



# Asian Playoffs for the FIFA Futsal World Cup Lithuania 2021

Regulations

# Asian Playoffs for the FIFA Futsal World Cup Lithuania 2021 Regulations

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## DEFINITIONS

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In these Regulations, capitalised terms shall have the same meanings as indicated in the AFC Competition Operations Manual, unless the context specifically indicates otherwise.

AFC	Asian Football Confederation.
Asian Playoffs	The Matches to determine the AFC representatives to participate in the FIFA Futsal World Cup Lithuania 2021, which includes without limitation, all Matches as set out in the Match Schedule, all activities on the Pitch (other than Matches), opening ceremonies, presentation and closing ceremonies, press conferences and Official Functions connected therewith.
Away Goals Rule	At the end of the second Match played in a knockout home and away format, if the Participating Teams have scored the same number of goals across both Matches, the Participating Team which has scored the higher number of goals away from home shall be declared the winner.
Extra Time	Two (2) equal periods of additional time which shall be played in accordance with these Regulations should there be no winner at the conclusion of a Match.
FIFA	The Fédération Internationale de Football Association.
Force Majeure	Any event affecting the performance of any provision of these Regulations arising from or attributable to acts, events, omissions or accidents which are beyond the reasonable control of a party, and shall include but not be limited to abnormally inclement weather, flood, lightning, storm, fire, explosion, earthquake, structural damage, epidemic or other natural disaster, failure or shortage of power supplies, war, terrorist action, military operations, riot, crowd disorder, strike, lockouts or other industrial action, or civil commotion.
Futsal Laws of the Game	The laws of futsal issued by FIFA.
Host Association	A Member Association approved by the AFC to organise, stage and host a Match in the Asian Playoffs.
Indoor Stadium	Any indoor stadium at which a Match is played. For the avoidance of doubt, this includes:  (i) the entire premises (to the extent that a valid Accreditation Card or Ticket is required in order to gain access) of an indoor stadium facility inside the outer stadium perimeter fence and (on Match days and any day on which any official training takes place within

	<p>the indoor stadium), the aerial space above such indoor stadium premises;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(ii) parking facilities;</li> <li>(iii) VIP and hospitality areas (including any hospitality village);</li> <li>(iv) concession areas;</li> <li>(v) commercial display areas;</li> <li>(vi) buildings;</li> <li>(vii) the Pitch;</li> <li>(viii) the media tribune;</li> <li>(ix) any broadcast compound;</li> <li>(x) the stadium media centre;</li> <li>(xi) the press conference room;</li> <li>(xii) the mixed zone;</li> <li>(xiii) any stands; and</li> <li>(xiv) any areas beneath the stands.</li> </ul>
Kicks from the Penalty Mark	“Kicks from the Penalty Mark” as described in the Futsal Laws of the Game.
Manual	The AFC Competition Operations Manual which sets out the operational responsibilities of the relevant stakeholders in relation to the organising, hosting and staging of Matches and competitions.
Match	A futsal match in its entirety (including a replayed and/or deferred match, extra time and Kicks from the Penalty Mark) which takes place as part of the Asian Playoffs in accordance with the Match Schedule. For the avoidance of doubt, a match formally commences when the Indoor Stadium is officially opened to spectators and formally concludes when the Indoor Stadium is officially closed to spectators.
Match Officials	Any individual appointed to officiate a Match in the Asian Playoffs in the role of the Referee, Second Referee, Third Referee, Timekeeper, Referee Assessor and any other match official stipulated in the Futsal Laws of the Game.
Pitch	The area described in Law 1 of the Futsal Laws of the Game issued by FIFA.
Regulations	These Asian Playoffs for the FIFA Futsal World Cup Lithuania 2021 Regulations.

