



AFC  
PRESIDENT'S  
CUP



# AFC PRESIDENT'S CUP

COMPETITION REGULATIONS **2011**

# Regulations

## AFC Presidents Cup 2011

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## DEFINITIONS

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

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

<i>AFC Competitions Committee</i>	<p>time to time.</p> <p>The AFC Committee consisting of a Chairman and six (6) 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.</p>
<i>AFC Delegation</i>	<p>Any officials appointed by AFC, including but not limited to the Head of Delegation, Head of Administration, Venue Manager, Assistant Venue Manager, Match Commissioner, Referee Assessor, Referee, Assistant Referees, Fourth Official, Media Officer, Security Officer, Medical Officer, Doping Control Officer and Technical Study Group Officer.</p>
<i>AFC Headquarters</i>	<p>AFC House, Jalan 1/155 B, Bukit Jalil, 57000 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia</p>
<i>AFC Logo(s)</i>	<p>The official logo of AFC, and/or such other official logo, which shall be the only marks used by AFC, save where otherwise mutually agreed by the parties.</p>
<i>AFC's Marketing Partner</i>	<p>The marketing company, if any, that AFC has contracted the Commercial Rights for the Competition.</p>
<i>AFC Official Merchandise</i>	<p>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.</p>
<i>AFC Website</i>	<p><a href="http://www.the-afc.com">www.the-afc.com</a></p>
<i>Ambush Marketing</i>	<p>Also known as parasitic marketing, is generally understood as being marketing or promotional activities activated by individuals or entities which have no official association with a product and/or</p>

service, and where such activities seek to take advantage of the goodwill associated with an event or other sponsored property.

<i>Archive Materials</i>	Any audio and/or audio-visual materials and/or photographs, Image Rights, Broadcast Rights, Film Rights, Video Rights, New Media Rights, and/or all Competition Data.
<i>Broadcast Affiliates</i>	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.
<i>Broadcast Rights</i>	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.
<i>Clean Stadia</i>	The Stadia shall be free from commercial or promotional messages, advertising, displays or facilities of any kind except for those installed, erected or otherwise authorised by AFC from the period commencing 48 hours prior to each Match or other event comprising the Competitions until 24 hours thereafter so that the Commercial Rights shall be fully available to AFC without hindrance.
<i>Clubs</i>	Clubs which exist within the geographical territory of Member Association, and who shall be under the control and jurisdiction of Member Association whilst participating in the Competition.
<i>Commercial Affiliates</i>	Any entity to which AFC directly or indirectly has granted or will grant any aspect of the Commercial Rights in respect of the Competition, including but

not limited to Official Sponsors, Official Supporters, Official Licensees and Official Media Partners.

*Commercial Rights*

All rights of commercial exploitation of the Competition, including without limitation all rights of commercial exploitation of the Advertising Rights, Broadcast Rights, Concession Rights, Hospitality Rights, Image Rights, Merchandising Rights, Promotional Rights, Sponsorship Rights, and Travel and Tour Rights, by New Media Rights, Video Rights and/or commercial exploitation by any other means.

*Competition*

AFC President's Cup 2011 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.



<i>Complimentary Tickets</i>	Tickets which are supplied without charge.
<i>Concession Rights</i>	Sampling, vending and other distribution methods for and of products or services, including pourage rights at the Stadia and Facility Areas.
<i>Controlled Access Areas</i>	The locations of the Matches and other events, such as (without limitation) Stadia and their fences and perimeters, the aerial space above the Stadia, and all other locations associated with the Competitions, including the Facility Areas, media centres, international broadcast centres, Official Training Sites, designated official hotels (including but not limited to the official hotels for the Participating Teams), hospitality and VIP areas and facilities, other areas to which admission is regulated by the Hosting Association's accreditation system, and surrounding and adjacent areas to the locations described above.
<i>Facility Areas</i>	The location of Official Functions, press centres, ticket offices, official hotels, media areas, official hospitality areas and information centres controlled by or on behalf of AFC used in connection with the Competition whether at the Stadia or elsewhere at the Venues.
<i>FIFA</i>	The Federation International de Football Association.
<i>Film Rights</i>	The right to exploit visual images of the Competition, including images of the Participating Teams and/or Participating Players, whether produced for the purpose of the Broadcast Rights or separately, by means of cinematograph film throughout the Territory by any means of transmission and/or exhibition and/or reproduction now existing or hereinafter developed.
<i>Force Majeure</i>	Any event affecting the performance or any provision of this Agreement arising from or attributable to acts, events, omissions or accidents which are beyond the reasonable control of a party, and shall include but

not be limited to abnormally inclement weather, flood, lightning, storm, fire, explosion, earthquake, structural damage, epidemic or other natural disaster, failure or shortage of power supplies, war, terrorist action, military operations, riot, crowd disorder, strike, lock-outs or other industrial action, or civil commotion.

*Hospitality Rights*

The exclusive opportunity to sell all hospitality and entertainment facilities at the Venue or within the Controlled Access Areas in combination with the Complimentary Tickets, whether such facilities are in boxes, marquees or otherwise, but excluding those private facilities reserved for AFC officials and guests not forming part of any commercial programme.

*Host Broadcaster*

The organisation appointed by AFC directly or indirectly to ensure and provide the production of the broadcast signals of the Matches and other events of the Competition, and the provision of all related services in accordance with the Broadcast Rights.

*Image Rights*

The right to use still and/or moving images and/or representations of images of Participating Teams and Participating Players participation in the Competitions, in accordance with the Commercial Regulations.

*Interactive Communications System*

Any interactive communication system that enables end users to engage in two-way interactive transmissions including the ability to access interactive programmes, services and media content, whether such programmes, services and media content are distributed by telephone or cable lines (whether fibreoptic, coaxial or otherwise) satellites, microwave or other wireless digital communication systems, cellular communication systems, WAP, UTMS, personal digital communications devices, pager services, online data services, broadband, the Internet or any combination or subset of the foregoing employing any current or future design or technology or any similar interactive communications systems whether now known or hereafter developed.

*Interactive Television*

Any distribution of television signals in conjunction with an Interactive Communications System in such a way as to allow recipients to engage in two-way interactive communications including the ability to

access interactive programmes and services irrespective of the means of distribution of such television signals.

*Internet*

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

*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 Broadcast Rights Holders entitled to media accreditation as determined by AFC.

*Member(s) / Club, 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.

*Merchandising Rights*

The right to design, in consultation with AFC, and the right to exploit the Competition Marks and/or Official Status in connection with the promotion, manufacture, packaging, distribution and sale of goods and services of all kinds, including items of

clothing, coins, medals, other collectibles and premiums related to the Competition.

<i>National Association(s)</i>	The controlling bodies for association football within each country or territory of Asia.
<i>New Media Rights</i>	The right to develop, prepare, adapt, reformat, publish and sell, distribute, transmit, exhibit or otherwise transfer, and licence others to do so, the Broadcast Rights, Film Rights, Video Rights, Image Rights and any Competition Data relating to the Competitions, for exploitation in any manner (whether sequentially or non-sequentially or in combination with any third party works or derivative works, if any) by any means, method or device including the Internet, broadband, wireless, Interactive Communication Systems, Interactive Television, intranet, extranet, digital magnetic and or optical information storage and retrieval systems, GSM or other mobile phone technology and any other device or medium for electronic reproduction, publication, distribution or transmission, whether now known or hereafter known or developed. For the avoidance of doubt, the New Media Rights will include the right: (1) To develop an Internet web site in relation to the Competition; (2) To develop e-commerce opportunities; (3) to publish the Competition Data, in print media (including, without limitation, magazines, books and other printed materials) ; and (4) to develop a computer game in relation to the Competition
<i>Official Functions</i>	Any official event organised in connection with the Competitions, including but not limited to press conferences, official dinners or lunches and banquets.
<i>Official Licensee</i>	A sub-licensee of the Commercial Rights appointed by AFC.
<i>Official Training Sites</i>	Training sites designated by the Hosting Association and approved by AFC for use by the Participating Teams throughout the duration of the Competition.
<i>Hosting Association(s)</i>	A Member Association(s) and their Local Hosting

Committee appointed by AFC to organize, stage and host the Competition.

<i>Participating Players</i>	Those players registered and participating in the Competition and any other players under the authority of AFC during the Competition.
<i>Participating Club(s)</i>	Those teams participating in the Competitions, under the authority of the Club, Member Associations and AFC during the Competition.
<i>Premiums</i>	A promotional item (including packaging, labelling and/or containers thereof) which incorporates a mark and/or logo of AFC and/or the Competitions, and which is distributed free of charge or via prize competitions.
<i>Promotional Rights</i>	Any rights to official publications, official suppliers, official products, sales promotion including but not limited to the right to organise promotional competitions and to make awards and give prizes, official music rights, the right to grant Official Status and all other rights of commercial value in regard to the Competition.
<i>Proprietary Interests</i>	Without limitation, intellectual property, copyright and analogous rights, trademark rights, moral rights, performing rights, personality rights and all remedies available under the applicable laws of unfair competition comprised in the Commercial Rights. For the purpose of this definition “moral rights” shall mean a privilege, right or claim which is based on moral considerations or ethical principles and which should be recognised by law, but which may not be legally imposed or enforced as such.
<i>Regulations</i>	Those regulations controlled and published by AFC to be used in connection with the Competition.
<i>Sponsorship Rights</i>	An association with the Competition and/or AFC (subject to the special provisions regarding the development of AFC Logo as set out in this Agreement and/or the AFC Guidelines) by any combination of Commercial Rights, including title

sponsor of the Competitions or any of them such as "AFC President's Cup 2011" sponsored / presented by Company A" and/or such other designation as mutually agreed by the parties.

