Competition Regulations
AFC Champions League 2013

Regulations
AFC Champions League 2013

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DEFINITIONS

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

Accommodation	Hotels or any other locations providing accommodation to guests for the Competition.
Accreditation or Accredited	The giving of authority to a person or a group of persons, involving certification, which allows the accredited person(s) to undertake specified activities within the Controlled Access Areas.
Advertising Rights	The right to promote to the exclusion of all others save as qualified in this Agreement, brand and/or corporate names and/or products and/or services at and/or in relation to the Competitions by whatever means available, whether existing now or to be developed in the future, whether at the Stadia or within the Controlled Access Areas, by in-stadium/out-stadium perimeter signage and other advertising, concessions, displays, sampling, premiums, equipment usage or other methods and through printed matter such as programmes, posters, letterheads, press releases, newsletters and tickets, including, for the avoidance of doubt, subject always to the AFC Guidelines, the right to display such advertising on the clothing or footwear worn, or on any equipment used, carried or transported by officials, medical and security staff, ballboys and/or photographers. The display of the name and/or logo of the bona fide supplier of clothing on the strip of referees/linesmen and other officials are also included. For the avoidance of doubt, advertising on the strip of Participating Players is excluded, other than where it is in accordance with AFC rules and regulations.
AFC	The Asian Football Confederation.
AFC Committees	AFC Committees including The Disciplinary Committee, Appeals Committee, Referees Committee, Finance & Marketing Committee, AFC Executive Committee, AFC Professional League Ad-Hoc Committee and such other committees of the AFC as advised by AFC from time to time.

AFC Competitions Committee	The AFC Committee consisting of a Chairman and eleven (11) members whose duties are to organise and manage competitions on behalf of the Confederation including making decisions on any matters related to these Competitions; to arrange the groups, venues and dates for competitions and matches and delegate, if necessary, the organisation of the same to any Member or Committee; to appoint officials for its competitions; to recommend to the Executive Committee amendments or alterations to the Rules, Regulations and Instructions for competition and matches; to submit reports on competitions and matches to the Secretariat.
AFC Delegation	Any officials appointed by AFC, including but not limited to the Head of Delegation, Head of Administration, Tournament Director, AFC General Coordinator, AFC Assistant General Coordinator, Match Commissioner, Referee Assessor, Referee, Assistant Referees, Fourth Official, Media Officer, Marketing Officer, Security Officer, Medical Officer, Legal Officer, Doping Control Officer and Technical Study Group Officer.
AFC Headquarters	AFC House, Jalan 1/155 B, Bukit Jalil, 57000 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
AFC Logo(s)	The official logo of AFC, and/or such other official logo, which shall be the only marks used by AFC, save where otherwise mutually agreed by the parties.
AFC's Marketing Representative	WSG, the marketing company that AFC has contracted for the sale and service of the Commercial Rights in the Competition.
AFC Official Merchandise	The official merchandise of AFC, to which the AFC Logo and the Competition Marks may be applied, to those products at the sole discretion of AFC.
AFC Website	www.the-afc.com
Ambush Marketing	Also known as parasitic marketing, is generally understood as being marketing or promotional activities activated by individuals or entities which

	have no official association with a product and/or service, and where such activities seek to take advantage of the goodwill associated with an event or other sponsored property.
Archive Materials	Any audio and/or audio-visual materials and/or photographs, Image Rights, Broadcast Rights, Film Rights, Video Rights, New Media Rights, and/or all Competition Data.
Broadcast Affiliates	Any entity, including the Host Broadcaster, which has acquired from AFC directly or from AFC's Marketing Representative any rights in respect of the Broadcast Rights of the Competition.
Broadcast Rights	The right to broadcast the Competition and the right of access to the Stadia to the exclusion of all others, for the purposes of producing a live television and/or radio signal and/or recordings of the Competition in any form of audio and/or audio-visual medium and the right to license the right to exhibit such live signal and/or recordings and/or part thereof by any and all forms of television and/or radio and/or any media now existing or as may be developed in the future, including, all forms of terrestrial, cable and satellite television, IPTV, broadband (fixed and/or wireless), Internet and Interactive Television on a world-wide basis.
Clean Stadia	The Stadia shall be free from commercial or promotional messages, advertising, displays or facilities of any kind except for those installed, erected or otherwise authorised by AFC from the period commencing 48 hours prior to each Match or other event comprising the Competitions until 24 hours thereafter so that the Commercial Rights shall be fully available to AFC without hindrance.
Clubs	Clubs which exist within the geographical territory of National Association, and who shall be under the control and jurisdiction of a National Association whilst participating in the Competition.
Club Licensing	Refers to the participating club's National Club Licensing Regulations and the AFC Club Licensing Regulations.

Commercial Affiliates	Any entity to which AFC directly or indirectly has granted or will grant any aspect of the Commercial Rights in respect of the Competition, including but not limited to Official Sponsors, Official Supporters, Official Licensees and Official Media Partners.
Commercial Rights	All rights of commercial exploitation of the Competition , including without limitation all rights of commercial exploitation of the Advertising Rights, Broadcast Rights, Concession Rights, Hospitality Rights, Image Rights, Merchandising Rights, Promotional Rights, Sponsorship Rights, and Travel and Tour Rights, by New Media Rights, Video Rights and/or commercial exploitation by any other means.
Competition	AFC Champions League 2013 which shall include the Matches as set out in the Match Schedule, including any qualifying or AFC Champions League Play-Off matches, activities on the field of play (other than matches), opening ceremonies, presentation or closing ceremonies, press conferences or official functions connected therewith.
Competition Data	Any and all information related to the Competition, including Fixture Lists, Image Rights, information and/or statistics about the Participating Teams and/or Participating Players, information and/or statistics about their participation and/or performance in the Competitions, match analysis, referee decisions, and any other information in relation to the Competition.
Competition Marks	Shall mean any and all current and future competition Trademark's and/or logos, copyrights and/or designs whether or not registered or applied for and whether registered in part or in whole including any and or present and future names, designations, symbols, logos or identifying music or sounds of AFC or the Competition, the AFC Fair Play name and device mark, the official logo, the Competition Trophy and other artistic and autographic representations in one, two or three dimensional proportions used by or in association with the Competition.

Competition Website	The official website in relation to a Competition operated exclusively by AFC with a dedicated URL registered, owned and maintained by AFC, at AFC's sole expense, for use exclusively by AFC.
Complimentary Tickets	Tickets which are supplied without charge.
Concession Rights	Sampling, vending and other distribution methods for and of products or services, including pourage rights at the Stadia and Facility Areas.
Controlled Access Areas	The locations of the Matches and other events, such as (without limitation) Stadia and their fences and perimeters, the aerial space above the Stadia, and all other locations associated with the Competitions, including the Facility Areas, media centres, international broadcast centres, Official Training Sites, designated official hotels (including but not limited to the official hotels for the Participating Teams), hospitality and VIP areas and facilities, other areas to which admission is regulated by the Hosting Association's accreditation system, and surrounding and adjacent areas to the locations described above.
Facility Areas	The location of Official Functions, press centres, ticket offices, official hotels, media areas, official hospitality areas and information centres controlled by or on behalf of AFC used in connection with the Competition whether at the Stadia or elsewhere at the Venues.
FIFA	The Federation International de Football Association.
Film Rights	The right to exploit visual images of the Competition, including images of the Participating Teams and/or Participating Players, whether produced for the purpose of the Broadcast Rights or separately, by means of cinematograph film throughout the Territory by any means of transmission and/or exhibition and/or reproduction now existing or hereinafter developed.

Force Majeure	Any event affecting the performance or any provision of this Agreement arising from or attributable to acts, events, omissions or accidents which are beyond the reasonable control of a party, and shall include but not be limited to abnormally inclement weather, flood, lightning, storm, fire, explosion, earthquake, structural damage, epidemic or other natural disaster, failure or shortage of power supplies, war, terrorist action, military operations, riot, crowd disorder, strike, lock-outs or other industrial action, or civil commotion.
Hospitality Rights	The exclusive opportunity to sell all hospitality and entertainment facilities at the Venue or within the Controlled Access Areas in combination with the Complimentary Tickets, whether such facilities are in boxes, marquees or otherwise, but excluding those private facilities reserved for AFC officials and guests not forming part of any commercial programme.
Host Broadcaster	The organisation appointed by AFC directly or indirectly to ensure and provide the production of the broadcast signals of the Matches and other events of the Competition, and the provision of all related services in accordance with the Broadcast Rights.
Hosting Association	A National Association appointed by AFC to organise, stage and host the Competition
Hosting Club	A club appointed by a National Association and approved by AFC to organise, stage and host the Competition.
Image Rights	The right to use still and/or moving images and/or representations of images of Participating Teams and Participating Players participation in the Competitions, in accordance with the Commercial Regulations.
Interactive Communications System	Any interactive communication system that enables end users to engage in two-way interactive transmissions including the ability to access interactive programmes, services and media content, whether such programmes, services and media content are distributed by telephone or cable lines (whether fibreoptic, coaxial or otherwise) satellites, microwave or other wireless digital communication systems, cellular communication systems, WAP, UTMS, personal digital communications devices, pager services, online data services, broadband, the Internet or any combination or subset of the foregoing employing any

current or future design or technology or any similar interactive communications systems whether now known or hereafter developed.

Interactive Television — Any distribution of television signals in conjunction with an Interactive Communications System in such a way as to allow recipients to engage in two-way interactive communications including the ability to access interactive programmes and services irrespective of the means of distribution of such television signals.

Internet — The world-wide network of TCP/IP based networks, including services running applications such as the World Wide Web, email, chat lines, FTP and Gopher. For the purposes of this Agreement, Internet also means any private or proprietary network that connects to the above World Wide network of TCP/IP based networks through bridges or gateways, including AOL, Compuserve, MSN, prodogy and minitel.

League — "League" means a professional league and/or amateur league which consist of a combination of clubs within the territory of a National Association and which is subordinate to and under the authority of that National Association.

Match(es) — Each football match(es) in its entirety (including extra time and penalty kick) of the Competition, and including any delayed, deferred Matches and/or replays.

Match Schedule — The published schedule containing details of the Competition (which details shall include but not be limited to the names of the Participating Teams, Venues, Stadia, and details of the Match kick-off times)

Match Subsidies — Match subsidies include travel subsidy and performance bonus(es).

Media — All members of the written press, on-line editors, photographers, television news crews and the representatives of the Broadcast Rights Holders

entitled to media accreditation as determined by AFC.

Member(s) / Member Association(s)	A National Association which is a member of the AFC. Membership shall be "Ordinary", "Provisional" and "Associate" and shall have the same meaning as contained in the AFC Statutes.
Merchandising Rights	The right to design, in consultation with AFC, and the right to exploit the Competition Marks and/or Official Status in connection with the promotion, manufacture, packaging, distribution and sale of goods and services of all kinds, including items of clothing, coins, medals, other collectibles and premiums related to the Competition.
National Association(s)	The controlling bodies for association football within each country or territory of Asia.
New Media Rights	The right to develop, prepare, adapt, reformat, publish and sell, distribute, transmit, exhibit or otherwise transfer, and licence others to do so, the Broadcast Rights, Film Rights, Video Rights, Image Rights and any Competition Data relating to the Competitions, for exploitation in any manner (whether sequentially or non-sequentially or in combination with any third party works or derivative works, if any) by any means, method or device including the Internet, broadband, wireless, Interactive Communication Systems, Interactive Television, intranet, extranet, digital magnetic and or optical information storage and retrieval systems, GSM or other mobile phone technology and any other device or medium for electronic reproduction, publication, distribution or transmission, whether now known or hereafter known or developed. For the avoidance of doubt, the New Media Rights will include the right: (1) To develop an Internet web site in relation to the Competition; (2) To develop e-commerce opportunities; (3) to publish the Competition Data, in print media (including, without limitation, magazines, books and other printed materials) ; and (4) to develop a computer game which can be played within and outside the Competition

Official Functions	Any official event organised in connection with the Competitions, including but not limited to press conferences, official dinners or lunches and banquets.
Official Licensee	A sub-licensee of the Commercial Rights appointed by AFC.
Official Training Sites	Training sites designated by the Hosting Association for use by the Participating Teams throughout the duration of the Competition.
Participating Players	Those players registered and participating in the Competition and any other players under the authority of AFC during the Competition.
Participating Club(s)	Those teams participating in the Competitions, under the authority of the Club, Member Associations and AFC during the Competition.
Premiums	A promotional item (including packaging, labelling and/or containers thereof) which incorporates a mark and/or logo of AFC and/or the Competitions, and which is distributed free of charge or via prize competitions.
Promotional Rights	Any rights to official publications, official suppliers, official products, sales promotion including but not limited to the right to organise promotional competitions and to make awards and give prizes, official music rights, the right to grant Official Status and all other rights of commercial value in regard to the Competition.
Proprietary Interests	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.

