AFC ASIAN CUP
2015 Qualifiers

Regulations
AFC Asian Cup 2015 Qualifiers

AFC

Regulations
AFC Asian Cup 2015 - Qualifiers

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DEFINITIONS

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

Accommodation	Competition 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.
AFC	The Asian Football Confederation.
AFC Committees	The Disciplinary Committee, Appeals Committee, Referees Committee, Technical Study Group, Finance Committee, Marketing Committee, Medical Committee, Legal Committee, AFC Executive Committee, AFC Standing Committee, Organising Committee for AFC Asian Cup 2015, and such other committees of the AFC as advised by AFC from time to time.
AFC Competitions Committee	The AFC Competitions Committee consisting of a Chairman and twelve (12) 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, Tournament Director, General Coordinator, Match Commissioner, Referee Assessor, Referee, Assistant Referees, Fourth Official, Marketing Officer, Media Officer, Security Officer, Medical Officer and Technical Study Group Officer.
AFC Headquarters	AFC House, Jalan 1/155 B, Bukit Jalil, 57000 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
AFC Mark(s)	All design marks, slogans, designations, names, logos, insignia, emblems or devices (in any application) owned and/or controlled by the AFC (in any language) relating to the AFC itself, but excluding the Competition Marks.
AFC Official Merchandise	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
AFCAS	AFC Administration System (AFCAS) is a web-based system to manage the AFC's operations and monitor the status of competition and individual registrations.
Best Category Ticket	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.
Broadcast Affiliate	Any entity, including the Host Broadcaster, which has acquired from AFC directly or from AFC's Marketing Partner any rights in respect of the Broadcast Rights of the Competition.

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.
Competition	AFC Asian Cup 2015 (Qualifier) which shall include the Matches as set out in the Match Schedule, including any qualifying 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 normally charged but which are supplied without charge.
Controlled Access Areas	The Stadia, including the fences and perimeters, the aerial space above the Stadia, and all other official locations associated with the Competitions, including the Facility Areas, media centres, international broadcast centres, Official Training Sites, Competition Hotels, hospitality and VIP areas and facilities, and surrounding and adjacent areas to the locations described above, but excluding for the avoidance of doubt the Licensed Areas
FIFA	The Federation International de Football Association.
Force Majeure	Any event affecting the performance or any provision of this Agreement arising from or attributable to acts, events, omissions or accidents which are beyond the reasonable control of a party, and shall include but not be limited to abnormally inclement weather, flood, lightning, storm, fire, explosion, earthquake, structural damage, epidemic or other natural disaster, failure or shortage of power supplies, war, terrorist action, military operations, riot, crowd disorder, strike, lock-outs or other industrial action, or civil commotion.
Host Broadcaster	The organization 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 Media Rights.
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)
Media	All members of the written press, on-line editors, photographers, television news crews and the representatives of the Licensees entitled to Accreditation as determined by AFC.
Member(s) / Member Association(s)	Those National Associations who are members of FIFA, and who have applied for and been granted Ordinary, Provisional, Associate or Exceptional membership of AFC. For the purpose of this definition "Ordinary", "Provisional", "Associate" and "Exceptional" membership shall have the same meaning as contained in AFC Statutes.
National Association(s)	The controlling bodies for association football within each country or territory of Asia.
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 Training Sites	Training sites designated by the Organising Association for use by the Participating Teams throughout the duration of the Competition.
Organising Association(s)	A Member Association(s) and their Local Organising Committee appointed by AFC to organize, stage and host 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 Team(s) / Participating Member Association(s)	Those teams participating in the Competitions, under the authority of the Member Associations and AFC during the Competition.
Regulations	Those regulations controlled and published by AFC to be used in connection with the Competition.
Stadia / Stadium	The official stadia (or any stadium) and the airspace and surrounding areas for the Matches, whether under the control of the Organising Association or otherwise, used for the Matches, including without limitation parking facilities, VIP and hospitality areas, concourses, concession areas, fencing and entrances.
Team's Official Delegation	For home & away matches, the Team's Official Delegation will comprise of a maximum of 23 players and 8 officials who are named in the Final Registration for the Competition.
Ticketing	All operational measures to provide tickets to all spectators of every Match and for Official Functions of the Competition. Ticketing shall include the management of operation necessary for the production, sale, distribution, delivery and payment of the tickets of the Competition.
Venues	Each host city and the immediately surrounding area in which the Stadia are located.

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

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

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

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

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

SECTION 1: REPRESENTATION

1. Asian Football Confederation

a) The AFC stages the AFC Asian Cup 2015 (Qualifiers) (hereinafter the "Competition") for senior men's national teams every four years. All AFC member associations meeting the criteria of **Art. 17 & 18** and all other terms of these Regulations are invited to enter their senior men's national team for the Competition.

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

c) The AFC stages the Competition with one or more of the AFC's Member Association (hereinafter the Organising Association) after the appointment of this Association by the AFC Competitions Committee.

d) The current **AFC Statutes** all AFC Regulations, Guidelines, Circulars and Codes are binding for all parties participating and involved in the preparation, organization 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) Member Associations are not authorized to represent AFC or the Competition without AFC's prior written approval.

f) 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 declared ineligible to participate in all AFC Competitions in the next calendar year. This clause is only applicable to Asian players playing in leagues of AFC Member Associations.