*Stadia*

The official stadia (or any stadium) and the airspace and surrounding areas for the Matches, whether under the control of the Hosting Association or otherwise, used for the Matches, including without limitation parking facilities, VIP and hospitality areas, concourses, concession areas, fencing and entrances.

*Team's Official Delegation*

The participating club's Official Delegation will comprise of a maximum of 18 players and 7 officials who are named in the Final Registration for the Competition.

*Territory*

The World.

*Ticketing*

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

*Tribune d'Honneur*

The highest category of seating in the Stadia that is reserved for VVIP Guests.

*Venues*

Each host city and the immediately surrounding area in which the Stadia are located.

*Video Rights*

The right to produce or license the production of video cassettes, video discs, digital video discs or other video material containing material created by means of the Broadcast Rights and/or Film Rights for the purpose of exploiting said video cassettes and/or discs and/or material by means of, including but not limited to, sale or rental and by all forms of non-theatrical distribution.

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

- (a) The singular shall include the plural and vice versa.
- (b) The masculine gender shall include the feminine and vice versa.
- (c) Reference to persons shall include any legal person or corporation.
- (d) References to AFC shall where the context permits include its successors and permitted assigns and, in relation to the availability of the Commercial Rights, its respective members, national bodies and hosting committees.

## SECTION 1: REPRESENTATION

### 1. Representation

- a) The AFC stages the AFC Presidents Cup (hereafter the “Competition”) annually.
- b) Any rights associated with the Competition which has not been granted by these Regulations and/or specific agreements to a participating Member Association and its representative Club in the Competition belong to AFC.
- c) AFC stages the Competition with one of the AFC’s Member Association(s) (hereinafter the Hosting Association(s)) after the appointment of this Association(s) by the AFC Executive Committee.
- d) The current AFC Statutes, all AFC regulations, guidelines, circulars and codes are binding for all parties participating and involved in the preparation, organisation and hosting of the Competition. Any reference in these Regulations to the AFC Statutes refers to the Statutes valid at the time of entry and to all relevant AFC regulations, guidelines, circulars and codes.
- e) Clubs are not authorised to represent AFC or the Competition without AFC’s prior written approval.
- f) AFC may appoint match officials including Match Commissioner, Referees, Venue manager, Assistant Venue Manager, Referee Assessor, Media Officer, Medical Officer, Doping Control Officer, Security Officer, etc. (hereafter the “AFC Delegation”) for each match of the Competition for the purpose of match organisation.
- g) 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 Team Agreement

- a) The obligations and responsibilities of the Hosting Association/s 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 Hosting Association/s.

- b) Each Club taking part in the Competition shall ensure, as a condition of its participation in the Competition that every member of its delegation(s) (players and officials) completes a Participation Agreement to be issued by AFC.
- c) Participating Team Agreement must be completed in full and submitted by the respective participating clubs through Member Associations to the AFC Secretariat.
- d) The name of the eligible Club must appear on the form, except for those countries whose competition(s) conclude after the date stipulated above. In such instances the Member Association must indicate by the stipulated date that it will enter Clubs for this Competition.
- e) Only the Participating Team Agreement submitted to the AFC Secretariat by email and courier post will be valid and taken into consideration.
- f) The eligible Member Association and Club are responsible to ensure that the original copy of the Participating Team Agreement reaches the AFC Secretariat not later than the entry deadline communicated to the Member Association. If the Participating Team Agreement does not reach the AFC Secretariat by the entry deadline, the participation of the eligible Member Association and Club will be cancelled.

### 3. Security and Safety

- a) The Hosting Association/s, and the relevant government authorities are responsible for devising, planning and implementing adequate security and safety for the Competition at every relevant location (covering all Controlled Access Areas) which shall cover for all relevant persons at all times, including but not limited to the following:
  - i. All participating Club's players and officials
  - ii. AFC Match Officials
  - iii. Media
  - iv. Commercial Partners
  - v. Fans and spectators
- b) A detailed and highly relevant security plan shall be issued in the form of a binding declaration on all parties involved and shall include but not be

limited to the Stadium and its vicinity, the training grounds and also hotels of visiting Club and AFC Match Officials. This security plan shall be based on the principles outlined in the FIFA Safety Guidelines.

- c) In the interests of the safety of players and match officials, Hosting Association/s must provide access to the field of play that guarantees the safe entry and exit of these persons.
- d) The Hosting Association/s shall be subject to disciplinary measures if appropriate security arrangements are not provided. Sanctions may include fines and suspensions.

#### 4. Insurance

- a) The AFC shall provide the match commissioner, referees Assessor, referees, assistant referees, 4<sup>th</sup> officials and other AFC Match Officials (AFC Delegation) insurance coverage from the time of their departure from home to the time of arrival.
- b) The Hosting Association/s must conclude the necessary insurance policies with a reputable insurance company, including but not limited to third-party liability. Such insurance must involve an appropriate guaranteed sum for injury and damage to persons, objects and property, and correspond to the specific circumstances of the associations concerned. Likewise, the policies must fully cover all risks connected with the staging of the Competition and exempt AFC from all claims and liabilities, and further name AFC as a co-insured in all policies.
- c) For the Competition, the Hosting Association/s should conclude the following insurance coverage on the basis of a general agreement:
  - i. Third-party liability insurance
  - ii. Insurance against liability for pecuniary loss
  - iii. Accident insurance
  - iv. Legal expenses insurance
  - v. Travel luggage insurance
  - vi. Spectator insurance
  - vii. Electronic equipment insurance
  - viii. Robbery insurance
  - ix. Fidelity insurance
  - x. Cup insurance
  - xi. Event cancellation insurance
  - xii. Medical Insurance

- d) The remaining risks of the Hosting Association/s must be covered by, at their own risk, by means of additional insurance contracts. AFC must be notified of such additional insurance coverage, and may request copies of the policies concerned.
- e) The Hosting Association/s are solely responsible for the insurance coverage of the Stadiums and must release AFC of any liability whatsoever in this respect. A release of liability must be signed and returned to AFC at least one month before the start of the Competition. If such an exemption from liability is not presented in due time, the Hosting Association/s agree that the necessary insurance coverage may be concluded by AFC at their expense.
- f) The Participating Clubs are responsible for the insurance coverage (including hospitalization and surgical operations) of their delegation, including players and officials, at their own expense, for all matches played in the competition. Claims for damages against AFC are expressly excluded, and the participating Clubs shall hold AFC harmless against any such claims.

## 5. Responsibility

- a) The Hosting 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 organisation and course of the Competition to the exclusion of damages caused by AFC or the members of its delegation acting with intent or gross negligence.
- b) The Hosting Association/s shall exempt (indemnify and hold harmless) AFC from all third party claims for damages relating to match organisation, regardless of whether individual matches in question take place or not.

## SECTION 2: TECHNICAL REGULATIONS

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

- a) All matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game laid down by the International Football Association Board and published by FIFA.
- b) In the case of any discrepancy in the interpretation of the Laws of the Game, the English version shall prevail and is authoritative.
- c) Only three (3) substitutes listed on the Match Starting List may take part in the match. 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.

### 7. Duration of Match

- a) Each match shall last 90 minutes, comprising two periods of 45 minutes, with an interval of 15 minutes in between from the whistle ending the first period to the whistle starting the second period.
- b) Both teams shall walk to the field together from their dressing rooms after the end of 15 minutes interval.

### 8. Extra Time

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

### 9. Determining the Winner by Penalty Kicks

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

- b) If the taking of kicks from the penalty mark cannot be completed because of weather conditions or for other reasons beyond control, the results shall be decided by the drawing of lots by the Referee in the presence of the AFC Match Commissioner and the two (2) team captains.
- c) If, through the fault of a Team, the taking of kicks from the penalty mark cannot be completed, Art. 26 c) of these regulations shall apply.

#### 10. 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. 10 a).

#### 11. 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. 11 a).

## 12. Stadiums (Stadia)

- a) The Stadiums for the matches in the Competition shall be nominated upon bidding to host, by the Member Association and subject to inspection and confirmation by AFC.
- b) Unless stipulated otherwise in these Regulations, matches in the Competition must be played in a stadium which meets all the requirement of and standards stated in the "AFC Stadia Regulations" and in compliance with the safety & security standards and other AFC guidelines and instructions for international matches.
- c) The Hosting Association must submit to AFC using the Access Guarantee letter, the approval from the Stadium owner guaranteeing that the Stadium nominated can and will be made exclusively available on all AFC match dates, as per the AFC Competitions Calendar for 2010 referred to in Art. 19 a) and Appendix 1.
- d) If the Hosting Association considers the field of play unfit for play, the AFC Secretariat shall be informed immediately, as well as the Visiting Clubs and the AFC Match Officials before their departure. If the Hosting Association concerned fails to do this, it will be obliged to cover all of the expenses incurred for travel, board and lodging of the parties involved.