Regulations	Those regulations controlled and published by AFC to be used in connection with the Competition.
Sponsorship Rights	An association with the Competition and/or AFC (subject to the special provisions regarding the development of AFC Logo as set out in this Agreement and/or the AFC Guidelines) by any combination of Commercial Rights, including title sponsor of the Competitions or any of them such as "AFC Champions League 2013" sponsored / presented by Company A" and/or such other designation as mutually agreed by the parties.
Stadia	The official stadia (or any stadium) and the airspace and surrounding areas for the Matches, whether under the control of the Hosting Association or otherwise, used for the Matches, including without limitation parking facilities, VIP and hospitality areas, concourses, concession areas, fencing and entrances.
Team's Official Delegation	The participating club's Official Delegation will comprise of a maximum of 18 players and 11 officials who are named in the Final Registration for the Competition.
Territory	The World.
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 Stadia and for a Venue. Ticketing shall include the management of operation necessary for the production, sale, distribution, delivery and payment of the tickets of the Competition.
Tribune d'Honneur	The highest category of seating in the Stadia that is reserved for VVIP Guests.
Venues	Each host city and the immediately surrounding area in which the Stadia are located.
Video Rights	The right to produce or license the production of video cassettes, video discs, digital video discs or other video material containing material created by means

of the Broadcast Rights and/or Film Rights for the purpose of exploiting said video cassettes and/or discs and/or material by means of, including but not limited to, sale or rental and by all forms of non-theatrical distribution.

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

(a) The singular shall include the plural and vice versa.

(b) The masculine gender shall include the feminine and vice versa.

(c) Reference to persons shall include any legal person or corporation.

(d) References to AFC shall where the context permits include its successors and permitted assigns and, in relation to the availability of the Commercial Rights, its respective members, national bodies and hosting committees.

SECTION 1: REPRESENTATION

1. Representation

a) The AFC stages the AFC Champions League Competition (hereafter the "Competition") annually.

b) Any rights associated with the Competition which has not been granted by these Regulations and/or specific agreements to a participating Club, Member Association in the Competition belong to AFC.

c) AFC stages the Competition with the participating Clubs, Member Associations and its affiliated Leagues (collectively hereinafter the Hosting Association) after the appointment by the AFC Executive Committee.

d) The current AFC Statutes, all AFC regulations, guidelines, circulars and codes are binding for all parties participating and involved in the preparation, organisation and hosting of the Competition. Any reference in these Regulations to the AFC Statutes refers to the Statutes valid at the time of entry and to all relevant AFC regulations, guidelines, circulars and codes.

e) The winner of the Competition shall undertake to take part in the following competitions:

   i. FIFA Club World Cup 2013
   ii. Intercontinental competitions arranged by AFC with other confederations

f) Clubs are not authorised to represent AFC or the Competition without AFC's prior written approval.

g) AFC may appoint match officials including but not limited to Match Commissioner, Referees, AFC General Coordinator, AFC Assistant General Coordinator, Referee Assessor, Media Officer, Marketing Officer, Medical Officer, Doping Control Officer, Legal Officer and Security Officer for each match of the Competition for the purpose of match organisation.

h) All Players and Officials registered for participation in this Competition shall undertake to ensure their presence at the AFC Awards Night of the AFC Competitions Calendar Year if they are nominated for an award.

Any player or official failing to do so shall be referred to the AFC Disciplinary Committee.

2. Participating Team Agreement

a) The obligations and responsibilities of the Participating Club/s and their National Association are stipulated in the Participating Team Agreement (PTA), its annexes and amendments, the AFC List of Requirements and in these Regulations and other AFC regulations, guidelines and circulars and any other agreements reached between AFC and the National Association of the Participating Club/s.

b) Participating Team Agreement must be completed in full and submitted by the respective participating clubs through Member Associations to the AFC Secretariat.

c) The name of the eligible Club must appear on the form, except for those countries whose competition(s) conclude after the date stipulated above. In such instances the Member Association must indicate by the stipulated date that it will enter Clubs for this Competition.

d) Only the Participating Team Agreement submitted to the AFC Secretariat by email and courier post will be valid and taken into consideration.

e) The eligible Member Association and Club are responsible to ensure that the original copy of the Participating Team Agreement reaches the AFC Secretariat not later than the entry deadline communicated to the Member Association. If the Participating Team Agreement does not reach the AFC Secretariat by the entry deadline, the participation of the eligible Club will be cancelled.

3. Security and Safety

a) The Hosting Club and its National Association, and the relevant government authorities are responsible for devising, planning and implementing adequate security and safety for the Competition at every relevant location (covering all Controlled Access Areas) which shall cover for all relevant persons at all times, including but not limited to the following:

i. All participating Club's players and officials
ii. AFC Match Officials

iii. Media
iv. Commercial Partners
v. Fans and spectators

b) A detailed and highly relevant security plan shall be issued in the form of a binding declaration on all parties involved and shall include but not be limited to the Stadium and its vicinity, the training grounds and also hotels of visiting Club and AFC Match Officials. This security plan shall be based on the principles outlined in the FIFA Safety Guidelines.

c) In the interests of the safety of players and match officials, Hosting Clubs and its National Association must provide access to the field of play that guarantees the safe entry and exit of these persons.

d) The Hosting Club and its National Association may be subject to disciplinary measures if appropriate security arrangements are not provided. Sanctions may include fines and suspensions.

4. Insurance

a) The AFC shall provide the match commissioner, referee assessor, referees, assistant referees, 4th officials and other AFC Match Officials insurance coverage from the time of their departure from home to the time of arrival.

b) The Hosting Club must conclude the necessary insurance policies with a reputable insurance company, including but not limited to third-party liability. Such insurance must involve an appropriate guaranteed sum for injury and damage to persons, objects and property, and correspond to the specific circumstances of the associations concerned. Likewise, the policies must fully cover all risks connected with the staging of the Competition and exempt AFC from all claims and liabilities, and further name AFC as a co-insured in all policies.

c) For the Competition, the Hosting Club should conclude the following insurance coverage on the basis of a general agreement:

i. Third-party liability insurance
ii. Insurance against liability for pecuniary loss
iii. Accident insurance
iv. Legal expenses insurance
v. Travel luggage insurance
vi. Spectator insurance
vii. Electronic equipment insurance
viii. Robbery insurance

ix. Fidelity insurance
x. Cup insurance
xi. Event cancellation insurance
xii. Medical insurance

d) The remaining risks of the Hosting Club and its National Association must be covered by, at their own risk, by means of additional insurance contracts. AFC must be notified of such additional insurance coverage, and may request copies of the policies concerned.

e) The Hosting Club and its National Association are solely responsible for the insurance coverage of the Stadiums and must release AFC of any liability whatsoever in this respect. A release of liability must be signed and returned to AFC at least one month before the start of the Competition. If such an exemption from liability is not presented in due time, the Hosting club agrees that the necessary insurance coverage may be concluded by AFC at their expense.

f) The Participating Clubs are responsible for the insurance coverage (including hospitalization and surgical operations) of their delegation, including players and officials, at their own expense, for all matches played in the competition. Claims for damages against AFC are expressly excluded, and the participating Clubs shall hold AFC harmless against any such claims.

5. Responsibility

a) The Hosting Club and its National Association shall discharge AFC and hold it harmless from all responsibility and relinquish any claim against AFC and the members of its delegation for any damages resulting from any act or omission relating to the organisation and course of the Competition to the exclusion of damages caused by AFC or the members of its delegation acting with intent or gross negligence.

b) The Hosting clubs and its National Association shall exempt (indemnify and hold harmless) AFC from all third party claims for damages relating to match organisation, regardless of whether individual matches in question take place or not.

SECTION 2: TECHNICAL REGULATIONS

6. Matches played in accordance with the Laws of the Game

   a) All matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game laid down by the International Football Association Board and published by FIFA.

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

   c) Only three (3) substitutes listed on the Match Starting List may take part in the match.

   d) If there are fewer than seven (7) players on either of the teams, the match shall be abandoned. In this case, the AFC Competitions Committee (and if required the AFC Disciplinary Committee) shall decide on the consequences.

7. Duration of Match

   a) Each match shall last 90 minutes, comprising two periods of 45 minutes, with an interval of 15 minutes in between from the whistle ending the first period to the whistle starting the second period.

   b) Both teams shall walk to the field together from their dressing rooms after the end of 15 minutes interval.

8. Extra Time

   a) If, in accordance with the provisions of these Regulations, extra time is played as a result of a draw at the end of normal playing time, it shall consist of two (2) periods of fifteen (15) minutes each, with an interval of five (5) minutes at the end of normal playing time, but not between the two periods of extra time.

9. Away Goals

   a) For matches in the Knock-out format played on a home and away basis, if two Teams involved in a tie score the same number of goals over two legs, the Teams which scores more away goals qualifies for the next stage. If this procedure does not produce a result i.e. if the two teams score the same number of goals at home and away, extra time shall be played according to the provisions of these regulations.

10. Determining the Winner by Penalty Kicks

a) If the result is still a draw after the two periods of extra time, kicks from the penalty mark shall be taken to determine the winner, in accordance with the procedures described in the Laws of the Game.

b) If the taking of kicks from the penalty mark cannot be completed because of weather conditions or for other reasons beyond control, the results shall be decided by the drawing of lots by the Referee in the presence of the AFC Match Commissioner and the two (2) team captains.

c) If, through the fault of a Team, the taking of kicks from the penalty mark cannot be completed, Art. 29 c) of these regulations shall apply.

11. Abandonment of Matches

a) If the match is stopped by the Referee before the end of normal time or during any extra time because of any force majeure or any other incidents such as, but not limited to, the field is not fit for play, weather conditions, floodlight failure, etc. the following procedures must be followed:

   i. The match is automatically suspended for the duration of thirty (30) minutes to allow conditions to improve sufficiently to restart the match, unless the referee decides that the match can be resumed earlier.

   ii. At the discretion of the Referee, another suspension of a maximum of thirty (30) minutes shall be allowed if in his opinion this extra period of suspension will allow the match to be resumed. Otherwise, at the end of this second thirty (30) minute period, the Referee must declare the match to have been abandoned.

   iii. In the case of an abandoned match, the AFC shall decide within two (2) hours of the Referee's decision to abandon the match whether the match result at the time of abandonment is valid or whether a replay shall be organised, taking sporting and organisational considerations into account.

b) No appeals may be lodged against decisions stated in Art. 11 a).

c) In the case a match is abandoned as a result of force majeure for any reason after it has already kicked off, the match shall recommence with the same score at the minute at which play was interrupted rather than being replayed in full.

The following principles shall apply to the recommencement of the match:

i. The match shall recommence with the same players on the pitch and substitutes available as when the match was initially abandoned;
ii. No additional substitutes maybe be added to the list of players on the team sheet;
iii. The teams can make only the number of substitution to which they were still entitled when the match was abandoned;
iv. Players sent off during the abandoned match cannot be replaced;
v. Any sanctions imposed before the match was abandoned remain valid for the remainder of the match;
vi. The kick-off time, date (foreseen for the following day) and location shall be decided by the Organising Committee;
vii. Any matters requiring further decision shall be treated by the Organising Committee.