2. Participating Member Associations

a) The obligations and responsibilities of the Participating Member Associations 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 Participating Member Associations.

b) Each Member Association taking part in the Competition shall ensure, as a condition of its participation in the Competition, which every member of its delegation(s) (players and officials) complies with a Participating Team Agreement to be issued by AFC.

c) The eligible Member Association shall complete the Participating Team Agreement in full and submit it to the AFC Secretariat not later than the entry deadline communicated to the Member Association. If the Participating Team Agreement does not reach the AFC Secretariat by the entry deadline, the participation of the eligible Member Association will be cancelled.

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

3. Organising Association

a) For the duration of the Competition, the Organising Association(s), and the relevant government authorities are responsible for the following:

   i. Concluding – with reputable insurers at their own cost – all necessary insurance in connection with the staging and organizing of the matches, including third-party liability and spectator accident coverage;

   ii. Guaranteeing law and order as well as safety at the venue and in the stadiums, thus ensuring the application of the FIFA Safety Regulations.

   iii. Complying with the guidelines and instructions issued by AFC

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

c) The Organising Association(s) shall exempt (indemnify and hold harmless) AFC from all third party claims for damages relating to Match organization, regardless of whether individual Matches in question take place or not.

SECTION 2: TECHNICAL REGULATIONS

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

a) All matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game laid down by the International Football Association Board 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. A player who has been substituted out may take no further part in the match.

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

5. Duration of 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.

6. 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. 6 a)**.

7. 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. 7 a)**.

8. Stadiums (Stadia)

a) The Stadiums for the matches in the Competition shall be nominated upon, bidding to host, by the Member Associations and subject to

inspection and approval by AFC. The cost of the inspection visit will be borne by the Organising Association(s).

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" and in compliance with the safety & security standards and other AFC guidelines and instructions for international matches.

c) The Organising Association(s) shall ensure that no Matches and/or other activities are held at the nominated Stadium(s) for the Matches at least ten (10) days prior to each match in the Competition, unless written permission from the AFC has been obtained. Unless otherwise specified in writing by the AFC, each Stadium shall be made available for the exclusive use of the Competition as of five (5) days before each match at the Stadium until one (1) day after the Match at the Stadium.

9. Team Bench and Technical Area

a) Up to a maximum of eight (8) team officials and a maximum of twelve (12) players (substitutes, injured or not playing) are allowed to sit on the team bench during the Match, provided they are in possession of the appropriate accreditation and access card.

b) All officials and players on the team bench must wear their accreditation card at all times. The accreditation cards shall always be available for inspection prior to the start of the match.

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

d) Team 'A' shall occupy the left hand side bench and Team 'B' shall be on the right hand side as viewed from the Fourth Official Bench.

10. Warming Up

a) The participating teams shall be entitled to warm up on the field of play before the Match if the weather permits.

b) During actual play, a maximum of six (6) players from each team may warm up at the same time but without a ball (except for the goalkeeper), behind the goal closest to their substitutes' bench or in a space

determined by the AFC Match Commissioner. The players may be assisted by two (2) officials from the team bench.

11. Official Training Sessions at the Stadium

a) Depending on the weather and condition of the pitch, the Participating Member Association will be entitled to a one-hour official training session in the Stadium where they are due to play on one (1) or two (2) days before the Match in the Stadium concerned.

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

c) If an artificial pitch is to be used for the matches the visiting team is entitled to have either a two (2) one-hour official training sessions or one (1) two hour official training session in the Stadium where they are due to play on, one day or two days before their first match.

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

12. Official Training Sites

a) Official training sites that conform to the AFC Marketing Regulations, in good condition and situated near the Visiting Team's hotel in each venue shall be made available to the visiting team at least five (5) full days prior to each match in the Competition and must be declared upon entry to the Competition.

b) The participating teams in the Competition shall use only those training sites which have been officially designated for training by AFC.

c) These official training sites are reserved for training and practice matches and shall not be used for other matches and events as from five (5) days prior to each match in the competition, unless written permission has been obtained from the AFC.

d) The Organizing Association will decide the specific training schedule for the visiting team. The training schedule is subject to approval by AFC.

13. Footballs

a) The Footballs for the Competition shall be selected and supplied by the Organising Association as follows:

   i. The Organising Association(s) must provide ten (10) new match balls for each match of the Competition.

   ii. The Organising Associations(s) must provide ten (10) new Training balls to the visiting teams, at the Competition venue.

   iii. Only FIFA Approved balls are allowed to be used for the Competition.

14. Match Schedule

a) All matches shall be played according to the match sequence (Appendix 1) and schedule as set by the AFC Competitions Committee. The dates and match sequence are final and binding on all concerned.

b) The Organising Association(s) shall inform the AFC Secretariat of the kick-off times and the stadium for all 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.

