



**AFC REGIONAL ASSOCIATION FUND
REGULATIONS**

2020 Edition



A large, stylized star graphic composed of a grid of small white dots, set against a dark grey background. The star has five points and is positioned on the left side of the page.

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DEFINITIONS

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

AFC Regional Association Fund or Fund	The financial subsidy provided by the AFC to a Regional Association pursuant to and for the purposes set out in these Regulations.
AFC Regional Association Fund Bank Account	The bank account(s) owned and operated by a Regional Association solely for the purpose of receiving and disbursing the AFC Regional Association Fund (whether in US Dollar and/or Regional Association's local currency).
AFC	Asian Football Confederation.
AFC Committee	Any committee of the AFC as constituted in accordance with the AFC Statutes.
AFC Regional Association Fund Programme	An activity or programme from which a Regional Association may benefit as approved by the AFC pursuant to these Regulations/AFC Regional Association Fund Policy.
AFC Regional Association Fund Policy	The policy issued by the AFC which provides mechanism/criteria for the operational implementation of the AFC Regional Association Fund Programme in accordance with these Regulations.
Budget	The proposed annual utilisation of the AFC Regional Association Fund by the beneficiary Regional Association.
Central Audit	An audit of the AFC Regional Association Fund undertaken by an independent auditor appointed by the AFC.

Declaration of Commitment	A document declaring that the Regional Association will abide by these Regulations and the AFC Regional Association Fund Policy. This declaration must be signed by the President and General Secretary of that Regional Association.
FIFA	The Fédération Internationale de Football Association
Force Majeure	Any event affecting the performance or any provision of these Regulations/AFC Regional Association Fund Policy 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, power supplies, war, terrorist action, military operations, riot, crowd disorder, strike, lock-outs and lockdowns/pandemic or other industrial action, or civil commotion.
Regional Association	A group of Member Associations recognised by the AFC that belong to the same geographic zone in accordance with the AFC Statutes.
Regulations	These AFC Regional Association Fund Regulations

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

- (a) the singular shall include the plural and vice-versa;
- (b) the feminine gender shall include the masculine and vice-versa;
- (c) references to natural persons shall include any legal person or corporation;
- (d) references to the AFC shall include its successors and permitted assigns, and, where the context requires, the AFC Committees; and
- (e) all defined terms unless otherwise stated herein shall bear the same meaning as ascribed in the AFC Statutes, unless the context indicates otherwise.

AFC REGIONAL ASSOCIATION FUND REGULATIONS

1. SCOPE OF APPLICATION

- 1.1 These Regulations, together with the AFC Regional Association Fund Policy, govern the rights, duties, and obligations of all parties involved in the operation of the AFC Regional Association Fund Programme.
- 1.2 These Regulations and the AFC Regional Association Fund Policy apply to all Regional Associations that apply to benefit from the AFC Regional Association Fund Programme and all beneficiary Regional Associations receiving the Fund.
- 1.3 Regional Associations that benefit from the AFC Regional Association Fund Programme are eligible to receive other forms of development support and participate in other development programmes offered by the AFC, subject to the approval of the relevant AFC Committee(s), availability of relevant budget(s) and compliance with the provisions of the respective AFC development programme policies/regulations.
- 1.4 These Regulations and all related directives, decisions, guidelines, and circulars issued by the AFC shall be binding upon all parties involved in the operation/utilisation of the AFC Regional Association Fund Programme.
- 1.5 The AFC Regional Association Fund Policy forms are an integral part of and shall be read in conjunction with these Regulations. The AFC Regional Association Fund Policy shall be binding upon all parties involved in the operation of the AFC Regional Association Fund Programme. In the event of any discrepancy between these Regulations and the AFC Regional Association Fund Policy, these Regulations shall prevail to the extent of the inconsistency.

- 1.6 Any rights and proprietary interests associated with the AFC Regional Association Fund Programme that are not granted by these Regulations or specific agreement to any Regional Association and/or any third-party vest and shall continue to vest in the AFC.
- 1.7 Any reference to the AFC Statutes, Regulations and the AFC Regional Association Fund Policy refers to those valid at the time of application.

2. OBJECTIVE

- 2.1 The AFC Regional Association Fund Programme is a centralised initiative that is designed to build the capacity and capability of the Regional Associations, particularly in the area of administration.