12. Cancellation of Matches

a) If the match cannot commence on time due to force majeure or any other incidents such as, but not limited to, the field is not fit for play, weather conditions, floodlight failure, etc. the following procedures must be followed:

i. The match must first be delayed for a minimum of thirty (30) minutes, unless the Referee decides that the match can commence earlier, before a decision to reschedule the match is taken.

ii. At the discretion of the Referee, another delay of a maximum of thirty (30) minutes shall be allowed if in his opinion this extra period of delay will allow the match to commence. Otherwise, at the end of this second thirty (30) minute period, the Referee must declare the match to have been cancelled.

iii. In the case of a cancelled match, the AFC shall decide within two (2) hours of the Referee's decision to cancel the match whether the match can be rescheduled, taking sporting and organisational considerations into account, or whether any other action and decision is needed to continue with the competition. Any disciplinary sanctions resulting from the cancelled match shall remain in force.

b) No appeals may be lodged against decisions stated in Art. 12 a).

13. Stadiums (Stadia)

a) The Stadium for the matches in the Competition shall be nominated upon entry by the Clubs and subject to inspection and confirmation by AFC.

b) Unless stipulated otherwise in these Regulations, matches in the Competition must be played in a stadium which meets all the requirement of and standards stated in the "AFC Stadia Regulations for AFC Champions League & AFC Cup" in compliance with the safety & security standards and other AFC guidelines and instructions for international matches.

c) The stadium nominated for the matches in the Competition by the Participating Club and its National Association shall be the home venue of the Participating Club in the national top league, unless otherwise instructed by AFC.

d) If the Hosting Club considers the field of play unfit for play, the AFC Secretariat shall be informed immediately, as well as the visiting Club and the AFC Match Officials before their departure. If the Hosting Club concerned fails to do this, it will be obliged to cover all of the expenses incurred for travel, board and lodging of the parties involved.

e) If there is any doubt regarding the condition of the field of play once the visiting Club has already left to play the match, the referee shall decide whether the field of play is playable or not. If the referee declares that the match cannot commence because of force majeure, or any other incidents such as, but not limited to, the field is not fit for play, weather conditions, floodlight failures, etc. the procedure to be followed is described in Art. 12 above.

f) Throughout the competition a Club must play all its home matches in the Competition at one and the same Stadium unless forced to do otherwise because of circumstances beyond its control. In this case, the Club must provide proof and evidence, including but not limited to photographs, visual evidence and letters from the appropriate authorities as to why the Stadium is no longer fit to host the Match.

g) Only upon receipt of the necessary documents, AFC will make a decision on condition of the Stadium and where necessary, grant the Club the permission to nominate another Stadium which must meet the

conditions in the "AFC Stadia Regulations for AFC Champions League & AFC Cup".

h) Prior to approving any Stadium, AFC reserves the right to conduct an inspection on the nominated Stadium. The cost of this inspection visit will be borne by the Club and/or its National Association who requested this change.

i) Should such Hosting Club not be able to propose an acceptable alternative Stadium within the deadline set by the AFC Secretariat, the AFC Secretariat will select an alternative Stadium in a neutral Venue. In such case, the club considered the "home" club must stage the relevant matches at the neutral venue in accordance with the instructions of AFC and in cooperation with the Member Association on whose territory the match will take place and local authorities. The costs of staging the match shall be borne by the club considered the home club.

j) If, at any time during the Competition, the AFC Secretariat deems that, for whatever reason, the Stadium is not fit for staging a match; the AFC may consult with the Hosting Club and propose an alternative Stadium, in accordance with the standards required by AFC. Should such a Hosting Club not be able to propose an acceptable alternative Stadium within the deadline set by the AFC Secretariat, Art. 29 will apply.

14. The Field of Play

a) Hosting Club should ensure that the field of play is in good playable conditions.

b) The AFC Match Commissioner will inspect the stadium prior to the match day 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 goal and field are not met by the Laws of the Game, the AFC Match Commissioner will issue instructions for the hosting clubs to rectify.

c) However, if prior to the match kick-off time, Art. 14 b) is still not complied with, the Host Club shall forfeit the match. Victory and the resultant three (3) points will be awarded to the opposing team as well as the score of 3-0.

15. Team Bench and Technical Area

a) Up to a maximum of eleven (11) registered Team officials and seven (7) named substitutes are allowed to sit on the team bench, provided they are in possession of the appropriate eligibility and access card.

b) All officials and players on the team bench must wear their eligibility card at all times.

c) All persons on the bench must wear kits that are contrasting with the kit of the players and referees on the pitch.

d) Team 'A' shall occupy the left hand side bench as viewed from the 4th Official's bench.

16. Warming up

a) The Clubs shall be entitled to warm up on the field of play before the match if the weather permits.

b) During actual play, a maximum of six (6) named substitutes from each team may warm up at the same time but without a ball (except for the goalkeeper), behind the goal closest to their substitutes' bench or in a space determined by the AFC Match Commissioner. The players may be accompanied by a maximum of two (2) officials from the team bench.

17. Official Training Sessions at the Stadium

a) Depending on the weather and condition of the pitch, the Participating Clubs will only be entitled to a one-hour official training session in the Stadium where they are due to play one or 2 days before their match at the same time as the match kick-off.

b) The field of play must be prepared to match conditions for this session. If the field of play is not in good condition, the AFC Match Commissioner may direct the teams only to inspect the field of play wearing training shoes.

c) If an artificial pitch is to be used for the matches, the Participating Clubs will only be entitled to have either a two (2) one-hour official training sessions or a two (2) hour official training sessions in the Stadium where they are due to play one day or two days before their match.

d) If teams choose not to train at the match stadium they have to inform the AFC Match Commissioner of their Official Training time at other designated Official Training Site approved by AFC. This shall be treated as Official Training Session.

18. Official Training Sites

a) Official training sites, that conform to the AFC Marketing Regulations, in good condition and situated near the Visiting Team's headquarters in each venue shall be made available to the visiting Club at least two (2) full days prior to the match in the Competition and must be declared upon entry to the Competition.

b) The Clubs participating in the Competition shall use only those training sites which have been officially designated for training by the Organising Committee for AFC Club Competitions and approved by the AFC. A fully equipped training field including and not limited to portable goal posts and line markings must be prepared.

c) These official training sites are reserved for training and practice matches and shall not be used for other matches and events as from two (2) days prior to each Club's match in the competition, unless written permission has been obtained from the AFC.

d) The training venue for the match for visiting club must not be more than either thirty (30) minutes or thirty (30) kilometres from the visiting team's hotel, unless approved by AFC.

e) The training field should be prepared and ready in the same condition as the match venue pitch for the teams.

19. Footballs

a) The footballs for the Competition shall be selected and supplied by AFC as follows:
   i. Each Club will be provided with 15 match balls before the season for training.
   ii. The Hosting Club will be provided 10 match balls for each match
   iii. Visiting Clubs are required to bring their AFC-provided training balls with them on away trips.

b) Whenever the footballs are delivered to the Hosting Club and/or its National Association, the Hosting Club and/or its National Association is

responsible to cover the cost of any taxes and / or fees pertaining to the clearance of these footballs.

20. Match Schedule

a) All matches are played according to the AFC Competition Calendar for 2013 (Appendix 1) as set by the AFC Competitions Committee. The dates are final and binding on all concerned.

b) The Clubs shall inform the AFC Secretariat of the kick-off times for all home matches upon entry to the Competition, which shall be subject to approval by AFC.

c) The AFC Competitions Committee shall ensure that where necessary and possible, matches in the same group are played simultaneously when the situation demands for sporting reasons, taking into consideration time zones. The AFC will decide on the simultaneous kick-off times when applicable.

21. Competition System

a) The Competition shall consist of three stages

i. AFC Champions League Play-off stage consisting of the Play-off matches (knock-out system)
ii. Group stage consisting of the Group matches (League system)
iii. Knockout Stage consisting of the matches of Round of 16, Quarter-finals, Semi-finals, and Final (Knockout system)

b) The matches in the Competition shall be played in accordance with one of the following three formats:

i. One single match (Knock-out system) : Play-off
ii. Home & Away matches (League system) : In groups composed of several teams
iii. One home and one away match per team (knock-out system) : Round of 16, Quarter-Finals, Semi-Finals and Final

c) The AFC Competitions Committee decides on the playing system, playing format, the group formation and the duration of the Competition. Such decisions are final.

d) There will two (2) Official Draw Ceremonies which includes a Draw for Play-off Stage/Group Stage/Round of 16 and another Draw for Knock-out stage of the Competition in accordance with Art. 21 a).

e) Depending on the number of entries or in the case of withdrawals or suspensions of clubs, the AFC Competitions Committee reserves the right and may change the Competition System (cf. Art. 21) and the Technical Rules. (cf. Art. 22~25)

f) Participating Clubs must play their home matches at home. Home matches may not be played in another country without the express permission of the AFC Competitions Committee.

22. Technical Rules for the Competition: AFC Champions League Play-off Stage: Play-off matches

a) The Competitions Committee shall divide the eligible clubs into pairing by drawing lots.

b) The play-off stage is played in accordance to the knock-out system.

c) Teams shall play a single match and the Team having scored most goals in a match will qualify for the next play-off match or Group matches of the Competition depending on the number of clubs in play-off.

d) If the same number of goals is scored or a match ends without any goals being scored after 90 minutes, extra time shall be played (cf. Art. 8). If no goal or the same number of goals is scored during these periods of extra time, penalty kicks shall be taken to determine the winner (cf. Art. 10).

e) Away goals do not apply.

23. Technical Rules for the Competition: Group Stage: Group matches

a) The Group matches of the Competition will consist of thirty-two (32) clubs, drawn into eight groups of four clubs. The groups shall be divided into four groups containing Clubs from the West and Central & South zones and four groups containing Clubs from ASEAN & East zones.

b) The AFC Competitions Committee forms groups and/or sub-groups for the Competition by drawing lots whilst taking sports, geographic and

economic factors into consideration, as far as possible. Clubs from the same Member Association will not be drawn into the same group.

c) The matches in the group are played under the league system whereby each club plays one home and one away match against each of the other club in its group.

d) The following match sequence applies (the number designates the position drawn in each group):

1st match day: 1 v 4, 3 v 2
2nd match day: 4 v 3, 2 v 1
3rd match day: 4 v 2, 1 v 3
4th match day: 2 v 4, 3 v 1
5th match day: 4 v 1, 2 v 3
6th match day: 1 v 2, 3 v 4

e) Three (3) points is awarded for a win, one (1) point for a draw and zero (0) point for a loss.

f) In the league system the ranking in each group is determined as follows:

i. Greater number of points obtained in all group matches;
ii. If two or more Teams are equal on the basis of the above criterion, their place shall be determined as follows:
   A) Greater number of points obtained in the group matches between the Teams concerned;
   B) Goal difference resulting from the group matches between the Teams concerned; (Away goals do not apply)
   C) Greater number of goals scored in the group matches between the Teams concerned; (Away goals do not apply)
   D) Goal difference in all the group matches;
   E) Greater number of goals scored in all the group matches;
   F) Kicks from the penalty mark if only two Teams are involved and they are both on the field of play;
   G) Fewer score calculated according to the number of yellow and red cards received in the group matches. (Appendix 2)
   H) Drawing of lots

g) The winners and runners-up of each group shall automatically qualify for the Knock-out Stage: Round of 16 matches.

24. Technical Rules for the Competition: Knock-out Stage: Round of 16

Round of 16

a) The registration of players and officials for the Round of 16 shall be the same as those registered for Group Stage.

b) The Round of 16 shall be played in accordance with the knock-out system, on a home and away basis. Group Runner-up will host the 1st leg match first and the Group Winners will host the 2nd Leg Round of 16 match.

c) Teams shall play one home and one away match each, The Team having scored most goals in both games will qualify for the Quarter-finals. If the score of two teams is tied over the home & away matches, away goals (cf. Art. 9) will be applied.

d) If the tied score cannot be decided based on the away-goal rule, extra time shall be played after the second match (cf. Art. 8).

e) If the same number of goals or no goal is scored during these periods of extra time, penalty kicks shall be taken to determine the winner (cf. Art. 10). Away goals do not apply in extra time.