15. Competition System

a) The Competition shall consist of one stage.

   i. Qualifiers (Home & Away League System)

b) The winner, runners-up of each group and the best 3rd team among all groups will qualify for the AFC Asian Cup 2015 Finals.

c) The matches in the Competition shall be played in accordance with the following format:

   i. Qualifiers : In groups composed of several teams on a home and away basis, with three points awarded for a win, one point for a draw, no points for a defeat (league system)

ii. In the case of withdrawals or suspensions of the teams, the AFC Competitions Committee reserves a right and may change the competition system and technical rules.

d) In the league system, the ranking in each group is determined in the following sequence:

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 in the following sequence and order: (please see annex 3 for an example)
   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; (Away Goals do not apply)
   E) Greater number of goals scored in all the group matches; (Away Goals do not apply)
   F) Kicks from the penalty mark if only two Teams are involved and they are both on the field of play;
   G) Drawing of lots

e) Should the best / better ranked third placed teams among all group be required to participate in the AFC Asian Cup 2015 Finals, eligible teams shall be determined according to the following criteria (Please see Appendix 2 for illustration and in case where teams have played unequal number of group matches)

A. Number of points obtained in the group matches;
B. Goal difference in the group matches;
C. Greater number of goals scored in the group matches;
D. Fewer score calculated according to the number of yellow and red cards received in the group matches; (please see Appendix 3)
E. Drawing of lots

16. Technical Rules for the Competition

f) The 20 Participating Teams taking part in the Competition shall be divided into 5 groups of 4 Participating Teams each.

g) The AFC Competitions Committee shall divide the **Member Associations** into groups by drawing lots in public, whilst taking sports, geographic and economic factors into consideration, as far as possible

h) The Teams in the five (5) groups shall be designated as follows (alternatively, based on the number of entries the required number of groups will be designated in the same way):

Group A	**Group B**	**Group C**	**Group D**	**Group E**
A1	B1	C1	D1	E1
A2	B2	C2	D2	E2
A3	B3	C3	D3	E3
A4	B4	C4	D4	E4

i) 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

j) Where required, to ensure fair play and for sporting reasons, the matches in the last match day in each group shall be scheduled to take place at the same time on the same day, taking into consideration time zones.

SECTION 3: ENTRIES FOR COMPETITION

17. Entries

a) The AFC shall determine the Member Associations who are eligible for the Competition.

b) The eligible national association shall complete an official entry form in full and submit it to the AFC not later than the entry deadline communicated to the national associations.

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

18. Eligible Teams

a) The Senior Men's National Team of Participating Member Associations shall be eligible to participate in this Competition provided all other terms of these regulations have been met.

19. Duties and Obligations

a) On entering the Competition, the Member Associations shall automatically undertake:

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

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

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

iv. To field their strongest teams throughout the Competition;

v. To accept all the arrangements made by the Organising Associations in agreement with the AFC;

vi. To observe the principles of Fair Play;

vii. To be responsible for the behavior 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

viii. To attend and participate in all official activities and events such as Match Coordination Meeting, press conferences, other media & marketing activities, etc. organized by AFC or the Organising Association in accordance with guidelines and/or instructions in circulars issued by AFC regarding, in particular, media access to Teams. Failure to attend the Match Coordination Meeting, press-conference and other official function in the Competition will result in the member association being fined 5,000 US dollars (Five Thousand US Dollars only).

ix. To accept the use and/or sub-license by AFC of any of the records, names and images of the Member Association (including its mark), players and officials, including any still and moving representation thereof, which must appear or be generated in connection with the Participating of the Member Association and its Players and Officials in the Competition.

b) In their capacity as the Organising Association, shall automatically undertake:

i. To make the appropriate arrangements for the staging of their matches, visiting teams and AFC delegation in accordance with the regulations;

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

20. Withdrawal, penalty for failing to play and replacement

a) Participating teams shall play in all Competition matches.

b) Participating teams that withdraw prior to, or is excluded from playing in the Competition, may be replaced by another Member Association. AFC's

Competition Committee shall make the relevant decision, including a change in the Competition system (Art. 15) and the Technical Rules for the Competition (Art. 16) if necessary.

c) If a Participating team 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 Participating Member Association shall:

   i. Be considered to have withdrawn from the Competition.
   ii. Have all it's matches cancelled and considered null and void (all points, goals scored and goals 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 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 edition of the Competition (and its qualifying competitions, if any.).
   v. Be disqualified from taking part in the AFC Asian Cup 2015 (Finals), if qualification has been attained.
   vi. Be referred to the AFC Disciplinary Committee for additional sanctions and fines depending on the gravity of the situation, then to AFC Executive Committee for final decision.
   vii. 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.
   viii. The AFC Executive Committee may impose additional sanctions and fines depending on the gravity of the situation

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

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

21. Size of Delegation Attending Matches

a) Each participating Member Association is entitled to an Official Delegation of a maximum of 23 players and 8 officials who must be registered by the Member Association as per Art.22-31. The team's Official Delegation will be provided with full board, accommodation and transportation benefits as well as full access to the official Competition areas including the field of play and other Controlled Accessed areas.

b) At their own cost, each Participating Member Association can nominate, up to an additional four (4) officials, who will receive the same access to all competition areas. However, the total number of officials who will sit on the team bench must not exceed eight (8) officials, including head coach, as confirmed by the "Officials on the Team Bench" form submitted prior to the start of the match.