- e) If there is any doubt regarding the condition of the field of play once the visiting Clubs have already left to play the match, the referee shall decide whether the field of play is playable or not. If the referee declares that the match cannot commence because of force majeure, or any other incidents such as, but not limited to, the field is not fit for play, weather conditions, floodlight failures, etc. the procedure to be followed is described in Art. 11 above.
- f) Prior to approving any Stadium, AFC reserves the right to conduct an inspection on the nominated Stadium. The cost of this inspection visit will be borne by AFC.
- g) If, at any time during the Competition, the AFC Secretariat deems that, for whatever reason, the Stadium is not fit for staging a match; the AFC may consult with the Hosting Association/s and propose an alternative Stadium, in accordance with the standards required by AFC.
- h) The Hosting Association and the home Club will be subjected to disciplinary sanctions if matches in this Competition are played in Stadium not approved by AFC.

### 13. The Field of Play

- a) Hosting Club should ensure that the field of play is in good playable conditions.
- b) The AFC Match Commissioner will inspect the stadium prior to the match day and ensure that all arrangements are in accordance with The Laws of the Game. If the conditions the Field of Play including the dimensions of goal and field do not meet the requirements stated in the Laws of the Game, the AFC Match Commissioner will issue instructions for the Hosting Association to rectify the situation.
- c) However, if prior to the match kick-off time, the Hosting Association still has not rectified the situation in accordance to the instructions of the AFC Match Commissioner to ensure that the Law 1 of the Laws of the Game are met, the Host Club shall forfeit the match. Victory and the resultant three (3) points will be awarded to the opposing team as well as the score of 3-0.

### 14. Team Bench and Technical Area

- a) Up to a maximum of eight (8) Team officials with TM 2 designation on AFC Eligibility Cards and a maximum of twelve (12) players (named

substitutes, injured or not playing) are allowed to sit on the team bench, provided they are in possession of the appropriate eligibility and access card.

- b) All officials and players on the team bench must wear their eligibility card at all times.
- c) All persons on the bench must wear kits that are contrasting with the kit of the players and referees on the pitch. These kits must comply with the AFC Equipment Regulations.
- d) Team 'A' shall occupy the left hand side bench as viewed from the VIP tribune.

#### 15. Warming up

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

#### 16. Official Training Sessions at the Stadium

- a) Depending on the weather and condition of the pitch, the Participating Clubs will be entitled to a one-hour official training session in the Stadium where they are due to play on the day or 2 days before their match at the same time as the match kick-off.
- b) The field of play must be prepared to match conditions for this session. If the field of play is not in good condition, the AFC Match Commissioner may direct the teams only to inspect the field of play wearing training shoes.
- c) If an artificial pitch is to be used for the matches, the Participating Clubs are entitled to have either a two (2) one-hour official training sessions or a two (2) hour official training sessions in the Stadium where they are due to play on the day or two days before their match.



## 17. Official Training Sites

- a) Official training sites, that conform to the AFC Marketing Regulations, in good condition and situated near the Visiting Team's headquarters in each venue shall be made available to the visiting Club at least five (5) full days prior to the match in the Competition and must be declared upon bidding to host.
- b) The Clubs participating in the Competition shall use only those training sites which have been officially designated for training by the Hosting Association and approved by the 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 thirty (30) days prior to each Club's match in the Competition, unless written permission has been obtained from the AFC.

## 18. Footballs

- a) The footballs for the Competition shall be selected and supplied by AFC as follows:
  - i. Each Club will be provided with 15 match balls for training.
  - ii. The Hosting Association will be provided 10 match balls for each match
  - iii. Visiting Clubs are required to bring their AFC-provided training balls with them to the Competition.
- b) Whenever the footballs are delivered to Hosting Association, the Hosting club is responsible to cover the cost of any taxes and / or fees pertaining to the clearance of these footballs.

## 19. Dates of the Competition

- a) All matches are played according to the AFC Competition Calendar for 2011 (Appendix 1) as set by the AFC Competitions Committee. The dates are final and binding on all concerned.
- b) 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.

## 20. Competition System

- a) The Competition shall consist of two stages
  - i. Group Stage (League system)
  - ii. Knockout Stage consisting of the (League system) and Final Match (Knockout system)
- b) Depending on the number of entries or in the case of withdrawals or suspensions of clubs, the AFC Competitions Committee reserves the right and may change the Competition System (cf. Art. 20) and the Technical Regulations (cf. Art. 21~22)
- c) The matches in the Competition shall be played in accordance with one of the following formats:
  - i. In Group Stage: in groups composed of several teams in a centralized venue, with three points awarded for a win, one point for a draw, no points for a defeat (league system);
  - ii. In Knock-out Stage: Two groups of maximum three (3) teams in each group in a centralized venue, with three points awarded for a win, one point for a draw, no points for a defeat (league system); and winner of respective group shall qualify for Final Match ( Single Match) to determine Winner and Runner-up of the 2011 edition.
- d) The AFC Competitions Committee forms groups and/or sub-groups for the Competition by drawing lots whilst taking sports, geographic and economic factors into consideration, as far as possible.
- e) In the knock-out system, Teams shall play one match, the sequence of which shall be determined by lots drawn by the AFC Competitions Committee. The Team having scored most goals in the match will qualify for the next round. If both Teams score the same number of goals in the match after 90 minutes, extra time shall be played (cf. Art. 8). If no goal or the same number of goal is scored during these periods of extra time by each time, penalty kicks shall be taken to determine the winner (cf. Art. 9).
- f) Away goal will not apply.

## 21. Technical Rules for the Competition: Group Stage

- a) The Clubs shall be divided into groups of four (4) and three (3) designated as follows:

Group A	Group B	Group C
A1	B1	C1
A2	B2	C2
A3	B3	C3
(A4)	(B4)	(C4)

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- b) The following match sequence applies for groups with four (4) teams (the number designates the position drawn in each group):

1<sup>st</sup> match day: 1 v 4, 2 v 3

2<sup>nd</sup> match day: 4 v 2, 3 v 1

3<sup>rd</sup> match day: 1 v 2, 3 v 4

- c) The following match sequence applies for groups with three (3) teams (the number designates the position drawn in each group):

1<sup>st</sup> match day: 2 v 3

2<sup>nd</sup> match day: 3 v 1

3<sup>rd</sup> match day: 1 v 2

- d) The ranking of each team in each group shall be determined as the provisions in Art. 21 f)
- e) Three (3) points is awarded for a win, one (1) point for a draw and zero (0) point for a loss.
- f) In the league system the ranking in each group is determined as follows:
- i. Greater number of points obtained in all group matches;
  - ii. If two or more Teams are equal on the basis of the above criterion, their place shall be determined in the following sequence and order:
    - A) Greater number of points obtained in the group matches between the Teams concerned;
    - B) Goal difference resulting from the group matches between the Teams concerned; (Away goals do not apply)
    - C) Greater number of goals scored in the group matches between the Teams concerned; (Away goals do not apply)
    - D) Goal difference in all the group matches;

- E) Greater number of goals scored in all the group matches;
  - F) Kicks from the penalty mark if only two Teams are involved and they are both on the field of play;
  - G) Fewer score calculated according to the number of yellow and red cards received in the group matches; (please see Appendix 2)
  - H) Drawing of lots
- g) The Clubs ranked first and the best runner-up among all the groups will qualify for the Knock-out stage. The best runner-up among all groups will be determined according to the following criteria:
- 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 2)
  - E. Drawing of lots

Note: Please see Appendix 3 to illustrate the above and in case where teams have played unequal number of group matches

## 22. Technical Regulations for the Competition: Knock-out Stage

### Group

- a) The group matches shall be played in accordance with league system.
- b) The AFC Competitions Committee shall divide the qualified Clubs into each group by drawing lots.
- c) The winners of the each group shall qualify for the Final Match (knockout system).

### Final

- a) The Final shall be played in accordance with the Knock-out system (cf. Art. 20 e), single (1) match, by winner of Group A and Group B.

## SECTION 3: ENTRIES FOR COMPETITION

### 23. Entries

- a) The AFC shall determine the Club and Member Associations who are eligible for the Competition as well as the number of clubs from each Member Association.
- b) All nominated clubs are subject to the approval of the AFC Competitions Committee.
- c) The maximum number of teams taking part in the Competition is determined by the AFC Executive Committee. The number of teams has been fixed at eleven (11).
- d) Eleven (11) Member Associations may participate in this stage of the Competition by virtue of:
  - i. Being the Champion of the National League of the affiliated Member Association [whereby the National League ends in the year preceding the Competition].
- e) All decisions by the AFC Competitions Committee regarding entries are final and not subject to appeal.

### 24. Eligible Teams

- a) The National League Champion of participating Member Associations for the football season concluding in the year preceding the current Competition and approved by the AFC Competitions Committee shall be eligible to participate in this Competition provided all other terms of these Regulations have been met.