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

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

## SECTION 1: GENERAL PROVISIONS

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### 1. Asian Playoffs for the FIFA Futsal World Cup 2021

- 1.1. The Asian Playoffs are organised to decide the remaining two (2) AFC slots to participate in the FIFA Futsal World Cup Lithuania 2021. They shall be contested by the futsal representative teams of the following Member Associations:
  - (i) Iraq;
  - (ii) Lebanon;
  - (iii) Thailand; and
  - (iv) Vietnam
- 1.2. These Regulations govern the rights, duties, and responsibilities of the AFC, Host Association, Member Associations, Participating Teams, Participating Players and Participating Officials involved in the Asian Playoffs.
- 1.3. These Regulations and all related directives, decisions, guidelines, and circulars issued by the AFC shall be binding upon all parties participating and involved in the preparation, organisation, and hosting of the Asian Playoffs.
- 1.4. The Manual forms an integral part of and shall be read in conjunction with these Regulations. The Manual shall be binding upon all parties participating and involved in the preparation, organisation and hosting of the Asian Playoffs. Failure to adhere to any matter set out in the Manual may lead to the imposition of sanctions as set out in the AFC Disciplinary and Ethics Code. In the event of any discrepancy between these Regulations and the Manual, these Regulations shall prevail to the extent of the inconsistency.
- 1.5. Any rights and Proprietary Interests associated with the Asian Playoffs that are not granted by these Regulations and/or specific agreements to the Host Association or and Participating Member Association shall vest in the AFC.
- 1.6. Pursuant to the mandate granted by the AFC Executive Committee in its meeting on 19 April 2021, unless otherwise stated in these Regulations, the AFC General Secretariat shall be responsible for making decisions in technical, organisational, commercial and logistical matters relating to the Asian Playoffs.
- 1.7. Any reference to the AFC Statutes and to AFC and FIFA regulations refer to those valid at the time of application.

## 2. Withdrawal from the Asian Playoffs

- 2.1. All Participating Member Associations undertake that their Participating Teams shall play all of their Matches in the Asian Playoffs.
- 2.2. In the case of a Participating Member Association withdrawing or being excluded from the Asian Playoffs, the AFC Futsal and Beach Soccer Committee shall be responsible for making any decisions, including without limitation:
  - 2.2.1. replacement of the Participating Member AssociationAll decisions of the AFC Futsal and Beach Soccer Committee in this regard are final and binding and not appealable.
- 2.3. Any Participating Member Association that:
  - 2.3.1. withdraws from the Asian Playoffs after they have commenced; or
  - 2.3.2. does not report for a Match; or
  - 2.3.3. refuses to continue a Match; or
  - 2.3.4. leaves the Indoor Stadium prior to the completion of a Match,shall be considered to have withdrawn from the Asian Playoffs and shall:
  - 2.3.5. forfeit the relevant Match(es) in accordance with the AFC Disciplinary and Ethics Code;
  - 2.3.6. return to the AFC any subsidy that had been paid in support of its participation in the Asian Playoffs or if not yet paid, forfeit its right to that subsidy;
  - 2.3.7. be required to pay compensation for any and all damages or losses suffered by, where applicable, the other Participating Teams, the AFC, and the Host Association. The amount of compensation shall be determined by the AFC Executive Committee.
- 2.4. Any Participating Member Association that withdraws from the Asian Playoffs at any stage shall also be referred to the AFC Disciplinary and Ethics Committee.
- 2.5. The above Articles 2.3 and 2.4 are not applicable in cases of Force Majeure recognised by the AFC Futsal and Beach Soccer Committee. The AFC Futsal and Beach Soccer Committee shall take whatever action it deems necessary in cases of Force Majeure.

## SECTION 2: ASIAN PLAYOFFS SYSTEM

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### 3. Asian Playoffs System

- 3.1. The Asian Playoffs shall be conducted in accordance with the playoff system set by the AFC.
- 3.2. The Asian Playoffs shall comprise two (2) pairings, with each pairing played in a home and away knockout format.
  - 3.2.1. Each Participating Team shall play its opponent twice, once at home and once away.
  - 3.2.2. The eligible Participating Teams shall be drawn to play each other, including the order of the Matches.
- 3.3. The Participating Team which scores the higher aggregate of goals over the two (2) legs shall be declared the winner.
  - 3.3.1. If the Participating Teams score the same number of goals, the Away Goals Rule shall apply.
  - 3.3.2. If no result is produced, Extra time and Kicks from the Penalty Mark (if required) shall be played at the end of the second leg in accordance with Article 4.
- 3.4. At the conclusion of the Asian Playoffs:
  - 3.4.1. each winner shall qualify for the FIFA Futsal World Cup Lithuania 2021.