22. Eligibility of Players

a) A player is eligible to play in the Competition provided he fulfils all the following conditions:

   i. He is duly registered with the AFC by the Member Association according to the provisions of these Regulations;

   ii. He is a bona fide citizen of the country he represents, provided he fulfills the provision of Art. 24 c)

b) A player is deemed ineligible if:

   i. There is a violation of article 22 a);

   ii. He is fielded despite being served a suspension;

   iii. AFC finds that the documents submitted during registration are false

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

23. Stages of Registration of Players

a) There are three (3) stages of player's registration:
   i. Preliminary Registration to determine a squad of minimum of eighteen (18) players with no maximum number of players.

   ii. Final Registration to specify the minimum of eighteen (18) and maximum of twenty three (23) players from the squad declared in the Preliminary Registration for the Competition.

   iii. Start List to identify the starting eleven (11) and up to twelve (12) substitute players for each match during the Competition.

24. 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;

   ii. Color Copy of valid passport containing full name, passport number, date of birth, date of issue, date of expiry and nationality (group passport will not be accepted);

   iii. Color Copy of national ID (when applicable);

   iv. Passport-size colored photo (taken within 3 months prior to the submission of the registration)

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 o their countries as proof of the Player' nationality in accordance with the Regulations Governing the Application of the FIFA Statutes. The supporting documents are, but not limited, to those listed in Appendix 4. .

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

25. Principles for Registration of Players

a) A participating Member Association can register a minimum of eighteen (18) players with no maximum number of players for the Competition in the Preliminary Registration in accordance with Art. 26.

b) If a participating Member Association fails to register a minimum of eighteen (18) players, the team will be considered to have withdrawn in accordance with Art. 20 c).

c) Participating Member Association must register a minimum of three (3) goalkeepers in their AFC Preliminary Registration and Final Registration for the players. Registration of fewer goalkeepers will not entitle Participating Member Associations to register more outfield players in the Final Registration.

d) Each column in the AFC official Registration Form for the Players must be completed with correct information.

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

f) In case any participating Member Association found guilty of violating Art.22 (Eligibility of Players), the sanction will be pronounced in accordance with AFC Disciplinary Code.

g) It is responsibility of the Member Association to ensure that all forms and supporting documents in accordance with Art. 24 are sent in good time and reach AFC Secretariat in Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia or submitted via AFCAS online registration before the deadline announced by AFC. Proof of submission is not proof of receipt.

h) Should the AFC Secretariat not receive the AFC Official Registration Form with all required document by the deadline announced by AFC, the Participating Member Association shall be automatically disqualified from the Competition and be considered to have withdrawn in accordance with Art 20 c).

i) After 1st match of Competition is played, Participating Teams may replace or add any of its players on any ground until seven (7) days before each match Day provided all necessary documents have been

submitted to AFC as per Art. 25 and 26. Further, the Accreditation Card of the replaced players must be returned to the AFC before the Accreditation Card of the new player can be produced. The new player is not eligible to play until he receives his Accreditation Card.

26. Preliminary Registration of Players

a) Each Member Association entering the Competition shall submit to AFC Secretariat, via fax and courier, the AFC Official Registration Form for Players and the supporting documents in accordance with Art. 24 by the deadline announced by AFC.

b) Once Preliminary Registration window is closed and AFC Official Registration Form has been received by AFC, under no circumstance will the Member Association be allowed to submit additional names or replacement of players for registrations until the 1st match of the Competition is played.

27. Final Registration of Players

a) Participating Member Associations are required to submit a final registration of minimum of eighteen (18) and maximum of twenty three (23) players from the squad list. The submission of the final registration must be done at least ninety (90) minutes before kick-off of the match, using the Player Selection List. Only those players bearing an official eligibility card are eligible for registration.

b) No replacement of players is allowed once the final registration is completed.

28. Player Selection List

a) Each match in the Competition, each Participating Team will receive a "Player Selection List" on which the full names (last name, first name) of registered players in the squad are listed prior to their arrival at the stadium.

b) The Participating Team must indicate on the "Player Selection List" the eleven (11) players who will start the match and the other twelve (12) players who are designated as either substitutes or not playing. The numbers on the players' shirt must correspond with the numbers indicated on the "Player Selection list" (numbers 1-23 only). All Goalkeepers and the Captain must be identified on the "Player Selection

List". Three players must be goalkeepers, with the number 1 shirt reserved for one of them.

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

29. Match Starting List

a) After receiving "Player Selection List" and "Officials on the Bench" list with the names and designations of officials on the bench no later than ninety (90) minutes before the kick-off, the AFC Match Commissioner will produce, through AFCAS, the 'Match Starting List', which must be signed by the Head Coaches and Team Managers of both Teams.

b) The AFC Match Commissioner will ask to see the Accreditation cards and uniforms of the players whose names are listed on the Match Starting List. Each player participating in the Match must be in possession of their Accreditation card issued by the AFC Secretariat. Only those players who are in possession of an Accreditation card are entitled to play in the matches.

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

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

ii. If any of the twelve (12) substitutes listed on the Match Starting List are not able to be fielded for any reason, the player(s) concerned may not be replaced on the bench by an additional player, which means the quota of substitutes shall be reduced accordingly. During the match, three players may still be replaced.

d) Not more than twenty (20) people (eight officials and twelve substitutes) shall be allowed to sit on the substitutes' bench.

30. Registration of Officials

a) Each Member Association entering the Competition shall submit to AFC Secretariat, via fax, courier or online registration, the AFC Official Registration Form for Officials and the supporting documents in accordance with Art.31-32 by the deadline announced by AFC.

