

# Regulations of the 2013 OFC Champions League



Preamble	1
I General Provisions 1. Scope of application	4
<ul> <li>II Entries – Admission – Integrity of the Competition – Duties</li> <li>2. Number of clubs per OFC member association, Admission Procedure</li> <li>3. Integrity of the competition</li> <li>4. Duties of the clubs</li> </ul>	4 5 6
III Trophies and Medals 5. Trophies and Medals	8
IV Responsibilities 6. OFC responsibilities	8
V Competition System 7. Preliminary Competition 8. Away goals and extra time under the knockout system 9. Seeding	9 12 12
VI Refusal to Play, Cancellation of a Match, Match Abandoned and Similar Cases 10. Refusal to play and similar cases 11. Match cancellations and expenses	12 13
VII Fixtures, Match Dates, Venues and Kick-off Times 12. Match Dates	14
VIII Stadiums and Match Organisation 13. Stadiums	15
IX Match Organisation 14. Match organisation	18
IX Laws of the Game 15. Laws of the Game 16. Half-time interval, break before extra time 17. Kicks from the penalty mark	21 22 23

X Player Eligibility	
18. General Provisions	23
XI Kit	
19. OFC Equipment and Team Colours	25
XII Referees	
20. Appointments and Reporting	28
XIII Disciplinary Law and Procedures – Doping	
21. OFC Disciplinary Regulations	30
22. Yellow and Red Cards	30
23. Declaration of Protest	30
24. Reasons for Protest	31
25. Appeals	31
26. Doping	31
XIV Financial Provisions	
27. Financial Provisions	31
XV Exploitation of the Commercial Rights	
28. Commercial Rights	33
XVI Intellectual Property Rights	
29. Intellectual Property Rights	36
XVII Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS)	
30. Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS)	36
XVIII Unforeseen Circumstances	
31. Unforeseen Circumstances	36
XIX Closing Provisions	
32. Closings Provisions	36

The following regulations have been adopted on the basis of Articles 53 and 55 of the OFC Statutes.

## **I General Provisions**

# Article 1 Scope of application

1.01 The present regulations govern the rights, duties and responsibilities of all parties participating and involved in the organisation of the 2013 OFC Champions League including the respective preliminary competitions (hereinafter the competition).

## II Entries – Admission – Integrity of the Competition – Duties

## Article 2

## Number of clubs per OFC member association

- 2.01 OFC member associations (hereinafter associations) may enter their club champion and where applicable their runner up club for the competition in accordance with the criteria prescribed in these regulations.
- 2.02 Associations are represented through their club champion and where applicable their runner up club of their top domestic league championship.

## Admission criteria

2.03 To be eligible to participate in the competition, a club must fulfil the following criteria:

- a) it must have qualified for the competition on sporting merit;
- b) it must fill in the official entry documents (i.e. all documents containing all the information deemed necessary by the OFC administration for ascertaining compliance with the admission criteria), which must reach the OFC administration by the stipulated deadline.
- c) it must comply with the rules aimed at ensuring the integrity of the competition as defined in Article 3;

- d) it must confirm in writing that the club itself, as well as its players and officials, agree to respect the statutes, regulations, directives and decisions of OFC;
- e) it must confirm in writing that the club itself, as well as its players and officials, agree to recognise the jurisdiction of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne as defined in the relevant provisions of the OFC Statutes and agree that any proceedings before the CAS concerning admission to, participation in or exclusion from the competition will be held in an expedited manner in accordance with the Code of Sports-related Arbitration of the CAS and with the directions issued by the CAS;

#### Admission procedure

- 2.04 The OFC General Secretary communicates the decision on admission to the competition to the clubs in writing, through their association. Such decisions are final.
- 2.05 If there is any doubt as to whether a club fulfils the admission criteria, the OFC General Secretary refers the case to the OFC Executive Committee which will decide without delay upon the admission of that club.
- 2.06 A club which is not admitted to the competition is replaced by the next best placed club in the top domestic league championship of the same association, provided it fulfils the admission criteria.

