, and Semi Finals.

12.3.2. The Participating Clubs from the East Region shall be drawn to play each other in the Round of 16, Quarter Finals, and Semi Finals.

12.4. The duration of Matches, including Extra Time and Penalty Kicks (if required), shall be played in accordance with Articles 14 to 16.

12.4.1. The Away Goals Rule shall only apply in accordance with Article 14.2.1.

12.5. At the conclusion of each tie in the Round of 16, Quarter Finals and Semi Finals:
12.5.1. the Winner shall qualify for the next round;

12.5.2. the Loser shall be eliminated.

12.6. At the conclusion of the Final:

12.6.1. the Winner shall be declared Champion; and

12.6.2. the Loser shall be declared Runner-Up.
SECTION 4: TECHNICAL REGULATIONS

13. Matches Played in Accordance with the Laws of the Game

13.1. All Matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game laid down by the IFAB and published by FIFA.

13.2. In case of any discrepancy in the interpretation of the Laws of the Game, the English version shall prevail and is authoritative.

13.3. Only three (3) substitutes listed on a Match Starting List (cf Article 35) may take part in a Match. Any Participating Player who has been substituted may take no further part in that Match.

13.4. At any stage of a Match, if a Participating Club is only able to field fewer than seven (7) players, the Match shall be abandoned and Article 18.3 shall apply.

14. Duration of Matches

14.1. Each Match shall last ninety (90) minutes, comprising of two (2) periods of forty-five (45) minutes (normal playing time). Matches shall start at the time set out in the Match Schedule.

14.2. 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.

14.2.1. The Away Goals Rule shall only apply at the conclusion of normal playing time of the second Match in any tie in the Knockout Stage. It shall not apply in Extra Time of any Match.

14.3. A Participating Club that causes a delay in the commencement of the first period of the Match and/or the second period of the Match may be sanctioned by the AFC Disciplinary Committee.

15. Extra Time

15.1. If no Winner is determined at the end of normal playing time during the Preliminary Stage, Playoff Stage or Knockout Stage, Extra Time shall be played.
15.2. 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.

15.3. A Participating Club that causes a delay in the commencement of the first period of Extra Time and/or the second period of Extra Time may be sanctioned by the AFC Disciplinary Committee.

16. **Determining the Winner by Penalty Kicks**

16.1. If a Match is level after Extra Time, Penalty Kicks shall be taken to determine the Winner, in accordance with the procedures described in the Laws of the Game.

16.2. 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 Match Commissioner and the two (2) captains of the Participating Clubs.

16.3. If, through the fault of a Participating Club, the Penalty Kicks cannot be completed, Article 7 of these Regulations shall apply.

17. **Cancellation of Matches**

17.1. If a Match cannot commence for any reason, the following procedure shall be followed:

17.1.1. 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;

17.1.2. following the first delay, either:

17.1.2.1. 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

17.1.2.2. the Match is declared cancelled by the Referee;

17.1.3. following two (2) delays of thirty (30) minutes, the Referee must declare the Match cancelled.

17.2. For any match which is cancelled as a result of Force Majeure, the AFC Competitions Committee shall decide on the matter at its sole discretion and take whatever action is deemed necessary.
17.2.1. Decisions made pursuant to Article 17.2 are final and binding and not appealable.

17.3. Any Match which is cancelled, except in cases of Force Majeure recognised by the AFC Competitions Committee, may lead to the imposition of sanctions by the AFC Disciplinary Committee against the relevant party that has caused the cancellation in accordance with the AFC Disciplinary Code.

18. Abandonment of Matches

18.1. If a Match is stopped by the Referee for any other reason except for that set out in Article 13.4, the following procedure shall be followed:

18.1.1. 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;

18.1.2. subsequent to the first stoppage, either:

18.1.2.1. 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

18.1.2.2. the Match is declared abandoned by the Referee;

18.1.3. following two (2) stoppages of thirty (30) minutes, the Referee must declare the Match abandoned.

18.2. For any Match which is abandoned as a result of Force Majeure, the AFC Competitions Committee shall decide on the matter at its sole discretion and take whatever action is deemed necessary.

18.2.1. Decisions made pursuant to Article 18.2 are final and binding and not appealable.

18.3. Any Match which is abandoned, except in cases of Force Majeure recognised by the AFC Competitions Committee, may lead to the imposition of sanctions by the AFC Disciplinary Committee against the relevant party that has caused the abandonment in accordance with the AFC Disciplinary Code.

18.4. Should the AFC, pursuant to Article 18.2 or Article 18.3, determine that an abandoned Match should be rescheduled and completed, the following principles shall apply:
18.4.1. the Match shall recommence with the same score at the minute at which play was interrupted rather than being replayed in full;

18.4.2. the Match shall recommence with the same Participating Players on the Field of Play and same substitutes at the time it was initially abandoned;

18.4.3. no additional substitutes may be added to the Player Selection List or Match Starting List;

18.4.4. the Participating Clubs may only make the number of substitutions to which they were still entitled when the Match was abandoned;

18.4.5. any Participating Player sent off during the abandoned Match cannot be replaced;

18.4.6. any sanction imposed before the Match was abandoned remain valid for the remainder of the rescheduled Match;

18.4.7. the kick-off time, date and Stadium of the re-scheduled Match shall be decided by the AFC; and

18.4.8. any other matters not set out above shall be decided by the AFC in its sole discretion.

18.5. If a Match is stopped by the Referee before the end of normal playing time or during any Extra Time as a result of a Participating Club being able to only field fewer than seven (7) Participating Players, the Match shall be declared abandoned and the Participating Club who is able to field more than seven (7) Participating Players shall be declared the Winner by the score 3-0, or the score at the time of abandonment, whichever is higher.

18.6. Decisions made pursuant to Article 18.4.8 are final and binding and not appealable.

19. Stadium

19.1. Unless stipulated in these Regulations, Matches must be played in a Stadium which complies with:

19.1.1. the AFC Stadium Regulations;

19.1.2. the Appendix 6; and

19.1.3. any other safety and security standards issued by or contained within relevant AFC guidelines, directives, or circulars.
19.2. The Stadium to be utilised by each Participating Club shall be nominated in the Entry Form and subject to inspection and confirmation by the AFC.

19.2.1. The Stadium nominated shall be the normal home stadium of the Participating Club for matches in its League, unless otherwise instructed by the AFC.

19.2.2. The AFC reserves the right to refuse the nomination of a Stadium and require a Participating Club to play their Matches in a different stadium within the same Venue or territory of its Member Association, or alternatively in a neutral Venue.

19.3. Each Participating Club must play their home Matches in the one and only Stadium approved by the AFC throughout the Competition.

19.3.1. A Participating Club cannot change Stadium during the Competition unless forced to do so because of circumstances beyond its control.

19.3.2. Should a Participating Club wish to change Stadium during the Competition, it must provide evidence to the AFC, including without limitation photographs, other visual evidence, and letters from the relevant authorities as to why the Stadium is unable to host Matches, at least thirty (30) days prior to their next home Match.

19.3.3. Only upon receipt of the evidence shall the AFC make a decision on whether the Participating Club may nominate a new Stadium for home Matches. Such Stadium must comply with Articles 19.1 and 19.2.

19.3.4. The AFC shall decide whether to approve the new nominated Stadium. Should the AFC be required to conduct an inspection, all costs shall be borne by the Participating Club and/or its Member Association.

19.3.5. Should the new nominated Stadium not be approved, or should a Participating Club be unable to play home Matches in their one and only Stadium approved by the AFC and not nominate a new Stadium, the AFC General Secretariat shall select an alternate Stadium in accordance with Article 19.2.2.

19.4. Participating Clubs who are required to play home Matches in a Neutral Venue shall comply with the matters set out in Appendix 2.

19.5. If at any time during the Competition the AFC deems that, for whatever reason, a Stadium is not fit to stage a Match, it shall consult with the Participating Club and its Member Association and propose an alternate Stadium which complies with the requirement in Article 19.1.
19.5.1. Should the Participating Club not be able to propose an acceptable alternate Stadium within any deadline set by the AFC, or refuse to partake in Matches in the proposed alternate Stadium of the AFC General Secretariat, it shall be considered to have withdrawn from the Competition in accordance with Article 7.

19.6. Participating Clubs shall ensure that no matches and/or other activities are held at any Stadia approved to host Matches in the Competition at least two (2) days prior to a Match, unless written permission has been obtained from the AFC.

19.6.1. A Participating Club that fails to comply with Article 19.6 shall be fined at least USD10,000.

19.6.2. The AFC Disciplinary Committee may issue further sanctions in its discretion.

19.7. Each Match of the Final shall be played in a Stadium approved by the AFC with a minimum capacity of forty thousand (40,000) spectators. The Venue shall be decided by the AFC taking into consideration all logistical factors, including without limitation, accommodation and transportation.

20. **Field of Play**

20.1. Each Host Club shall ensure that the Field of Play is in top condition.

20.2. If a Host Club considers the Field of Play unfit, it shall immediately inform the AFC, the Away Club and the Match Officials before their departure to the Venue.

20.2.1. A Participating Club that fails to comply with Article 20.2 shall be liable for all costs incurred for the travel, board, and lodging expenses of the parties involved.

20.3. The AFC Match Commissioner and Match Officials will inspect each Stadium prior to the Match and ensure that all arrangements are in accordance with the Laws of the Game. If the conditions of the Field of Play including the dimension of the goal and field are not in accordance with the Laws of the Game, the AFC Match Commissioner shall issue instructions for the Host Club to ensure rectification.

20.3.1. If, in the opinion of the AFC Match Commissioner and Match Officials, the instructions issued pursuant to Article 20.3 are not complied with by the start of the Match, the Host Club shall forfeit the Match in accordance with the AFC Disciplinary Code.
20.4. If there is any doubt regarding the condition of the Field of Play prior to the Match, the Referee shall decide whether the Field of Play is playable. If the Referee declares that the Match cannot commence on time, Article 17 shall apply.

21. **Team Bench and Technical Area**

21.1. A maximum of eight (8) Participating Officials and a maximum of seven (7) Participating Players are permitted to sit on the team bench during a Match, provided they are in possession of the appropriate Accreditation Card.

21.2. All individuals on the team bench must wear kit that contrasts with the kit of the Players and Match Officials on the Field of Play. This kit must comply with the AFC Equipment Regulations (cf Article 58).

21.3. The Host Club shall occupy the team bench on the left when facing the Field of Play when viewed from the Fourth Official bench.

22. **Warming up**

22.1. Each Participating Club is entitled to warm-up on the Field of Play before a Match if the weather and field condition permits.

22.2. During a Match, a maximum of six (6) Participating Players from each Participating Club 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 Match Commissioner. These Participating Players may be assisted by two (2) Participating Officials.

22.3. If there is no space to warm-up behind the goal, a maximum of three (3) Participating Players from each Participating Club may warm up simultaneously without a ball (except goalkeepers) behind Assistant Referee 1. These Participating Players may be assisted by one (1) Participating Official.

22.4. After a Participating Club has utilised all three (3) substitutions, no further warm-up is permitted.

23. **Official Training at the Stadium**

23.1. Depending on the weather and pitch condition, each Participating Club is entitled to an official training of maximum sixty (60) minutes duration in the
Stadium in which are due to play either one (1) or two (2) days prior to their Match at the same time as the kick-off of the Match.

23.1.1. If the Field of Play is an artificial pitch, each Participating Club is entitled to two (2) official training sessions of sixty (60) minutes duration to be held one (1) and/or (2) days prior to their Match.

23.2. The Field of Play must be prepared to match-condition for official training. If the Field of Play is not in match-condition, the AFC Match Commissioner may shorten or cancel the official training and direct the Participating Clubs to inspect the Field of Play wearing training shoes only.

23.3. If a Participating Club chooses not to train at a Stadium, they must provide the AFC Match Commissioner with the time and location of their official training at another designated Official Training Site approved by the AFC. This shall be treated as their official training and they shall forfeit the right to train at that particular Stadium.

23.4. The Host Club is required to provide at least one (1) ambulance during the official training session at the Stadium.

24. **Official Training Sites**

24.1. Unless stipulated in these Regulations, official training sessions must be undertaken in an Official Training Site which complies with:

24.1.1. **Appendix 6**; and

24.1.2. any other safety and security standards issued by or contained within relevant AFC guidelines, directives, or circulars.

24.2. Official Training Sites to be utilised shall be nominated in the Entry Form and subject to inspection and confirmation by the AFC. All costs related to inspection shall be borne by the nominating Participating Club.

24.2.1. The AFC reserves the right to refuse the nomination of an Official Training Site and require a Participating Club to nominate an alternate Official Training Site.

24.2.2. Official Training Sites shall be situated no more than thirty (30) minutes or thirty (30) kilometres from the Accommodation of the Away Club, unless approved by the AFC.

24.3. Official Training Sites shall contain a fully equipped training field prepared to Match-condition.
24.3.1. A Host Club that fails to comply with Article 24.3 shall be fined at least USD10,000.

24.3.2. The AFC Disciplinary Committee may issue further sanctions in its discretion.

24.4. Official Training Sites shall be made available at least two (2) days prior to the Match. They shall not be used for any other purpose during this period, unless written permission has been obtained from the AFC.

24.4.1. A Host Club that fails to comply with Article 24.4 shall be fined at least USD10,000.

24.4.2. The AFC Disciplinary Committee may issue further sanctions in its discretion.

24.5. If at any time during the Competition the AFC General Secretariat deems that, for whatever reason, an Official Training Site is not fit to stage an official training, it shall consult with the relevant Participating Club and propose an alternate Official Training Site.