31. 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 are, 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. Color copy of valid passport containing full name, passport number, date of birth, date of issue, date of expiry and nationality (group passport will not be accepted);
   iv. Color Copy of national ID (when applicable);
   v. Certificate/Qualifications based on his/her function;
      A. Head coach and Assistant Coach: Individual's coaching certificate or coaching license
      B. Doctor: Medical Qualification

c) AFC has the right to ask further documentations for the clarification of the eligibility of the officials other than documentations listed in the Art 31 b) above.

32. Principles for Registration of Officials

a) The participating Member Association can nominate maximum twelve (12) officials in the registration.

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

c) Each column in the AFC Official Registration Form for the Officials shall be filled up with correct information. :

d) Official with missing documentations will not be eligible for registration. All eligible Officials will be issued with Accreditation card. Should the card have been misplaced, the Member Association shall be required to pay a USD 1,000 (US Dollars One thousand only) production fee for every card lost, to replace it.

e) It is responsibility of the Member Associations to ensure that all forms and supporting documents in accordance with Art. 30-31 are sent in good time and reach AFC Secretariat in Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia or submitted via AFCAS online registration before the deadline announced by AFC. Proof of submission is not proof of receipt.

f) Should the AFC Secretariat not receive the AFC Official Registration Form with all required document in accordance with Art. 30, the team shall be automatically disqualified from the Competition and be considered to have withdrawn in accordance with Art. 20 c).

g) Member Association may replace or add any of its officials on any grounds until seven (7) days before each Match Day provided all necessary documents have been submitted as per Art. 30-31. Further, the Accreditation Card of the replaced official must be returned to the AFC before the Accreditation Card of the new official can be produced. The new official is not considered part of the Team's Official delegation until he/she receives his/her Accreditation card.

SECTION 5: LOGISTICS & OFFICE EQUIPMENT

33. Visa Application

a) Participating Member Associations must apply for visas to the country hosting their matches not later than one (1) month before each match day in the Competition and to pay all visa application costs for itself;

b) If a Participating Member Association fails to secure a visa in time for their match as a result of non-compliance of Art. 33 a), the Participating Member Association will be considered to have withdrawn in accordance to Art. 20 c).

c) Organising Association(s) must guarantee and ensure that visa will be granted to the AFC delegation, officials and players of the visiting Member Association, sponsors, traveling fans and media without any discrimination of gender, race or nationality.

d) Organising Association(s) 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. 33 a) have been fulfilled, failure to guarantee and ensure issuance of visa to the AFC delegation, officials and players of the visiting teams will result in the Organising Association being referred to the AFC Disciplinary Committee.

34. Taxes

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

b) The Organising Association(s) is required to cover the cost of any advertising taxes and/or fees or similar taxes at the stadia and/or within the Venue.

35. Arrival, Departure & Travel Arrangements

a) All AFC delegation taking part in the Competition shall arrive in the Official hotel at least three (3) days before the first match day of the

competition or on the official arrival date to be determined by AFC and leave one (1) day after completion of the Competition.

b) Each participating member association taking part in the Competition shall arrive in the team hotel reserved for it in the Host member association's country at least two (2) days before their match in the Competition and leave the day after completion of its match.

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

d) Participating member associations are required to purchase published-fare air tickets (full fare air tickets) for its delegation to and from the 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) Any costs relating to non-compliance to Art. 35 b), c), d) or e) above shall be borne by the Participating Member Association concerned.

g) Participating **Member Associations** shall undertake not to play in any other commercially driven matches when traveling to and from the venue of the Competition.

36. Accommodation, Local Hospitalities, Meals and Refreshments

a) Only official hotels shall be used for accommodation.

b) The Organising Association(s) must provide, at its own cost, the following to the Official Delegation of Participating Member Associations from two (2) days prior to each match in the Competition or their official arrival date, to be determined by AFC, to one (1) day after the match.

i) Accommodations in a five star hotel for the Team's Official Delegation as per Art. 21 a), not exceeding thirty-one (31) persons [eleven (11) double rooms, nine (9) single rooms]. All rooms must be on the same floor whenever possible or split to two floor, depending on the hotel floor layout.

ii) One (1) empty room shall be set aside for each participating Member Association at the team's hotel for the purposes of medical treatment and storage respectively.

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

iv) Laundry but no dry cleaning or pressing for playing and training outfits (6 pieces per day per person) for each participating Member Association's Official Delegation as per Art. 21.

v) Liaison Officers proficient in English and the language of the participating team.

c) The Participating Member Associations shall pay for incidental expenses incurred by its delegation members during the course of their stay in the host country and for any costs incurred by additional members of the delegation and extending their stay other than those mentioned in these Regulations.

d) The Organising Association(s) must provide, at its own cost, the following to the AFC Delegation for the Competition from their official arrival date to one day after the last Match in the Competition:

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

ii. One (1) deluxe single room for each AFC Delegation member.

iii. Reasonable laundry but no dry cleaning or pressing for not more than six (6) pieces per day per person for Referees, Assistant Referees, Fourth Official.

iv. Reasonable laundry (including pressing) for not more than six (6) 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 Delegation.

v. Liaison Officers proficient in English.