### 4. Extra Time and Kicks from the Penalty Mark

- 4.1. If no winner is determined at the end of normal playing time in the second leg of any tie in the Asian Playoffs, Extra Time comprising two (2) periods of five (5) minutes each shall be played.
- 4.2. Extra Time shall be played after an interval of five (5) minutes at the end of normal playing time. A short drinks break (which should not exceed one (1) minute is permitted at the interval of half-time in Extra Time.
- 4.3. There shall be no timeouts provided to the Participating Teams during Extra Time.
- 4.4. The Away Goals Rule shall not apply during or at the conclusion of Extra Time in any Match.
- 4.5. If no winner is determined at the end of Extra Time, Kicks from the Penalty Mark shall be taken in accordance with the Futsal Laws of the Game and the Manual.



## SECTION 3: TECHNICAL REGULATIONS

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### 5. Futsal Laws of the Game

- 5.1. All Matches shall be played in accordance with the Futsal Laws of the Game in force and as laid down by FIFA. In the case of any discrepancy in the interpretation of the Futsal Laws of the Game, the English version shall be authoritative.
- 5.2. Each Match shall last forty (40) minutes, comprising of two (2) periods of twenty (20) minutes, with a half-time interval of fifteen (15) minutes.
- 5.3. The nine (9) substitutes listed on the Match Start List may take part in the Match. An unlimited number of substitutions may be made during a Match.
- 5.4. The Participating Teams are entitled to one (1) timeout per period, consisting of one (1) minute each. Participating Officials are authorised to submit a request for a timeout to the Third Referee or Timekeeper (if there is no Third Referee) using the form provided by the AFC.

### 6. Refereeing

- 6.1. If one of the two (2) Referees is prevented from carrying out his/her duties, such Referee shall be replaced by the Third Referee.

### 7. Team Bench and Technical Area

- 7.1. A maximum of nine (9) Participating Players and a maximum of six (6) Participating Officials are permitted to sit on the team bench during a Match, provided they are in possession of the appropriate Accreditation Card.

### 8. Equipment

- 8.1. The AFC has the sole authority to approve the equipment (including kit) in accordance with the AFC Equipment Regulations.
- 8.2. Each Participating Member Association shall indemnify the AFC and hold the AFC harmless from any and all damages in the event that a conflict arises as a result of any endorsement deal existing between itself and its sponsor(s) which contravenes the AFC Equipment Regulations.

## SECTION 4: TEAM OFFICIAL DELEGATION

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### 9. Team Official Delegation

- 9.1. Each Participating Team shall ensure that no person in its Team Official Delegation or otherwise affiliated to it enters or is present on its team bus, in its team dressing room, on the Pitch, or in any other Controlled Access Area without being in physical possession of the necessary Accreditation Card which has been validly issued to such person.
- 9.2. Participating Teams shall register a Team Official Delegation, subject to the conditions set out below, comprising fourteen (14) Participating Players and up to six (6) Participating Officials.
- 9.2.1. Each Participating Team may nominate an additional four (4) officials who shall receive the same Accreditation Card as the six (6) Participating Officials included in the Team Official Delegation.
- 9.2.2. All costs related to the additional four (4) officials shall be borne by the relevant Participating Team.