25. **Footballs**

25.1. The footballs for the Competition shall be selected and supplied by the AFC.

25.2. Each Participating Club shall receive:

   25.2.1. fifteen (15) footballs for training prior to the Competition; and

   25.2.2. for each Match as Host Club, ten (10) footballs for each Match.

25.3. Participating Clubs are only permitted to use the training footballs provided by the AFC for training and warming-up purposes. Away Clubs are required to utilise the footballs as provided by Article 25.2.1 during away Matches.

25.4. Each Member Association and/or its Participating Club(s) are responsible for any taxes and/or fees pertaining to the customs clearance of footballs delivered to their Member Association.
SECTION 5: TEAM OFFICIAL DELEGATION

26. Eligibility of Players

26.1. Each Participating Club shall ensure that all players:

26.1.1. are duly registered with the AFC pursuant to these Regulations; and

26.1.2. are duly registered by the Participating Club with its Member Association pursuant to its transfer rules and those set out in the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players.

26.2. Individuals who meet the criteria set out in Article 26.1 are Participating Players and eligible to participate in the Competition, subject to the provisions of the AFC Disciplinary Code.

26.3. The approval of the registration of a Participating Player by the AFC General Secretariat does not automatically provide for the eligibility of the Participating Player. Each Participating Club is responsible for and bears the onus of fielding only eligible Participating Players in a Match. Failure to do so shall lead to the consequences stipulated in the AFC Disciplinary Code.

26.4. A Participating Player shall be deemed ineligible, without limitation, if:

26.4.1. there is a violation of Article 26.1; or

26.4.2. 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

26.4.3. the AFC determines that any document submitted during registration is false.

27. Stages of Registration of Players

27.1. There are three (3) stages of player registration:

27.1.1. Preliminary Registration (cf Articles 29 to 31);

27.1.2. Player Selection List (cf Article 34); and

27.1.3. Match Starting List (cf Article 35).
28. **Registration Windows**

28.1. There are three (3) registration windows for the Competition. Each registration window shall open on a date as communicated by the AFC. The registration window shall close as follows:-

28.1.1. **Registration Window 1**: for Participating Clubs entering at the Preliminary Stage or Playoff Stage, closing twenty three (23) days prior to the first Match of the Preliminary Stage.

28.1.2. **Registration Window 2**: for Participating Clubs entering at the Group Stage, closing thirty (30) days prior to the first Match of the Group Stage;

28.1.3. **Registration Window 3**: for Participating Clubs who qualify for the Quarter Finals, closing thirty (30) days prior to the first Match of the Quarter Finals.

28.2. Participating Players and Participating Officials registered pursuant to the replacement provisions contained in Articles 29.4, 30.4, and 31.4 are considered to have been registered during the same registration window covered by those replacement provisions.

29. **Registration Window 1 (Preliminary Stage, Playoff Stage, Group Stage, Round of 16)**

29.1. Each Participating Club shall submit to the AFC via AFCAS its registration of Participating Players and supporting documents in accordance with Article 32.

29.2. Each Participating Club must register minimum eighteen (18) and maximum thirty (30) Participating Players each allocated a playing number between 1 and 99.

29.2.1. Each Participating Club must register minimum three (3) Participating Players as goalkeepers, regardless of the squad size registered. Playing number 1 shall be reserved for a goalkeeper.

29.2.2. Throughout the Competition, each Participating Player shall wear the same playing number allocated during their first registration. Participating Players registered as replacements (cf Article 29.4) may only be allocated a new playing number.
29.3. If a Participating Club fails to register the minimum eighteen (18) Participating Players by the stipulated deadline, it shall be considered to have withdrawn in accordance with Article 6. Proof of submission by facsimile, courier and/or email will not be accepted.

29.4. Once the registration of Participating Players has been received by the AFC and after the stipulated deadline has lapsed, Participating Clubs may:

**Preliminary Stage and Playoff Stage**

29.4.1. No later than seven (7) days prior to their first Match in the Competition, replace up to three (3) Participating Players in the event that they are deemed medically unfit to play. The AFC must receive:

29.4.1.1. a detailed medical assessment in English by a certified doctor. This assessment may be reviewed by a member of the AFC Medical Committee to confirm whether the injury is sufficiently serious to prevent the Participating Player from taking part in the Competition; and,

29.4.1.2. the supporting documents of the replacement Participating Player as stipulated in Article 32.

29.4.2. No later than seven (7) days prior to their first Match in the Competition, replace or add up to five (5) Participating Players for any reason provided that the maximum number of registered players is not exceeded.

29.4.3. For the avoidance of doubt, a Participating Club may replace or add, subject to the relevant provision, a maximum of eight (8) Participating Players during this replacement period.

**Group Stage (if qualified)**

29.4.4. No later than seven (7) days prior to MD1 of the Group Stage, replace up to three (3) Participating Players in the event that they are deemed medically unfit to play. The AFC must receive:

29.4.4.1. a detailed medical assessment in English by a certified doctor. This assessment may be reviewed by a member of the AFC Medical Committee to confirm whether the injury is sufficiently serious to prevent the Participating Player from taking part in the Competition; and

29.4.4.2. the supporting documents of the replacement Participating Player as stipulated in Article 32.
29.4.5. No later than seven (7) days prior to MD1 of the Group Stage, replace or add up to five (5) Participating Players for any reason provided that the maximum number of registered players is not exceeded.

29.4.6. For the avoidance of doubt, a Participating Club may replace or add, subject to the relevant provision, a maximum of eight (8) Participating Players during this replacement period.

Round of 16 (if qualified)

29.4.7. No replacement or addition of Participating Players is permitted.

29.5. A Participating Player registered pursuant to the replacement provisions shall not be eligible to participate in the Competition until he receives an Accreditation Card.

30. **Registration Window 2 (Group Stage, Round of 16)**

30.1. Each Participating Club shall submit to the AFC via AFCAS its registration of Participating Players and supporting documents in accordance with Article 32.

30.2. Each Participating Club must register minimum eighteen (18) and maximum thirty (30) Participating Players each allocated a playing number between 1 and 99.

30.2.1. Each Participating Club must register minimum three (3) Participating Players as goalkeepers, regardless of the squad size registered. Playing number 1 shall be reserved for a goalkeeper.

30.2.2. Throughout the Competition, each Participating Player shall wear the same playing number allocated during their first registration. Participating Players registered as replacements (cf Article 30.4) may only be allocated a new playing number.

30.3. If a Participating Club fails to register the minimum eighteen (18) Participating Players by the stipulated deadline, it shall be considered to have withdrawn in accordance with Articles 6. Proof of submission by facsimile, courier and/or email will not be accepted.

30.4. Once the registration of Participating Players has been received by the AFC and after the stipulated deadline has lapsed, Participating Clubs may:
Group Stage

30.4.1. No later than seven (7) days prior to MD1 of the Group Stage, replace up to three (3) Participating Players in the event that they are deemed medically unfit to play. The AFC must receive:

30.4.1.1. a detailed medical assessment in English by a certified doctor. This assessment may be reviewed by a member of the AFC Medical Committee to confirm whether the injury is sufficiently serious to prevent the Participating Player from taking part in the Competition; and,

30.4.1.2. the supporting documents of the replacement Participating Player as stipulated in Article 32.

30.4.2. No later than seven (7) days prior to MD1 of the Group Stage, replace or add up to five (5) Participating Players for any reason provided that the maximum number of registered players is not exceeded.

30.4.3. For the avoidance of doubt, a Participating Club may replace or add, subject to the relevant provision, a maximum of eight (8) Participating Players during this replacement period.

Round of 16 (if qualified)

30.4.4. No replacement or addition of Participating Players is permitted.

30.5. A Participating Player registered pursuant to the replacement provisions shall not be eligible to participate in the Competition until he receives an Accreditation Card.

31. Registration Window 3 (Quarter Finals, Semi Finals, Final)

31.1. Each Participating Club shall submit to the AFC via AFCAS its registration of Participating Players and supporting documents in accordance with Article 32.

31.2. Each Participating Club must register minimum eighteen (18) and maximum thirty (30) Participating Players each allocated a playing number between 1 and 99.

31.2.1. Each Participating Club must register minimum three (3) Participating Players as goalkeepers, regardless of the squad size registered. Playing number 1 shall be reserved for a goalkeeper.
31.2.2. Participating Players shall wear the same playing number allocated during Registration Window 1 and/or Registration Window 2. Participating Players registered as replacements (cf Article 31.4) or newly registered Participating Players may only be allocated a new playing number.

31.3. If a Participating Club fails to submit its registration of Participating Players by the stipulated deadline, it shall be considered to have registered the same Participating Players registered for the Group Stage in the relevant registration window. Proof of submission by facsimile, courier and/or email will not be accepted.

31.3.1. In such cases, the AFC shall send an official confirmation form to the Participating Club to confirm the registration of the Participating Players for the Quarter Finals, Semi Finals, and Final.

31.3.2. The Participating Club shall indicate which registered Participating Players are no longer validly registered with the Participating Club (e.g. they have retired).

31.4. Once the “AFC Official Registration Form for Players” has been received by the AFC, and after the stipulated deadline has passed, Participating Clubs may:

31.4.1. No later than seven (7) days prior to the first Match of the Quarter Finals, replace up to three (3) Participating Players in the event that they are deemed medically unfit to play. The AFC must receive:

31.4.1.1. a detailed medical assessment in English by a certified doctor. This assessment may be reviewed by a member of the AFC Medical Committee to confirm whether the injury is sufficiently serious to prevent the Participating Player from taking part in the Competition; and,

31.4.1.2. the supporting documents of the replacement Participating Player as stipulated in Article 32.

31.5. No further replacement or addition of Participating Players shall be permitted.

31.6. A Participating Player registered pursuant to the replacement provisions shall not be eligible to participate in the Competition until he receives an Accreditation Card.
32. **Documents for Registration of Players**

32.1. Participating Players must be registered via the AFCAS online system, with the supporting documents set out below (unless previously submitted and available in AFCAS):

32.1.1. a colour copy of a valid passport, containing the full name, passport number, date of birth, place of birth, date of issue, date of expiry and nationality of the relevant individual. Group passports shall not be accepted;

32.1.2. a colour copy of a national identification card (where applicable);

32.1.3. a colour copy of a birth certificate (where requested by the AFC);

32.1.4. one (1) passport-size colour photo (taken within three (3) months);

32.1.5. a copy of a valid contract, entered into between the Participating Player and Participating Club, which contains the contract period and is in accordance with the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players. If the contract is not in English, an accredited translation shall be provided;

32.1.6. (for amateur players only) a copy of the template AFC Memorandum of Understanding for Amateur Players, which is set out at Appendix 3 of these Regulations;

32.1.7. (for foreign players only, cf Article 33.1) a copy of the FIFA International Transfer Certificate (ITC) or evidence to demonstrate that an ITC has been issued in accordance with the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players. An ITC may be submitted after the close of the relevant registration window only in accordance with Article 33.6.

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

32.3. All Participating Players will be issued with Accreditation Cards authorised by the AFC. Should a card be misplaced, the Participating Club shall be required to pay USD1,000 as a replacement production fee.

33. **Player Status**

33.1. Each Participating Club may register three (3) non-citizen or foreign Participating Players. Each Participating Club may register one (1) additional non-citizen or foreign Participating Player who has the nationality of a Member Association.
33.1.1. Any Participating Player who has acquired citizenship (e.g. through naturalisation) and wishes to participate in the Competition utilising that nationality must demonstrate:

33.1.1.1. that the citizenship was acquired more than one (1) year before MD1 of the Group Stage of the Competition.

33.1.2. Any Participating Player who is eligible to represent more than one (1) Football Association on account of his citizenship and wishes to participate in the Competition utilising the nationality of a Member Association must demonstrate one (1) of the following:

33.1.2.1. that he has participated in an official competition for a representative team of the relevant Member Association; or

33.1.2.2. that he was eligible to participate for a representative team of the relevant Member Association in accordance with the FIFA Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes at least one (1) year before MD1 of the Group Stage of the Competition.

33.1.3. Any Participating Player who does not meet the relevant requirements stipulated above shall not be eligible to take part in the Competition utilising that nationality.

33.1.4. A Participating Player cannot change his nationality of registration for the duration of the Competition.

33.2. A Participating Player shall be registered to maximum one (1) Participating Club per registration window.

33.3. A Participating Player shall be eligible to represent maximum one (1) Participating Club per Stage of the Competition. A Participating Player that has represented a Participating Club in a Stage of the Competition cannot be registered for another Participating Club in that same Stage.

33.4. If a violation of Articles 33.2 or 33.3 occurs:

33.4.1. the Participating Player may be sanctioned with a ban on participating in minimum one (1) future edition of the Competition, unless he can demonstrate that extenuating circumstances existed;

33.4.2. the Participating Club shall forfeit any Match in which the Participating Player has been fielded in accordance with the AFC Disciplinary Code; and
33.4.3. the Participating Club shall be considered to have withdrawn from the Competition in accordance with Article 7.

33.4.4. The AFC Disciplinary Committee may issue further sanctions in its discretion.

33.5. For the purposes of the contract of a Participating Player, his date of registration to a Participating Club shall be:

33.5.1. For Participating Players who transferred internationally to the Participating Club, the official date of the ITC submitted in accordance with Article 32;

33.5.2. For Participating Players who transferred domestically to the Participating Club or are a ‘homegrown’ player, the official date of the contract submitted in accordance with Article 32.