vi. Suitable meals three (3) times a day (Breakfast, Lunch, dinner) in international buffet style for AFC Delegation and additional light meal (on match days) for Match Officials (Referees).

e) The Organising Association(s) must provide the following to the Official Delegation of Participating Member Associations and AFC Delegation for the Competition from their official arrival date to one day after the last Match in the Competition:

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

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

iii. A minimum of three (3) liters of water per person per day, ice and refreshments per training session.

f) The Organising Association shall assist AFC's Commercial Affiliates (if any) to secure Accommodation, on the same terms and conditions as are available to AFC, on reasonably sufficient quantity of hotel Accommodation in first class hotels in the Venue, transportation services from the hotel Accommodation and the centre of Venue and, if applicable, air transportation to the Venue.

g) The Organising Association must ensure that the AFC Delegation and visiting teams' Official Delegation are accompanied by officials from Host Association during arrival and departure to facilitate transport, immigration, customs and checking-in matters.

37. Local Land Transportation

a) The Organising Association must provide the following to the visiting teams from two (2) days prior to each match of the Competition or official arrival date to be determined by AFC, until the day after the match:

i. One (1) sedan car and (1) 45-seat bus for training, matches, transfers to and from the airport of the Venue and official functions 2 days before and till the day after the match.

ii. One (1) luggage truck must be provided during airport transfers and on match days.

b) The Organising Association must provide the following to the AFC Delegation for the Competition from their official arrival date to one day

after the last Match in the Competition for the purposes of inspections, meetings, matches, airport transfers and official functions:

i. One (1) sedan car each for the AFC Match Commissioners
ii. One (1) van for the Referee Assessors, Referee, Assistant Referees and Fourth Official.
iii. Additional internal transportation must be provided if there are other AFC appointed Match Officials. AFC will determine the final category of Vehicle (s)

c) Failure to provide any of these provisions of Art. 37 will result in a minimum fine of USD 1,000 (US Dollars one thousand only) and further action that the AFC Disciplinary Committee may deem necessary.

38. Tournament Secretariat, Facilities for AFC Delegation

a) The Organising Association 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 listed in Appendix 5.
ii. An office at the stadium equipped with facilities listed in Appendix 5.
iii. One (1) meeting room, equipped with whiteboard and a LCD projector, at the team's hotel to accommodate at least thirty (30) persons, one day prior to the Competition for purposes of the Match Coordination Meeting and Pre-Match Press Conference.
iv. Activated mobile phone SIM card/line with international access, for all AFC Delegation appointed for the match in the Competition, except referees.
v. At least a minimum of three (3) walkie-talkies at the Stadium on Match day
vi. At least two (2) substitution boards at the Stadium on Match day
vii. One (1) television with live feed of the match to be located at the seating area of the AFC Match Commissioner and/or other AFC officials, if any.

b) Failure to provide any of these provisions of Art. 38 will result in a minimum fine of USD 1,000 (US Dollars one thousand only) and further action that the AFC Disciplinary Committee may deem necessary.

39. Audio/Video Recording of Matches

a) The Organising Association is responsible, at its own cost, to provide four (4) copies of Digital Video Disc/s (DVD) of the match to AFC General Coordinator immediately after the match. In the absence of AFC General Coordinator, the Organising Association shall provide two (2) copies of DVD to AFC Match Commissioner and Referee Assessor immediately after the match and send one (1) copy of DVD to AFC on the next day. The Organising Association 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 39 a) will result in a minimum fine of USD 5,000 (US Dollars Five thousand only) and any further action that AFC Disciplinary Committee may deem necessary, which may include the forfeiture of match subsidies (if any) due to the Organising Association(s).

SECTION 6: MEDIA

40. General requirements

a) The Organising 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 Member Associations are encouraged to link the competition website (www.the-afc.com) to its own website respectively upon entry to the Competition.

41. Media Accreditation

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

b) Where required, the Organising Association will be responsible for the production of media bibs for photographers, TV and ENG crews under supervision by AFC. The Organising Association will be responsible for their distribution before and collection after the match.

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

42. Media Access Areas

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

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

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

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

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

43. Open Training Session

a) All Training Sessions must be opened to the Media. Should the Participating Teams wish to close its Training Session to the Media, it shall open for at least the first fifteen (15) minutes of the training. If the 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.

44. Press Conferences

a) The Participating Member Associations must attend a pre-Match press conference to be conducted under supervision of AFC Media Officer and/or AFC Match Commissioner one day prior to the Match.

b) The Head Coach and one (1) starting player of each Participating Member Associations are obliged to attend and participate in a pre-Match press conference to be held at least one day before the Match.

c) Both teams are obliged to make their Head Coach available at Post-Match press conference and the teams will be responsible for interpretation from the Head Coach's language into English.

d) Non-compliance with clauses a), b) and c) above will result in disciplinary action which may include a fine of a minimum of USD 1,000 (US Dollars One thousand only) and the Head Coach may be subject to a ban from the dressing room and/or the substitutes' bench.

45. Mixed Zone

a) Players and officials of the participating Member Associations shall enter the Mixed Zone on their way from the team dressing room to the team bus after the Match.