### 25. Duties and Obligations

On entering the Competition, the Club shall automatically undertake:

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

- c) To accept that all the administrative, disciplinary and refereeing matters connected with the Competition shall be settled by AFC in compliance with these Regulations or the decisions of relevant AFC Committee(s);
- d) To recognize the jurisdiction of the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne as defined in the relevant provisions of the FIFA Statutes;
- e) To field their strongest team throughout the competition;
- f) To observe the principles of Fair Play;
- g) 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;
- h) In conjunction with their Member Association who is the Hosting Association, make the appropriate arrangements for the staging of their matches, Member Association and AFC Secretariat, and in accordance with the these Regulations;
- i) In conjunction with their Member Association who is the Hosting Association, guarantee that access to the stadium will be granted to the AFC delegation, officials and players of the visiting club, sponsors, traveling fans and media without any discrimination of gender, race or nationality.
- j) To accept all the arrangements made by the Hosting Association in agreement with the AFC Secretariat;
- k) To attend and participate in all official activities and events such as Team Manager's Meeting, media conferences, other media activities, etc. organised by AFC or the Hosting Association in accordance with guidelines and/or instructions in circulars issued by AFC regarding, in particular, media access to Clubs.

## 26. Withdrawal, penalty for failing to play and replacement

- a) Clubs shall play in all Competition matches.
- b) Clubs that withdraw prior to, or are excluded from playing in the Competition, may be replaced by another Club and/or Member Association. AFC's Competition Committee shall make the relevant

decision, including a change in the Competition system (Art. 20) and the Technical Rules for the Competition (Art. 21 and Art. 22) if necessary.

- c) If a Club withdraws after entering or does not report for a match at any Stage of the Competition, except in cases of force-majeure recognized by the AFC Competitions Committee, or if it refuses to continue to play or leaves the stadium before the end of the match, the Club shall:
- i. Be considered to have withdrawn from the Competition.
  - ii. Have all its matches cancelled and considered null and void (all points, goals scored and 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 Club, its Member Association, the AFC and AFC's Commercial and TV partner(s). The amount of compensation will be determined by the AFC Executive Committee.
  - iv. Be disqualified from taking part in the next two (2) editions of the Competition from which it withdrew and of all other AFC Competitions it may qualify to play. The AFC Executive Committee may extend the suspension depending on the gravity of the situation and/or damages. The AFC Competitions Committee has the right to decide on the number of slots for the Member Associations concerned.
  - v. Be referred to the AFC Disciplinary Committee for additional sanctions and fines depending on the gravity of the situation, then to Executive Committee for final decision.
  - vi. Return to the AFC any financial stipends that had been paid to them by AFC throughout the Competition or forfeit the right to the same.
- d) The AFC Competitions Committee shall take whatever action it deems necessary in cases of force-majeure.

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

### 27. 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 Article 28~39. The team's Official Delegation (8 officials and 23 players) will be hosted by the Hosting Association (receiving 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 five (5) officials, where one of these officials shall receive a TM2 accreditation card allowing him to access the pitch area and the team bench while the other four (4) officials will receive access to team hotel, training sites and the Official Competition areas, except the field of play.

### 28. Eligibility of players

- a) A player is eligible to play in the Competition provided he fulfils all the following conditions:
  - i. He is duly registered by the Club and its National Association concerned according to its own rules and those of FIFA Regulations for the Status and Transfer of Players where relevant;
  - ii. He is only eligible to play for a Club affiliated to its National Association concerned;
  - iii. He is duly registered with the AFC by the Participating Club according to the provisions of these regulations.
- b) A player is deemed ineligible if:
  - i. There is a violation of clause a) above;
  - ii. He is fielded despite being served a suspension (yellow & red cards);
  - iii. The player fails a doping test;
  - iv. AFC finds that documents submitted during registration is/are false
- c) Any club found guilty of fielding an ineligible player shall forfeit the match. Victory and the resultant three (3) points will be awarded to the opposing team as well as the score of 3-0, or greater, depending on the score of the match. The guilty team, its officials and players will have



their medals and title stripped and if qualification has been made to the FIFA Club World Cup 2011, the qualification will be annulled. The guilty club, member association, its officials and team officials shall also be subject to further fines and sanctions as determined by the AFC Disciplinary Committee.

## 29. Stages of Registration of Players

- a) There are three (3) stages of player's registration:
  - i. Preliminary Registration to determine a squad of a minimum of eighteen (18) players and up to a maximum of thirty (30) players.
  - ii. Final Registration (90 minutes before the match kick-off) to specify a maximum of eighteen (18) players and up to a 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.

## 30. 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;
  - i. Official Registration form for Players;
  - ii. Colour-copy of valid passport copy containing full name, passport number, date of birth, date of issue, date of expiry and nationality (group passport will not be accepted) (unless already previously submitted to AFC and available in AFCAS)
  - iii. Colour-copy of national ID (unless already previously submitted to AFC and available in AFCAS)
  - iv. Colour-copy of birth certificates (if requested by AFC)
  - v. Passport-size colored photo (taken within 3 months prior to the submission of the registration)
  - vi. Copy of valid contract containing the contract period in accordance with Art. 18 2) of FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of the Players
  - vii. FIFA International Transfer Certificate (ITC) for foreign players
  - viii. Certified copies of the letter from MA of foreign player'(s) home country permitting the player(s) to play for the present club (in case there is no ITC for the foreign players or non-citizen players)

- c) In cases of registration of naturalized players, the Member Associations concerned must present proof of naturalization by providing supporting documents issued by the competent authorities of their countries to prove that the player concerned has obtained the nationality at least one year ago from the Match Day 1 of the Competition.
- d) AFC reserves the right to request for additional documents than those stipulated in clauses b) and c) above.

### 31. Principles for Registration of Players

- a) A Club can register no less than eighteen (18) players and no more than thirty (30) players for the Competition with sequential shirt numbers from 1 to 50 while the shirt number one (1) shall be reserved for Goalkeeper.
- b) If a club fails to register a minimum of eighteen (18) players, the club will be considered to have withdrawn in accordance with Art. 26 c).
- c) Throughout the Competition (Preliminary Stage and Knock-out Stage) and for each match to which he is registered, each player shall wear the same number allocated to him on the AFC Official Registration Form for Players from 1 ~ 50 submitted to AFC during the preliminary registration. The same player may not use different shirt numbers in different matches. New players registered as replacements for injured players can only be allocated vacant shirt numbers, or numbers made vacant by the non-registration of players bearing these numbers.
- d) Clubs are permitted to register two (2) non-citizens or foreign players in their AFC Official Registration Form for the Players.
- e) Clubs must register three (3) goalkeepers in their AFC Official Registration Form for the Players. Registration of fewer goalkeepers will not entitle clubs to register more outfield players.
- f) A player can only be contracted, registered and / or playing with one club at any point of the time. The player cannot sign or play with any other club regardless of where the club is based. It is the Club's responsibility to ensure that their player is not contracted or registered to any other club.
- g) For international transfers, the official date of FIFA International Transfer Certificate (ITC) shall be taken as proof of the date of

registration to the present Club. For internal transfers, the official date on the player's contract shall be taken as proof of the date of registration to the present Club.

- h) Should a player be found to be registered for two clubs during the same period of registration windows or played for two clubs, the Club will lose the match in which the player has played and the provisions of Art. 26 c) will apply.
- i) Further, both clubs to which the player is registered with will be referred to the Disciplinary Committee and subject to fines and sanctions, including being suspended from participating in future AFC Competition and the player concerned will also be suspended from participating in future AFC Competitions.
- j) The AFC Secretariat shall carry out a check of the documents listed in Art. 30 b) and c) immediately after the closure of the registration window. Players with missing documentations will not be eligible for registration. All eligible players will be issued with official eligibility cards authorized by the AFC Competitions Committee. Should the card have been misplaced, the Club shall be required to pay a USD 1,000 (One thousand US Dollars only) production fee for every card lost, to replace it.
- k) It is responsibility of the club to ensure that all original forms and supporting documents in accordance with Art. 30 are sent in good time and reach AFC Secretariat in Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia before the deadline set in Art. 32 a) & b) and Art 37 a). Proof of submission is not proof of receipt.
- l) Should the AFC Secretariat not receive the original copy of the AFC Official Registration Form with all required document by the deadline according to Art. 32 a) & b) and 37 a), the club shall be automatically disqualified from the Competition and be considered to have withdrawn in accordance with Art 26 c).
- m) In the event there is a dispute pertaining to the status of a player, the case will be referred to FIFA.

### 32. Preliminary Registration of Players

- a) Each Member Association/Club entering the Competition shall submit to AFC Secretariat, via email and courier, the AFC Official Registration Form

for the Players and the supporting documents in accordance with Art. 30 to 34 by the deadline to be announced by AFC.

- b) Once the AFC Official Registration Form has been received by AFC and seven (7) days prior to the first match of the Competition, up to three (3) players may be replaced in the event that they are medically unfit to play (certified by doctor). AFC must receive a detailed medical assessment to be reviewed by any member of the AFC Medical Panel which confirms whether the injury is sufficiently serious to prevent the player from taking part in the Competition. The Club shall then immediately nominate in writing, as well as submit all the relevant documents as listed in Art. 30 b) and c), a replacement player in compliance with Art. 28 of these Regulations. Until the replacement player has been registered in accordance to Art. 28 of these Regulations and until the replacement player have received his AFC Eligibility card, he will not be considered to have been registered for the Competition.