33.6. For the purposes of Article 32.1.7, an ITC shall only be accepted after the close of a registration window where:

33.6.1. the Participating Club entered into a valid contract with the player prior to the close of the registration window and submitted this to the AFC; and

33.6.2. (for Registration Window 1) a copy of the ITC or evidence to demonstrate that an ITC has been issued in accordance with the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players is submitted via the AFCAS online system no more than seven (7) days prior to their first Match of the Competition; or

33.6.3. (for Registration Window 2) a copy of the ITC or evidence to demonstrate that an ITC has been issued in accordance with the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players is submitted via the AFCAS online system no more than seven (7) days prior to MD1 of the Group Stage; or

33.6.4. (for Registration Window 3) a copy of the ITC or evidence to demonstrate that an ITC has been issued in accordance with the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players is submitted via the AFCAS online system no more than seven (7) days prior to the first Match in the Quarter Finals.
34. **Player Selection List**

34.1. For all Matches, each Participating Club will receive a ‘Player Selection List’ one day prior to the Match.

34.2. Each Participating Club must hand their Player Selection List signed by the Head Coach or Team Manager together with the “Officials on the Substitution Bench” to the AFC Match Commissioner at latest ninety (90) minutes prior to the commencement of each Match.

34.2.1. Each Participating Player who is marked on the Player Selection List must be available at the Player and Equipment Check undertaken by the AFC Match Commissioner on Match day (cf Article 38).

34.2.2. Each Participating Club may select up to three (3) non-citizen or foreign Participating Players and one (1) additional foreign Participating Player with the nationality of a Member Association on the Player Selection List.

35. **Match Starting List**

35.1. Upon receipt of the Player Selection List, the AFC Match Commissioner will issue the ‘Match Starting List’.

35.2. The Match Starting List shall be signed by the AFC Match Commissioner, whose signature will make it an official document.

35.3. The AFC Match Commissioner will check the Accreditation Cards and playing kits of the Participating Players listed on the Match Starting List seventy five (75) minutes before the Match in each team dressing room. Only those Participating Players possessing an Accreditation Card are entitled to participate in Matches.

35.4. Following the finalisation of the Match Starting List but prior to the commencement of the Match:

35.4.1. 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.

35.4.2. The Team Manager for the Participating Club shall immediately notify the Referees and the AFC Match Commissioner of the change to the Match Starting List.
35.4.3. There is no limit to the number of Participating Players that may be replaced pursuant to Article 35.4.1.

35.4.4. The replaced Participating Player(s) shall no longer be eligible to participate in the Match. The Participating Club may still undertake three (3) substitutions during the Match in accordance with Article 13.3.

35.4.5. No Participating Players listed as substitutes on the Match Starting List may be replaced. Should such a Participating Player be unable to be fielded for any reason, the number of listed substitutes shall be reduced accordingly.

36. **Registration of Officials**

36.1. Each Participating Club shall submit to the AFC via AFCAS its registration of Participating Officials and the supporting documents in accordance with Article 37 by the deadline stipulated for the relevant registration window.

36.2. Each Participating Club may register maximum twelve (12) Participating Officials.

36.3. Up to eight (8) officials may be registered for each Match. The following two (2) Participating Officials must be registered in the “Participating Officials on the Substitution Bench” Form by the AFC Match Commissioner:

36.3.1. Head Coach; and

36.3.2. Team Manager.

36.4. Each Participating Club may register any other six (6) Participating Officials for any other positions, including without limitation:

36.4.1. Assistant Coach 1;

36.4.2. Assistant Coach 2;

36.4.3. Goalkeeper Coach;

36.4.4. Team Media Officer;

36.4.5. Team Doctor;

36.4.6. Physiotherapist (or Sports Trainer, Physical Trainer, or other similar function);

36.4.7. Interpreter;
36.4.8. Technical Director; and/or

36.4.9. Equipment Manager.

36.5. Should the Participating Club nominate less than eight (8) Participating Officials on the “Officials on the Substitution Bench” Form or the AFC does not approve the registration of any person(s) nominated, the number of Participating Officials permitted on the team bench shall reduce proportionately.

36.6. All Participating Officials will be issued with official eligibility cards authorised by the AFC Competitions Committee. Should a card be misplaced, the Participating Club shall be required to pay USD1,000 as a replacement production fee.

36.7. For Registration Windows 1 and 2, should the AFC not receive the registration of Participating Officials in AFCAS with all required documents by the stipulated deadlines, the Participating Club shall be considered to have withdrawn from the Competition in accordance with Article 6. Proof of submission by facsimile, courier and/or email will not be accepted.

36.8. For Registration Window 3, should the AFC not receive the registration of Participating Officials in AFCAS with all required documents by the stipulated deadlines, the Participating Club shall be considered to have registered the same Participating Officials registered for the Group Stage and Round of 16 in the relevant registration window. Proof of submission by facsimile, courier and/or email will not be accepted.

36.8.1. The AFC shall send an official confirmation form to the Participating Club to confirm the registration of the Participating Officials for the Quarter Finals, Semi Finals, and Final.

36.8.2. The Participating Club shall indicate which registered Participating Officials are no longer validly registered with the Participating Club (e.g. they have had their employment terminated or retired).

36.9. Once the registration of Participating Officials has been received by the AFC, Participating Clubs may replace any of the listed Participating Officials at any stage of the Competition no later than seven (7) days before a Match, subject to the provision of the relevant documents in Article 37. Only when a replacement Participating Official has received his Accreditation Card will he be eligible to participate in the Competition.
37. Documents for Registration of Officials

37.1. Participating Officials must be registered via the AFCAS online system, with the supporting documents set out below (unless previously submitted and available in AFCAS):

37.1.1. a colour copy of a validly-issued passport, containing the full name, passport number, date of birth, place of birth, date of issue, date of expiry and nationality of the relevant individual. Group passports shall not be accepted;

37.1.2. a colour copy of a national identification card (where applicable);

37.1.3. one (1) passport-size colour photo (taken within three (3) months);

37.1.4. evidence of their qualification based upon their function:

37.1.4.1. Head Coach and Assistant Coach: as set out in Appendix 4 of these Regulations;

37.1.4.2. Team Manager: full-time employment contract;

37.1.4.3. Team Media Officer: qualification in the field of communications or evidence of related experience and full-time employment contract; and

37.1.4.4. Team Doctor: relevant medical qualification.

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

38. Size of Delegation at Matches

38.1. Each Participating Club shall register a Team Official Delegation comprising of maximum eighteen (18) Participating Players and between four (4) and eight (8) Participating Officials for each Match.

38.2. 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.

38.3. Team Manager and Team Media Officer shall be responsible for coordinating all Participating Club and media-related matters with the AFC. They shall be expected to work in a full-time, exclusive capacity from two (2) days prior until one (1) day after each Match. They shall participate in all Official Functions
related to Matches in the Competition, including without limitation the Match Coordination Meeting and all press conferences.

38.4. Each Participating Club shall nominate maximum eight (8) Participating Officials to sit on the team bench. 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.

38.4.1. Each Participating Club must register a Head Coach and Team Manager for each Match.

38.5. Participating Clubs shall ensure that no unauthorised persons are permitted entry into the team dressing room, Field of Play, or any other Controlled Access Area requiring an Accreditation Card.
SECTION 6: LOGISTICAL ARRANGEMENTS

39. Arrival and Departure at away Matches

39.1. Each Participating Club shall arrive at the official hotel at the Venue of each away Match in the Competition at least two (2) days before the Match.

39.1.1. Should a Participating Club wish to arrive at the Venue only one (1) day before the Match, they shall submit their request via official letter to the AFC with valid reasons and arrival flight itinerary details at least seven (7) days prior to the Match.

39.1.2. Should the AFC accept such a request, the late arrival of the Participating Club shall not interrupt the timing of Official Functions and/or the participation of the Participating Club in Official Functions.

39.2. Each Participating Club shall depart the Venue the day following each away Match in the Competition.

39.3. Participating Clubs shall not play in any non-official matches when travelling to and from the Venue of an away Match.

39.4. Should an Away Club arrive more than (2) days before a Match or depart more than one (1) day after a Match, it shall bear all the costs relating to those additional days in the Venue.

40. Airfares

40.1. Each Participating Club is responsible for payment of all airfares (international and domestic) for their Team Official Delegation for away Matches from:

40.1.1. their departure from the territory of their Member Association (or any other location) to the Venue of their away Match; and

40.1.2. their departure from the Venue of their away Match.

40.2. Each Participating Club 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 Association.

40.3. Any costs relating to non-compliance with Articles 40.1 and/or 40.2 shall be borne by the relevant Participating Club.
41. **Visas**

41.1. Participating Clubs, where applicable, must apply for all necessary visas for their Team Official Delegation to attend away Matches, including potential away Matches, taking into account successful qualification for a further stage of the Competition, no later than thirty (30) days prior to each Match. The visa application costs shall be borne by the Participating Club.

41.1.1. Any Participating Club unable to fulfill a fixture as a result of non-compliance with Article 41.1 shall be considered to have withdrawn in accordance with Article 7.

41.2. Host Clubs and their Member Associations must guarantee and ensure that visas are granted to the AFC Delegation, Away Club Team Official Delegation, including any potential Away Club Team Official Delegation taking into account successful future qualification for a further stage of the Competition, AFC Commercial Rights Partner, Licensees, Broadcasters, Media, and travelling supporters, without any discrimination on the basis of ethnic origin, gender, race, nationality, politics or any reason.

41.2.1. Should it be determined that Article 41.2 has been violated, provided that the Away Club has complied with Article 41.1, the Host Club shall forfeit any affected Match in accordance with the AFC Disciplinary Code.

42. **Taxes**

42.1. Host Clubs and/or their Member Associations are responsible for 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.

42.2. Host Clubs and/or their Member Associations are responsible for any other taxes, fees, duties, and any other costs as set out in Appendix 6.

43. **Accommodation, Meals, and Refreshments for Away Clubs**

43.1. Only official hotels approved by the AFC shall be used as Accommodation.

43.2. Each Host Club must provide at their own cost for the Away Club, from two (2) days before the Match until one (1) day after the Match:

43.2.1. accommodation in an international five-star hotel for the Team Official Delegation (or an international four-star hotel if there is no
international five-star hotels in the Venue), not exceeding twenty six (26) persons, which shall comprise of nine (9) double rooms and eight (8) single rooms;

43.2.2. one (1) additional empty room in the hotel for the purposes of medical treatment and storage;

43.2.3. one (1) briefing room in said hotel setup in theatre-style seating to accommodate the full Team Official Delegation, equipped with whiteboard, DVD player, television or projector;

43.2.4. three (3) meals per day (international buffet style) and one (1) additional light meal on Match-day in a dedicated dining area for the Team Official Delegation (not exceeding twenty six (26) persons);

43.2.5. minimum six (6) litres of water per person per day for the Team Official Delegation (not exceeding twenty six (26) persons), as well as ice and refreshments;

43.2.6. daily 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 twenty six (26) persons);

43.2.7. a club official or representative of the Host Club during arrival and departure to facilitate transportation, immigration, customs, and hotel check-in and check-out; and

43.2.8. at least one (1) liaison officer proficient in English and/or the language of the Away Club.

43.3. Each Participating Club shall pay for incidental expenses incurred by its Team Official Delegation during the course of their stay in the Host Association.

43.4. Each Participating Club shall pay for any costs incurred by additional members of their delegation not part of their Team Official Delegation.

43.5. Each Participating Club shall pay for any extension of stay in the Host Association of any member of their Team Official Delegation, other than where expressly permitted in these Regulations.

43.6. Should an Away Club decide to be accommodated in a different hotel than that proposed by the Host Club, it shall be responsible for its own costs. It shall ensure that the Host Club is notified at least thirty (30) days prior to the Match.

43.7. When available, the Host Club and Away Club must be accommodated in different hotels from the Match Officials.
44. **Accommodation, Meals and Refreshments for AFC Delegation**

44.1. Each Host Club must provide at their own cost for the AFC Delegation, from their arrival at the Venue of a Match until one (1) day after the Match:

44.1.1. accommodation in an international five-star hotel different from the Team Official Delegation unless approved by the AFC (or an international four-star hotel if there are no international five-star hotels in the Venue);

44.1.2. three (3) meals per day (international buffet style) and one (1) additional light meal on Match-day;

44.1.3. minimum six (6) litres of water per person per day, as well as ice and refreshments, at the Accommodation, referee training, and the Stadium;

44.1.4. daily laundry services (but no dry cleaning or pressing) for playing, training, and business outfits of eight (8) pieces per day per person for the Referee Assessor and Match Officials;

44.1.5. daily laundry services (but no dry cleaning or pressing) for playing, training, and business outfits of six (6) pieces per day per person for the other AFC Delegations;

44.1.6. a Club official or representative of the Host Club during arrival and departure to facilitate transportation, immigration, customs, and hotel check-in and check-out; and

44.1.7. liaison officers proficient in English.

45. **Arrangements for Licensees**

45.1. Each Host Club must assist any Licensees, upon request, to secure Accommodation of sufficient quality on the same terms as available to the AFC, in first-class hotels in a Venue, as well as reasonable transportations service from the Accommodation and centre of each Venue to a Stadium, and if applicable, air transportation to and between Venues.
46. Local Land Transportation for the Away Club and AFC Delegation

46.1. Each Host Club must provide at their own cost for the Away Club, from two (2) days before the Match until one (1) day after the Match:

46.1.1. one (1) bus with minimum forty-five (45) seats; and

46.1.2. one (1) sedan car,

for transportation of the Team Official Delegation to training, Matches, Official Functions, and airport transfers; and

46.1.3. one (1) additional luggage truck for airport transfers and Match day.