46. Interviews

a) If requested by AFC, the Participating Member Associations should have their Head Coach and one player available for the day before the Match and/or on the Match day for an interview of up to ten (10) minutes, to be recorded by the main TV rights-holding broadcaster (or local TV rights-holding broadcaster) and AFC's official website – www.the-afc.com in the territory of the relevant Team, for the purpose of continental news-exchange distribution to all Competition Right holders.

b) Players and officials of Participating Teams are not permitted to give interviews during the Match on the field of play or in its immediate vicinity. However, the AFC Media Officer and/or AFC Match Commissioner may designate an area between the substitutes' benches and dressing rooms in which "flash" interviews for the Host Television Broadcaster only, including the visiting TV rights-holding broadcaster if there is, can take place at the end of the Match. Players and officials violating this Article will be subject to disciplinary measures.

c) If requested by AFC for the 'flash' interviews, the Head Coach and at least one (1) key player from both Participating Teams must be available for at least the Host Broadcaster and the TV rights-holding broadcaster.

d) All interview locations should be assigned by AFC Media Officer and/or AFC Match Commissioner.

SECTION 7: EQUIPMENT/KIT

47. AFC Equipment Regulations

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

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

48. Kit Approval Procedure

a) The Equipment Regulations require the participating Member Associations to submit to AFC, for AFC's approval, one sample of all kit which the AFC Equipment Regulations cover. At the same time, when required, the Participating Member Associations shall submit also to AFC, for AFC's approval, one sample of all other apparel to be worn by their Team's Official Delegation within the Controlled Access Areas during the Competition Period~~1~~.

b) The Participating Member Associations shall submit to the AFC Secretariat the above-mentioned equipment by a date to be determined by AFC. If any equipment submitted infringes any of the AFC Equipment Regulations and/or event Regulations, AFC will require the Participating Teams to take corrective action and resubmit to AFC the corrected equipment.

c) All items to be used by a Participating Member Association 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 Secretariat for further control after the match.

49. 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 contracts between a participating member association and its sponsor(s) on account of the advertising provisions of the AFC Equipment Regulations. The teams agree to hold AFC harmless from any and all damages which may arise from decisions regarding kits.

SECTION 8: TICKETING

50. Policy

a) The entire ticketing system regulating ticket design, pricing policy, procedures and implementation shall be approved by AFC.

b) Cost of printing match tickets shall be borne by Organising Association.

51. Complimentary Tickets

a) The Organising Association shall set aside the following number of complimentary tickets for each participating team, where all tickets shall be provided in a continuous blocks of tickets:

i. One (1) VVIP ticket for each of the teams' match
ii. Five (5) VIP tickets for each of the team's match
iii. Twenty (20) 1st Best Category Non-VIP tickets for each match or match day of the Competition

52. Purchasable Tickets

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

b) Participating teams 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 visiting teams may not exceed the price of tickets of a comparable quality that are sold to supporters of the home team.

SECTION 9: MEDICAL & ANTI-DOPING

53. Medical Treatment

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

b) The Organising Association must provide, at its own cost, the following to the Participating Member Associations from the official arrival date to be determined by AFC until one (1) day after and to the AFC Delegation from the moment they arrive to the Venue until one (1) day after the Competition:

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

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

54. Medical Personnel

a) The Organising Association must provide, at its own cost, the following medical personnel on match day at the Stadium where the match is organized:

i. On-Pitch Medical Services:
- 1 on pitch Medical Officer trained in Emergency Medicine
- 8 trained stretcher bearers in good physical condition

ii. Doping control personnel:
- One Doping Assistant (Medical Officer)
- Four (4) Doping Stewards
- One Security Officer

55. Anti-Doping

a) Doping is prohibited. AFC shall inform the Participating Member Associations by means of a circular of the doping control procedure. List of prohibited substances / methods can be downloaded from the AFC or WADA website (www.wada-ama.org)

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 AFC Anti-Doping Regulations, as well as all relevant AFC directives will apply to this tournament.

SECTION 10: DISCIPLINARY LAWS AND PROCEDURES

56. 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) AFC may initiate investigations should it suspect and/or is aware of any violations of the Laws of the Game and contravention of its Statutes, Rules, Regulations, Instructions and decisions by its Member Associations, officials and players.

c) AFC may impose the disciplinary measures for any violations of the Laws of the Game and contravention of its Statutes, Rules, Regulations, Instructions and decisions by its Member Associations, Officials and Players.

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

a) A player who receives two (2) cautions (yellow cards) during the Competition shall automatically be suspended from the Match following the Match in which he received the second caution. If the player receives the second caution during the Team's last match in the Qualifiers, the suspension will be carried forward to the AFC Asian Cup 2015 Finals if qualification has been attained.

b) Single (1) yellow card received in the Qualifiers stage of the Competition will not be carried forward to the AFC Asian Cup 2015 Finals.

c) A player and/or official who was sent off during the Competition shall automatically be suspended from the match following the match in which he was sent off. If the player and/or official who were sent off in his team's last match in the Qualifiers, the suspension will be carried forward to the AFC Asian Cup 2015 (Finals) if qualification has been attained.

d) Any player and/or official who was sent off during the Competition shall remain suspended from further play until his/her case has been decided by the AFC Disciplinary Committee.

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

f) Each Member 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.