25. Technical Rules for the Competition: Knockout Stage

Quarter-finals

a) The Quarter-finals shall be played in accordance with the knock-out system, on a home and away basis.

b) Teams shall play one home and one away match each, the sequence of which will be determined by lots drawn by the AFC Competitions Committee. The Team having scored most goals in both games will qualify for the Semi-finals. If the score of two teams is tied over the home & away matches, away goals (cf. Art. 9) will be applied.

c) If the tied score cannot be decided based on the away-goal rule, extra time shall be played after the second match (cf. Art. 8).

d) If the same number of goal or no goal is scored during these periods of extra time, penalty kicks shall be taken to determine the winner (cf. Art. 10). Away goals do not apply in extra time.

Semi-finals

a) The Semi-finals shall all be played in accordance with the knock-out system, on a home and away basis.

b) Teams shall play one home and one away match each, the sequence of which will be determined by lots drawn by the AFC Competitions Committee. The Team having scored most goals in both games will qualify for the Final. If the score of two teams is tied over the home & away matches, away goals (cf. Art. 9) will be applied.

c) If the tied score cannot be decided based on the away-goal rule, extra time shall be played after the second match (cf. Art. 8).

d) If the same number of goal or no goal is scored during these periods of extra time, penalty kicks shall be taken to determine the winner (cf. Art. 10). Away goals do not apply in extra time.

Final

a) The Final shall all be played in accordance with the knock-out system, on a home and away basis.

b) Teams shall play one home and one away match each, the sequence of which will be determined by lots drawn by the AFC Competitions Committee. The Team having scored most goals in both games will win the Final. If the score of two teams is tied over the home & away matches, away goals (cf. Art. 9) will be applied.

c) If the tied score cannot be decided based on the away-goal rule, extra time shall be played after the second match (cf. Art. 8).

d) If the same number of goal or no goal is scored during these periods of extra time, penalty kicks shall be taken to determine the winner (cf. Art. 10). Away goals do not apply in extra time.

SECTION 3: ENTRIES FOR THE COMPETITION

26. Eligible Clubs

a) AFC shall determine the Club, its National Associations and affiliated Leagues who are eligible for the Competition as well as the number of clubs from each Member Association.

b) For clubs participating in the AFC Champions League, clubs must have been granted license according to AFC Club Licensing Regulations or National Club Licensing Regulations accredited by AFC.

c) The eligible clubs are represented on the following basis and order.

   i. One representative: winner of the top domestic league championship
   ii. Two representatives: winner of the top domestic league championship and winner of the domestic knock-out competition
   iii. Three representatives: winner and of the top domestic league championship, winner of the domestic knock-out competition and runner-up of the top domestic league championship.
   iv. Four representatives: winner of the top domestic league championship, winner of the domestic knock-out competition and runner-up and third-placed club of the top domestic league championship.

d) In the event that the winner of the domestic knock-out competition is also the winner, runner-up or third-placed club of the top domestic league, the Clubs which shall represent its National Association shall be nominated as follows:
   i. One representative: winner of the top domestic league championship
   ii. Two representatives: winner and runner-up of the top domestic league championship
   iii. Three representatives: winner, runner-up and third-placed club of the top domestic league championship
   iv. Four representatives: winner, runner-up, third-placed club and fourth-placed club of the top domestic league championship

e) The winner, runner-up, third-placed club or fourth-placed club of the top domestic league championship can only be nominated from the top domestic league championship ending in the year preceding the current Competition.

f) The winner of the domestic knock-out competition can only be nominated from the domestic knock-out competition ending in the year preceding the current Competition.

g) Club may be eligible and represented in the following competitions:
   i. AFC Champions League Play-Off
      1. The Champion club or Runner-up club of the previous edition of AFC Cup has the right to participate in the AFC Champions League Play-off under the following conditions:
         a. Club have been granted by licence according to AFC Club Licensing Regulations or National Club Licensing Regulations accredited by AFC.
      2. The club will not participate in the AFC Champions League or AFC Cup if it loses in the AFC Champions League Play-off Round.
      3. The club will participate in the AFC Champions League Group Stage directly if it wins the AFC Champions League Play-off Round 2.

h) If a club qualifies for the competition on sporting merit but have not been granted by licence according to National Club Regulations accredited by AFC, the next eligible club will be allowed to replace the club and participate in the competition.

i) If a club refuses to enter the competition, having qualified for it on a sport merit and obtained a licence from the national body, no other club from the same association may enter or replace the club in its place.

j) All nominated clubs are subject to the approval of the AFC Competitions Committee.

27. Admission Criteria

a) To be eligible to participate in the Competition, a Club must have qualified on sporting merit in accordance with Art. 26.

b) All decisions by the AFC Competitions Committee regarding entries are final and not subject to appeal.

28. Duties and Obligations

On entering the Competition, the Club shall automatically undertake:

a) To observe any agreements entered into with AFC as well as Regulations, policies, decisions, guidelines and circulars issued by AFC and the applicable national and supra-national laws;

b) To comply with the Laws of the Game issued by the IFAB;

c) To accept that all the administrative, disciplinary and refereeing matters connected with the Competition shall be settled by AFC in compliance with these Regulations or the decisions of relevant AFC Committee(s);

d) To recognize the jurisdiction of the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne as defined in the relevant provisions of the AFC Statutes;

e) To field their strongest team throughout the competition;

f) To observe the principles of Fair Play;

g) To be responsible for the behaviour of their players, officials, members, supporters and any person carrying out duties on their behalf throughout the Competition, either at home or from their arrival in the host country until their departure;

h) In their capacity as the Hosting Club, to make the appropriate arrangements for the staging of their matches, in conjunction with their Club, National Association and AFC Secretariat, and in accordance with these Regulations.

i) In their capacity as the Hosting Club, to guarantee that access to the stadium will be granted to the AFC delegation, officials and players of the visiting club, sponsors, travelling fans and media without any discrimination of gender, race and nationality.

j) To accept all the arrangements made by the Hosting Club in agreement with the AFC Secretariat;

k) To attend and participate in all official activities and events such as Match Coordination Meeting, media conferences, other media activities, social responsibilities activities etc. organised by AFC or the Hosting Association in accordance with guidelines and/or instructions in circulars issued by AFC regarding, in particular, media access to Clubs.

l) To ensure that unauthorised persons are not allowed entry into the teams dressing rooms.

29. Withdrawal, penalty for failing to play and replacement

a) Clubs shall play in all Competition matches.

b) Clubs that withdraw prior to, or are excluded from playing in the Competition, may be replaced by another Club. AFC's Competition Committee shall make the relevant decision, including a change in the Competition system (Art. 21) and the Technical Rules for the Competition (Art. 22 and Art. 25) if necessary.

c) If a Club withdraws after entering or does not report for a match at any Stage of the Competition, except in cases of force-majeure recognized by the AFC Competitions Committee, or if it refuses to continue to play or leaves the stadium before the end of the match, the Club shall:

   i. Be considered to have withdrawn from the Competition.
   ii. Have all its matches cancelled and considered null and void (all points, goals scored and goal against will not be counted and taken into consideration when deciding the ranking in the Group)
   iii. Be required to pay compensation for any and all damages or losses suffered by the other Club, its Member Association, the AFC and AFC's Commercial and TV partner(s). The amount of compensation will be determined by the AFC Executive Committee.
   iv. Be disqualified from taking part in the next two (2) editions of the Competition from which it withdrew and of all other AFC Competitions it may qualify to play. The AFC Executive Committee may extend the suspension depending on the gravity of the situation and/or damages. The AFC Competitions Committee has the right to decide on the number of slots for the Member Associations concerned.
   v. Be referred to the AFC Disciplinary Committee for additional sanctions and fines depending on the gravity of the situation, then to Executive Committee for final decision.
   vi. Return to the AFC any financial stipends that had been paid to them by AFC throughout the Competition or forfeit the right to the same.

d) The AFC Competitions Committee shall take whatever action it deems necessary in cases of force-majeure.

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

30. Size of Delegation Attending Matches

a) Each participating Club is entitled to an Official Delegation of a maximum of 18 players and 11 officials who must be registered in accordance with Art. 31 ~ 43. The Team's Official Delegation will be hosted by the Hosting Club (receiving full board, accommodation and transportation benefits).

31. Eligibility of players

a) A player is eligible to play in the Competition provided he fulfils all the following conditions:
   i. He is duly registered by the Club and its National Association concerned according to its own rules and those of FIFA Regulations for the Status and Transfer of Players where relevant;
   ii. He is only eligible to play for a Club affiliated to its National Association concerned;
   iii. He is duly registered with the AFC by the Participating Club according to the provisions of these regulations.

b) A player is deemed ineligible if:
   i. There is a violation of article 31 a);
   ii. He is fielded despite being served a suspension (yellow & red cards);
   iii. The player fails a doping test;
   iv. AFC finds that documents submitted during registration is/are false

c) Any club found guilty of fielding an ineligible player shall be dealt with by the AFC Disciplinary Committee in accordance with the AFC Statutes and the AFC Disciplinary Code.

32. Stages of Registration of Players

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

   i. Preliminary Registration
   ii. Player Selection List
   iii. Match Starting List

33. Documentations for Registration of Players

a) For the registration of players for the Competition, players must be registered using the 'AFC Official Registration Form for Players'.

b) Documentations for the registration of players are, but not limited to, the following (unless already previously submitted to AFC and available in AFCAS);

   i. Official Registration form for Players (or Naturalized Players);
   ii. Colour-copy of valid passport copy containing full name, passport number, date of birth, date of issue, date of expiry and nationality (group passport will not be accepted);
   iii. Colour-copy of national ID
   iv. Colour-copy of birth certificates (if requested by AFC)
   v. Passport-size colored photo (taken within 3 months prior to the submission of the registration)
   vi. Copy of valid contract containing the contract period in accordance with FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of the Players
   vii. FIFA International Transfer Certificate (ITC) for foreign players
   viii. Certified copies of the letter from MA of foreign player'(s) home country permitting the player(s) to play for the present club (in case there is no IRTC for the foreign players or non-citizen players)

c) In cases of registration of naturalized players, the Member Associations concerned must present proof of naturalization by providing supporting documents issued by the competent authorities of their countries to prove that the player concerned has obtained the nationality at least one year from the Match Day 1 of Group Stage (Group Matches) of the Competition.

d) AFC reserves the right to request for additional documents than those stipulated in clause b) above.

34. Principles for Registration of Players

a) A Club can register no less than eighteen (18) players and no more than thirty (30) players for the Competition with sequential shirt numbers from 1 to 99 while the shirt number one (1) shall be reserved for Goalkeeper.

b) If a club fails to register a minimum of eighteen (18) players, the club will be considered to have withdrawn in accordance with Art. 29 c).

c) Throughout the Competition (Play-off Stage, Group Stage and Knock-out Stage) and for each match to which he is registered, each player shall wear the same number allocated to him on the AFC Official Registration Form for Players from 1 ~ 99 submitted to AFC during the preliminary registration. The same player may not use different shirt numbers in different matches. New players registered as replacements for injured players can only be allocated vacant shirt numbers, or numbers made vacant by the non-registration of players bearing these numbers.

d) Clubs are permitted to register three (3) non-citizens or foreign players in their AFC Official Registration Form for the Players.

e) In addition to Art 34 d) above, clubs are permitted to register one more non-citizen or foreign player who has the nationality of one of Asian Member Associations. The player will be considered as a local player, not as a foreign player according to Art. 34 d) above.

f) Clubs must register minimum three (3) goalkeepers in their AFC Official Registration Form for the Players without any condition.

g) A player can only be contracted, registered and / or playing with one club at any point of the time. The player cannot sign or play with any other club regardless of where the club is based. It is the Club's responsibility to ensure that their player is not contracted or registered to any other club.

h) For international transfers, the official date of FIFA International Transfer Certificate (ITC) shall be taken as proof of the date of registration to the present Club. For internal transfers, the official date on the player's contract shall be taken as proof of the date of registration to the present Club.

i) Should a player be found to be registered for two clubs during the same period of registration windows or played for two clubs, the Club will lose the match in which the player has played and the provisions of Art. 29 c) i will apply.

j) Further, both clubs to which the player is registered with will be referred to the Disciplinary Committee and subject to fines and sanctions, including being suspended from participating in future AFC Competition and the player concerned will also be suspended from

participating in future AFC Competitions.

k) The AFC Secretariat shall carry out a check of the documents listed in Art. 33 b) above immediately after the closure of the registration window. Players with missing documentations will not be eligible for registration. All eligible players will be issued with official eligibility cards authorized by the AFC Competitions Committee. Should the card have been misplaced, the Club shall be required to pay a USD 1,000 (One thousand US Dollars only) production fee for every card lost, to replace it.

l) It is responsibility of the club to ensure that all original forms and supporting documents in accordance with Art. 33 are sent in good time and reach AFC Secretariat in Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia before the deadline set in Art. 35 a) & b) and Art 36 a). Proof of submission is not proof of receipt.

m) Should the AFC Secretariat not receive the original copy of the AFC Official Registration Form with all required document by the deadline according to Art. 35 a) & b) and 36 a), the club shall be automatically disqualified from the Competition and be considered to have withdrawn in accordance with Art 29 c).

n) In the event there is a dispute pertaining to the status of a player, the case will be referred to FIFA.