### 10. Eligibility of Players

- 10.1. Each Participating Member Association shall ensure that all players:
- 10.1.1. are duly registered with the AFC pursuant to these Regulations;
- 10.1.2. hold the nationality of its country and are subject to its jurisdiction;
- 10.1.3. are eligible to participate for the representative team of the Member Association in accordance with the FIFA Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes.
- 10.2. Individuals who meet the criteria set out in Article 10.1 are eligible to participate in the Asian Playoffs, subject to the provisions of the AFC Disciplinary and Ethics Code.
- 10.3. Each Participating Team shall ensure to submit authentic documents for registration of its Participating Players.
- 10.4. The approval of the registration of a Participating Player by the AFC General Secretariat does not automatically provide for the eligibility of the Participating Player. Each Participating Member Association is responsible for fielding only eligible Participating Players. Failure to do so shall lead to the consequences stipulated in the AFC Disciplinary and Ethics Code.
- 10.5. A Participating Player shall be deemed ineligible, without limitation, if:
- 10.5.1. there is a violation of Article 10.1; or

- 10.5.2. he participates in a Match contrary to a decision of the AFC Disciplinary and Ethics Committee, these Regulations, or the operation of the AFC Disciplinary and Ethics Code; or
- 10.5.3. the AFC determines that any document submitted during registration is false.

## 11. Registration of Players

- 11.1. There are three (3) stages of registration for the players in the Asian Playoffs:
  - 11.1.1. Preliminary Registration: each Participating Team must submit a squad of minimum fourteen (14) and maximum twenty-five (25) Participating Players;
  - 11.1.2. Final Registration: each Participating Team must submit a squad of fourteen (14) Participating Players comprising individuals registered in the Preliminary Registration;
  - 11.1.3. Player Selection List: each Participating Team must submit a “Player Selection List” prior to each Match which identifies the starting five (5) and up to nine (9) substitutes comprising individuals registered in the Final Registration.
- 11.2. All Participating Players will be issued with Accreditation Cards authorised by the AFC General Secretariat. Should a card be misplaced, the relevant Participating Team shall be required to pay USD1,000 as a replacement production fee.
- 11.3. Should the AFC not receive all required documents by the stipulated deadline, the Participating Member Association concerned shall be considered to have withdrawn from the Asian Playoffs prior to its commencement and subject to Article 2.

## 12. Documents for Registration of Players

- 12.1. Participating Players must be registered via AFCAS with the supporting documents set out in the Manual.

## 13. Preliminary Registration

- 13.1. Each Participating Team shall submit the supporting documents in accordance with Article 12 via AFCAS at a date set by the AFC.
- 13.2. There is no allocation of jersey numbers during the Preliminary Registration.
- 13.3. If a Participating Team fails to register a minimum of fourteen (14) Participating Players, its Member Association shall be deemed to have withdrawn from the Asian Playoffs prior to its commencement and subject to Article 2.

- 13.4. Each Participating Team must register a minimum of three (3) goalkeepers in its Preliminary Registration.
- 13.5. Once the Preliminary Registration has been received by the AFC and after the stipulated deadline has passed, under no circumstances shall Participating Teams be permitted to submit additional names or replace any registered individual, even if the maximum number of twenty-five (25) has not been met.

#### 14. Final Registration

- 14.1. Each Participating Team shall submit a Final Registration of fourteen (14) Participating Players one (1) day prior to the first Match of the Asian Playoffs.
  - 14.1.1. The Final Registration may only be composed of those Participating Players registered in the Preliminary Registration.
  - 14.1.2. Participating Players must be allocated a playing number between 1 and 14. Playing number 1 shall be reserved for a goalkeeper. Each Participating Player shall wear the same playing number allocated in the Final Registration during all Matches in the Asian Playoffs.
  - 14.1.3. Each Participating Team shall submit its Final Registration at the match coordination meeting of its first Match in the Asian Playoffs.
  - 14.1.4. Each Participating Team must register a minimum of two (2) goalkeepers in its Final Registration.
- 14.2. Once the Final Registration has been received by the AFC, Participating Teams may replace any of the registered Participating Players up to six (6) hours prior to their first Match in the Asian Playoffs, subject to the below conditions:
  - 14.2.1. any replacement Participating player(s) must have been registered in the Preliminary Registration squad;
  - 14.2.2. replacement Participating Players shall only be allocated the vacated shirt numbers;
  - 14.2.3. to replace a Participating Player, a Participating Team must provide his Accreditation Card to the AFC and shall receive the Accreditation Card of the replacement Participating Player in exchange; and
  - 14.2.4. replacement Participating Players shall only be eligible to participate in the Asian Playoffs after receiving their Accreditation Card.