## Article 3

## Integrity of the competition

- 3.01 To ensure the integrity of the OFC club competitions, the following criteria apply:
  - a) no club participating in a OFC club competition may, either directly or indirectly:
  - i) hold or deal in the securities or shares of any other club participating in a OFC club competition,
  - ii) be a member of any other club participating in a OFC club competition,
  - iii) be involved in any capacity whatsoever in the management, administration and/or sporting performance of any other club participating in a OFC club competition, or
  - iv) have any power whatsoever in the management, administration and/or sporting performance of any other club participating in a OFC club competition;



- b) no one may simultaneously be involved, either directly or indirectly, in any capacity whatsoever in the management, administration and/or sporting performance of more than one club participating in a OFC club competition;
- c) no individual or legal entity may have control or influence over more than one club participating in a OFC club competition, such control or influence being defined in this context as:
  - i) holding a majority of the shareholders' voting rights;
  - ii) having the right to appoint or remove a majority of the members of the administrative, management or supervisory body of the club;
  - iii) being a shareholder and alone controlling a majority of the shareholders' voting rights pursuant to an agreement entered into with other shareholders of the club; or
  - iv) being able to exercise by any means a decisive influence in the decisionmaking of the club.

## Article 4 Duties of the clubs

- 4.01 On entering the competition, participating clubs agree:
  - a) to comply with the Laws of the Game issued by the IFAB;
  - b) to respect the principles of fair play as defined in the OFC Statutes;
  - c) to play in the competition until their elimination and to field their strongest team throughout the competition;
  - d) to stage all matches in the competition in accordance with the present regulations;
  - e) to comply with all decisions regarding the competition taken by the OFC Executive Committee, the OFC administration or any other competent body and communicated appropriately (by OFC circular letter or by official letter, fax or email);
  - f) to observe the OFC and/or FIFA Safety and Security Regulations for all matches in the competition;
  - g) to stage all matches in the competition in a stadium meeting the criteria of the stadium category required by paragraph 13.01;
  - h) to make every reasonable effort to make players who win official OFC club football awards available for the awards ceremony ("OFC Club Football Awards") at the start of the season;



- to cooperate with OFC at any time and in particular at the end of matches in the collection of items from the game and players' personal items that could be used by OFC to create a memorabilia collection to illustrate the heritage of the competition, to the exclusion of any commercial use;
- j) not to represent OFC or the OFC Champions League without OFC's prior written approval;
- k) to update the OFC administration in writing within 14 working days about any facts and information related to the admission criteria (see paragraph 2.04) that have changed since the admission of the club (including changes affecting the official entry documents);
- I) to inform the OFC administration about any disciplinary procedure opened against the club and/or its players and/or its officials by its association and/or its professional league for allegedly arranging or influencing the outcome of a match at national level. The same applies for any football-related procedure opened by a state authority against the club and/or its players and/or its officials based on the criminal code.
- 4.02 The winner of the OFC Champions League agrees to take part in the following Competitions:

- the FIFA Club World Cup;

- intercontinental competitions arranged by OFC in conjunction with other confederations or member associations.

- 4.03 The OFC Champions League runner-up agrees to play these matches if the winner cannot take part.
- 4.04 The club may use its name and/or logo provided all the following requirements are satisfied:
  - a) the name is mentioned in the statutes of the club;
  - b) if required by national law, it is registered with the chamber of commerce or equivalent body;
  - c) it is registered at its association and used in national competitions;
  - d) the name and logo do not refer to the name of a commercial partner.

Exceptions to this rule may be granted by the OFC administration in any case of particular hardship (e.g. long-term existing name, etc.) on reasoned request of the club concerned.

If so requested, the club must provide the OFC administration with the necessary evidence.