35. Preliminary Registration of Players for AFC Champions League Play-off Stage, Group Stage and Knock-out Stage (Round of 16): Play-off matches, Group matches and Knock-out Stage (Round of 16) matches

a) Depending on which round in the AFC Champions League Play-off Stage or Group Stage a team enters, for all match days in the Play-off stage, Group Stage and Round of 16, each club participating shall submit to AFC Secretariat, via email, courier and/or online registration, the AFC Official Registration Form for the Players and the supporting documents in accordance with Art. 30 to 34 by the deadline below.

   i. Teams entering from AFC Champions League Play-off Stage : By 9 January 2013
   ii. Teams entering from Group Stage : By 26 January 2013

b) Once the AFC Official Registration Form has been received by AFC and seven (7) days prior to the first Play-Off match of the Competition, up to three (3) players may be replaced in the event that they are

medically unfit to play (certified by doctor in English). AFC must receive a detailed medical assessment to be reviewed by any member of the AFC Medical Panel which confirms whether the injury is sufficiently serious to prevent the player from taking part in the Competition. The club shall then immediately nominate in writing a replacement player in compliance with Art 33 & 34 of these Regulations. Until the replacement player has received his AFC Eligibility card, he will not be considered to have been registered for the Competition.

c) Seven (7) days prior to the first Play-Off match of the Competition, teams may replace or add five (5) players in the official registration provided that the team does not exceed the maximum number of 30 registered players.

d) Once the AFC Official Registration Form has been received by AFC and seven (7) days prior to the first group match day (MD 1) of the Competition, up to three (3) players may be replaced in the event that they are medically unfit to play (certified by doctor in English). AFC must receive a detailed medical assessment to be reviewed by any member of the AFC Medical Panel which confirms whether the injury is sufficiently serious to prevent the player from taking part in the Competition. The club shall then immediately nominate in writing a replacement player in compliance with Art 33 & 34 of these Regulations. Until the replacement player has received his AFC Eligibility card, he will not be considered to have been registered for the Competition

e) Seven (7) days prior to the first group match day (MD 1) of the Competition, teams may replace or add five (5) players in the official registration provided that the team does not exceed the maximum number of 30 registered players.

36. Preliminary Registration of Players for Knock-out Stage: Quarter-finals, Semi-finals and Final

a) For all match days in the Knock-out stage (starting from Quarter-finals), each club entering the Competition shall submit to AFC Secretariat, via email and courier, the AFC Official Registration Form for Players and the supporting documents in accordance with Art. 33 by 21 July 2013.

b) If the AFC Secretariat does not receive the original copy of AFC Official Registration Form for Players by the 21 July 2013, the Club will be considered to have registered the same players as those in the Group Stage.

c) Once the AFC Official Registration Form has been received by AFC and seven (7) days prior to the first match day of Quarter-Final in the Competition, up to three (3) players may be replaced in the event that they are medically unfit to play (certified by doctor in English). AFC must receive a detailed medical assessment to be reviewed by any member of the AFC Medical Panel which confirms whether the injury is sufficiently serious to prevent the player from taking part in the Competition. The club shall then immediately nominate in writing a replacement player in compliance with Art 33 & 34 of these Regulations. Until the replacement player has received his AFC Eligibility card, he will not be considered to have been registered for the Competition.

37. Player Selection List

a) Each match in the Competition, each Club will receive a "Player Selection List" on which the numbers and full names of up to thirty (30) players in the squad are listed.

b) The Club must indicate on the "Player Selection List" the eleven (11) players who will start the match and the other seven (7) named substitutes. The Club Captain must be identified on the "Player Selection List".

c) The club can field three (3) foreign players together with one (1) player with the nationality of Asian Country at the same time.

d) Both Clubs must hand their "Player Selection List" to the AFC Match Commissioner at least ninety (90) minutes before the kick-off of their match.

e) If the "Player Selection List" is not completed and returned on time, the matter will be submitted to the AFC Disciplinary Committee.

38. Match Starting List

a) Upon receipt of the "Player Selection List", the AFC Match Commissioner will produce, through AFCAS, the Match Starting List.

b) The Match Starting List must be signed by the Head Coaches and Team Managers of both Teams and returned to the AFC Match Commissioner whose signature will make the Match Starting List an official document.

c) The AFC Match Commissioner will ask to see the official eligibility cards of the players whose names are listed on the Match Starting List sixty-five (65) minutes before kick-off. Only those players who are in

possession of an official eligibility card are entitled to play in the matches.

d) After the Match Starting List has been completed and signed by both Teams and returned to the AFC Match Commissioner, and if the match has not yet kicked-off, the following instructions apply:

i. If any of the eleven (11) players listed on the Match Starting List selected to start the match are not able to start the match for any reason, they may be replaced by any of the substitutes listed on the Match Starting List. Such replacements will reduce the quota of substitute players accordingly. During the match, three (3) players may still be replaced.

ii. If any of the substitutes listed on the Match Starting List are not able to be fielded for any reason, they may not be replaced, which means that the quota of substitute players will be reduced accordingly.

39. Appointment of Officials

a) Each participating club must appoint a team manager who coordinates with AFC Match Commissioner regarding all match related matters. The appointed team manager of the Club must be registered as one of the eleven (11) officials as indicated in Art. 42 and must represent the Club in all official activities with regards to the match.

b) Each participating club must appoint a team media officer working in full time exclusive capacity forty-eight (48) hours prior to match day, on match day, and forty-eight (48) hours after match day and represent the Club in all official activities with regards to the match. The appointed club media officer must be registered as one of the eleven (11) officials as indicated in Art. 42.

c) Both the appointed team manager and team media officer must attend the pre-competition workshop. Failure to do so will result in the Club being fined USD 5,000 (US Dollars Five Thousand only). Only the appointed team manager and club media officer can be registered with the club if they have attended the pre-competition workshop.

d) Each participating Member Association/Club must appoint a Local General Coordinator and Local Media Officer who coordinates with AFC Match Commissioner regarding all home match organisational and media related matters.

e) Both the appointed Local General Coordinator and Local Media Officer must attend the pre-competition workshop. Failure to do so will result in the Member Association being fined USD 5,000. (US Dollars Five Thousand only).

40. Registration of Officials

a) Depending on which round in the AFC Champions League Play-off Stage or Group Stage a team enters, for all match days in the Play-off, Group and Round of 16, each club participating shall submit to AFC Secretariat, via email, courier and/or online registration, the AFC Official Registration Form for the Officials and the supporting documents in accordance with Art. 41 to 42 by the deadline below.

   i. Team entering from AFC Champions League Play-off Stage: By 9 January 2013
   ii. Team entering from Group Stage: By 26 February 2013

b) For all match days in the Knock-out stage of Quarter-Finals, Semi-Finals and Final, each club entering the Competition shall submit to AFC Secretariat, via email, courier and/or online registration, the AFC Official Registration Form for the Officials with/without AFC ID and the supporting documents in accordance with Art. 41 by 21 July2013.

c) If the AFC Secretariat does not receive the original copy of AFC Official Registration Form for Officials by the 21 July 2013, the Club will be considered to have registered the same officials as those in the Preliminary Stage.

41. Documentations for Registration of Officials

a) For the registration of officials for the Competition, officials must be registered using the 'AFC Official Registration Form for Officials'.

b) Documentations for the registration of Officials, but not limited to, as following (unless already previously submitted to AFC and available in AFCAS);

   i. Official Registration form for Officials
   ii. Passport-size colored photo (taken within 3 months prior to the submission of the registration)
   iii. Colour-copy of valid passport copy containing full name, passport number, date of birth, date of issue, date of expiry and nationality (group passport will not be accepted)
   iv. Colour-copy of National ID

v. Certificate / Qualifications based on his/her function
   i) Team Manager: full time employment contract with the club
   ii) Head coach and Assistant Coach: Individual's coaching certificate or coaching license (unless already previously submitted to AFC and available in AFCAS). Head Coach minimum AFC "A" licence or its equivalent, and Assistant Coach minimum AFC "B" licence or its equivalent.
   iii) Team Media Officer: Full time employment contract with the club, Diploma in the field of communications and / or previous experiences in the field of communications.
   iv) Doctor: Medical Qualification

c) AFC has a right to ask further documentations for the clarification of the eligibility of the officials other than documentations listed in the Art 41 b) above.

42. Principles for Registration of Officials

a) The clubs can nominate maximum fifteen (15) officials in the registration who will be entitled for access onto the team's hotel, training ground, official area and field of play with 'Team Official' designation on the eligibility cards.

b) However, only 11 officials can be registered for the match including the following three (3) officials who must be registered with the team and for the match in the "Officials On The Substitution Bench" form (in AFCAS) by the AFC Match Commissioner:

   i. Team Manager
   ii. Head Coach
   iii. Team Media Officer

   The clubs may register any other eight (8) following positions or any other positions, for example:
   iv. Assistant Coach 1
   v. Assistant Coach 2
   vi. GK Coach
   vii. Doctor
   viii. Physiotherapist (or sports trainer, physical trainer or any official with similar function)
   ix. Interpreter
   x. Sports Trainer
   xi. Equipment Manager

Team Manager, Team Media Officer, Head Coach, Assistant Coaches and doctors have to submit their qualifications or certification to AFC.

a) Team Manager and Team media officer shall work in full time exclusive capacity from two (2) days prior to and one (1) day after the match date and shall participate in the Match Coordination Meeting, Press-Conference and other official function for the match in the Competition.

b) Notwithstanding Art. 42b) above, if the club does not appoint any of the designated persons or if AFC do not approve of the persons nominated, the number of officials on the bench for the club will reduce proportionately.

c) The AFC Secretariat shall carry out a check of the documents listed in Art. 41 b) above immediately after the closure of the registration window. Officials with missing documentations will not be eligible for registration. All eligible Officials will be issued with official eligibility cards authorized by the AFC Competitions Committee. Should the card have been misplaced, the Club shall be required to pay a USD 1,000 (One thousand US Dollars only) production fee for every card lost, to replace it.

d) It is responsibility of the club to ensure that all original forms and supporting documents in accordance with Art. 41 are sent in good time and reach AFC Secretariat in Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia before the deadline set in Art. 40 a) and b). Proof of submission is not proof of receipt.

e) Should the AFC Secretariat not receive the original copy of the AFC Official Registration Form with all required document in accordance with Art. 41, the club shall be automatically disqualified from the Competition and be considered to have withdrawn in accordance with Art 29 c).

f) Team may replace or add any of its officials until 7 days before each Match Day provided all necessary documents have been submitted as per Art. 41. Further, the Eligibility Card of the replaced official must be returned to the AFC before the Eligibility Card of the new official can be produced. The new official is not considered part of the team's official delegation until he receives his Eligibility card.