### 33. Final Registration of Players

- a) Participating Clubs are required to submit a final registration of a **minimum of eighteen (18) players** and a **maximum of twenty-three (23) players** from the squad list of **thirty (30) players** at the Team Managers' meeting. Only those players bearing an official eligibility card are eligible for registration. Of the twenty-three (23) players, only two (2) foreign players are eligible to be registered and fielded.
- b) Once the final registration of a minimum of eighteen (18) players and a maximum of twenty-three (23) players have been submitted and received by AFC at the Team Manager's meeting, participating Member Associations can still replace any of these players on any grounds, up until six (6) hours before the first match of the Competition.
- c) However, the replacement player (i.e. "new player") must be nominated from the list of up to thirty (30) players already registered in accordance to the Preliminary Registration of Players.
- d) Participating Member Association must hand over the official eligibility card of the player to be replaced to the AFC Venue Manager. The AFC Venue Manager will then, in exchange, hand over the official eligibility card of the replacement player.
- e) Only when the replacement player has received his official eligibility card will he be considered to be registered for the Competition and eligible to participate in the Competition.

### 34. Player Selection List

- a) All the players submitted in the Final Registration shall be included in the Player Selection List for each match (11 selected players and up to 12 substitutes). Up to a maximum of three (3) of the substitutes may take the place of the selected players at any time during the match.
- b) Each match in the Competition, each Club will receive a “Player Selection List” on which the numbers and full names (last name, first name) of the twenty-three (23) players in the squad is listed prior to their arrival at the stadium.
- c) The Club 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, suspended or not playing. The Club Captain must be identified on the “Player Selection List”
- d) Both Clubs must hand their “Player Selection List” to the AFC Match Commissioner at least ninety (90) minutes before the kick-off of their match.
- e) If the “Player Selection List” is not completed and returned on time, the matter will be submitted to the AFC Disciplinary Committee.

### 35. Match Starting List

- a) Upon receipt of the “Player Selection List”, the AFC Match Commissioner will produce, through AFCAS, the Match Starting List no later than seventy-five (75) minutes before the kick-off of the match.
- b) The Match Starting List must be signed by the Head Coaches and Team Managers of both Teams and returned to the AFC Match Commissioner whose signature will make the Match Starting List an official document. This process will take place between seventy-five (75) to sixty-five (65) minutes before the kick-off of the match.
- c) The AFC Match Commissioner will ask to see the official eligibility cards of the players whose names are listed on the Match Starting List sixty-five (65) minutes before kick-off. Each player participating in the Match must be in possession of their eligibility card issued by the AFC Secretariat. Only those players who are in possession of an official eligibility card are entitled to play in the matches.

- d) After the Match Starting List has been completed and signed by both Teams and returned to the AFC Match Commissioner, and if the match has not yet kicked-off, the following instructions apply:
- i. If any of the eleven (11) players listed on the Match Starting List selected to start the match are not able to start the match for any reason, they may be replaced by any of the substitutes listed on the Match Starting List. Such replacements will reduce the quota of substitute players accordingly. During the match, three (3) players may still be replaced.
  - ii. If any of the substitutes listed on the Match Starting List are not able to be fielded for any reason, they may not be replaced, which means that the quota of substitute players will be reduced accordingly.

### 36. Appointment of Officials

- a) Each participating club must appoint a team manager who coordinates with AFC Match Commissioner regarding all match related matters. The appointed team manager of the Club must be registered as one of the eight (8) officials as indicated in Art. 39 and must represent the Club in all official activities with regards to the match.
- b) Each participating club must appoint a club media officer working in full time exclusive capacity forty-eight (48) hours prior to the team's first match day of the competition, during the Competition and twenty-four (24) hours after the team's last match in the competition and represent the Club in all official activities with regards to the match. The appointed club media officer must be registered as one of the eight (8) officials as indicated in Art. 39.
- c) Both the appointed team manager and club media officer must attend the pre-competition workshop, the team managers' meeting, press-conference and other official function in the Competition. Failure to do so will result in the Club being fined US\$5,000.00 (Five Thousand US Dollars only).

### 37. Registration of Officials

- a) Each Member Association/Club entering the Competition shall submit to AFC Secretariat, via email and courier, the AFC Official Registration Form for the Officials and the supporting documents in accordance with Art. 38 by the deadline to be announced by AFC.

### 38. Documentations for Registration of Officials

- a) For the registration of officials for the Competition, officials must be registered using the 'AFC Official Registration Form for Officials'.
- b) Documentations for the registration of Officials, but not limited to, as following:
  - i. Official Registration form for Officials
  - ii. Passport-size colored photo (taken within 3 months prior to the submission of the registration)
  - iii. Colour-copy of valid passport copy containing full name, passport number, date of birth, date of issue, date of expiry and nationality (group passport will not be accepted) (unless already previously submitted to AFC and available in AFCAS)
  - iv. Colour-copy of National ID (unless already previously submitted to AFC and available in AFCAS)
  - v. Certificate / Qualifications based on his/her function:
    - i) Team Manager: full time employment contract with the club/Member Association
    - ii) Head coach and Assistant Coach: Individual's coaching certificate or coaching license (unless already previously submitted to AFC and available in AFCAS). Head Coach minimum AFC "B" license or its equivalent, and Assistant Coach minimum AFC "C" license or its equivalent.
    - iii) Team Media Officer: full time employment contract with the club/Member Association, Diploma in the field of communications and / or previous experiences in the field of communications (unless already previously submitted to AFC and available in AFCAS)
    - iv) Doctor and Physiotherapist : Medical Qualification (unless already previously submitted to AFC and available in AFCAS)
    - v) Interpreter: Full time employment contract with the club/Member Association
    - vi) Any other TM2 Officials: Relevant qualifications, certification or employment contract with Club
- c) AFC has a right to ask further documentations for the clarification of the eligibility of the officials other than documentations listed in the Art 40 b) above.

### 39. Principles for Registration of Officials

- a) The clubs can nominate maximum twelve (12) officials in the registration.
- b) The clubs shall nominate eight (8) officials below who will be entitled for access onto the Field of Play and Team Bench with 'TM 2' designation on the eligibility cards. The following three (3) officials must be registered with the team and for the match in the "Officials On The Substitution Bench" form (in AFCAS) by the AFC Match Commissioner.
  - i. Team Manager
  - ii. Head Coach
  - iii. Media Officer

The clubs may register other five (5) following positions or any other positions provided the officials submit their qualifications, certification or contracts with the clubs:

- iv. Assistant Coach 1
  - v. Assistant Coach 2
  - vi. Doctor
  - vii. Physiotherapist (or sports trainer, physical trainer or any official with similar function)
  - viii. Interpreter
- c) Additionally, the clubs can nominate four (4) TM 3 officials who will receive the access to the team's hotel, training ground, official area (except the field of play and team bench). Should the participating team has a Head of Delegation, he must be registered as one of these four (4) officials. Failure to do so will result in the Head of Delegation not receiving access to the team dressing room.
  - d) Office bearers (President, Vice President, Treasurer, Members of the Board) of the Club and Member Associations are not eligible to be registered as a TM2 official.
  - e) Notwithstanding Art. 39 b) above, if the club does not appoint any of the designated persons or if AFC do not approve of the persons nominated, the number of officials on the bench for the club will reduce proportionately.
  - f) The AFC Secretariat shall carry out a check of the documents listed in Art. 38 b) above immediately after the closure of the registration window. Officials with missing documentations will not be eligible for



registration. All eligible Officials will be issued with official eligibility cards authorized by the AFC Competitions Committee. Should the card have been misplaced, the Club shall be required to pay a USD 1,000 (One thousand US Dollars only) production fee for every card lost, to replace it.

- g) It is responsibility of the club to ensure that all original forms and supporting documents in accordance with Art. 38 are sent in good time and reach AFC Secretariat in Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia before the deadline set in Art. 37 a). Proof of submission is not proof of receipt.
- h) Should the AFC Secretariat not receive the original copy of the AFC Official Registration Form with all required document in accordance with Art. 38, the club shall be automatically disqualified from the Competition and be considered to have withdrawn in accordance with Art 26 c).
- i) Team may replace any of its officials at any point of time until 7 days before each Match Day provided all necessary documents have been submitted as per Art. 38. Further, the Eligibility Card of the replaced official must be returned to the AFC before the Eligibility Card of the new official can be produced. The new official is not considered part of the team's official delegation until he receives his Eligibility card.

## SECTION 4: LOGISTICS & OFFICE EQUIPMENT

### 40. Visa Application

- a) Participating clubs must apply for visas to all of the countries hosting their away matches not later than one (1) month after before each match day and must pay all visa application costs for itself;
- b) If a Participating Club fails to secure a visa in time for their match as a result of non-compliance of Art. 40 a), the Participating Club will be considered to have withdrawn in accordance to Art. 26 c).
- c) Hosting Association must guarantee and ensure that visa will be granted to the AFC delegation, officials and players of the visiting club, sponsors, traveling fans and media without any discrimination of gender, race or nationality.
- d) Hosting Association should assist broadcasters visiting from overseas in providing them with any documents or approvals they need for visas, accreditations, temporarily importing television equipment and shooting in the host city.
- e) Provided Art. 40 a) have been fulfilled, failure to guarantee and ensure issuance of visa to the AFC delegation, officials and players of the visiting club will result in the hosting club forfeiting the match. Victory and the resultant three (3) points will be awarded to the opposing team as well as the score of 3-0.