46.2. Subject to the relevant national law, where requested by the AFC or the AFC Match Commissioner, a police escort shall be provided to the Away Club Team Official Delegation for its travel to training, Matches, Official Functions, and airport transfers.

46.3. Each Host Club must provide at their own cost for the appointed AFC Delegation, from their arrival at the Venue of a Match until one (1) day after the Match:

46.3.1. one (1) sedan car for the AFC Match Commissioner;

46.3.2. one (1) van for the Referee Assessor and Match Officials; and

46.3.3. additional vehicle or other officials appointed by the AFC.

47. Disciplinary Action

47.1. A Host Club that fails to provide for any of the matters set out in Articles 43 to 46 shall forfeit its Match Subsidy. In the event that the Host Club did not receive a Match Subsidy for the particular Match, the Host Club shall be fined accordingly.

47.2. The AFC Disciplinary Committee may issue further sanctions in its discretion.
48. **Submission of Match Recording**

48.1. The Host Club is responsible to provide, at its own cost:

48.1.1. one (1) copy of Match DVD or USB flash drive for each Match played at its Stadium to the AFC Match Commissioner immediately after the Match; and

48.1.2. one (1) copy of Match DVD or USB flash drive for each Match played at its Stadium to the AFC latest the day after the Match.

48.2. The Host Club shall guarantee that the recording is of good quality and covers the entire duration of the Match. The recording shall not be delivered until it has been examined and approved by the AFC Match Commissioner.

48.3. A Host Club that fails to provide for any of the matters set out in Articles 48.1 and/or 48.2 shall be fined maximum USD10,000.

48.4. The AFC Disciplinary Committee may issue further sanctions in its discretion.

49. **Neutral Venues**

49.1. The responsibilities and obligations of the Participating Clubs for Matches played in a neutral Venue are set out at Appendix 2.
SECTION 7: MEDIA

50. AFC Stadium Regulations and Marketing and Media Operation Guidelines

50.1. The Host Club and/or Host Association are responsible, at their own cost, to ensure that all requirements for Media set out in the AFC Stadium Regulations and Appendix 6 are met.

50.2. Where there are any discrepancies between the same matters set out in these Regulations and Appendix 6, these Regulations shall prevail to the extent of any inconsistency.

51. Media Accreditation

51.1. The Host Club must implement an accreditation programme for Media as instructed by the AFC to control and manage access to the Stadium.

51.2. The AFC Commercial Rights Partner shall produce media identity bibs for photographers, and television and ENG crews, under the supervision of the AFC. The AFC Commercial Rights Partner shall be responsible for the distribution and collection of bibs of the Host Broadcaster and Broadcasters. The Host Club shall be responsible for the distribution and collection of bibs of accredited photographers. The Local Media Officer shall control and manage the distribution and collection of Official Photographers’ bibs.

51.3. The Host Club, at its own cost, must put in place all reasonable security measures to protect the commentary area, camera positions, and equipment of the Broadcasters.

52. Media Access

52.1. Representatives of the written press and radio journalists are not 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.

52.2. 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.
52.3. No Media representatives are permitted to enter any team dressing room at any time of any Match.

52.4. The Host Club and its Member Association shall ensure that the AFC, the Host Broadcaster, and all Broadcasters have free access to the Stadium from two (2) 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.

52.5. The Host Club and its Member Association are 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.

53. Official Training

53.1. All official training is open to the Media.

53.2. Should a Participating Club wish to close its official training to the Media, it shall, as a minimum, open the session for the first fifteen (15) minutes.

53.3. If an official training is held at a Stadium, the areas accessible by the Media shall be the same as available to them during Matches. Access to such areas shall be security-controlled by the Host Club.

54. Press Conferences

54.1. The Host Club is responsible for the organisation of a pre-Match press conference to be conducted under the supervision of the Local Media Officer at least one (1) day prior to each Match it hosts in the Competition.

54.2. The Head Coach and minimum one (1) of the proposed eleven (11) starting Participating Players of each Participating Club must attend a pre-Match press conference for each Match in which they participate. The AFC shall decide the final timing of the pre-Match press conferences in the absence of an agreement on timing by the Participating Clubs.

54.3. The Head Coach of each Participating Club and the Player of the Match must attend a post-Match press conference for each Match in which they participate, commencing no later than fifteen (15) minutes after the Match.

54.4. Each Team Media Officer shall ensure attendance of the Head Coach and the relevant Participating Player(s).
54.5. Each Participating Club 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 Host Club.

54.6. Any individual who fails to attend an obligatory press conference shall be fined at least USD10,000. The relevant Participating Club shall also be held liable in accordance with Article 3.3.9. The AFC Disciplinary Committee may issue further sanctions in its discretion.

55. **Mixed Zone**

55.1. The Team Official Delegation shall pass through the Mixed Zone on their way from their team dressing room to their bus after each Match.

55.2. Any individual who fails to pass through the Mixed Zone shall be fined at least USD10,000. The relevant Participating Club shall also be held liable in accordance with Article 3.3.9. The AFC Disciplinary Committee may issue further sanctions in its discretion.

56. **Interviews**

56.1. If requested by the AFC, each Participating Club shall make their Head Coach and one (1) Participating Player available for an interview of up to ten (10) minutes, to be recorded by the Host Broadcaster or other Broadcaster, any Licensee or Official Partner, or by the AFC official website.

56.1.1. For the Play-off Stage and Group Stage, any such interview shall be conducted one (1) day before prior to the Match.

56.1.2. For the Knockout Stage, any such interview shall be conducted one (1) or two (2) days prior to the Match.

56.1.3. All interview locations shall be designated by the Local Media Officer or AFC Match Commissioner.

56.2. Any individual who fails to conduct an interview when requested shall be fined at least USD10,000. The relevant Participating Club shall also be held liable in accordance with Article 3.3.9. The AFC Disciplinary Committee may issue further sanctions in its discretion.
57. **Flash Interviews**

57.1. Participating Players and Participating Officials are not permitted to give interviews at the Stadium without the express permission of the AFC.

57.2. The Local Media Officer may designate an area for multilateral and unilateral ‘flash interviews’ to be conducted by the Host Broadcaster and the visiting Media Rights-holding Broadcaster (if applicable) following each Match.

57.3. If requested by the AFC, any Participating Player and/or Participating Officials shall participate in a ‘flash interview’ following each Match.

57.4. Any individual who fails to conduct a ‘flash interview’ when requested shall be fined at least USD10,000. The relevant Participating Club shall also be held liable in accordance with Article 3.3.9. The AFC Disciplinary Committee may issue further sanctions in its discretion.
SECTION 8: EQUIPMENT

58. **AFC Equipment Regulations**

58.1. Each Participating Club must comply with the AFC Equipment Regulations.

58.2. 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.

59. **AFC Badges**

59.1. Each Participating Club shall allow space on its playing jersey to affix the relevant AFC badges as required by the AFC Equipment Regulations.

60. **Kit Approval Procedure**

60.1. Each Participating Club shall submit to the AFC for its approval one (1) sample of all kit, as defined in the AFC Equipment Regulations by latest 60 days (or 2 months) before the commencement of the Competition or alternatively at the Club Workshop.

60.2. Each Participating Club 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 latest thirty (30) days before the commencement of the Competition or alternatively at the Club Workshop.

60.2.1. The AFC may request a sample of all apparel to be worn by a Team Official Delegation during the Competition at any time.

60.2.2. Should a Participating Club receive such a request, it shall provide the requested sample to the AFC within seven (7) days.

60.3. Should any equipment submitted to the AFC infringe the AFC Equipment Regulations or these Regulations, the Participating Club shall be required to resubmit corrected equipment to the AFC. In addition, the Participating Club may be required to present additional samples at any time.

60.4. The AFC Match Commissioner or another member of the AFC Delegation, 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.
61. **Responsibility**

61.1. The AFC has the sole authority to approve the equipment (including kit) set out in the AFC Equipment Regulations.

61.2. Each Participating Club 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 any endorsement deal existing between itself and its sponsor(s) which contravenes the AFC Equipment Regulations.
SECTION 9: TICKETING

62. General Conditions

62.1. Each Host Club shall be responsible for the production, distribution, and sales of all Tickets. The AFC shall provide Ticket template design to all Participating Clubs.

62.2. Tickets shall include seat numbering and serial numbering, and only include those Competition Marks and or marks of Licensees which are part of the Ticket template design.

62.3. The Host Club and its Member Association must ensure that access to the Stadium is granted to the AFC Delegation, Away Club Team Official Delegation, AFC Commercial Rights Partner, Licensees, Broadcasters, Media and travelling supporters without any discrimination on the basis of gender, race, or nationality.

62.4. The AFC Competitions Committee shall determine the Ticketing policy (including distribution of Tickets) for the Final in accordance with Article 74.

63. Terms and Conditions

63.1. In collaboration with the Participating Clubs, 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.

64. Complimentary Tickets

64.1. The Host Club shall provide the following complimentary Tickets to each Away Club:

64.1.1. one (1) VVIP Ticket;

64.1.2. five (5) VIP Tickets; and

64.1.3. twenty (20) Tickets of the next-best category.

64.2. The Host Club shall provide the following Tickets for each Match to the AFC:

64.2.1. fifty percent (50%) of the VVIP Tribune (including without limitation, royal boxes, sky or hospitality boxes and suites, or other type of suite);
64.2.2. sixty (60) VIP Tickets;

64.2.3. four hundred and ninety (490) Tickets of the next best category;

64.2.4. five hundred (500) Tickets of the second next best category; and

64.2.5. up to two hundred and fifty (250) Tickets to any Official Functions and/or special hospitality facilities at the Stadium, subject to capacity;

at the dates specified below:

64.2.6. Preliminary Stage: latest seven (7) days before the Match;

64.2.7. Playoff Stage: latest seven (7) days before the Match;

64.2.8. Group Stage: latest thirty (30) days before the Match;

64.2.9. Round of 16: latest ten (10) days before the Match;

64.2.10. Quarter Finals: latest thirty (30) days before the Match;

64.2.11. Semi Finals: latest ten (10) days before the Match; and

64.2.12. Final: latest ten (10) days before the Match.

64.3. “Best Category” refers to the best Tickets available in the best category entitling the Ticket holder to sit in the sector immediately adjacent to the VIP area which in or directly opposite to the VIP Tribune.

64.4. All Tickets shall be provided in a continuous block.

64.5. The AFC shall be able to purchase Tickets at face value and on an individual Match basis for itself and Licensees from each Host Club.

64.6. The AFC reserves all Ticket Rights relating to the Final in accordance with Article 74. The AFC is entitled to request any additional Tickets the number of which shall be communicated to the Host Club and/or its Member Association at the appropriate time.

65. **Purchasable Tickets**

65.1. The Host Club and its Member Association must make available at least five percent (5%) of the net saleable capacity of its Stadium available exclusively to the supporters of each Away Club, in a segregated, safe area to be determined by the Host Club and the AFC.
65.2. This allocation shall be comprised of a mixture of Category 1 and Category 2 Tickets. The number of Tickets to be purchased must be declared to the Host Club by no later than two (2) weeks prior to the Match with full payment by the Away Club to the Host Club. The Away Club is responsible for all Tickets purchased, even if not utilised. The price of the Tickets shall not exceed the price of comparable Tickets that are sold to the supporters of the Host Club.

65.3. The Host Club shall provide the AFC Commercial Rights Partner with the opportunity to buy Tickets at face-value for each Match. The number of Tickets to be purchased must be declared to the Host Club by no later than two (2) weeks prior to the Match.
SECTION 10: MEDICAL AND ANTI-DOPING

66. Medical Facilities and Treatment

66.1. Each Participating Club is responsible, for all members of its Team Official Delegation, for the cost of any:

66.1.1. hospitalisation (admission to hospital);

66.1.2. surgical operations not provided for in Article 66.1; and

66.1.3. specialised investigative procedures.

66.2. The Host Club and its Member Association are responsible, for each Away Club from two (2) days before the Match until one (1) day after the Match, the costs of the following medical treatments sustained or occurring within the Host Association:

66.2.1. outpatient treatment (non-admission to hospital);

66.2.2. minor surgeries (e.g. suturing);

66.2.3. radiological investigations; and

66.2.4. emergency treatment.

66.3. The Host Club and its Member Association are responsible for the costs of the medical treatment set out at Article 66.1 for the AFC Delegation from their arrival at the Venue of the Match until one (1) day after the Match.

66.4. The Host Club and its Member Association at their own cost, must provide for each Match:

66.4.1. an emergency medical room located in close proximity to the dressing rooms and Field of Play equipped with the following medical supplies:

66.4.1.1. oxygen with appropriate masks / oral airway;

66.4.1.2. splints (for spinal injuries);

66.4.1.3. stretchers (preferably hardboard);

66.4.1.4. suction machine;
66.4.1.5. I/V dripsets with emergency injections and medication;
66.4.1.6. minor surgery supplies and equipment;
66.4.1.7. automated external defibrillator;

66.4.2. an air-conditioned, brightly-lit and well ventilated doping control room available at all times at the Stadium, equipped with the following:

66.4.2.1. one (1) table and four (4) chairs;
66.4.2.2. one (1) cabinet with a lock;
66.4.2.3. attached bathroom and toilet equipped with washbasin, mirror, and shower;
66.4.2.4. sofa for eight (8) persons;
66.4.2.5. refrigerator equipped with non-alcoholic drinks in sealed mineral water bottles and canned juices; and
66.4.2.6. a television.

66.5. A Host Club is responsible to provide all items stipulated in Article 64.4.1 and Article 64.4.2. A Host Club that fails to equip a medical room in accordance with Article 66.4.1 and/or doping control room in accordance with Article 66.4.2 shall forfeit its Match Subsidy.