## 15. Player Selection List

- 15.1. Each Participating Team shall mark the starting five (5), including the team captain and up to nine (9) substitutes, on the “Player Selection List”.
  - 15.1.1. Each Participating Player who is marked on the Player Selection List must be available at the “Player and Equipment Check” undertaken by the AFC Match Commissioner on Match day.
- 15.2. Each Participating Team must hand their “Player Selection List” signed by the Head Coach or the Team Manager, together with the “Officials on the Substitution Bench” form with the names of the six (6) Participating Officials who shall be entitled to sit on the team bench, to the AFC Match Commissioner by latest ninety (90) minutes prior to the commencement of each Match.

## 16. Registration of Officials

- 16.1. There shall only be one (1) registration period for Participating Officials for the Asian Playoffs.
- 16.2. Each Participating Team shall submit the supporting documents in accordance with Article 17 via AFCAS at a date set by the AFC.
- 16.3. Each Participating Team may nominate a minimum of two (2) and a maximum of six (6) Participating Officials. Each Participating Team may also nominate an additional four (4) officials in accordance with Article 10.
- 16.4. Each Participating Team must include the following two (2) Participating Officials in the registration list:
  - 16.4.1. Head Coach; and
  - 16.4.2. Team Manager;
- 16.5. Up to six (6) Participating Officials may sit on the team bench for each Match. The following two (2) Participating Officials must be registered on the “Officials on the Substitution Bench” form:
  - 16.5.1. Head Coach; and
  - 16.5.2. Team Manager;
- 16.6. Each Participating Team is entitled to register a “Video Analyst” who shall be the only member of a Team Official Delegation entitled to record Matches in the Asian Playoffs. This recording shall be strictly for technical purposes and should not interfere with Match operations or be utilised by any Broadcast Partner or otherwise distributed.

- 16.7. All Participating Officials (and additional officials) will be issued with an Accreditation Card. Should a card be misplaced, the relevant Participating Member Association shall be required to pay USD1,000 as a replacement production fee.
- 16.8. Should the AFC not receive all required documents by the stipulated deadline, the Participating Member Association shall be considered to have withdrawn from the Asian Playoffs prior to its commencement and subject to Article 2.
- 16.9. Once the registration of Participating Officials has been received by the AFC, Participating Member Associations may replace any of the listed Participating Officials at any stage with twenty-four (24) hours notice to the AFC by submitting the documents set out in Article 17 in the AFCAS online registration, subject to the below conditions:
  - 16.9.1. To replace a Participating Official, a Participating Team must provide the official's Accreditation Card to the AFC and shall receive the Accreditation Card of the replacement Participating Official in exchange; and
  - 16.9.2. Replacement Participating Officials shall only be eligible to participate in the Asian Playoffs after receiving their Accreditation Card.

## 17. Documents for Registration of Officials

Participating Officials must be registered via AFCAS online registration with the supporting documents set out in the Manual.

## SECTION 5: FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

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### 18. Responsibilities

- 18.1. Participating Member Associations shall settle all logistical costs among themselves. The following conditions shall apply to the Asian Playoffs during the official period of two (2) days prior to the first Match until one (1) day after the final Match:
- 18.1.1. each visiting Participating Team shall cover its international travel costs to the Venue or the nearest airport, as well as incidental expenses;
  - 18.1.2. each visiting Participating Team shall pay for its accommodation, meals, laundry, water and ice at the respective Venues;
  - 18.1.3. the Host Association shall pay for board and lodging in a high-standard hotel (i.e. international five-star or four-star hotel) and domestic transport costs in the Venue for the Match Officials, the AFC Match Commissioner, and any other appointed AFC officials;
  - 18.1.4. the Host Association shall guarantee the provision of Indoor Stadium and training sites at its own cost, including covering all related organisational costs and providing match balls for the Match and same model of match balls for the practice sessions(s) of the visiting Participating Team;
  - 18.1.5. the Host Association shall cover the domestic transportation costs for the visiting Team Official Delegation and the AFC Match Officials (*cf.* Article 19);
  - 18.1.6. the Host Association shall provide necessary medical support, at its own cost, to ensure smooth delivery of the Matches in line with the AFC Match Operations Protocol during the Covid-19 Pandemic and cover the costs of Covid-19 tests organised at the Venue;
  - 18.1.7. the Participating Teams shall not be permitted to stay at the same hotel chosen for the AFC Delegation; and
  - 18.1.8. any disputes arising regarding the financial provisions under this Article 18 shall be resolved amongst the Participating Member Associations concerned but may be submitted to the AFC Futsal and Beach Committee for a final decision.