### 41. Taxes

- a) The Hosting Association must cover all taxes and/or fees related to any importation and/or exportation of equipment, merchandise and/or goods to be used for the Competition.
- b) The Hosting Association is required to cover the cost of any advertising taxes and/or fees or similar taxes at the stadia and/or within the Venue.
- c) The Hosting Association must pay for all airport taxes (inbound and outbound) for the visiting Clubs and AFC Delegation.

### 42. Arrival & Departure, Travel Arrangements and Accommodation

- a) Each Club taking part in the Competition shall arrive in the team hotel reserved for it in the Host country at least two (2) days before the first

match day of the Competition or on the official arrival date to be determined by the AFC and leave the day after the team's last match in the Competition.

- b) All Clubs shall pay for their own airfares (international and domestic airfares) from the Club's home venue to the venue of the match and vice-versa.
- c) Participating Clubs are required to purchase the published-fare air tickets (full fare air tickets) for its delegation to and from the Host Country to allow for potential change of departure dates. Clubs should make reservations for departure in two (2) steps i.e.:
  - i. Reservation for departure after the team's last Group match;
  - ii. Reservation for departure after every other phase of the knock-out stage.
- d) 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.
- e) The validity of tickets issued should be one month or more.
- f) Any costs relating to non-compliance to Art. 42 c) or d) above shall be borne by the participating team concerned.
- g) Participating Clubs shall undertake not to play in any other commercially driven matches when traveling to and from the venue of the Competition.

#### 43. Accommodation, Local Hospitalitys, Meals and Refreshments

- a) Only official hotels approved by AFC shall be used for accommodation. In the event that the AFC decides that the accommodation to be used doesn't fulfill the below criteria, AFC reserves the right to ask the Host Association to change the accommodation facilities to another hotel.
- b) The hosting Association must provide, at its own cost, the following to the Team's Official Delegation of the visiting Clubs two (2) days before, on, and the day after the match:
  - i. Players to be allocated two persons per room and Officials one person per room, for the Team's Official Delegation (11

double and 9 single rooms) as per Art. 27, not exceeding thirty (30) persons.

- ii. Each room attached with a clean bathroom with toilet and shower facility
- iii. Accommodation facilities (rooms, toilets, etc.) and its surroundings must be clean and free from smell
- iv. Accommodation must be located in an area that is safe from negative and noisy influences
- v. One (1) empty room shall be set aside for each Team at the Team's hotel for the purposes of medical treatment or storage.
- vi. One (1) briefing room shall be set aside at the Team's hotel equipped with whiteboard, DVD player and TV.
- vii. Suitable meals three times a day in buffet style of sufficient quantity and an additional light meal on match days in a dedicated dining area for each participating Team's Official Delegation as per Art. 27, not exceeding thirty (30) persons.
- viii. A minimum of three (3) litres of water per person per day for each participating Team's Official Delegation as per Art. 27, not exceeding thirty (30) persons, ice and refreshments for the teams at the hotel.
- ix. A minimum of three (3) litres of water per person per day for each participating Team's Official Delegation as per Art. 27, not exceeding thirty (30) persons, ice and refreshments for the teams per training session and per match.
- x. Laundry but no dry cleaning or pressing for playing and training outfits (one (1) Jersey, one (1) short, and one (1) pair of socks.) plus a shirt and a pair of trousers daily for each participating Team's Official Delegation as per Art. 27, not exceeding thirty (30) persons.
- xi. Ensure that the visiting club's officials and players (Team's Official Delegation) are accompanied by officials of the Host Association during arrival and departure to facilitate transport, immigration, customs and checking-in matters.

- xii. Liaison Officers proficient in English and the language of the participating Clubs.
- c) The participating club shall pay for incidental expenses incurred by its delegation members during the course of their stay in the host country and for any costs incurred by additional members of the delegation other than those mentioned in these Regulations. The visiting club shall pay for any costs of extending their stay (beyond the dates stipulated in Art. 43 b) above).
- d) The hosting Association must provide, at its own cost the following to the AFC Delegation for the Competition, from the moment they arrive at the Competition Venue until one (1) day after the Competition. For the Knock-out stage competition, AFC shall undertake the cost.
  - i. Accommodation 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. Suitable meals three times a day in buffet style of sufficient quantity and an additional light meal on match days
  - iii. A minimum of three (3) litres of water per person per day, ice and refreshments at the hotel and at the Stadium during the match.
  - iv. A minimum of three (3) litres of water per person per day, ice and refreshments during each of the training sessions of the referees.
  - v. Laundry, but no dry cleaning, or pressing, for one training outfit (one jersey, one shorts and one socks) plus a shirt and a pair of trousers daily for the Referee assessor, Referee, Assistant Referees, Fourth Official
  - vi. Reasonable laundry (including pressing) for not more than five (5) pieces of clothing daily and dry cleaning (including pressing) for one (1) jacket and one (1) pair of trousers/skirt once every two (2) days for all other AFC Match Officials or Delegation.
  - vii. Ensure that the AFC Match Commissioner, Referee assessor, the referees group and any other AFC Officials are

accompanied by officials of the hosting association during arrival and departure to facilitate transport, immigration, customs and checking-in matters.

- viii. An official training field, with a 400m running track around the field, to be provided for the training of the AFC referees from five (5) days prior to the Competition.
  - ix. Liaison Officers proficient in English
- e) The Hosting Association shall assist AFC's Commercial Affiliates to secure accommodation, on the same terms and conditions as are available to AFC, on reasonably sufficient quantity of hotel accommodation in first class hotels in the Venues, transportation services from the hotel accommodation and the centre of each Venue and, if applicable, air transportation to and between Venues.
- f) Failure to provide any of these provisions of Art. 43 b) & d) will result in the forfeiture of the Match Subsidies (if any) due to the Hosting Association.

#### 44. Local Land Transportation

- a) The Hosting Association must provide, at its own cost, the following to the visiting Clubs two (2) days before, on, and the day after the visiting clubs final match in the competition:
- i. One (1) bus and one (1) sedan car for training, matches, transfers to and from the airport of the Venue and official functions
  - ii. One (1) luggage truck must be provided during airport transfers and on match days.
- b) The Hosting Association must provide, at its own cost the following to the AFC Delegation for the Competition, from the moment they arrive at the Competition Venue until one (1) day after the Competition for the purposes of training, matches, airport transfers and official functions. For the Knock-out stage competition, AFC shall undertake the cost.
- i. One (1) sedan car each for the AFC Match Commissioner
  - ii. One (1) sedan car for the Venue Manager/Assistant Venue Manager

- iii. Two (2) vans for the Referee Assessors, Referee, Assistant Referees and Fourth Official.
  - iv. Additional internal transportation must be provided if there are other AFC appointed Match Officials.
- c) Failure to provide any of these provisions of Art. 44 a) & b) will result in the forfeiture of the Match Subsidies (if any) due to the Hosting Association.

#### 45. Tournament Secretariat, Facilities for AFC Delegation

- a) The Hosting 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 as follows:
    - A) One (1) IDD line for telephone and fax machine and its consumables such as but not limited to paper, toner and cartridges
    - B) One (1) desktop or laptop for the Group Stage and two (2) desktops or laptops for the Knock-out stage connected to the Internet via ADSL/Cable. Operating languages for the software must be in English.
    - C) One (1) printer and its consumables such as but not limited to paper, toner and cartridges.
    - D) One (1) fax machine and its consumables such as but not limited to paper, toner and cartridges.
    - E) One (1) photocopying machine and its consumables such as but not limited to paper, toner and cartridges
    - F) One (1) staff proficient in English and use of computers
    - G) Broadband internet connection (ADSL/Cable) for the office
  - ii. 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 Team Manager's Meeting.

- iii. For the Group Stage, one (1) activated mobile phone SIM card/line, with value and for the Knock-out Stage, no less than ten (10) activated mobile phone SIM card/line with value
- iv. At least a minimum of ten (10) walkie-talkie at the Stadium on Match day
- v. At least two (2) substitution boards at the Stadium on Match day
- vi. One (1) television with live feed of the match to be located at the seating area of the AFC Match Commissioner
- vii. One (1) secure storage room at all times at the Stadium for Competition equipment and supplies

b) Failure to provide any of the provisions of Articles 45 a) will result in the forfeiture of the match subsidies (If any) due to the Hosting Association.

#### 46. Audio/Video Recording of Matches

- a) The Hosting Club/MA is responsible, at its own cost, to provide four (4) copies of Digital Video Disc/s (DVD) of each match of the competition played in its territory to AFC Venue Manager immediately after the match. In the absence of AFC Venue Manager, the Hosting Club/MA shall provide two (2) copy 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 Hosting Club/MA shall guarantee the DVD is of good quality and covering entire duration of the match, and deliver the DVDs after the examination and approval of AFC Match Commissioner.
- b) Failure to provide any of provision of Article 46a) will result in a minimum fine of \$5,000 USD and any further action that AFC Disciplinary Committee may deem necessary, which may include the forfeiture of match subsidies (if any) due to the Hosting Club/MA



## Section 6: Media

### 47. General

- a) The Hosting Association is responsible to ensure all media requirements and facilities, as stated in the AFC Stadia Regulations, are met at its own cost.
- b) The Participating Member Associations must link the competition website ([www.the-afc.com](http://www.the-afc.com)) to its own website respectively upon qualification for or entry to the Competition.