Section 5: Logistics & Office Equipment

43. Visa Application

a) Participating Clubs must apply for visas to all of the countries hosting their away matches not later than one (1) month before each match day, and must pay their own visa application costs.

b) If a Participating Club fails to secure a visa in time for their match as a result of non-compliance of Art. 43 a), the Participating Club will be considered to have forfeited the match. Victory and the resultant three (3) pointed will be awarded to the opposing team as well as the score of 3-0

c) The Hosting Club and/or its National Association must guarantee and ensure that visa will be granted to the AFC delegation, officials and players of the visiting club, sponsors, travelling fans and media without any discrimination of gender, race or nationality.

d) The Hosting Club and/or its National Association should assist broadcasters visiting from overseas in providing them with any documents or approvals they need for visas, accreditations, temporarily importing television equipment and shooting in the host city.

e) Provided Art. 43 a) has been fulfilled, failure to guarantee and ensure issuance of visa to the AFC delegation, officials and players of the visiting club will result in the Hosting club forfeiting the match. Victory and the resultant three (3) points will be awarded to the opposing team as well as the score of 3-0.

44. Taxes

a) The Hosting Club and/or its National Association must cover all taxes and/or fees related to any importation and / or exportation of equipment, merchandise and/or goods to be used for the Competition.

b) The Hosting Club and/or its National Association is required to cover the cost of any advertising taxes and/or fees or similar taxes at the stadia and/or within the Venue.

45. Arrival & Departure, Travel Arrangements and Accommodation

a) Each Club taking part in the Competition shall arrive in the team hotel reserved for it in the Host Club's country at least two (2) days before their match in the Competition and leave the day after completion of its match, unless otherwise approved by AFC.

b) Clubs requesting to arrive one day before match shall write to AFC officially (with valid reasons) to obtain approval at least one week before their next match. Team arrival shall not interrupt with the official activities (e.g. Pre-match Press Conference, Match Coordination Meeting etc.)

c) All Clubs shall pay for their own airfares (international and domestic airfares) from the Club's home venue to the venue of the match and vice-versa.

d) Participating Clubs are required to purchase published-fare air tickets (full fare air tickets) for its delegation to and from the venue in Host Country to allow for potential changes in the departure dates.

e) Tickets must be endorsable and date changes must be allowed with or without any penalties. AFC will not be responsible for any penalties incurred for date changes.

f) Participating Clubs shall undertake not to play in any other commercially driven matches when travelling to and from the venue of the Competition.

46. Accommodation, Local Hospitalities, Meals and Refreshments

a) Only official hotels approved by AFC shall be used for accommodation.

b) The Hosting Club must provide, at its own cost, the following to the visiting Clubs two (2) days before, on, and the day after the match:

i. Accommodation, in a five star hotel of international standard (A four star hotel of international standard is acceptable if a five star hotel is not available in the venue.) approved by AFC, for the Team's Official Delegation as per Art. 30, not exceeding twenty-nine (29) persons. [Nine (9) double rooms, eleven (11) single rooms].

ii. One (1) empty room shall be set aside for each Team at the Team's hotel for the purposes of medical treatment or storage.

iii. One (1) briefing room shall be set aside for each Team at the Team's hotel equipped with whiteboard, DVD player and TV.

iv. Suitable meals three times a day in international buffet style of sufficient quantity and an additional light meal on match days in a dedicated dining area for players and officials not exceeding twenty-nine (29) persons.

v. A minimum of three (3) litres of water per person per day for eighteen (18) players and eleven (11) officials, ice and refreshments for the teams at the hotel.

vi. A minimum of three (3) litres of water per person per day for eighteen (18) and eleven (11) officials, ice and refreshments for the teams per training session and per match.

vii. Laundry but no dry cleaning or pressing for match/playing (one (1) Jersey, one (1) short, and one (1) pair of socks.), training outfit one (1) jersey, one (1) short, and one (1) pair of socks, plus a shirt and a pair of trousers daily for eighteen (18) players and eleven (11) officials per participating Club.

viii. Ensure that the visiting club's officials and players (Team's Official Delegation) are accompanied by officials of the Host Club during arrival and departure to facilitate transport, immigration, customs and checking-in matters.

ix. Liaison Officers proficient in English and the language of the participating Clubs.

c) The Participating Club shall pay for incidental expenses incurred by its delegation members during the course of their stay in the country of the Hosting Club and for any costs incurred by additional members of the delegation other than those mentioned in these Regulations. The visiting club shall pay for any costs of extending their stay (beyond the dates stipulated in Art. 46 b) above).

d) The visiting team shall cover all accommodation, meals and other costs if they wish to be accommodated in another hotel not designated by the host club. Notification to the host club should be one (1) month prior to the match.

e) The Hosting Club must provide, at its own cost, the following to the referees, assistant referees, fourth official, the AFC Match Commissioner, the Referees Assessor and any other AFC Match Officials or Delegation appointed by AFC for the Competition, from the moment they arrive at the Competition Venue until one (1) day after the Competition:

i. Accommodation in a five star hotel of international standard (a four star hotel of international standard, if a five star hotel is not available in the venue) (different from the teams, unless otherwise approved by AFC)

ii. Suitable meals three times a day in international buffet style of sufficient quantity and an additional light meal on match days

iii. A minimum of three (3) litres of water per person per day, ice and refreshments at the hotel and at the Stadium during the match.

iv. A minimum of three (3) litres of water per person per day, ice and refreshments during each of the training sessions of the referees.

v. Laundry, but no dry cleaning, or pressing, for one training outfit (one jersey, one shorts and one socks) plus a shirt and a pair of trousers daily for the Referee assessor, Referee, Assistant Referees, Fourth Official

vi. Reasonable laundry (including pressing) for not more than eight (8) pieces of clothing daily and dry cleaning (including pressing) for one (1) jacket and one (1) pair of trousers/skirt once every two (2) days for all other AFC Match Officials or Delegation.

vii. Ensure that the AFC Match Commissioner, Referee assessor, the referees group and any other AFC Officials are accompanied by officials of the Hosting Club and its Member Association during arrival and departure to

facilitate transport, immigration, customs and checking-in matters.

viii. Liaison Officers proficient in English

f) The Hosting Club shall assist AFC's Commercial Affiliates to secure accommodation, on the same terms and conditions as are available to AFC, on reasonably sufficient quantity of hotel accommodation in first class hotels in the Venues, transportation services from the hotel accommodation and the centre of each Venue and, if applicable, air transportation to and between Venues.

g) Failure to provide any of these provisions of Art. 46 b) & e) will result in the forfeiture of the Match Subsidies (if any) due to the Hosting club.

47. Local Land Transportation

a) The Hosting Club must provide, at its own cost, the following to the visiting Clubs two (2) days before, on, and the day after the match:

i. One (1) bus and one (1) sedan car for training, matches, transfers to and from the airport of the Venue and official functions.
ii. One (1) luggage truck must be provided during airport transfers and on match days.

b) The Hosting Club and its Member Association must provide, at its own cost, the following to the referees, assistant referees, fourth official, the AFC Match Commissioner, the Referees Assessor and any other AFC Match Officials appointed by AFC for the Competition, from the moment they arrive at the Competition Venue until one (1) day after the Competition for the purposes of training, matches, airport transfers and official functions:

i. One (1) sedan car each for the AFC Match Commissioner.
ii. One (1) sedan car for the AFC General Coordinator/ AFC Assistant General Coordinator.
iii. One (1) van for the Referee Assessors, Referee, Assistant Referees and Fourth Official.
iv. Additional internal transportation must be provided if there are other AFC appointed Match Officials.

c) Failure to provide any of these provisions of Art. 48 a) & b) will result in the forfeiture of the Match Subsidies (if any) due to the Hosting Club.

48. Tournament Secretariat, Facilities for AFC Delegation

a) The Hosting Club must ensure that the following are provided, at its own cost, to the AFC Delegation upon their arrival to the Venue, until one (1) day after the match.

i. One (1) office at the official's hotel equipped with facilities as follows:

A) 1 central telephone unit with internal and external lines allowing calls to be transferred between offices

B) One (1) IDD line for telephone and fax machine and its consumables such as but not limited to paper, toner and cartridges.

C) One (1) desktop or laptop connected to the Internet via ADSL/Cable, Operating languages for the software must be in English.

D) One (1) printer and its consumables such as but not limited to paper, toner and cartridges.

E) One (1) photocopying machine and its consumables such as but not limited to paper, toner and cartridges.

F) One (1) staff proficient in English and use of computers.

G) Broadband internet connections (ADSL/Cable) for all offices.

ii. One (1) meeting room, equipped with whiteboard and a LCD projector, at the team's hotel to accommodate at least twenty (20) persons, one day prior to the Competition for purposes of the Match Coordination Meeting.

iii. No less than five (5) to fifteen (15) activated mobile phone sim card/line, with value for international calls.

iv. At least a minimum of six (6) walkie-talkies at the Stadium on Match day for Group Stage and minimum of twelve (12) for Knock-out Stage and Final Match.

v. At least two (2) substitution boards at the Stadium on Match day.

vi. One (1) television with live feed of the match to be located at the seating area of the AFC Match Commissioner and Referee Assessor.

vii. One (1) secure storage room at all times at the Stadium for Competition equipment and supplies.

b) Failure to provide any of the provisions of Articles 48 a) will result in the forfeiture of the match subsidies (If any) due to the Hosting club.

49. Audio/Video Recording of the Matches

a) The Hosting Club/MA is responsible, at its own cost, to provide one (1) copy of Digital Video Disc (DVD) of match played in its territory to AFC Match Commissioner immediately after the match and send another one (1) copy to AFC on the next day. The Hosting Club/MA shall guarantee the DVD is of good quality and covering entire duration of the match, and deliver the DVDs after the examination and approval of AFC Match Commissioner.

b) Failure to provide any of provision of Article 49 a) will result in a maximum fine of $10,000 USD and any further action that AFC Disciplinary Committee may deem necessary, which may include the forfeiture of match subsidies (if any) due to the Hosting Club/MA.

Section 6: Media

50. General

a) The Hosting Association is responsible to ensure all media requirements and facilities, as stated in the AFC Stadia Regulations, are met at its own cost.

b) The Participating clubs and Hosting Association must link the competition website (www.the-afc.com) to its own website respectively upon qualification for or entry to the Competition.

51. Media Accreditation

a) The Hosting Club must implement a media accreditation programme as instructed by AFC to control and manage access to the Stadiums.

b) Where required, the WSG will be responsible for the production of media bibs for photographers, TV and ENG crews under supervision by AFC. The Club will be responsible for bib distribution and collection for accredited photographers while Local Media Officer shall look after Official Photographers' bibs. WSG will be responsible for their distribution before and collection after the match to host broadcaster and rights holders.

c) All reasonable security measures must be put in place, at the cost of the Hosting Club, to protect the commentary area, camera positions and the equipment of the broadcasters.

52. Media Access areas

a) No representatives of the written press or radio journalists are allowed on the field of play or the area between the boundaries of the field and the spectators.

b) Only those accredited photographers, TV cameramen of the host broadcaster and the main visiting broadcaster and the personnel required to operate the electronic television cameras of the host broadcaster are allowed in the area between the boundaries of the field of play and the spectators, where they will carry out their work in the specific locations assigned to them.

c) The team dressing-rooms are strictly off limits to representatives of the media before, during and after the match.

d) The Hosting Association shall ensure that AFC, the Host Broadcaster and all Broadcast Affiliates have free access to the Stadia from three days prior to match day until one day after the match, in order to access the technical issues of each and to assemble and construct the relevant infrastructure required for the execution of the Broadcast Rights.

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

53. Open training session

a) During the two (2) days preceding the match, the Official Training Sessions must be opened to the media. Should the clubs wish to close its Official Training Session to the media, it shall open for at least the first fifteen (15) minutes of the training. If the Official Training is to be held at the match stadium, the areas accessible by the media shall be the same areas available to them on match day, and the access to such areas must be security controlled.

54. Press Conferences

a) The Hosting Club must organise a pre-match press conference to be conducted under supervision of Local Media Officer one day prior to each match of the Competition. A qualified interpreter at the pre-match press conference shall be provided by the Hosting Club.

b) The Head Coaches of participating Clubs and one (1) starting player from each Club are obliged to attend and participate in a pre-match press conference to be held at least one day before the match. The participating Team media officer must ensure the attendance of the Head Coach and one starting player.

c) A post-match conference must be conducted at the stadium and commence no later than 15 minutes after the final whistle. Both Club media officers must ensure attendance of their Head Coaches.

d) Interpretation of the coaches and players' language into English during the interview with media and at the press conferences is the responsibility of each participating team. Interpretation into local language will be the responsibility of the hosting club.

e) Non-compliance with Art. 54 a), b) and c) will result in disciplinary action which may include a fine of a minimum of US $1,000 and the Head Coach may be subject to a ban from the dressing room and/or the substitutes' bench.