66.5.1. In the event that the Host Club did not receive a Match Subsidy for the particular Match, the Host Club shall be fined:

66.5.1.1. at least USD20,000 for failing to fully equip the medical room; or
66.5.1.2. at least USD10,000 for failing to fully equip the doping control room; or
66.5.1.3. at least USD40,000 for failing to fully equip both rooms.

66.5.2. The AFC Disciplinary Committee may impose further sanctions in its discretion.
67. **Medical Personnel**

67.1. The Host Club and its Member Association, at their own cost for each Match, must provide:

67.1.1. one (1) certified medical officer supported by a team of support paramedical staff trained in emergency medical care (CPR/ALTS) in the Stadium emergency medical room;

67.1.2. the following Field of Play medical services:

67.1.2.1. one (1) medical officer trained in emergency medicine;

67.1.2.2. eight (8) trained stretcher bearers in good physical condition; and

67.1.2.3. two (2) ambulances with designated drivers equipped with oxygen, masks, defibrillator, I/V dripsets, emergency medicaments, and trained medical staff;

67.1.3. the following doping control personnel:

67.1.3.1. one (1) Doping Control Assistant (medical officer);

67.1.3.2. four (4) Doping Control Chaperones; and

67.1.3.3. one (1) Security Officer.

67.2. A Host Club that fails to provide the relevant medical personnel in accordance with Article 67.1.2 and/or doping control personnel in accordance with Article 67.1.3 shall forfeit its Match Subsidy.

67.2.1. In the event that the Host Club did not receive a Match Subsidy for the particular Match, the Host Club shall be fined at least USD10,000.

67.2.2. The AFC Disciplinary Committee may impose further sanctions in its discretion.
68. **Anti-Doping**

68.1. 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.

68.2. The AFC shall inform each Host Club and its Member Association by means of a circular of the doping control procedure for the Competition.

68.3. The AFC Medical Committee shall be responsible for the approval of the WADA–accredited laboratory which shall carry out the analysis of all doping samples.
SECTION 11: DISCIPLINARY

69. Disciplinary Measures

69.1. 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.

69.2. The AFC may introduce new disciplinary rules and sanctions for the duration of the Competition. Such rules shall be communicated to the Participating Clubs and their Member Associations thirty (30) days before the first Match of the Competition at latest.

69.3. All Participating Players agree to:

69.3.1. respect the spirit of fair play, non-violence, and the authority of the Match Officials;

69.3.2. behave accordingly; and,

69.3.3. refrain from doping.

Administrative Procedure

69.4. Subject to the AFC Disciplinary Code, for any fine set out in these Regulations, where it is the first such offence committed by a party:

69.4.1. the AFC, after completing its investigation but prior to opening disciplinary proceedings, may write to the party and make an offer to compound the offence and reduce the listed fine by twenty percent (20%) should the party admit to the offence;

69.4.2. if the offence is admitted, the AFC shall submit the compounded offence to the Chairman of the AFC Disciplinary Committee for approval;

69.4.2.1. should the party not admit to the offence, the AFC shall open disciplinary proceedings;

69.4.3. upon approval of the Chairman of the AFC Disciplinary Committee, the sanction shall be notified and applied administratively by the AFC;

69.4.3.1. should the Chairman of the AFC Disciplinary Committee not approve the compounded offence, the AFC shall open disciplinary proceedings;
69.4.4. by agreeing to compound the offence, the party waives its right to request a motivated decision or appeal the sanction issued;

69.4.5. any sanction issued administratively comes into force immediately upon notification in accordance with the AFC Disciplinary Code.

**70. Cautions and Expulsions**

70.1. 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.

70.2. Any Participating Player who completes the Preliminary Stage having cumulatively received one (1) caution **shall** carry-over that caution to the Playoff Stage.

70.3. Any Participating Player who completes the Playoff Stage having cumulatively received one (1) caution **shall not** carry-over that caution to the Group Stage.

70.4. Any Participating Player who completes the Group Stage having cumulatively received one (1) caution **shall not** carry-over that caution to the Knockout Stage.

70.5. Any Participating Player who completes the Semi Finals having cumulatively received one (1) caution **shall not** carry-over that caution to the Final.

**71. Indiscipline or Violent Conduct**

71.1. 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.

**72. Protest**

72.1. A protest is an objection of any kind to any matter that has a direct effect on Matches and any matters related to a breach of these Regulations or the AFC Disciplinary Code.

72.2. Unless otherwise stipulated, to be considered valid, protests shall be:

72.2.1. submitted in writing to the AFC Match Commissioner within two (2) hours of the end of the Match in question;
72.2.2. 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 within forty eight (48) hours of the end of the Match;

72.2.3. accompanied by a non-refundable fee of USD500 submitted within forty eight (48) hours of the end of the Match.

72.3. No protest shall be lodged relating to the Referee’s decisions regarding facts connected with play. Such decisions are final and binding and not subject to appeal, unless expressly otherwise stipulated in the AFC Disciplinary Code.

72.4. Should the AFC Disciplinary Committee determine that a protest is unfounded or irresponsible, it may impose a fine.

72.5. 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.

72.6. 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.

73. **Arbitration**

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

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

73.3. Participating Clubs, 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. Any hearing, if required, shall take place at the CAS Alternate Hearing Centre in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

73.4. 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 12: ADMINISTRATION

74. Financial Matters

74.1. Where set out in these Regulations, the Participating Clubs shall settle costs among themselves in an amicable manner.

74.2. The AFC shall pay for:

74.2.1. the international travel costs and allowances for AFC Delegation;

74.2.2. all doping control expenses; and

74.2.3. the following insurances:

74.2.3.1. medical insurance for AFC Delegation;

74.2.3.2. personal accident insurance for AFC Delegation;

74.2.3.3. travel insurance for AFC Delegation; and

74.2.3.4. trophy insurance.

74.3. Each Host Club shall retain all receipts from the sale of Match tickets. The receipts from the sale of Match tickets of each match of the Final shall be distributed as follows:

74.3.1. ninety percent (90%) to the Host Club;

74.3.2. ten percent (10%) to the AFC.

75. Match Subsidy

75.1. The Match Subsidy for Participating Clubs shall be made up of the following payments:

75.1.1. travel subsidy; and

75.1.2. any other payment as informed by the AFC.

75.2. Match subsidies shall be sent directly to the Member Association of the Participating Club(s), unless otherwise directed by the Member Association.
Travel Subsidy

75.3. For each Match of the relevant Stage of the Competition set out below, the Away Club shall receive the corresponding travel subsidy:

75.3.1. Preliminary Stage : Nil
75.3.2. Playoff Stage : USD20,000;
75.3.3. Group Stage : USD20,000;
75.3.4. Knockout Stage : USD20,000;

75.4. For the Group Stage, the travel subsidy shall be paid in three (3) installments after MD2, MD4, and MD6 provided that the club has fulfilled all obligations under the relevant Articles of these Regulations.

Participation Fee

75.5. Each Participating Club shall receive a participation fee for taking part in the following Stages of the Competition:

75.5.1. Round of 16 : USD15,000;
75.5.2. Quarter Finals : USD25,000; and
75.5.3. Semi Finals : USD40,000.

76. Prize Money

76.1. The AFC will pay the following prize money:

76.1.1. Champion : USD1,000,000;
76.1.2. Runner-Up : USD500,000.

77. Awards

77.1. The following awards shall be presented:

77.1.1. Player of the Match for each Match;
77.1.2. Most Valuable Player of the Competition;
77.1.3. Top Goal Scorer of the Competition; and the
77.1.4. AFC Fair Play Award for the Competition.

77.2. The 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.

77.3. The Player of the Match is awarded to the Participating Player who has a major influence on an individual Match.

77.4. The Top Goal Scorer is awarded to the Participating Player who has scored the highest number of goals in the Competition. Goals scored in the Preliminary Stage and Playoff Stage are not taken into account. In the event of a tie, the number of assists as determined by the AFC Technical Study Group will be taken into account to identify the winner. If there is still a tie, the total minutes played will be taken into account with the Participating Player with the lower number of minutes played ranked first.

77.5. The AFC Fair Play Award is awarded to the Participating Club who has collected the most Fair Play points in the Competition.

77.5.1. The Participating Club may be disqualified if it or any of its Team Official Delegation at any Match is involved in severe misconduct throughout the Competition.

77.6. The AFC Competitions Committee may decide to introduce further awards.

77.7. The decisions from Article 77.2 to 77.5 are not appealable.

78. **Trophy and Medals**

78.1. The original Competition trophy is presented to the Champion during the prize presentation ceremony and shall remain in the possession of the AFC at all times thereafter. The Champion shall subsequently be awarded a full-size replica by the AFC as its permanent possession.

78.2. The AFC shall award the following medals:

78.2.1. forty-two (42) gold medals to the Champion; and

78.2.2. forty-two (42) silver medals to the Runner-Up.

78.3. Additional medals may be produced upon request and at the cost of the requesting Participating Club.
78.4. The replica trophy awarded to the Winner must remain within its control at all times, and must not leave its region or territory of its Member Association without the prior written consent of the AFC. The Winner must not permit the replica trophy to be used in any context where a third-party (including without limitation, their sponsors and other commercial partners) is granted visibility or in any other way which could lead to an association between any third party and the trophy and/or the Competition. The AFC may issue additional trophy guidelines which the Winner must comply with from time to time.

79. **Prize Presentation Ceremony**

79.1. A prize presentation ceremony, managed and controlled by the AFC and coordinated with the Host Club, its Member Association, and the AFC Commercial Rights Partner, shall be held immediately after the final Match of the Competition to present the awards, trophies, and medals listed in Article 78.

79.2. The Participating Players and Participating Clubs that qualify to receive the awards, trophies, and medals are required to attend the relevant prize presentation ceremony. Participating Clubs shall be represented by the eighteen (18) Participating Players, Head Coach and one other Participating Official registered in the Team Official Delegation for that Match for the prize presentation ceremony following the Final. No other officials, players, or staff of the Participating Clubs may participate in the prize presentation ceremony.

80. **Final**

80.1. The Final shall be organised and managed by the AFC in collaboration with the Host Club and its Member Association, including without limitation:

80.1.1. Tickets and Ticketing in accordance with Articles 62.4 and 64.6;

80.1.2. Protocol;

80.1.3. Match organisation;

80.1.4. Marketing operations; and

80.1.5. Media operations.

80.2. Any additional events planned before, during and after the Final by a Participating Club shall be communicated at least seven (7) days prior and approved by the AFC.
81. Protocol

81.1. The AFC Protocol Guidelines for AFC Cup shall apply for all Matches.
82. **Special Instructions**

82.1. The AFC Competitions Committee shall, in conjunction with the various Host Associations, issue any instructions necessitated by special circumstances which might arise in the organisation of Matches.

82.2. These instructions shall form an integral part of these Regulations.

83. **Force Majeure**

83.1. The AFC Competitions Committee is the only body capable of declaring a Force Majeure event.

84. **Matters Not Provided For**

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

85. **Enforcement**

85.1. These Regulations were ratified by the AFC Executive Committee in New Delhi, India on 28 November 2015 and came into force immediately.

For the AFC Executive Committee

**President:** Shaikh Salman bin Ebrahimm Al Khalifa  
**General Secretary:** Dato’ Windsor John
This Appendix 1 sets out the calculation provided for in Article 11.5.2.9 of these Regulations.

Each Participating Club 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.

The Participating Club receiving the least number of points shall be ranked highest. The remaining Participating Clubs shall be ranked in descending order.
APPENDIX 2: Obligations of Participating Clubs Playing Matches in a Neutral Venue

1. This Appendix 2 sets out the logistical and financial obligations for Participating Clubs playing Matches in a neutral Venue.

2. In this Appendix 2, the term “Host Club” refers to the first-named team (Team A) in the Match Schedule. All references to Articles or Sections refer to the Regulations, unless the context defines otherwise.

Responsibility of Host Club

3. The Host Club must organise and stage the Match in cooperation with the:
   3.1 instructions of the AFC;
   3.2 Member Association on whose territory the Match shall be played; and
   3.3 local authorities.

4. All costs relating to the staging of the Match are borne by the Host Club.

Visas

5. Visa matters set out in Article 41 apply to both Participating Clubs.

Accommodation, Meals and Refreshments

6. The Host Club must provide at their own cost for the Away Club, from two (2) days before the Match until one (1) day after the Match all matters set out in Article 43.

Local Land Transportation

7. The Host Club must provide at their own cost for the Away Club, from two (2) days before the Match until one (1) day after the Match all matters set out in Article 46.

Submission of Match DVD or USB

8. The Host Club is responsible for the provision of the Match DVD in accordance with Article 48.
Ticketing

9. The Host Club is responsible for all aspects relating to Ticketing in accordance with Section 9.

10. The Host Club shall provide all complimentary Tickets to the Away Club in accordance with Article 64.

Financial Obligations

11. Each Participating Club may be eligible for a Match Subsidy, in accordance with Article 75.

12. The distribution mechanism set out in Article 75.1 is applicable to the provision of the Match Subsidy, subject to Clause 13 of this Appendix below.

13. The travel subsidy for Matches governed by this Appendix shall be distributed in accordance with the amounts set out in Article 75.3 to the designated Away Club (Team B).