### 48. Media Accreditation

- a) The Hosting Association must implement a media accreditation programme as instructed by AFC to control and manage access to the Stadiums.
- b) Where required, the Hosting Association will be responsible for the production of media bibs for photographers, TV and ENG crews under supervision by AFC. The Hosting 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 Hosting Association, to protect the commentary area, camera positions and the equipment of the broadcasters.

### 49. Media Access areas

- a) No representatives of the written press or radio journalists are allowed on the field of play or the area between the boundaries of the field and the spectators.
- b) Only those accredited photographers, TV cameramen of the host broadcaster and the main visiting broadcaster and the personnel required to operate the electronic television cameras of the host broadcaster are allowed in the area between the boundaries of the field of play and the spectators, where they will carry out their work in the specific locations assigned to them.
- c) The team dressing-rooms are strictly off limits to representatives of the media before, during and after the match.

- d) The Hosting Association shall ensure that AFC, the Host Broadcaster and all Broadcast Affiliates have free access to the Stadia from three days prior to match day until one day after the match, in order to access the technical issues of each and to assemble and construct the relevant infrastructure required for the execution of the Broadcast Rights.
- e) The Hosting Association is responsible for ensuring that AFC's Broadcast Rights are protected and that no broadcaster and/or video or ENG camera crews are allowed access to the stadium without the prior written permission of AFC.

#### 50. Open training session

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

#### 51. Press Conferences

- a) A post-match conference must be conducted at the stadium and commence no later than 15 minutes after the final whistle. Both teams are obliged to make their Head Coach available and an interpreter for the visiting team must provided by the Hosting Association.
- b) Non-compliance with clause a) above will result in disciplinary action which may include a fine of a minimum of US \$1,000 and the Head Coach may be subject to a ban from the dressing room and/or the substitutes' bench.

#### 52. Mixed Zone

- a) After the match, a mixed zone must be set-up by the Hosting Association for the media. The Mixed Zone will be in operation fifteen minutes after the end of a game.
- b) Team Media Officer is responsible for briefing all players and the Head Coach prior to the match so they are aware of their responsibilities in this regard.

- c) Team officials, coaching staff and players of the Participating Teams shall be required to enter the Mixed Zone on their way to from the team dressing room to the team bus at the end of the match. Players and Officials who do not fulfill this Article will be subject to disciplinary action including fines.
- d) Speaking to the media in the mixed zone is not compulsory. However, it is strongly advised that players and coaches give brief interviews to the media, who will be separated from the coaches and players by barriers.

### 53. Interviews

- a) If requested by AFC, Participating Teams should have their Head Coach and one player available for the day before each match and/or the match day for an interview of up to ten (10) minutes, to be recorded by the main TV rights-holding broadcaster (or local TV rights-holding broadcaster) in the territory of the relevant club, and/or AFC Official media partners, for the purpose of continental news-exchange distribution to all Competition Right holders and all the AFC official website.
- b) Players and officials of participating clubs are not permitted to give interviews during the match on the field of play or in its immediate vicinity. However, the AFC Media Officer or LOC Media Officer, may designate an area between the substitutes' benches and dressing rooms in which "flash" interviews for the host television broadcaster only, including the visiting TV rights-holding broadcaster if there is, can take place at the end of the match. Players and officials violating this Article will be subject to disciplinary measures.
- c) For the 'flash' interviews, the Head Coach and at least one (1) key player from both participating clubs must be available for at least the host broadcaster and the visiting TV rights-holding broadcaster upon their request. All players and the Head Coach of each group must be briefed by their respective Team Media Officer prior to the match so they are aware of their responsibilities in this regard.
- d) In the final minutes of the game, the Host Broadcaster or other broadcaster representatives shall inform the Local Media Officer of the players who are selected for the flash interview.
- e) All interview locations should be assigned by the Match Commissioner who will be assisted by LOC Media Officer and the Hosting Association.

## SECTION 7: EQUIPMENT / KIT

### 54. AFC Equipment Regulations

- a) The Participating Clubs must comply with the AFC Equipment Regulations governing the AFC Competitions.
- b) The AFC Equipment Regulations are in force from the time the Team's Official Delegation arrive at a Controlled Access Area until the time the Team's Official Delegation depart from such areas.

### 55. Kit Approval Procedure

- a) The Equipment Regulations require the participating Club to submit to AFC, for AFC's approval, one sample of all kit which the AFC Equipment Regulations cover. At the same time, the participating Club shall submit also to AFC, for AFC's approval, one sample of all other apparel to be worn by their Team's Official Delegation within the Controlled Access Areas during the Competition Period, namely all clothing, apparel and equipment worn underneath, or in replacement of, official team kit, including any "celebratory" apparel.
- b) The Participating Club shall submit to the AFC Secretariat the above-mentioned equipment by latest eight (8) weeks prior to the start of the Competition. If any equipment submitted infringes any of the AFC Equipment Regulations and/or event Regulations, AFC will require the Participating Teams to take corrective action and resubmit to AFC the corrected equipment. In addition, Participating Clubs may be required to present samples at the Club workshop.
- c) All items to be used by a Participating Club within the Controlled Access Areas during the Competition period shall be subjected to AFC's approval in accordance with the procedure set forth by AFC.
- d) The AFC Match Commissioner, the AFC Venue Manager, and/or the AFC Marketing Manager has/have the right and duty to check kit items at the match venue and are entitled to send such items to the AFC Headquarters for further control after the match.

### 56. Responsibility

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



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

## SECTION 8: TICKETING

### 57. Policy

- a) The ticketing system, pricing strategy, procedures, and implementation plan must be approved by AFC, in conjunction with the Hosting Association.
- b) Ticketing, including production, distribution and sales, shall be the responsibility of the Hosting Association. AFC will provide a ticket design to the Hosting Association. The Hosting Association shall ensure that printed tickets include, where available, seat numbering and/or serial numbering. All tickets shall incorporate only those logos and marks of the Competition and the official Commercial Affiliates and Broadcast Affiliates as submitted to the Hosting Association as part of the ticket design.

### 58. Terms and Conditions

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

### 59. Complimentary Tickets

- a) The Hosting Association shall set aside the following number of complimentary tickets for each participating team:
  - i. 1 VVIP for each of the team's match
  - ii. 2 VIP for each of the team's match
  - iii. 15 1<sup>st</sup> Best Category Non-VIP tickets for each match or match day of the Competition

Note:

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

- b) For the Final match of the Knock-out Stage of the Competition, AFC is entitled to request for additional tickets and will be communicated to the Hosting Association when required.

#### 60. Purchasable Tickets

- a) The Hosting Association/s must make at least 8% of the net saleable capacity of their Stadium available exclusively to supporters of the participating Clubs, for the matches they feature in, in a segregated, safe area to be determined by the Hosting Association/s. The participating Clubs must declare the number of seats required (up to 8% of the net saleable capacity) by an agreed date. The visiting Club is responsible for the cost of all seats declared.
- b) Participating Clubs shall be entitled to purchase an agreed number of tickets, i.e. up to 200 top or second-category tickets, or a combination thereof, for their VIPs, supporters, sponsors, etc. The price of tickets for supporters of the Clubs may not exceed the price of tickets of a comparable quality that are sold to supporters of the home Club.

## SECTION 9: MEDICAL & DOPING CONTROL

### 61. Medical Facilities and Treatment

- a) Participating Clubs must pay for any and all costs of hospitalization, surgical operation and specialized investigative procedures for all members of its delegation.
- b) The Hosting Association must provide, at its own cost, the following to the Team's Official Delegation of each Participating Clubs from two (2) days before the match day one of the competition until one (1) day after the Participating teams final match in the Competition and to the AFC Delegation from the moment they arrive to the Venue until one (1) day after the final match in 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
  - ii. An emergency medical room located in close proximity to player's dressing room/field of play, fully equipped with emergency medical supplies which includes the following:
    - Oxygen with appropriate masks/oral airway
    - Splints (Spinal injuries)
    - Stretchers preferable hard board
    - Suction machine
    - I/V drip sets with emergency injections and medication
    - Minor surgery supplies and equipment
    - Automated External Defibrillator
    - A certified medical officer
    - A team of support Para-medical staff trained in emergency medical care (CPR/ATLS)
    - Two (2) ambulances with designated drivers equipped with oxygen, masks, defibrillator, I/V drip sets, emergency medicaments and trained medical staff.



- iii. An air-conditioned, brightly lit and well ventilated doping control room is to be made available at all times at the stadium, equipped with facilities listed below:
- One (1) table with four (4) chairs;
  - One cabinet with a lock;
  - Attached bathroom and toilet equipped with washbasin, mirror and shower
  - Sofa for eight (8) persons;
  - A refrigerator equipped with non-alcoholic drinks in sealed mineral water bottles and canned juices;
  - A television
- c) Failure to provide any of these provisions of Art. 61 a) & b) will result in the forfeiture of the Match Subsidies (if any) due to the Hosting Association.