#### **III Trophies and Medals**

# Article 5 Trophy

- 5.01 The original trophy, which is used for the official presentation ceremony at the final, remains in OFC's keeping at all times. A full-size replica trophy of the OFC Champions League winner's trophy, is awarded to the winning club.
- 5.02 Any club which wins the competition three consecutive times or five times in total receives a special mark of recognition. Once a cycle of three successive wins or five in total has been completed, the club concerned starts a new cycle from zero.
- 5.03 Replica trophies awarded to winners of the OFC Champions League (past and current) must remain within the relevant club's control at all times and must not leave its region or the country of its association without OFC's prior written consent. Clubs must not permit a replica trophy to be used in any context where a third party (including, without limitation, their sponsors and other commercial partners) is granted visibility or in any other way which could lead to an association between any third party and the trophy and/or the competition. Clubs must comply with any trophy use guidelines that may be issued by the OFC administration from time to time.

#### Medals

5.04 Thirty gold medals are presented to the winning club, and 30 silver medals to the runner-up. Additional medals may not be produced.

#### **IV Responsibilities**

## Article 6 OFC responsibilities

- 6.01 OFC insures its own area of responsibility in accordance with the present regulations:
  - a) third-party liability insurance
  - b) spectator accident insurance
  - c) group travel and accident insurance for OFC delegates
  - d) legal expenses insurance

#### Responsibilities of the associations and clubs

6.02 The clubs are responsible for the behaviour of their players, officials, members, supporters and any person carrying out a function at a match on their behalf.



- 6.03 The home club (or the host association) is responsible for order and security before, during and after the match. The home club (or the host association) may be called to account for incidents of any kind and may be disciplined.6.04 The club considered the home club must stage the relevant matches at the ground in accordance with the instructions of OFC (or of a third party acting on OFC's behalf) and in cooperation with the association concerned. However, the club is considered solely accountable for all of its obligations in this respect, unless the relevant body or bodies decide(s) otherwise.
- 6.05 Irrespective of OFC's insurance coverage, each club and host association must conclude insurance coverage with reputable insurers at their own cost, in relation to any and all risks, according to the following principles:
  - a) each club must conclude and maintain insurance coverage to fully cover all of its risks in connection with its participation in the competition;
  - b) in addition, the home club or the host association must conclude and maintain insurance coverage for the risks in connection with staging and organising its home matches and which must include, without limitation, third-party liability insurance (for all third parties participating in matches or attending the relevant venue) providing for appropriate guaranteed sums for damages to persons, objects and property, as well as for pure economic losses corresponding to the specific circumstances of the club or association concerned;
  - c) to the same extent as in paragraph b) above, the host association of the final match must conclude and maintain insurance coverage to fully cover all of its risks in connection with the staging and organisation of the final match;
  - d) if the home club or the host association is not the owner of the stadium used, it is also responsible for providing adequate and fully comprehensive insurance cover, including third-party liability and property damage, taken out by the relevant stadium owner and/or tenant;
  - e) the home club and the host association must ensure that OFC is included in all insurance policies as defined in the present paragraph and must hold OFC harmless from any and all claims for liability arising in relation to the staging and organising of the relevant matches;

In any case, OFC may ask anyone involved to provide free of charge, written releases of liability and/or hold harmless notes, and/or confirmations and/or copies of the policies concerned in one of OFC's official languages.

- 6.06 The clubs undertake that their team will arrive at the match venue by the evening before the match at the latest and to fulfil their media obligations the day before the match.
- 6.07 Visiting clubs undertake not to play any other matches when travelling to and from away matches in this competition.



#### **V** Competition System

## Article 7 Preliminary Competition – Stage 1

7.01 The club champions of American Samoa, Cook Islands, Samoa and Tonga have played in a round robin tournament on a league basis from 1-5 May 2012 in Tonga where the club champion from the Cook Islands, Tupapa FC, won the tournament qualified for Stage 2.

#### Preliminary Competition – Stage 2

7.02 The winner of the Stage 1 preliminary competition then played the current club champion representing the national association that finished 8<sup>th</sup> in the 2012 OFC Champions League, namely AS Mont Dore (from New Caledonia) on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2012 in a one off playoff match where AS Mont Dore (from New Caledonia) won and qualified as the 8<sup>th</sup> club for the 2013 OFC Champions League.