Documents for Approval of Neutral Venue

14. The Host Club must submit a confirmation letter from the Host Association which sets out the:

14.1 name of the Stadium;

14.2 kick-off time;

14.3 Match date;

14.4 Accommodation for the visiting Participating Team; and

14.5 Accommodation for the Match Officials.

15. The Host Club must submit letters from the Participating Clubs and their Member Associations which:

15.1 agree to the proposed neutral Venue and Stadium;

15.2 agree to any additional terms and conditions stipulated by the AFC; and

15.3 set out the bank account for the payment of the travel subsidy.
AFC Cup Final

16. Where the Match to be played in a neutral Venue forms part of the Final:

16.1 shall retain the right to approve the Accommodation, Stadium, Official Training Sites, Ticketing arrangements, and local transportation arrangements in collaboration with the Host Association and/or Host Club;

16.2 the Host Association and/or Host Club shall be responsible for assisting with arrangements for visas; and

16.3 all costs incurred by the AFC shall be deducted from the Match Subsidy due to the Host Club.
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
(FOR AMATEUR PLAYERS)

IN CONSIDERATION of participating in the AFC Cup 2016, we (Name of Member Association), (Name of Club), (Name of Player) HEREBY UNDERTAKE:

1. to comply with all the obligations and requirements imposed on us under the AFC Cup Regulations and in particular Article 33;

2. that the player (Name of Player) had been registered by (Name of Club) and (Name of Member Association) according to its own rules and those of the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players;

3. that the player (Name of Player) is registered only with (Name of Club) from the period dated (insert start date of contract) for the duration of (insert period of contract) and expiring on (insert end date of contract);

4. that the player (Name of Player) is NOT contracted, registered and / or playing with any other club in the world from (insert start date of contract) until (insert end date of contract);

5. that (Name of Club) and (Name of Member Association) shall be responsible for ensuring that all information provided by (Name of Club) shall be accurate; and

6. to guarantee our due compliance with the obligation, liabilities and requirements of the AFC Cup Regulations upon which participation in the AFC Cup is granted to us and our liabilities under this undertaking.

Dated this (date) day of (Month), (Year)

____________________________________  ______________________________________
(Member Association name) & SEAL (Name of Club) & SEAL
(General Secretary name), General Secretary (General Secretary name), General Secretary

____________________________________
(Name of Player)
APPENDIX 4: Minimum Coach Education Requirements

On 16 April 2014, the AFC Executive Committee ratified the decision of the AFC Technical Committee to establish minimum coach education requirements in AFC competitions.

For the Competition, the minimum coach education requirements for the Head Coach, Assistant Coach, Goalkeeper Coach and Fitness Coach are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coaching Position</th>
<th>Minimum Coach Education Requirement</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Head Coach</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asst. Coach</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GK Coach</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fitness Coach</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fitness Coaches must also have qualifications in sports science and a reputable background in the field.

Where the proposed official does not meet the minimum coach education requirement or its recognised equivalent, they must apply for recognition of their coaching competence as per the AFC Regulations Governing the Recognition of Experience and Current Competence as ratified by the AFC Executive Committee on 26 November 2013.
Appendix 5: AFC Regulations Governing the Recognition of Experience and Current Competence

The AFC Regulations Governing the Recognition of Experience and Current Competence are available for download at [http://www.the-afc.com](http://www.the-afc.com).

For any queries regarding the recognition of coaching experience, please contact the AFC Technical Division.
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## Schedule 1: Broadcast Operations

## Schedule 2: Photographer Operations
DEFINITIONS

In these Marketing and Media Operational Guidelines, capitalised items shall have both the meaning assigned to them in the Definition section of the Competition Regulations and the following meanings, unless the context specifically indicates otherwise:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clean Stadium</th>
<th>A Stadium that is free from commercial or promotional messages, advertising, displays or facilities of any kind except for those installed, erected or otherwise authorised by the AFC from the period commencing 48 hours prior to each Match or other event comprising the Competitions until 24 hours thereafter so the Commercial Rights shall be fully available to AFC without hindrance.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Competition Title</td>
<td>The official name of the Competition (in any language).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guidelines</td>
<td>These Marketing and Media Operational Guidelines.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Territory</td>
<td>The world.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For the purposes of these Guidelines, the same reference points as set out at (a)-(d) in the Definitions of the Competition Regulations shall also apply.
SECTION 1: COMMERCIAL RIGHTS

1. Ownership of Commercial Rights

1.1. The Host Associations and Participating Clubs acknowledge and agree that the AFC owns and controls exclusively the Commercial Rights relating to the Competitions within the Territory and has appointed the AFC Commercial Rights Partner as its exclusive representative to sell the Commercial Rights within the Territory.

1.2. The Host Associations and Participating Clubs agree to ensure that no individual, company, and/or commercial or corporate entity shall use and/or exploit the Commercial Rights in any way which is likely to draw and/or infer an association to the Competition and/or any of the Licensees appointed by the AFC and hereby acknowledge that only the Licensees shall be accorded the right to exclusively associate themselves to the Competition.

1.3. Each Participating Club has signed a Participating Team Agreement (PTA) which expressly acknowledges their obligation to be bound by these Guidelines.

2. Intellectual Property Rights

2.1. The Host Associations, Participating Clubs, Participating Players, and Participating Officials acknowledge that the AFC is the exclusive owner of all intellectual property rights relating to the Competition, including any current or future rights which may be created and/or developed for the Competition including without limitation words, logos, emblems, brands, medals, insignia, and/or trophies, and agree that any use and/or proposed use of the intellectual property rights shall be in accordance with any AFC Brand Guidelines, subject at all times to the prior written approval of the AFC.

3. Copyright in Competition Data

3.1. Any data created and generation in connection with the Competition, including without limitation fixture lists, team lists, and team or player data, shall form part of the Competition Data and Commercial Rights, and remain the sole property of the AFC.

3.2. The Host Associations, Participating Clubs, Participating Players, and Participating Officials acknowledge that any use and/or proposed use of the Competition Data shall be subject to the prior written approval of the AFC, unless such use and/or proposed use shall be for non-commercial and/or editorial purposes, and falls within the provisions of fair use and/or dealing.
3.2.1. For the avoidance of doubt, Participating Clubs may compile data relating to their Matches and may use such Competition Data for their own internal training purposes and publish such Competition Data on their official club platforms. All other use is subject to Article 3.2. Participating Clubs shall not otherwise exploit any data rights.

3.2.2. There shall be no direct and/or indirect third party association with any such Competition Data. Participating Clubs must ensure that official club platforms do not sell any form of sponsorship that directly and/or indirectly associates a product, service, person or brand with the Competition Data or the Competition.

4. **Image Rights**

4.1. The Host Associations, Participating Clubs, Participating Players, Participating Officials agree that the AFC reserves all rights to use and/or authorise others to use the records, names, trademarks, and/or images, including still and/or moving images and/or representations of images of, including without limitation, the Participating Clubs, Participating Players, Participating Officials, Stadia, and team equipment for commercial, non-commercial, promotional and/or editorial purposes or otherwise, free from any royalty or compensation, in connection to the Competition and/or exploitation of all rights associated with the Competition, in the Territory.

5. **Use and Exploitation of Commercial Rights**

5.1. The Host Associations, Participating Clubs, Participating Players, and Participating Officials acknowledge that the AFC owns the Commercial Rights relating to the Competition and has assigned the right to use and/or exploit the Commercial Rights to the Licensees pursuant to their respective agreements with the AFC and the AFC Commercial Rights Partner.

5.2. The Host Associations, Participating Clubs, Participating Players, and Participating Officials shall have no right to use, exploit and/or sublicense the exploitation of the Commercial Rights to any other person and/or entity.

5.3. The Host Associations, Participating Clubs, Participating Players and Participating Officials agree to not undertake or perform any actions which would impede and/or infringe upon the rights accorded to the Licensees and shall provide the necessary assistance and support to the AFC, the AFC Commercial Rights Partner, and/or Licensees for the successful implementation and enforcement of the Commercial Rights.
5.4. The Host Associations, Participating Clubs, Participating Players, and Participating Officials are fully responsible and liable for any breach of their obligations under these Guidelines, in particular, in relation to the use and/or exploitation of the Commercial Rights, or any infringement or unauthorised use of the Commercial Rights by the Host Associations, Participating Clubs, Participating Players, Participating Officials or any third party acting with the authority of one of those parties which may constitute a breach of any rights owned and controlled by the AFC.

5.5. The Host Associations and Participating Clubs shall support and ensure that the Participating Players, Participating Officials and other employees or representatives observe all instructions of the AFC and render support to the implementation of the commercial programme established by the AFC for the Competition.

6. Rights Protection and Ambush Marketing

6.1. The Host Associations, Participating Clubs, Participating Players, and Participating Officials, acknowledge and agree not to use and/or exploit any of the Commercial Rights relating to the Competition and shall, at their own cost, provide support to the AFC, the AFC Commercial Partner, and/or Licensees and ensure the protection of all such rights against any unauthorised use and/or infringement by third parties including any commercial partners of the Host Associations, Participating Clubs, Participating Players, and Participating Officials.

6.1.1. The Host Associations and Participating Clubs shall take all appropriate steps, in particular with respect to spectators, Stadia, Stadia owners and Leagues, to safeguard and enforce the Commercial Rights owned solely by the AFC.

6.2. Each Host Club shall, at their own cost, be responsible for the delivery of a Clean Stadium and immediate removal and/or undertake the concealment of any and/or all unauthorised advertising, publications, promotional materials, and/or merchandise from the Stadium. Where the Host Club fails to undertake this task, the AFC and the AFC Commercial Rights Partner shall be entitled to immediately remove and/or conceal such materials.

6.3. The Host Associations, Participating Clubs, Participating Players, and Participating Officials, shall refrain from any action, and in particular refrain from entering into any agreement or executing any document, which might reasonably be expected to result in an infringement of the Commercial Rights owned by the AFC or assigned to any of the Licensees.

6.4. The Host Associations and Participating Clubs shall inform their respective commercial partners of the requirements of these Guidelines relating to the
protection and enforcement of all Commercial Rights relating to the Competition and shall ensure that their commercial partners observe and comply with the Guidelines and any direction from the AFC relating to ambush marketing activity.

6.5. The Host Associations and Host Clubs shall ensure that all whose images may appear in connection with the exploitation of the Media Rights (including Ticket holders) permit and/or authorise the AFC, the AFC Commercial Rights Partner, and the Broadcasters (whether through the Ticket terms and conditions or by written agreement or deemed waiver & release) to use, record and broadcast their images in the Territory in any media in connection with the Competition.

6.6. The Host Associations and Host Clubs shall ensure that the AFC, the AFC Commercial Rights Partner, the Host Broadcaster, and all Licensees have free access to the Stadia at any time prior to the Competition to assess the technical issues and assemble and construct the relevant infrastructure required for the execution of the Media Rights.

6.7. The Host Associations and Host Clubs are responsible for ensuring that the Media Rights are protected and that no unauthorised broadcaster is allowed access to the Stadia without the prior written permission of the AFC and/or the AFC Commercial Rights Partner.

6.8. The Host Associations and Host Clubs shall observe all instructions provided by the AFC in relation to the management and operation of Media access and privileges.

6.9. In the event of any unauthorised use and/or infringement of any rights relating to the Competition by the Host Associations, Participating Clubs, Participating Players, Participating Officials, and/or any of their commercial partners, the AFC shall reserve all of its rights to initiate the appropriate action and/or issue sanctions against the use and/or exploitation of its rights.
SECTION 2: MARKETING OPERATIONS

7. **Competition Marks and Competition Title**

7.1. The Host Associations, Participating Clubs, Participating Players, and Participating Officials acknowledge that the AFC is the owner of all Proprietary Interests relating to the Competition including without limitation the Competition Marks (which include the Competition Title) and reserves all rights in respect to the use and/or granting of the license to use the Competition Marks and Competition Title to any third party.

7.2. The Host Associations, Participating Clubs, Participating Players, and Participating Officials shall not grant, or purport to grant, any right or license to use the Competition Marks to any third party, without the prior written approval of the AFC.

7.3. The Host Associations, Participating Clubs, Participating Players, and Participating Officials agree that their use of the Competition Marks shall not be for commercial purposes and/or exploitation or in any way which may imply or suggest a commercial association with any third party.

7.4. The Host Associations, Participating Clubs, Participating Players, and Participating Officials acknowledge and agree that any reference to any Competition and their participating in relation thereto shall be solely made to the following Competition Titles:

7.4.1. AFC Cup [year] or AFC Cup.

Such use must be in an editorial context only. Any translations must be authorised by the AFC.

7.5. The Host Associations, Participating Clubs, Participating Players and Participating Officials agree that any use of the Competition Marks and the Competition Title shall be in accordance with the AFC Brand Guidelines, subject to the prior written approval of the AFC.

**Permitted Composite Logo**

7.5.1. The Participating Clubs are permitted to create a composite logo incorporating both the official logo of the Competition and the Participating Club name with permitted reference of “Participating Club”. The reproduction materials to form a Permitted Composite Logo may be obtained from the AFC.

7.5.2. No other mark may be included or be placed next to a Permitted Composite Logo in such a way that it causes confusion as to whether it
forms part of the Permitted Composite Logo without the prior written approval of the AFC.

7.6. Any proposed use of the Competition Marks and Competition Title shall be submitted to the AFC for written approval prior to the commencement of such use.

8. Controlled Access Areas

8.1. The Host Associations and Host Clubs shall ensure and be responsible for the provision and operation of all Controlled Access Areas.

8.2. The Host Associations and Host Clubs shall undertake to observe all instructions provided by the AFC in relation to the management and operation of each Controlled Access Area.

8.2.1. Notwithstanding the Definitions listed above, each Controlled Access Area will be defined during any site visit conducted by the AFC and/or the AFC Commercial Rights Partner of the Stadia.