## 62. Medical Personnel

- a) The Hosting Association must provide, at its own cost, the following medical personnel on match day at the Stadium where the match is organised:
- i. Stadium emergency medical room must be supported by Medical Officer and trained medical staff in Emergency Medicine.
  - ii. On-Pitch Medical Services::
    - One (1) on-pitch Medical Officer trained in Emergency Medicine
    - Eight (8) trained stretcher bearers in good physical condition
    - Two (2) Ambulances equipped with emergency kits
  - iii. Doping control personnel:
    - One (1) Doping Assistant (Medical Officer)
    - Four (4) Doping Chaperones
    - One (1) Security Officer

### 63. Doping Control

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

## SECTION 10: DISCIPLINARY LAWS AND PROCEDURES

### 64. 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, Competition regulations and decisions by its Club, Member Associations, club, officials and players.
- c) AFC may impose the disciplinary measures for any violations of the Laws of the Game and contravention of its Statutes, Competition regulations and decisions by its Club, Member Associations, club, officials and players.

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

- a) A player who receives two (2) cautions (yellow cards) during a stage of the Competition shall automatically be suspended from the match following the match in which he received the second caution. If the player receives the second caution during the Team's last match in the Stage, the suspension will be carried forward as indicated in the AFC Disciplinary Code.
- b) Single (1) yellow cards received in the single (1) stage of the Competition will not be carried forward to the next stage of the Competition.
- c) A player and/or official who received a red card during the Competition shall automatically be suspended from the match following the match in which he received the red card. If the player and/or official received the red card in his Club's last match in the Competition, the suspension for the red card the suspension will be carried forward as indicated in the AFC Disciplinary Code.
- d) Any player and/or official who received a red card 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 Club, 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.

#### 66. Violence by players and/or officials

- a) Any player or official reported for indiscipline or violent conduct anywhere in the stadium including but not limited to the field of play, the changing rooms, at the training sites and in the hotels by any Official in the AFC Delegation shall be dealt with by the relevant AFC Committees in accordance with these Regulations, the AFC Statutes, Disciplinary Code and Code of Ethics.

#### 67. Protest

- a) Subject to the following provisions, protests are objections of any kind to occurrences that have a direct effect on matches organised in the Competition (state and marking of the pitch, accessory, match equipment, eligibility of players, stadium installations, footballs, etc.) and any matters related to breach of these Regulations.
- b) Unless otherwise stipulated in this article, protests shall first be submitted in writing to the AFC Match Commissioner within two (2) hours of the match by the club concerned and followed up immediately with a full written report, including a copy of the original protest, to be sent in writing to the AFC General Secretariat accompanied by a fee of US\$ 500 (US dollars five hundred only). The plaintiff Club and its Member Association shall confirm the protest by registered letter, to be sent to the AFC Secretariat no later than two (2) days after the match in question.
- c) Protests against any incidents that occur during the course of a match shall be made to the referee by the team captain immediately after the disputed incident and before play has been resumed. The protests shall be confirmed in writing to the AFC Match Commissioner by the head of the team delegation no later than two (2) hours after the match.
- d) No protests may be made against the referee's decisions regarding facts connected with play, such decisions being final.
- e) If an unfounded or irresponsible protest is lodged, the Disciplinary Committee may impose a fine and the protest fee of US\$ 500 (US dollars five hundred only) will be forfeited.

Comment [b1]: To delete??

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

#### **68. Arbitration**

- a) Pursuant to AFC Statutes, Club and its 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, Club, Member Associations, confederations, leagues, clubs, 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 Football Chamber of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) with headquarters in Lausanne. The Code of Sports-related Arbitration of the CAS and all the relevant CAS Regulations shall apply. The language of arbitration is English.
- d) Disputes between AFC and the Club, Member Association(s) and the Clubs shall be settled as set forth in the Hosting Association Agreement.

## SECTION 9: ADMINISTRATION

### 69. Financial Provisions

- a) The participating Clubs shall settle costs among themselves as indicated in these Regulations.
- b) AFC shall pay for the following:
  - i. International travel costs (by air: domestic in economy class and continental in business class; rail/sleeper in first class) and the daily allowances, as fixed by AFC, for referees, assistant referees, fourth officials, match commissioner, referee assessor and other AFC delegation
  - ii. doping control expenses;
  - iii. the insurance provided by AFC includes the following:
    - Medical Insurance (for AFC Match Officials and Delegation)
    - Personal Accident Insurance (for AFC Match Officials and Delegation)
    - Travel Insurance (for AFC Match Officials and Delegation)
    - Trophy Insurance
- c) Each Club retains its receipts from the sale of match tickets, except for the Final match of the Competition.

### 70. Subsidy

- a) Each participating team will receive a travel subsidy of USD15,000 (US Dollar Fifteen Thousand Only), except the team affiliated to the Hosting Association. The subsidies are paid in after the completion of the Competition provided the participating team has met its obligations under the relevant articles of these regulations.
- b) The travel subsidy for the Clubs will be sent directly to their respective participating Member Associations unless otherwise directed by the Member Associations concerned.
- c) AFC will pay each Hosting Association an organizational subsidy to the value of USD 15,000 (US Dollar Fifteen Thousand Only) for each club it hosts. The subsidy will be paid to the Hosting Association upon the completion of the Competition.

## 71. Awards

- a) For the Competition, the following Player Awards and Team Award will be presented:
  - i. The Abdullah Al Dabal Most Valuable Player (MVP) of the Competition Award
  - ii. Top Goal Scorer for the AFC Presidents Cup 2011
  - iii. AFC Fair Play Award & Fair Play Medals (31pcs medals) for the AFC Presidents Cup 2011
  - iv. Commemorative medals for Referees
- b) The Abdullah Al Dabal MVP of the Competition is given to the player who has a major influence on the individual matches, and the Competition overall.
- c) The Top Goal Scorer award is given to a player who has scored the most number of goals in the Competition. This is calculated based on the number of goals scored by an individual player from the group stage to the final.
- d) The AFC Fair Play Award is calculated is awarded to the team who has collected the most Fair Play points from the group stage to the final.
- e) There are no official awards other than those listed above, unless otherwise decided by the AFC Competitions Committee.

## 72. Trophy and Medals

- a) The AFC President's Cup trophy donated by AFC is presented to the winner of the Competition for six (6) months. AFC may request for the return of the trophy at an earlier date. The trophy is presented at the venue of the Final match. The trophy will remain the property of AFC. The champion Club will be awarded a scaled-down replica of the trophy by AFC as its permanent possession.
- b) The champion Club shall be responsible for the loss, or any damage to the trophy and case and shall return it in the same original condition when requested to do so by AFC. The AFC has the right to charge the club or the Member Association for any restoration work done on the trophy or any damage or loss caused by the club or the Member Association.

- c) The champion Club may have a copy of the trophy made at its own cost provided the copy is clearly marked as a replica and does not exceed 4/5 (four fifths of the size of the original).
- d) If for any reason, the competition should cease to be held, the trophy shall be returned to the AFC Secretariat.
- e) AFC will also be responsible for awarding the following medals:
  - i. Thirty-one (31) gold medals to the champion Club;
  - ii. Thirty-one (31) silver medals to the runner-up Club;
- f) Additional medals may not be produced;

### 73. Prize Money, Performance Bonus & Participation Fees

- a) AFC will pay the following in prize money:
  - i. Champion: USD 50,000 (US Dollars Fifty Thousand Only)
  - ii. Runner-up: USD 25,000 (US Dollars Twenty-Five Thousand Only)
- b) The prize money for the Clubs will be sent directly to their respective participating Member Associations unless otherwise directed by the Member Associations concerned.

### 74. Prize Presentation Ceremony

- a) A prize presentation ceremony will be held immediately after the Final match of the Competition to award the Awards, Trophy and Medals as stipulated in Art. 64 and 65.
- b) The teams and individuals that qualify to receive the Awards, Trophy and Medals are required to attend the prize presentation ceremony. Clubs may be represented by the Team's Official Delegation for the final match awarding ceremony. Other Club Members, Officials, Players, or Staff cannot participate in the prize presentation.

### 75. Protocol

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



## 76. Special Provisions

- a) Any disputes arising from the application of these Regulations shall be settled by the jurisdiction of AFC and, if subsequently necessary and AFC's decision is not final, by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS, Avenue de L'Elysse 28, 1006 Lausanne) in Switzerland.
- b) The AFC Competitions Committee shall, in conjunction with the Hosting Association, issue any instructions necessitated by special circumstances which might arise in the country hosting matches of the Competition. These instructions shall form an integral part of these Regulations.

## 77. 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.

## 78. Ratification

- a) These regulations were ratified by the AFC Executive Committee in 24 November 2010 and came into force immediately.

For the AFC Executive Committee

President:  
Mohamed Bin Hammam

General Secretary:  
Alex Soosay

Kuala Lumpur, 24 November 2010

## APPENDICES

### APPENDIX I: AFC CALENDAR OF MEN'S FOOTBALL

Please download from <http://www.the-afc.com/eng/events/index.jsp.html>

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

As provided for in Art. 21 G) ii. G) of this Competition Regulation, the “Fewer score calculated according to the number of yellow and red cards received in the group matches” will be calculated as follows:

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

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

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

### APPENDIX 3: Determining the best runner-up among the groups

As provided for in Art. 22 o) of this Competition Regulation, the group winners and the best runner-up will qualify for the Knock-out Stage.

To determine the best runner-up, the following procedure will be followed:

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 (see illustration 3). 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.