3. RESPONSIBILITIES

- 3.1 AFC Executive Committee
 - 3.1.1 In accordance with Article 33.1 of the AFC Statutes and the AFC Organisation Regulations, the AFC Executive Committee shall be responsible for and supervise the implementation of the AFC Regional Association Fund Programme.
- 3.2 The specific responsibilities of the AFC Executive Committee are:
 - 3.2.1 Approving and amending these Regulations and approving the first (1st) edition of the AFC Regional Association Fund Policy;
 - 3.2.2 Approving, reviewing, revising and amending the format of the AFC Regional Association Fund Programme and/or amount of the AFC Regional Association Fund for any Regional Association at any time during the AFC Regional Association Fund Programme cycle;

- 3.2.3 Excluding any Regional Association from the AFC Regional Association Fund Programme upon the recommendation of the AFC General Secretariat due to non-compliance with these Regulations and/or the AFC Regional Association Fund Policy;
 - 3.2.4 Granting exemptions to these Regulations upon the proposal of the AFC General Secretariat; and 3.2.5. declaring cases of Force Majeure.
- 3.3 AFC General Secretariat
- 3.3.1 The AFC General Secretariat shall manage the operational implementation of the AFC Regional Association Fund Programme.
- 3.4. The specific responsibilities of the AFC General Secretariat are:
- 3.4.1 Making all the necessary assessments and providing recommendations to exclude a beneficiary Regional Association from the AFC Regional Association Fund Programme to the AFC Executive Committee for its decision;
 - 3.4.2 Proposing amendments to these Regulations for the approval of the AFC Executive Committee;
 - 3.4.3 Drafting the first (1st) edition of the AFC Regional Association Fund Policy for the approval of the AFC Executive Committee;
 - 3.4.4 Amending the AFC Regional Association Fund Policy at its discretion and notifying such amendments to the AFC Executive Committee and beneficiary Regional Associations. For the avoidance of doubt, the approval of the AFC Executive Committee is not required for any such amendment to the AFC Regional Association Fund Policy;
 - 3.4.5 Deciding and/or amending the distribution ratio and schedule of disbursement of the Fund based on the AFC's finances and cash flow situation; and
 - 3.4.6 Undertaking all tasks to ensure the operation of the AFC Regional Association Fund Programme is in compliance with these Regulations, the AFC Regional Association Fund Policy and other relevant AFC regulations and policies.

4. REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

- 4.1 The specific responsibilities of the beneficiary Regional Associations are to:
- 4.1.1 Fully comply with these Regulations and the AFC Regional Association Fund Policy at all times;
 - 4.1.2 Provide the AFC with all the necessary information and supporting documentation related to its benefit from the AFC Regional Association Fund;
 - 4.1.3 Provide the AFC with all the necessary information and supporting documentation to conduct the Central Audit;
 - 4.1.4 Assist the AFC in monitoring and overseeing the operation of the AFC Regional Association Fund Programme;
 - 4.1.5 Immediately inform the AFC General Secretariat of any difficulty encountered in the operation of the AFC Regional Association Programme or of any revision to the approved Budget;
 - 4.1.6 Utilise the AFC Regional Association Fund solely for the activities proposed in the Budget approved by the AFC;
 - 4.1.7 Avoid, under all circumstances, all cash transactions under the AFC Regional Association Fund.;
 - 4.1.8 Respect all applicable laws, including those relating to the confidentiality of data and privacy, and in particular, laws and rules that prohibit child labour and forced labour; and
 - 4.1.9 Establish appropriate procedures, where applicable, particularly regarding tender process, in order to evaluate and select suppliers and subcontractors to ensure compliance with the local procurement laws and regulations.

5. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- 5.1. In order to benefit from the AFC Regional Association Fund Programme, a Regional Association must comply with the requirements set out in:
- 5.1.1 Article 4 of these Regulations; and
 - 5.1.2 the AFC Regional Association Fund Policy.

- 5.2 The AFC General Secretariat shall make all decisions relating to the eligibility of a Regional Association to benefit from the AFC Regional Association Fund.