8.2.2. Any decision modifying the arrangements of any Controlled Access Area requires the prior written approval of the AFC.

8.3. The Host Associations and Host Clubs shall ensure that no individual is granted access to any Controlled Access Area without being in possession of a valid Accreditation Card and/or the prior written authorisation of the AFC.

8.4. The Host Associations and Host Clubs shall, at their own cost, ensure that each Controlled Access Area is delivered as a “Clean Site” no less than forty-eight (48) hours prior to and up until twenty-four (24) hours after the completion of each Match.

8.4.1. “Clean Site” means no advertising, stadium sponsorship, web addresses, promotional activities, product displays or branded signage within the Controlled Access Area. This includes all non-commercial third-party branding, such as that of government agencies, tourist boards and charities, except for those items installed, erected, or otherwise authorised in writing by the AFC.

8.4.2. Within each Controlled Access Area, Licensees are the only parties with any Commercial Rights. These rights take precedence over any arrangements that Participating Clubs may have with any other companies for promotional or commercial advertising activities. Consequently, no temporary branding or promotions involving third parties are permitted in connection with a Match.
8.4.3. The AFC and AFC Commercial Rights Partner shall have unrestricted access to all Controlled Access Areas for the placement of advertising material or promotional materials relating thereto.

8.5. The Host Associations, Participating Clubs, Participating Players, and Participating Officials agree to observe all instructions and directives relating to the operation of Controlled Access Areas including the delivery of a Clean Site and shall ensure that their respective commercial partners abide by the requirements and refrain from undertaking any actions which may impede on and effect the delivery of a Clean Site including without limitation any activities relating to infringement and/or ambush marketing.

8.6. In principle, commercial naming of Stadia is not permitted. Host Associations and Host Clubs will be requested to propose a non-commercial name for use in the Competitions prior to the start of the season. Any proposed name is subject to the approval of the AFC. Such decision is final and binding and not appealable.

9. **Merchandising and Franchising**

9.1. The Host Associations and Host Clubs shall provide the AFC and AFC Commercial Rights Partner with sufficient space at the Controlled Access Areas, at no cost, in order for the Licensees to fully exercise their exclusive rights of franchise, display, sampling, demonstration and sale of their products and services within each Controlled Access Area.

9.2. The Host Associations and Host Clubs acknowledge and agree that the right of franchise, display, sampling, demonstration and/or sale of products and services is reserved solely for use and/or exploitation by the Licensees and shall use all reasonable efforts to ensure that no actions are undertaken which may infringe and/or impede upon these rights.

9.3. Any franchise, display, sampling, demonstration and sale of any products and/or services within the Stadia and/or any Controlled Access Area by the Host Association or Host Club and/or their respective commercial partners including without limitation the establishment and/or operations of official merchandise stores and/or concessionary stands, shall be subject to the prior written approval of the AFC.

10. **Ticketing**

10.1. All matters related to the distribution of Tickets and Ticketing are set out in the relevant Competition Regulations.
11. Sponsorship and Equipment Branding

11.1. The Host Associations, Participating Clubs, Participating Players and Participating Officials recognise that the AFC has entered into partnerships with leading global corporations to aid in the development of Asian football and the Competition brand as a whole.

11.2. The Licensees are accorded exclusive rights to associate themselves with the Competition, through sponsorship of equipment, advertising, product displays, brand placements and/or the sale of products and services at the Venues of Matches.

11.3. The Host Associations and Participating Clubs acknowledge that the AFC and/or the AFC Commercial Rights Partner shall be solely responsible for the coordination of all sponsorship and equipment branding-related matters with the Licensees and agrees to observe all instructions provided by the AFC in relation thereto.

11.4. Subject to the Competition Regulations, the Host Associations and Participating Clubs acknowledge that the Licensees are accorded the right to supply official products and/or equipment for the Competition and agree to use all products and/or equipment provided by the AFC and/or the AFC Commercial Rights Partner in this regard.

12. Official Publications and Printed Materials

12.1. The Host Associations, Participating Clubs, Participating Players, and Participating Officials acknowledge that all rights in and to all Competition-related publications, including without limitation, the Competition official programme, media guide, any Match programme, official magazine, location guidebook, and/or official poster (Official Publications), shall be exclusively owned and or vested in the AFC.

12.2. The Host Associations and Host Clubs shall be responsible for producing and distributing, at their own cost, official Competition materials, including without limitation, the Competition official programme, Tickets, and Accreditation Cards, to the editorial content, designs and specifications supplied by the AFC and/or the AFC Commercial Rights Partner and in the quality and quantities directed.

12.3. The Host Associations and Host Clubs shall, at their own cost, print the Competition official programme and provide the necessary translation (if applicable) in their local language.

12.4. The Host Associations and Participating Clubs shall incorporate only those Competition Marks and/or Licensees Marks as provided by the AFC and shall not accept any advertisement and or content in any Official Publications and/or printed materials from any third party other than Licensees
12.5. The Host Associations and Participating Clubs shall not to publish any Competition-related publication without the prior written approval of AFC.

12.6. **Souvenir Programme:** an English language souvenir programme will be designed, compiled and formatted by the AFC Commercial Rights Partner. Host Associations and Host Clubs may produce a Match programme translated into their local language, subject to the prior written approval of the AFC. The production and local distribution of the souvenir programme will be the responsibility of the Host Associations and Host Clubs. The souvenir programme shall incorporate only those Competition Marks and Licensee Marks as submitted to the Host Associations or Host Clubs by the AFC Commercial Rights Partner.

12.7. **Promotional Poster:** the AFC and/or the AFC Commercial Rights Partner will provide the Host Associations or Host Clubs with the design of the official promotional posters and/or flyers. The Host Associations or Host Clubs are responsible for the printing, distribution and positioning of the posters and/or flyers, ensuring they are utilised to maximum effect. The promotional posters shall incorporate only those Competition Marks and Licensee Marks as submitted to the Host Associations or Host Clubs by the AFC Commercial Rights Partner.

12.8. **Event Stickers:** the AFC Commercial Rights Partner is responsible for the design, print and distribution of the event stickers. The Host Associations or Host Clubs are responsible for ensuring they are utilised to maximum effect.

13. **Broadcast and Recording**

13.1. The Host Associations, Participating Clubs, Participating Players, and Participating Officials acknowledge that the AFC is the owner of all rights relating to the broadcast, filming and/or recording of the Competition including without limitation any filming and/or recording made in relation to any Match, training session, and/or Official Function and has entered into separate agreements for the license and/or exploitation of such rights by the Licensees.

13.2. The Host Associations, Participating Clubs, Participating Players, and Participating Officials shall not perform any actions which would impede and/or infringe upon the Media Rights accorded to the Licensees (i.e. Broadcasters) and agree to observe all instructions and regulations of the AFC in relation to the exercise of such rights by the Licensees.

13.3. The Host Associations, Participating Clubs, Participating Players, and Participating Officials shall ensure that they and their representatives do not use, license, or consent to the use by third parties of any moving images recorded by personal recording devices of themselves or such representatives in any Controlled Access Area for broadcast and/or transmission over any form of media.
13.3.1. Notwithstanding the above, the Participating Clubs are entitled to produce their own coverage of their own Matches with maximum of one (1) camera and subject to the prior written approval of the AFC.

13.3.2. Any such coverage may be undertaken solely for non-commercial and/or technical analysis purposes.

13.4. The Host Broadcaster shall conduct team dressing room shooting prior to all Matches under the supervision of the AFC after the arrival of team kits but before the arrival of the Participating Players.

14. Equipment and Pitch Perimeter Advertising

14.1. The AFC and/or the AFC Commercial Rights Partner will import and re-export by air or sea freight, a consignment of equipment strictly for use in the organisation and staging and/or broadcast of the Competition. Items which will not be re-exported (e.g. footballs, apparel and Premiums produced by the AFC and Licensees) will be donated to the Host Clubs following completion of the Competition.

14.2. The Host Associations and Host Clubs are responsible for liaising with the relevant government departments (e.g. Department of Customs and Excise) to ensure duty free clearance of all such equipment into the Venue and or Stadia.

14.3. The Host Associations and Host Clubs are responsible for obtaining any licenses required for the erection of the perimeter advertising boards and promotional booths and displays at the Stadia and official hotel.

14.4. The AFC Commercial Rights Partner is responsible for the supply of all branded equipment including without limitation press conference backdrops, indoor display stands, outdoor display stands, flash interview and mixed zone backdrops.

14.5. The Host Associations and Host Clubs will not erect any branded equipment or signage for the Competition without prior consultation and approval from the AFC and/or the AFC Commercial Rights Partner.

14.6. The AFC Commercial Rights Partner is responsible for the supply of the pitch perimeter signage at Stadia and where applicable, Official Training Sites.

14.6.1. Schedule 3 shows the positioning of the perimeter advertising.

14.6.2. The Host Associations and Host Clubs acknowledge and agree that a restricted view might arise out of this arrangement.
14.7. The Host Associations and Host Clubs acknowledge and agree that the perimeter advertising boards will be installed forty-eight (48) hours before each Match, and that they shall be required to assist the AFC Commercial Rights Partner in obtaining approvals from the relevant authorities, and sourcing a secure facility for the storage of such materials after each Match until the end of the Competition.

14.8. The Host Associations and/or Host Clubs shall be required to cover all costs of any advertising taxes and/or fees or similar taxes at the Stadia and/or within the Venues in relation to the Competition.
SECTION 3: MEDIA OPERATIONS

15. Websites and Social Media

15.1. The Host Associations, Participating Clubs, Participating Players and Participating Officials acknowledge that the AFC owns all rights to the AFC Website and/or any other website created and/or developed for the Competition including without limitation any sub-site and/or official social media channel relating to the Competition.

15.2. The Host Associations, Participating Clubs, Participating Players, and Participating Officials shall:

15.2.1. not create, develop, operate, control and/or license the right to operate any website relating to the Competition which may include without limitation use and/or reference to any Competition Data, Competition Marks and/or Licensee Marks; and/or

15.2.2. ensure that their respective commercial partners and/or officials observe and abide by this provision and agree not to use any reference to the Competition including without limitation use of the Competition Marks, Competition Title and/or Licensee Marks on their respective website(s).

15.3. Any proposed use of the Competition Marks by Host Associations or Participating Clubs on their website shall solely be for non-commercial editorial purposes wherein such use shall be in accordance to the AFC’s Branding Guidelines, subject always to the prior written approval of the AFC.

15.4. The Host Associations and Participating Clubs agree that the Competition Marks shall not be used and/or placed within the title-bar, menu-bar and/or header/footer of any website and any use and/or proposed use of the Competition Marks and/or Competition Title shall not be in association and/or close proximity to the name and/or logo of any commercial entities, including without limitation their respective commercial partners.

16. Media and Media Access Areas

16.1. The Host Associations and/or Host Clubs shall be responsible for the management and provision of support for all Media including without limitation the procurement of media access areas at the Stadia and/or Official Training Sites and/or coordination of activities by the Media in relation to the Competition.

16.2. The Host Associations and/or Host Clubs shall ensure that the designated media access areas may only be accessed by authorised Media with valid Accreditation.
Cards and that no Media, subject to any express provisions below, shall be allowed access to any other parts of the Stadia or Controlled Access Areas including without limitation on the Field of Play or the area between the boundaries of the Field of Play and the spectator stands.

16.2.1. No representatives of the written press or radio journalists are permitted to enter the Field of Play or the area between the boundaries of the Field of Play and the spectators.

16.2.2. Only those photographers, TV cameramen of the Host Broadcaster and Broadcasters with Accreditation Cards as well as the personnel required to operate the electronic television cameras of the Host Broadcaster, are permitted to enter 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.

16.3. Team dressing rooms are strictly off limits to representatives of the Media at all times, except where expressly stated in these Guidelines at Article 13.4.

16.4. The Host Associations and Participating Clubs shall ensure that:

16.4.1. Media accompanying any Participating Club shall follow the same rules applied to all third-party Media representatives, including the requirement to be equipped with the required Accreditation Device to obtain access to any of the designated media access areas;

16.4.2. Media accompanying any Participating Club are not permitted to travel in the team bus for official trainings or Matches;

16.4.3. any camera crew (which is not providing technical analysis filming) accompanying any Participating Club shall apply for non-rights holder (NRH) accreditation and follow the guidelines applied to NRHs;

16.4.4. any member of their Team Official Delegations or any other representatives are not permitted to film trainings or Matches for broadcast purposes; and

16.4.5. any Media Accreditation which they issue for Matches within their Member Association shall not be valid for use at Matches in any other Member Association unless prior written approval is received from the relevant Host Club and/or Host Association.
17. **Obligations of Team Official Delegation in AFC Media Events**

17.1. The Host Associations, Participating Clubs, Participating Players, and Participating Officials acknowledge and agree that the AFC reserves all rights regarding the coordination of public relations and communication activities relating to the Competition including without limitation the release of press statements and/or public and private press conferences and briefings.

17.2. The Host Associations, Participating Clubs, Participating Players and Participating Officials shall participate and provide full support in any official press conferences, interviews and/or other AFC media events related to the Competition. All press conferences and interviews held in any Controlled Access Area shall be deemed to be an official AFC media event.

17.3. The Host Associations and Participating Clubs shall assist the AFC to ensure that all members of their Team Official Delegation required or selected to attend a press conference, interview, or other AFC media event shall be available and attend in a timely manner.

17.4. Any members of any Team Official Delegation required or selected to attend a press conference, interview, or other AFC media event shall observe and abide by any instructions and/or guidelines issued by the AFC.