55. Mixed Zone

a) After the match, a mixed zone must be set-up by the Hosting Club for the media. The Mixed Zone will be in operation fifteen minutes after the end of a game.

b) Team Media Officer is responsible for briefing all players and the Head Coach prior to the match so they are aware of their responsibilities in this regard.

c) Team officials and coaching staff and players of the Hosting/Visiting club shall be required to enter the Mixed Zone on their way from the team dressing room to the club team bus at the end of the match. Players and Officials who do not fulfil this Article will be subject to disciplinary action including fines.

d) Speaking to the media in the mixed zone is not compulsory. However, it is strongly advised that players and coaches give brief interviews to the media, who will be separated from the coaches and players by barriers.

56. Interviews

a) If requested by AFC and/or WSG, both clubs should have their Head Coach and one player available for the day before each match and/or the match day for an interview of up to ten (10) minutes, to be recorded by the main TV rights-holding broadcaster (or local TV rights-holding broadcaster) in the territory of the relevant club and/or AFC's official media partners, for the purpose of continental news-exchange distribution to all Competition Right holders and the AFC official website.

b) Players and officials of participating clubs are not permitted to give interviews during the match on the field of play or in its immediate vicinity. However, the AFC Media Officer or Local Media Officer, may designate an area between the substitutes' benches and dressing rooms in which "flash" interviews for the host television broadcaster only, including the visiting TV rights-holding broadcaster if there is, can take

place at the end of the match. Players and officials violating this Article will be subject to disciplinary measures.

c) For the 'flash' interviews, the Head Coach and at least one (1) key player from both participating clubs must be available for at least the host broadcaster and the visiting TV rights-holding broadcaster upon their request. All players and the Head Coach of each group must be briefed by their respective Team Media Officer prior to the match so they are aware of their responsibilities in this regard.

d) In the final minutes of the game, the Host Broadcaster or other broadcaster representatives shall inform the Local Media Officer of the players who are selected for the flash interview.

e) All interview locations should be assigned mainly by the Local Media Officer or by the AFC Match Commissioner if necessary.

Section 7: Equipment / Kit

57. AFC Equipment Regulations

a) The Participating Clubs must comply with the AFC Equipment Regulations governing the AFC Competitions.

b) The AFC Equipment Regulations are in force from the time the Team's Official Delegation arrive at a Controlled Access Area until the time the Team's Official Delegation depart from such areas.

58. Kit Approval Procedure

a) The Equipment Regulations require the Participating Club to submit to AFC, for AFC's approval, one sample of all kit which the AFC Equipment Regulations cover. At the same time, the participating Club shall submit also to AFC, for AFC's approval, one sample of all other apparel to be worn by their Team's Official Delegation within the Controlled Access Areas during the Competition Period, namely all clothing, apparel and equipment worn underneath, or in replacement of, official team kit, including any "celebratory" apparel.

b) The Participating Club shall submit to the AFC Secretariat the above-mentioned equipment by latest eight (8) weeks prior to the start of the Competition. If any equipment submitted infringes any of the AFC Equipment Regulations and/or these Regulations, AFC will require the Participating Teams to take corrective action and resubmit to AFC the corrected equipment. In addition, Participating Clubs may be required to present samples at the Club workshop.

c) All items to be used by a Participating Club within the Controlled Access Areas during the Competition period shall be subjected to AFC's approval in accordance with the procedure set forth by AFC.

d) The AFC Match Commissioner, the AFC General Coordinator, and/or the AFC Marketing Manager has/have the right and duty to check kit items at the match venue and are entitled to send such items to the AFC Headquarters for further control after the match.

59. Responsibility

a) AFC takes final decisions regarding the approval of kits and other items mentioned in the AFC Equipment Regulations. AFC declines all responsibility and authority in the event of conflicts arising from

contract between a club and it sponsor(s) on account of the advertising provisions of the AFC Equipment Regulations. The clubs agree to hold AFC harmless from any and all damages which may arise from decisions regarding kits.

SECTION 8: TICKETING

60. Policy

a) Ticketing, including production, distribution and sales, shall be the responsibility of the Club. AFC and/or AFC's Marketing Representative will provide a ticket design to the Club. The Club shall ensure that printed tickets include, where available, seat numbering and/or serial numbering. All tickets shall incorporate only those logos and marks of the Competition and the official Commercial Affiliates and Broadcast Affiliates as submitted to the Club as part of the ticket design.

b) Hosting Club and its National Association must guarantee and ensure that access to the Stadium will be granted to the AFC delegation, officials and players of the visiting club, sponsors, travelling fans and media without any discrimination of gender, race or nationality.

c) Ticketing policy and all distribution of tickets for the Final match of the Competition will be determined by AFC Competitions Committee.

61. Terms and Conditions

a) The AFC Secretariat and the AFC Competitions Committee will, in collaboration with the Participating Clubs, issue special ticketing terms and conditions which will apply to all ticket holders, including but not limited to Member associations, and which must be communicated to all relevant parties.

62. Complimentary Tickets

a) The Hosting Club shall set aside the following number of complimentary tickets for the visiting Club.

   i. 1 VVIP for each of the team's match
   ii. 5 VIP for each of the team's match
   iii. 20 1st Best Category Non-VIP tickets for each match or match day of the Competition

b) The Hosting Club or its Association will provide AFC with the following complimentary ticket allocation at least 1 months prior to the Competition:

   i. 50% of the Tribune d'Honneur for each match (including but not limited to royal boxes, sky or hospitality boxes and suites

ii. 60 VIP for each match or match day
iii. 490 1st Best Category Non-VIP tickets for each match or match day
iv. 500 2nd Best Category Non-VIP tickets for each match or match day
v. Up to 250 Complimentary Tickets to any official functions and special hospitality facilities at the Stadia subject to the capacity of each respective function.

Note:

- "Best Category" means the best tickets available in the best category seats entitling the ticket holder to sit in the sector immediately adjacent to the VIP area whether in or directly opposite Area to the main stand.
- All tickets shall be provided in a continuous blocks of tickets.
- The Hosting Club and/or its National Association shall ensure that AFC can purchase tickets at face value and on an individual Match-by-Match basis, for itself and for the Commercial Affiliates.

c) For the Final match of the Competition, AFC is entitled to request for additional tickets and will be communicated to the Hosting Club and/or its National Association when required.

63. Purchasable Tickets

a) The Hosting Club and its National Association must make at least 8% of the net saleable capacity of their Stadium available exclusively to supporters of the visiting Clubs, for the matches they feature in, in a segregated, safe area to be determined by the Hosting Club and its National Association. The visiting Clubs must declare the number of seats required (up to 8% of the net saleable capacity) by two weeks before the match day. The visiting Club is responsible for the cost of all seats declared.

b) Participating Clubs shall be entitled to purchase an agreed number of tickets, i.e. up to 200 top or second-category tickets, or a combination thereof, for their VIPs, supporters, sponsors, etc. The price of tickets for supporters of the Clubs may not exceed the price of tickets of a comparable quality that are sold to supporters of the hosting Club.

c) The Hosting Clubs will provide AFC's Marketing Representative with the opportunity to buy tickets at face value and on an individual Match-by-Match basis, for itself and for the Commercial Affiliates. The number of tickets required shall be communicated to the Hosting Club at least two (2) weeks before the match concerned.

Section 9: Medical & Doping Control

64. Medical Facilities and Treatment

a) Participating Clubs must pay for any and all costs of hospitalization, surgical operation and specialised investigative procedures for all members of its delegation.

b) The Hosting Club and its National Association must provide, at its own cost, the following to the visiting Clubs from two (2) days before the match day until one (1) day after the Match and to the AFC Delegation from the moment they arrive to the Venue until one (1) day after the Match:

i. Medical treatment, including hospital facilities for injuries and emergencies related to the match, sustained/occurring during their stay in the host country. The treatment must cover basic/primary medical care as listed below:

- Outpatient treatment
- Minor surgeries (suturing, etc.)
- Radiological Investigation
- Emergency Treatment

ii. An emergency medical room located in close proximity to player's dressing room/field of play, fully equipped with emergency medical supplies which includes the following:

- Oxygen with appropriate masks/oral airway
- Splints (Spinal injuries)
- Stretchers preferable hard board
- Suction machine
- I/V drip sets with emergency injections and medication
- Minor surgery supplies and equipment
- Automated External Defibrillator
- A certified medical officer
- A team of support Para-medical staff trained in emergency medical care (CPR/ATLS)
- Two (2) ambulances with designated drivers equipped with oxygen, masks, defibrillator, I/V drip sets, emergency medicaments and trained medical staff.

iii. An air-conditioned, brightly lit and well ventilated doping control room is to be made available at all times at the stadium, equipped with facilities listed below:

- One (1) table with four (4) chairs;
- One cabinet with a lock;
- Attached bathroom and toilet equipped with washbasin, mirror and shower;
- Sofa for eight (8) persons;
- A refrigerator equipped with non-alcoholic drinks in sealed mineral water bottles and canned juices;
- A television.

c) Failure to provide any of these provisions of Art. 64 a) & b) will result in the forfeiture of the Match Subsidies (if any) due to the Hosting club and/or subject to further disciplinary sanctions imposed by AFC Disciplinary Committee.

65. Medical Personnel

a) The Hosting club and its National Association must provide, at its own cost, the following medical personnel on match day at the Stadium where the match is organised:

i. Stadium emergency medical room must be supported by Medical Officer and trained medical staff in Emergency Medicine.

ii. On-Pitch Medical Services:
- One (1) on-pitch Medical Officer trained in Emergency Medicine
- Eight (8) trained stretcher bearers in good physical condition
- Two (2) Ambulances equipped with emergency kits

iii. Doping control personnel:
- One (1) Doping Control Assistant (Medical Officer)
- Four (4) Doping Control Chaperones
- One (1) Security Officer

Failure to provide any of these provisions of Art. 65 a) will result in the forfeiture of the Match Subsidies (if any) due to the Hosting club and/or subject to further disciplinary sanctions imposed by AFC Disciplinary Committee.

66. Doping Control

a) Doping is prohibited. AFC shall inform the Member Associations by means of a circular of the doping control procedure and list of prohibited list.
b) The AFC Organizing Committee shall be responsible for the approval of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) – accredited laboratory which will carry out the analysis of samples.
c) The AFC Disciplinary Code, the Anti-Doping Regulations, as well as all relevant AFC directives will apply to this tournament.

SECTION 10: DISCIPLINARY LAWS AND PROCEDURES

67. Disciplinary measures and appeals

a) Disciplinary measures and appeals are dealt with in compliance with the current AFC Statutes, AFC Disciplinary Code, AFC Code of Ethics and the relevant AFC circular(s).

b) The AFC Secretariat may initiate investigations should it suspect and / or is aware of any violations of current AFC Statutes, AFC Disciplinary Code, AFC Code of Ethics and the relevant AFC Circular(s).

c) The AFC Disciplinary Committee may impose the disciplinary measures for any violations of current AFC Statutes, AFC Disciplinary Code, AFC Code of Ethics and the relevant AFC Circular(s).

68. Players and Officials cautioned or dismissed from the field of play

a) A player who receives two (2) cautions (yellow cards) during a stage of the Competition shall automatically be suspended from the match following the match in which he received the second caution.

b) In no case may match suspensions resulting from several cautions issued to a player in different matches of the same competition be carried over to another competition.

c) Single (1) yellow card received in the AFC Champions League Play-off Stage in accordance with Art. 21 a) will not be carried forward to the Group Stage of AFC Champions League..

d) If a player and/or official receive a red card (direct or indirect) / sent off during the Team's last AFC Champions League Play-off (Round 2) match, the suspension will be carried forward to the AFC Champions League 2013

e) Single (1) yellow card received in the Group Stage of the Competition in accordance with Art. 21 a) will not be carried forward to the Knock-out stage of the Competition.

f) Single (1) yellow card received from the Round of 16 to Semi-finals of the Competition will not be carried forward to the Finals of the Competition.

g) A player and/or official who received a red card (direct or indirect) / sent off during the Competition shall automatically be suspended from the match following the match in which he received the red card.

h) Any player or official who receives a red card (direct or indirect) / sent off during the Competition shall remain suspended from further play until his/her case has been decided by the AFC Disciplinary Committee.

i) A suspended player and official shall not be allowed on the substitution bench and technical area.

j) If the player and/or official received a red card (direct or indirect) / sent off in his Club's last match in the Competition, the suspension for the red card will be carried forward as indicated in the AFC Disciplinary Code.

k) Each Club and its National Association shall bear the responsibility of monitoring the cautions and/or suspensions received by its players and officials and to ensure that all players and officials registered and/or fielded during the competition are eligible to play.