6. MISUSE OF THE AFC REGIONAL ASSOCIATION FUND

- 6.1. If the AFC General Secretariat considers that funds or other benefits in connection with the AFC Regional Association Fund have been misused, it may:
- 6.1.1 Order the immediate suspension of any further disbursements until further notice;
 - 6.1.2 Order a member of the AFC General Secretariat or third party mandated by the AFC to inspect and audit the beneficiary Regional Association, including a forensic audit. The beneficiary Regional Association shall provide full access to relevant personnel, accounts, contracts, meeting minutes, and all other relevant documents. Any such audits shall be conducted at the expense of the AFC;
 - 6.1.3 Order the beneficiary Regional Association concerned to reimburse the received amounts in full to the AFC;
 - 6.1.4 Take any other measures deemed appropriate in the circumstances; and/or
 - 6.1.5 Refer the matter to the AFC Disciplinary and Ethics Committee.
- 6.2 Upon the recommendation by the AFC General Secretariat that funds or other benefits in connection with the AFC Regional Association Fund have been misused, the AFC Executive Committee may exclude that beneficiary Regional Association from the AFC Regional Association Fund Programme in accordance with Articles 3.2.3. and 3.4.1 of these Regulations.
- 6.3. Should a beneficiary Regional Association be excluded from the AFC Regional Association Fund Programme pursuant to Article 6.2, it shall:
- 6.3.1 Be required to reimburse any expenses of the AFC to that date. The amount of expenses shall be determined by the AFC Executive Committee; and

6.3.2 Be immediately ineligible to benefit from the AFC Regional Association Programme from the time of its exclusion, including any payments for that year, and for the subsequent two (2) calendar years.

6.4 The above Articles 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 are not applicable in cases of Force Majeure recognised by the AFC Executive Committee. The AFC Executive Committee shall take whatever action it deems necessary in cases of Force Majeure.

7. TAXES AND DUTIES

7.1 Beneficiary Regional Associations are responsible for the payment of all taxes, duties, and other charges payable in relation to the operation of the AFC Regional Association Fund Programme in their region (including receipt by and disbursement to third parties in relation to the AFC Regional Association Fund).

7.2 Beneficiary Regional Associations shall declare such items where applicable within their Budget.

8. FEES AND EXPENSES

8.1 Beneficiary Regional Associations are responsible for the payment of all fees and expenses in relation to the operation of the AFC Regional Association Fund Programme in their region, except where expressly identified otherwise in these Regulations.

8.2 For the avoidance of doubt, this includes all professional (legal, accounting etc.), banking and monetary exchange costs.

9. IMPLEMENTING PROVISIONS

9.1 Beneficiary Regional Associations shall indemnify, hold harmless and defend the AFC, its officers, members, agents, auxiliary persons, representatives, and employees from and against all liabilities, obligations, damages, losses, claims, demands, recoveries, deficiencies, costs or expenses (including without limitation all costs and expenses

for withdrawal or exclusion from the AFC Regional Association Fund Programme and/or all attorneys' fees and expenses) which such parties may suffer or incur in connection with, resulting from, or arising out of any breach by the beneficiary Regional Association (including its officers, directors, representatives, auxiliary persons, employees or agents) or any act or omission of the beneficiary Regional Association (including its officers, directors, representatives, auxiliary persons, employees or agents) in connection with the performance of its obligations pursuant to these Regulations.

10. DISCIPLINARY MEASURES

10.1 All disciplinary measures in relation to these Regulations shall be undertaken in accordance with the AFC Statutes, AFC Disciplinary and Ethics Code, and any relevant AFC circulars and directives.

11. DECISIONS

11.1 All decisions made in accordance with these Regulations, except where expressly identified otherwise, are final and binding and not appealable in accordance with the AFC Statutes.

12. AMENDMENTS

12.1 The AFC reserves the right to make amendments to any part of these Regulations and the AFC Regional Association Fund Policy for any reason whatsoever. Such amendments shall be duly communicated in due course.

13. FORCE MAJEURE

13.1 The AFC Executive Committee is the only body capable of declaring a Force Majeure event pursuant to these Regulations and the AFC Regional Association Fund Policy.

14. MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR

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

15. CLOSING PROVISIONS

15.1 The AFC General Secretariat is entrusted with the operational management of the AFC Regional Association Fund Programme and is therefore entitled to make decisions and adopt the detailed provisions necessary for implementing these Regulations and the AFC Regional Association Fund Policy.

16. ENFORCEMENT

16.1 These Regulations were ratified by the AFC Executive Committee on 13 November 2020 and came into force immediately.

For the AFC Executive Committee

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President

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