17.5. Any members of any Team Official Delegation required or selected to attend a press conference, interview, or other AFC media event shall refrain from making:

17.5.1. any verbal references to any commercial entity in a manner which may imply an endorsement by that entity of the Competition, other than Licensees; and

17.5.2. any statements and/or references which will or are likely to damage or bring into disrepute the good name, image, and reputation of the AFC, the Referees, and/or the Competition.

17.6. The products or other identifiers of the commercial partners, sponsors and/or suppliers of Host Associations, Participating Clubs, Participating Players, and/or Participating Officials are strictly prohibited from being displayed in any manner at any press conferences, interviews or other AFC media event.

17.6.1. For the avoidance of doubt, only the marks of the Licensees may be displayed at press conferences, interviews, in mixed zone, or at other AFC media events.

17.6.2. The equipment of all members of a Team Official Delegation required or selected to participate in a press conference, interview, or other AFC media event must be free of sponsor advertising (except playing attire)
and the manufacturer identification must be in compliance with the AFC Equipment Regulations.

17.7. It is the responsibility of each Participating Club to provide translation from the language of their Head Coach and/or Participating Players into English in all AFC media events.

18. **Press Conferences and Interviews**

18.1. The Host Associations and Host Clubs are responsible for providing a facility for pre and post-Match press conferences.

18.2. The facility for post-Match press conferences should be located a short distance from the team dressing rooms and Media tribune. It should be large enough to set up a press conference backdrop (4m wide x 2m high) which will be supplied by the AFC Commercial Rights Partner. Seating should be provided in a theatre style, together with amplification equipment.

18.3. If requested by the AFC, Participating Clubs shall provide the requested persons on the day before each Match for an interview.

18.4. Head Coaches shall be interviewed by the Host Broadcaster at the point of arrival at each Stadium prior to a Match. The interview shall not be more than ninety (90) seconds.

18.5. Broadcasters are permitted to conduct pre-match stand up interviews at a predetermined location, subject to agreement on a designated area approved by the AFC.

19. **Mixed Zone**

19.1. A mixed zone shall be in operation immediately after each Match.
SECTION 4: MISCELLANEOUS

20. Clearance and Fees

20.1. The Host Associations and Host Clubs agree to execute any and all clearances or other documents such as may be required by applicable laws to enable the exploitation of the Commercial Rights. All necessary clearances required under the laws of the country of the Host Country shall be obtained by the Host Associations and/or Host Clubs at their own cost to ensure that the Matches and Official Functions are cleared for full exploitation of the Commercial Rights through the Territory in any media.

20.2. The Host Associations and Host Clubs agree to ensure the rapid clearance through customs of all equipment, goods and materials, which the AFC, the AFC Commercial Rights Partner, and/or any of the Licensees may require in relation to the exploitation of the Commercial Rights.

20.3. The Host Associations and Host Clubs represent, warrant and undertake to ensure that there shall be no access, origination or other fees, or costs imposed on the AFC, the AFC Commercial Rights Partner, or any Licensees, by any local authority or other agency, in connection with the exercise and/or exploitation of the Commercial Rights.

21. Facilities and Utilities

21.1. The Host Association and/or Host Clubs shall provide the following:

Storage Facilities
21.1.1. The Host Associations and Host Clubs shall provide storage facilities at the Controlled Access Areas, to be made available to AFC, the AFC Commercial Rights Partner, and its Licensees, suitable for the exercise of the Commercial Rights in the Controlled Access Areas.

Secretariat
21.1.2. The Host Associations and Host Clubs will be responsible for providing an office with internet for the use of the AFC and the AFC Commercial Rights Partner. This room shall be in a secure location and with easy access to the playing pitch.

Utilities
21.1.3. The Host Associations and Host Clubs shall ensure the provision of utilities (e.g. electricity, water) at cost price to the AFC Commercial Rights Partner and Licensees in order for them to be able to exercise their rights in the Controlled Access Areas.
Broadcast Facilities
21.1.4. To facilitate the transmission of an international broadcast signal, the Host Associations and Host Clubs are responsible for providing the facilities reasonably required by the Host Broadcaster to ensure an international broadcast quality production of the signal for every Match of the Competition.

Backup Power
21.1.5. The Host Associations and Host Clubs shall provide a backup power supply at the Stadium. The level for this emergency power supply shall be sufficient to provide lighting and power for the live or delayed broadcast of Matches.

22. Accreditation Procedures

22.1. The Host Associations and Host Clubs will be responsible for initiating and managing the accreditation procedure, as advised by the AFC.

22.1.1. The AFC will provide the design for the Accreditation Cards. The number of categories required will follow the guidelines set out by the AFC. All Accreditation Cards shall only incorporate the Competition Marks and marks of Licensees.

22.1.2. A number of Accreditation Cards for Licensees, to be agreed upon, will be made available by the AFC, in conjunction with the Host Associations or Host Clubs. These Accreditation Cards will ensure that all services can be proffered before, during and after any Match. Such Accreditation Cards shall provide access to all general service areas as well as to particular departments, such as the media centres, press and television centre, VIP areas and the Field of Play.

22.2. The Host Associations and Host Clubs shall issue Accreditation Cards to all registered Media. Accreditation of the Broadcasters and NRHs shall be in accordance with the list provided by the AFC Commercial Rights Partner.

22.3. All requests for Media Accreditation Cards received by the Host Associations and/or Host Clubs shall be compiled and provided to the AFC for approval. This should include details including name, organisation, nationality and function.

Journalists
22.4. Journalists should be seated in a designated “Media Tribune” separate from public spectators with both a clear view of the Field of Play and within easy access to public conveniences, the media centre and the press conference room.
22.5. This designated press area shall be equipped with tables, power slots and internet connection.

22.6. The number of Accreditation Cards issued must not exceed the amount of seating available.

**Media Identity Bibs**

22.7. All Media requiring Field of Play access will be required to wear a “Media Identity Bib” at all times.

22.8. The AFC Commercial Rights Partner is responsible for the production of Media Identity Bibs. The Host Associations or Host Clubs will be responsible for assigning sufficient personnel for their distribution prior to Matches and collection from the Media when leaving the Stadium (at any stage).

22.9. Media Identity Bibs should only be issued to Media with approved accreditation. The Host Associations or Host Clubs shall be responsible for their allocation at a designated registration point outside the Stadium. They shall be returned to the local media officer at the end of each Match.

22.9.1. The Host Associations or Host Clubs shall translate and distribute the regulations detailed in Schedule 3 and 4, together with the Media Identity Bibs.

22.9.2. Media Identity Bibs for the Host Broadcaster and Broadcaster will be produced and distributed by the AFC Commercial Rights Partner.

**Broadcast and Hand-held Camera Operators (ENG – Electronic News Gathering) Media**

22.10. Only Media representing the Host Broadcaster and other Broadcasters shall be permitted to adopt designated positions around the Field of Play and in the stands.

22.11. All licensed ENG crews must remain in the designated position behind the advertising boards behind the goals.

22.12. Under no circumstances will ENG crews be permitted access onto the Field of Play. The Host Clubs are required to assist the AFC and/or the AFC Commercial Rights Partner in ensuring compliance with this Article.

**Photographers**

22.13. All photographers must wear Media identity bibs at all time and must remain in the designated position behind the advertising boards behind the goals, except at the start and end of each Match, when they will be allowed to approach the halfway line for team line-ups and Player of the Match presentations (if any).
22.14. The AFC Commercial Rights Partner shall appoint an official photographer who, together with the Host Broadcaster, will be permitted to adopt designated positions around the Field of Play and in the stands.

22.15. Under no circumstances will photographers be permitted access into the stands or onto the Field of Play. The Host Clubs are required to assist the AFC in this regard.

22.16. The Host Clubs must provide photographers with pitch-side seats, free of charge.

22.17. Photographers may attend the pre and post-match press conferences subject to space restrictions.

23. **Infringement of these Guidelines**

23.1. An infringement of these Guidelines by any Host Association, Participating Club, Participating Player, or Participating Official shall be referred to the AFC Disciplinary Committee for its decision.

23.1.1. The Host Associations and Participating Clubs shall be held (where appropriate, jointly) liable for the compliance of their Team Official Delegations, other officials and representatives, and commercial partners, with these Guidelines.

23.2. Any items used at a Controlled Access Area which do not comply with these Guidelines and/or the Equipment Regulations shall be removed, confiscated or covered up at the discretion of the AFC.

23.3. The AFC reserves all legal rights and shall take all necessary legal and other steps to prevent and prohibit unauthorised companies, including commercial partners of the Host Associations, Participating Clubs, Participating Players and/or Participating Officials from commercially identifying with, or otherwise exploiting the Competition. The Host Associations and Host Clubsshall assist the AFC to resolve any intellectual property infringements or ambush activities involving their commercial partners.

23.4. Neither the AFC nor the AFC Commercial Rights Partner is liable for any losses, fees, damages, or any costs whatsoever, which may arise as a result of the need for a Host Association, Participating Club, Participating Player, or Participating Official to amend or renegotiate its agreements with its commercial partners as a result of the requirements contained in these Guidelines.
24. New Requirements

24.1. The AFC reserves the right to introduce new marketing and media operations requirements at any stage in the Competition.

24.2. The AFC will inform the Host Associations, Participating Clubs, Participating Players, and Participating Officials in writing of any developments in the exploitation of the Commercial Rights which may result in the imposition of additional marketing requirements.

25. AFC Stadium Regulations

25.1. These Guidelines are subject to the related provisions contained within the relevant AFC Stadium Regulations.

25.2. Where there are any discrepancies between the same matters set out in these Guidelines and the relevant AFC Stadium Regulations, these shall prevail to the extent of any inconsistency.

26. Contact

club.competitions@the-afc.com
fax.admin@the-afc.com

Tel: +603 – 8994 3388
Fax: +603 – 8994 2689

27. Matters Not Provided For

27.1. Matters not provided for in these Guidelines and cases of Force Majeure shall be decided by the AFC Competitions Committee, whose decisions are final and binding and not appealable.
SCHEDULE 1: BROADCAST OPERATIONS

1. Any individual who does not follow these rules shall be escorted from the Stadium and may have their accreditation denied for future Matches of the Competition or other AFC competitions in the future.

2. Broadcasters must be accredited before being allowed entry to the Competition.

3. The instructions provided by the AFC or AFC Commercial Rights Partner staff present at the Stadium shall be followed.

4. Sports Anthology series’ and magazine shows must clear rights directly with the AFC Commercial Rights Partner.

5. RTV crews are limited to a maximum of one (1) cameraman, one (1) producer and one (1) assistant. Any other member of a Broadcaster crew (e.g. presenters), should watch the match from the commentary position when they are not actively involved in the shoot.

6. Accredited Broadcaster crews must pick up Media Identity Bibs from the AFC Commercial Rights Partner at the Stadium. In principle, crews will be asked to exchange their journalist ID cards for bibs. Journalist ID cards will be returned to crews when they return the bib. Media Identity Bibs are numbered for record-management purposes.

7. Media Identity Bibs will allow Broadcast crews pitch-side access, but must be worn at all times during the Match. Failure to do so will result in expulsion from the Stadium.

8. Team lists will be made available eighty (80) minutes before kick-off.

9. RTV will not be allowed to shoot from behind the far touchline’s advertising boards unless prior written approval is received from the AFC.

10. Once a Match starts, RTV crews must shoot from behind either goal. RTV crews are required to stand behind advertising boards and will not be allowed to change sides until half-time, the end of normal playing time, or the start of Extra Time.

11. Only Broadcast cameras tied into the live feed will be allowed to shoot from the stands. No other television cameras are allowed in the stands.

12. NRH crews may not go on to the Field of Play to interview Participating Players after a Match. Only the Host Broadcaster and RTV using the flash interview facility (by arrangement with an AFC Commercial Rights Partner representative)
may interview at pitch-side at the end of a Match. NRH crews may only interview
the Head Coach and Player of the Match at the press conference, and
Participating Players in the designated mixed zone, subject to space availability
and regional restrictions.

13. The Head Coach of both Participating Clubs and the Player of the Match shall
attend a press conference that will commence immediately after the Match. At
the post-match press conference all cameras must stand at the back of the room
and allow journalists to sit at the front.
Failure to adhere to this Schedule may result in ejection from the Stadia and refusal of accreditation for future AFC competitions.

All photographers requiring access to the Competition must contact the relevant Host Club and complete the necessary application procedures.

All Photographers requiring pitch-side access must wear a Media Identity Bib. Bibs are available from the Host Club at the entrance to Stadia or the hotel media centre in exchange for a journalist ID card.

Team lists will be made available sixty (60)minutes before kick-off in the media centre.

Access onto the Field of Play is not permitted at any time, including before and after the Match.

Before the start of each Match, photographers may shoot the line-ups of the Participating Clubs from the touchline, but must not enter the Field of Play.

Once the Match starts photographers must stay behind the advertising boards behind the goals. Photographers may not move from behind the boards during the Match. Photographers may not shoot from the stands.

The Head Coach of both Participating Clubs and the Player of the Match shall attend a press conference that will commence immediately after the Match. At the press conference, all photographers must stand at the rear of the room and allow journalists to be seated towards the front.

The official AFC photographer may work from any position, including touch-lines, but should not move during the Match. The instructions provided by the AFC and/or the AFC Commercial Rights Partner staff present at the Stadium shall be followed.

Photographers may only change ends at half-time or, if applicable, during the interval before the start of extra time.

Each photographer must obtain their photographer bib before a Match and return it before leaving the Stadium. The bib must be worn at all times.