## 19. Domestic Transportation

19.1. From two (2) days prior to the first Match until one (1) day after the final Match of the Asian Playoffs, each Host Association must provide at its own cost, for the Team Official Delegation of each Participating Team:

19.1.1. one (1) bus with a minimum of thirty-five (35) seats; and

19.1.2. one (1) sedan;

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

19.1.3. one (1) luggage truck for airport transfers, hotel transfers (if applicable) and Match day.



## SECTION 6: DISCIPLINARY

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### 20. Disciplinary Measures

- 20.1. All disciplinary measures in relation to the Asian Playoffs shall be undertaken in accordance with the current AFC Statutes, AFC Disciplinary and Ethics Code, and all relevant AFC regulations and circulars.
- 20.2. The AFC may introduce new disciplinary rules and sanctions for the duration of the Asian Playoffs. Such rules shall be communicated to the Participating Member Associations thirty (30) days before the first Match of the Asian Playoffs at the latest.
- 20.3. All Participating Players agree to:
  - 20.3.1. respect the spirit of fair play, non-violence, and the authority of the Match Officials;
  - 20.3.2. behave accordingly; and
  - 20.3.3. refrain from doping.

### 21. Good Conduct

- 21.1. Each Participating Member Association is liable for the improper conduct of:
  - 21.1.1. any member of its Team Official Delegation; and/or
  - 21.1.2. any person affiliated to it and/or carrying out duties on its behalf throughout the Asian Playoffs.
- 21.2. For any violation of Article 21.1, the AFC Disciplinary and Ethics Committee may impose any sanction listed in the AFC Disciplinary and Ethics Code.

### 22. Administrative Procedure

- 22.1. Subject to the AFC Disciplinary and Ethics Code, for any offence set out in these Regulations with a listed minimum fine, where it is the first such offence committed by a party:
  - 22.1.1. the AFC, after completing its investigation but prior to opening disciplinary proceedings, may write to the party and make an offer to compound the offence and reduce the listed fine by twenty percent (20%) should the party admit to the offence;
  - 22.1.2. if the offence is admitted, the AFC shall submit the compounded offence to the Chairperson of the AFC Disciplinary and Ethics Committee for approval;

- 22.1.2.1. should the party deny the offence, the AFC shall open disciplinary proceedings;
- 22.1.3. upon approval of the Chairperson of the AFC Disciplinary and Ethics Committee, the sanction shall be notified and applied administratively by the AFC;
  - 22.1.3.1. should the Chairperson of the AFC Disciplinary and Ethics Committee not approve the compounded offence, the AFC shall open disciplinary proceedings;
- 22.1.4. by agreeing to compound the offence, the party waives its right to request a motivated decision or appeal the sanction issued;
- 22.1.5. any sanction issued administratively comes into force immediately upon notification in accordance with the AFC Disciplinary and Ethics Code.

## 23. Cautions and Expulsions

- 23.1. All matters relating to cautions and/or expulsions shall be undertaken in accordance with the AFC Disciplinary and Ethics Code and any relevant AFC circular except where expressly set out below:

### Asian Playoffs

- 23.1.1. Any Participating Player or Participating Official who completes the Asian Playoffs having received only one (1) caution shall not carry-over that caution to the FIFA Futsal World Cup Lithuania 2021.