58. Indiscipline and Violent Conduct by players and/or officials

1. 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 shall be dealt with by the relevant AFC Committees in accordance with these Regulations, the AFC Statues, Disciplinary Code and Code of Ethics.

59. 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 team 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 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.

60. Arbitration

a) Pursuant to AFC Statutes, Member Associations 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) Furthermore, any disputes involving AFC, Member Associations, confederations, leagues, teams, players, officials and licensed agents in connection with the Competition shall be promptly settled by negotiation.

c) If 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 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

61. Financial Provisions

a) Participating Member Associations shall settle other costs among themselves as indicated in these Regulations.

b) Each Organising Association retains its receipts from the sale of match tickets.

62. Special Provisions

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

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

63. 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.

64. Ratification

a) These Regulations were ratified by the AFC Executive Committee on 19 July 2012 and came into force immediately.

For the AFC Executive Committee

Acting President:
Zhang Jilong

General Secretary:
Dato' Alex Soosay

Kuala Lumpur, 19 July 2012

APPENDIX 1 : Match Sequence

1. Group Stage

Depending on the format of the Competition and the number of teams in a group, one of the following match schedules will be applied for the Group Stage. The number indicated below designates the position drawn in each group.

a) League format, centralized venue: group of three teams

1st match day:	3 v 1
2nd match day:	2 v 3
3rd match day:	1 v 2

b) League format, home and away: group of four teams

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

c) League format, centralized venue: group of four teams

1st match day:	1 v 4	2 v 3
2nd match day:	4 v 2	3 v 1
3rd match day:	1 v 2	3 v 4

d) League format, centralized venue: group of five teams

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

e) League format, home and away: group of five

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

6th match day:	2 v 3	4 v 5
7th match day:	1 v 4	3 v 5
8th match day:	5 v 1	4 v 2
9th match day:	2 v 5	1 v 3
10th match day:	3 v 4	1 v 2

f) League format, centralised: group of six

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

2. Knock-out Stage

The following match schedule will be applied for centralized competition.

Quarter-finals

Quarter-final (QF) 1: Winner A vs. Runner-up B
Quarter-final (QF) 2: Winner C vs. Runner-up D
Quarter-final (QF) 3: Winner B vs Runner-up A
Quarter-final (QF) 4: Winner D vs Runner-up C

Semi-finals

Semi-final (SF) 1: Winner QF 1 vs Winner QF 2
Semi-final (SF) 2: Winner QF 3 vs Winner QF 4

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

As provided for in Art. 15 i) 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: Determining the best Third Place among the groups

As provided for in Art. 15 i) of this Competition Regulation, in the event that the best third-placed team needs to be determined, the following procedure will be applied (example given here is the determination of best runner-up. However, the same principle applies)

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

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

Illustration 1:

Group A

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

Group B

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

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

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

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

Illustration 2:

Group A

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

Group B

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

Teams in groups A and B have played different number of matches (i.e. teams in group A have played 3 matches while teams in group B have played 4 matches). Therefore, in

order to identify the best runner-up among these groups, we need to ensure we are comparing the teams over an equal number of matches.

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

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

Illustration 3: New points for Team F:

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

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

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

APPENDIX 4: 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	Must provide the following:	
a) AND	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.	
b) OR	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.	
c)	Decision of FIFA Players' Status Committee allowing player to change Association	
3.	Clear copy of player's passport	
4.	Clear copy of player's Birth certificate	
5.	Clear copy of player's national ID card when applicable	
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.	

APPENDIX 5: Tournament Secretariat, Facilities for AFC Delegation

The AFC Secretariat at the official team hotel shall be equipped with facilities as follows:

i. One (1) central telephone unit with internal and external lines allowing calls to be transferred between offices
ii. One (1) IDD line for telephone and fax machine and its consumables such as but not limited to paper, toner and cartridges
iii. One (1) desktops or laptop with the following specifications (minimum): Pentium 4, 512 MB RAM, connected to the Internet via ADSL/Cable, 15-inch monitor, Window 2000/XP Pro, Microsoft Office 2000 and above, Adobe Reader version 7.0. Operating languages for the software must be in English.
iv. One (1) printer and its consumables such as but not limited to paper, toner and cartridges.
v. One (1) photocopying machine and its consumables such as but not limited to paper, toner and cartridges
vi. One (1) staff proficient in English and use of computers
vii. Broadband internet connections (ADSL/Cable) for all offices

An office at the stadium equipped with the following:

i. IDD lines for telephone and fax machines and its consumables such as but not limited to paper, toner and cartridges

ii. One (1) desktop with the following specifications (minimum): Pentium 4, 512 MB RAM, connected to the Internet via ADSL/Cable, 15-inch monitor, Window 2000/XP Pro, Microsoft Office 2000 and above, Adobe Reader version 7.0. Operating languages for the software must be in English.

iii. One (1) networked laser jet printers and its consumables such as but not limited to paper, toner and cartridges

iv. One (1) heavy duty photocopy machine with sorting facilities and its consumables such as but not limited to paper, toner and cartridges

v. One (1) Telephone and One (1) fax machine and its consumables such as but not limited to paper, toner and cartridges

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

One (1) meeting room, equipped with whiteboard and a LCD projector, at the team's hotel to accommodate at least thirty (30) persons, one day prior to the Competition for purposes of the Match Coordination Meeting.