69. Violence by players and/or officials

a) Any player or official reported for indiscipline or violent conduct anywhere in the stadium including but not limited to the field of play, the changing rooms, at the training sites and in the hotels by the referee or the Match Commissioner shall be dealt with by the AFC Disciplinary Committee in accordance with these Regulations, the AFC Statues, Disciplinary Code and Code of Ethics.

70. Protest

a) Subject to the following provisions, protests are objections of any kind to occurrences that have a direct effect on matches organised in the Competition (state and marking of the pitch, accessory, match equipment, eligibility of players, stadium installations, footballs, etc.) and any matters related to breach of these Regulations.

b) Unless otherwise stipulated in this article, protests shall first be submitted in writing to the AFC Match Commissioner within two (2) hours of the match by the club concerned and followed up immediately with a full written report, including a copy of the original protest, to be

sent in writing to the AFC General Secretariat accompanied by a fee of USD 500 (US Dollars Five Hundred only). The plaintiff Club and its Member Association shall confirm the protest by registered letter, to be sent to the AFC Secretariat no later than two (2) days after the match in question.

c) Protests against any incidents that occur during the course of a match shall be made to the referee by the team captain immediately after the disputed incident and before play has been resumed. The protests shall be confirmed in writing to the AFC Match Commissioner by the head of the team delegation no later than two (2) hours after the match.

d) No protests may be made against the referee's decisions regarding facts connected with play, such decisions being final.

e) If an unfounded or irresponsible protest is lodged, the Disciplinary Committee may impose a fine and the protest fee of USD 500 (US Dollars Five Hundred only) will be forfeited.

f) Once the final match of the Competition has ended, any protests described in this article shall be disregarded.

71. Arbitration

a) Pursuant to AFC Statutes, Clubs and their Member Associations, officials or players are forbidden from taking disputes to a civil court but may only submit them to the appropriate body of AFC in accordance with the applicable procedure.

b) Any disputes involving AFC, Club, Member Associations, confederations, leagues, clubs, players, officials and licensed agents in connection with the Competition shall be promptly settled by negotiation at first instance.

c) If after exhausting all previous stages of appeal available and no solution can be reached, or a formal appeal is envisaged, the issue shall be exclusively resolved under the auspices of the arbitration chamber set forth in the AFC Statutes, namely Football Chamber of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) with headquarters in Lausanne. The Code of Sports-related Arbitration of the CAS and all the relevant CAS Regulations shall apply. The language of arbitration is English.

SECTION 11: ADMINISTRATION

72. Financial Provisions

a) The Participating Clubs shall settle costs among themselves as indicated in these Regulations.

b) AFC shall pay for the following:
   i. International travel costs (by air: domestic in economy class and continental in business class; rail/sleeper in first class) and the daily allowances, as fixed by AFC, for referees, assistant referees , fourth officials, match commissioner, referee assessor and other AFC delegation
   ii. doping control expenses;
   iii. the insurance provided by AFC includes the following:
      - Medical Insurance (for AFC Match Officials and Delegation)
      - Personal Accident Insurance (for AFC Match Officials and Delegation)
      - Travel Insurance (for AFC Match Officials and Delegation)
      - Trophy Insurance

c) Each Club retains its receipts from the sale of match tickets, except for the Final match of the Competition which is distributed as follows
   I. Host club: 70%
   II. Visiting club: 20%
   III. AFC CSR Legacy Programme: 10%

73. Travel Subsidy

a) For every match in the Play-off Stage of the Competition, each visiting club will receive a travel subsidy of USD20,000 (US Dollars Twenty Thousand only).

b) For every away match in the Group Stage of the Competition, each club will receive a travel subsidy of USD 30,000 (US Dollars Thirty Thousand only). The subsidies are paid in three (3) instalments after match days 2, 4, and 6, provided the club has met its obligations under the relevant articles of these regulations.

c) The participating club who plays away in Round of 16 will receive a travel subsidy of USD 40,000 (US Dollars Forty Thousand only).

d) For every away match in the Knockout Stage: Quarter-finals, each club will receive a travel subsidy of USD 50,000 (US Dollars Fifty Thousand only).

e) For every away match in the Knockout Stage: Semi-finals and Final, each club will receive a travel subsidy of USD 60,000 (US Dollars Sixty Thousand only).

f) The travel subsidy for the Clubs will be sent directly to their respective participating Member Associations unless otherwise directed by the Member Associations concerned.

g) AFC will deduct the amount owed by the club (as a result of any violation of this regulation, the AFC Statutes, the AFC Disciplinary Code, all AFC Regulations, Guidelines and Circulars binding) from their subsidy and/or performance bonus(es).

74. Awards

a) For the Competition, the following Player Awards and Team Award will be presented:

i. The Abdullah Al Dabal Most Valuable Player (MVP) of the Competition Award
ii. Top Goal Scorer for the AFC Champions League 2013
iii. AFC Fair Play Award for the AFC Champions League 2013
iv. Commemorative medals for Referees

b) The Abdullah Al Dabal MVP of the Competition is given to the player who have a major influence on the individual matches, and the Competition overall.

c) The Top Goal Scorer award is given to a player who has scored the most number of goals in the Competition. This is calculated based on the number of goals scored by an individual player from the group stage to the final.

d) The AFC Fair Play Award is calculated and awarded to the team who has the best record of Fair Play of the competition. .

e) The team shall be disqualified from the award if the team or any of its player(s) and/or team official(s) is involved in severe misconduct during

the competition.

f) There are no official awards other than those listed above, unless otherwise decided by the AFC Competitions Committee.

75. Trophy and Medals

a) A challenge trophy donated by AFC is presented to the winner of the Competition for three (3) months. AFC may request for the return of the trophy at an earlier date. The trophy is presented at the venue of the Final match. The trophy will remain the property of AFC. The champion Club will be awarded a scaled-down replica of the trophy by AFC as its permanent possession.

b) The champion Club shall be responsible for the loss or any damage to the trophy and case and shall return it in the same original condition when requested to do so by AFC. The AFC has the right to charge the club or the Member Association for any restoration work done on the trophy or any damage or loss caused by the club or the Member Association.

c) The champion Club will be provided with a replica which does not exceed 4/5 (four fifths of the size of the original).

d) If for any reason, the competition should cease to be held, the trophy shall be returned to the AFC Secretariat.

e) AFC will also be responsible for awarding the following medals:

i. Forty-five (45) gold medals to the Champion Club;
ii. Forty-five (45) silver medals to the Runner-up Club;

f) Additional medals may be produced upon request and at the cost of the requesting club;

76. Prize Money, Performance Bonus & Participation Fees

a) AFC will pay the following in prize money:

i. Champion: USD 1,500,000 (US Dollars One million Five Hundred Thousand Only)
ii. Runner-up: USD 750,000 (US Dollars Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand Only)

b) All the clubs participating in the Semi-final matches of the Competition will receive a participation fee of USD 120,000 (US Dollars One Hundred and Twenty Thousand Dollars Only).

c) All the clubs participating in the Quarter-final matches of the Competition will receive a participation fee of USD 80,000 (US Dollars Eighty Thousand Dollars Only).

d) All the clubs participating in the Round of 16 matches of the Competition will receive a participation fee of USD 50,000 (US Dollars Fifty Thousand Dollars Only).

e) For every match in the Group Stage of the Competition, the winning club of each match will receive USD 40,000 (US Dollars Forty Thousand Only).

f) For every match in the Group Stage of the Competition, in case the match ends in a draw (away goal does not count), both clubs will receive USD 20,000 (US Dollars Twenty Thousand Only)

g) The prize money for the Clubs will be sent directly to their respective participating Member Associations unless otherwise directed by the Member Associations concerned.

77. Prize Presentation Ceremony

a) A prize presentation ceremony, managed and controlled by AFC and coordinated with its partners including the Hosting Club, its National Association and AFC's Marketing Representative, will be held immediately after the Final match of the Competition to award the Trophy and Medals as stipulated in Art. 74.

b) The teams and individuals that qualify to receive the Awards, Trophy and Medals are required to attend the prize presentation ceremony. Clubs may be represented by all their registered members (18 players and 11 officials) for the final match awarding ceremony. Other Club Members, Officials, Players, or Staff cannot participate in the prize presentation.

78. Protocol

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

79. Special Provisions

a) Any disputes arising from the application of these Regulations shall be settled by the jurisdiction of AFC and, if subsequently necessary and AFC's decision is not final, by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS)

b) The AFC Competitions Committee shall, in conjunction with the Hosting Association, issue any instructions necessitated by special circumstances which might arise in the country hosting matches of the Competition. These instructions shall form an integral part of these Regulations.

80. Intellectual Property Rights

a) AFC is the exclusive owner of all intellectual property rights of the Competition, including any current or future rights of AFC's name, logos, brands, medals and trophies. Any use of the aforementioned rights requires the prior written consent of AFC, and must always conform to AFC's instructions and guidelines on correct usage.

b) On entering the Competition, the Club/Player consents to the making of recordings (visual, audio, or audio/visual and in or on any medium) of performances and/or appearances during the Competition. The Club/Player further consents to the exploitation of such recordings by AFC and Official Licensees throughout the world without limit of time by any and all means and in all media whether now known or hereinafter invented (including the use of a likeness of the Player in, and in connection with, interactive computer games which enable 'free play' mode or the operation of fantasy leagues, and software) but excluding any such exploitation in a manner which may reasonably be considered to constitute a personal endorsement by the Player of any product or service.

81. Matters not provided for

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

82. Ratification

a) These regulations were ratified by the AFC Executive Committee in November 29, 2012 and came into force immediately.

For the AFC Executive Committee

Acting President:
Zhang Jilong
Kuala Lumpur, November 29, 2012

General Secretary:
Dato' Alex Soosay

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: AFC CALENDAR OF MEN'S FOOTBALL

Please download from
http://www.the-afc.com/en/resources/afc-calendars-download/28-competition

APPENDIX 2: Determining the Ranking in a group using Fair Play criteria

As provided for in Art. 23 f) ii. G) of this Competition Regulation, the "Fewer score calculated according to the number of yellow and red cards received in the group matches" will be calculated as follows:

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

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

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

APPENDIX 3: Registration of Naturalized Players: Documents to be provided to AFC

Documents to be submitted for registration of naturalized player who has NOT YET participated in a match (either in full or in part) in an official competition of any category or any type of football.

No.	Documents	Attached (please tick)
1.	Registration form for naturalized player, including passport photo	
2.	Letter from the Member Association of the player's previous nationality stating that the player concerned has never played (either in full or in part) for any representative teams of the Member Association in an official competition of any category or any type of football.	
3.	Letter from the player himself stating he has never played for any representative teams of any Member Association (either in full or in part) in an official competition of any category or any type of football.	
4.	Clear copy of player's passport	
5.	Clear copy of player's birth certificate	
6.	Must provide either one of the following evidence:	
a) OR	• Birth certificate or passport of father/mother of the player showing he/she was born on the territory of the relevant Association ... AND • Documents proving that the father/mother is indeed the biological father/mother of the player ... OR	
b) OR	• Birth certificate or passport of grandfather/ grandmother showing he/she was born on the territory of the relevant Association ... AND • Documents proving that the grandfather/ grandmother is indeed the biological grandfather/grandmother of the player OR	
c)	• Letter from the relevant ministry that the player has lived continuously on the territory of the relevant Association for at least five (5) years after the age of 18 years old.	