## 24. Protest

- 24.1. For the purposes of these Regulations, a protest is an objection of any kind related to any event and/or matter that has a direct effect on a Match.
- 24.2. Unless otherwise stipulated in these Regulations, to be considered valid, a protest must be:
  - 24.2.1. submitted in writing (using the appropriate Protest Form issued by the AFC General Secretariat) to the AFC Match Commissioner for the relevant Match within two (2) hours of the end of the relevant Match;
  - 24.2.2. followed up with a full written report (including a copy of the original Protest Form) which must be sent to the AFC General Secretariat within twenty-four (24) hours of the end of the Match; and
  - 24.2.3. accompanied by a non-refundable fee of USD500 (non-inclusive of any bank charges) which must be transmitted to the bank account nominated by the AFC General Secretariat within twenty-four (24) hours of the end of the relevant Match.

- 24.3. No protest shall be lodged relating to the Referee's decisions regarding facts connected with play. Such decisions are final and binding and not subject to appeal, unless otherwise stipulated in the AFC Disciplinary and Ethics Code.
- 24.4. Any protest which relates to the eligibility of a player to participate in the Asian Playoffs must be submitted to the AFC General Secretariat no later than five (5) days before the day on which the opening Match of the Asian Playoffs is scheduled to take place. To be considered valid, such a protest must be:
- 24.4.1. submitted in writing (in the form of a full written report); and
  - 24.4.2. accompanied by a non-refundable fee of USD500 (non-inclusive of any bank charges) which must be transmitted to the bank account nominated by the AFC General Secretariat before the expiry of the aforementioned deadline.
- 24.5. If any of the formal requirements set out in Article 24.2 and/or 24.4 is not met, the relevant protest shall be disregarded. The AFC General Secretariat decides whether or not such formal requirements have been met. Such decisions are final and binding and not appealable.
- 24.6. Subject to Article 24.5 and any other exceptions set out in these Regulations, the AFC Disciplinary and Ethics Code, the AFC Statutes and/or any other applicable AFC regulation, the AFC Disciplinary and Ethics Committee shall make decisions on protests. Should the AFC Disciplinary and Ethics Committee determine that a protest is unfounded or irresponsible, it may impose a fine. The AFC Disciplinary and Ethics Committee may transfer a protest to the AFC Futsal and Beach Soccer Committee for its decision if it is deemed to be purely operational in nature.

## 25. Arbitration

- 25.1. Any dispute in connection with the Asian Playoffs shall be promptly settled by negotiation.
- 25.2. In compliance with the AFC Statutes, Participating Member Associations, Participating Players, and Participating Officials are prohibited from initiating disputes in an ordinary court of law and must submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the AFC.
- 25.3. Participating Member Associations, Participating Players, and Participating Officials acknowledge and accept that, once all internal channels have been exhausted at the AFC, their sole recourse shall be to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS). The Code of Sports-related Arbitration shall be applicable. The language of arbitration shall be English. Any hearing, if required, shall take place at the CAS Alternate Hearing Centre in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- 25.4. The jurisdiction of the CAS to resolve disputes is only available where it has not been expressly excluded or a decision is declared as final and binding and not appealable.

## SECTION 7: CLOSING PROVISIONS

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### 26. Special Instructions

- 26.1. The AFC Futsal and Beach Soccer Committee shall, in conjunction with the Host Association, issue any instructions necessitated by special circumstances which might arise in the organisation of Matches (*cf* Article 1.6).
- 26.2. These instructions shall form an integral part of these Regulations.

### 27. Decisions

- 27.1. 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.

### 28. Amendments

- 28.1. The AFC reserves the right to make amendments to any part of these Regulations for any reason whatsoever. Such amendments shall be duly communicated in due course.

### 29. Force Majeure

- 29.1. The AFC Futsal and Beach Soccer Committee is the only body capable of declaring a Force Majeure event.

### 30. Matters Not Provided For

- 30.1. Matters not provided for in these Regulations shall be decided by the AFC Futsal and Beach Soccer Committee. Such decisions are final and binding and not appealable.

### 31. Enforcement

- 31.1. These Regulations were ratified by the AFC Executive Committee on 17 May 2021 and came into force immediately.

For the AFC Executive Committee

Shaikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa  
President

Dato' Windsor John  
General Secretary