#### Final Competition – Stage 3

7.03 The club champions of Fiji, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tahiti and Vanuatu and the runner-up club from New Zealand and winner of the Stage 2 preliminary competition (AS Mont Dore from New Caledonia) are the eight clubs that will be contest the 2013 OFC Champions League.

## **Group Phase**

7.04 The eight clubs will be drawn into 2 groups of 4 teams as follows:

Group A	Group B
Fiji	New Zealand 1
Papua New Guinea	New Zealand 2
Solomon Islands	New Caledonia
Vanuatu	Tahiti

Each club in their respective groups will play each other home and away on a league basis. The winner and runner-up of each group will qualify the semi-finals. The criteria for determining the placing in each group will be as follows: If two or more teams are equal on points on completion of the group matches, the following criteria are applied to determine the rankings (in descending order):

- (a) higher number of points obtained in the group matches played among the teams in question;
- (b) superior goal difference from the group matches played among the teams in question;
- (c) higher number of goals scored in the group matches played among the teams in question;
- (d) higher number of goals scored away from home in the group matches played among the teams in question;

If, after applying criteria a) to d) to several teams, two teams still have an equal ranking, the criteria a) to d) will be reapplied to determine the ranking of these teams;

The following match sequence applies:	
1st match day: 1 v 2	4th match day: 2v 1
3 v 4	4 v 3
2nd match day: 1 v 3	5th match day: 3 v 1
4 v 2	2 v 4
3rd match day: 4 v 1	6th match day: 1 v 4
2 v 3	3 v 2

## Semi-Final

7.05 The semi-final pairings are determined as follows:

(a) Winner of Group A will play the Runner up of Group B

(b) Winner of Group B will play Runner up of Group A

The semi-finals are played under the knockout system, on a home-and-away basis (two legs). The team which scores the greater aggregate of goals in the two matches qualifies for the final. Otherwise, the stipulations of Article 8 apply. The order of the matches for each respective semi-final shall be that the 1<sup>st</sup> leg match shall hosted by the Runner-up club of each group and the 2<sup>nd</sup> leg match hosted by the Group winner of each group.

## Final

- 7.06 The grand final shall be played in a pre-determined venue and for 2013 it will be played in Auckland, New Zealand.
- 7.07 The grand final shall be contested between winners of the semi-finals.
- 7.08 If the final is level at the end of normal playing time, extra time shall be played [two periods of 15 minutes each] and followed, if necessary, by kicks from the penalty spot to determine the winner, in accordance with the FIFA Laws of the Game.



# Article 8 Away goals and extra time under the knockout system

8.01 For matches played in the semi-finals and final, if the two teams involved in a tie score the same number of goals over the two legs, the team which scores more away goals qualifies for the next stage. If this procedure does not produce a result, i.e. if both teams score the same number of goals at home and away, two 15-minute periods of extra time are played at the end of the second leg. If, during extra time, both teams score the same number of goals, away goals count double (i.e. the visiting club qualifies). If no goals are scored during extra time, kicks from the penalty mark (Article 17) determine which club qualifies for the next stage.

# Article 9

# Seeding

9.01 Clubs are seeded into groups for geographical grounds but are not seeded within that respective group.

# VI Refusal to Play, Cancellation of a Match, Match Abandoned and Similar Cases

## Article 10 Refusal to play and similar cases

10.01 If a club refuses to play or is responsible for a match not taking place or not being played in full, the OFC Disciplinary Committee declares the match forfeited and/or disqualifies the club concerned in combination with the following fines:

a)	prior to stage 1 or 2 preliminary competition	\$10,000
b)	prior to the group stage	\$10,000
c)	during the group stage	\$25,000
d)	prior to the semi-finals	\$25,000
e)	prior to the final	\$50,000

- 10.02 Exceptionally, the OFC Disciplinary Committee can validate the result as it stood at the moment when the match was abandoned if the match result was to the detriment of the club responsible for the match being abandoned.
- 10.03 If a club is disqualified or for any reason withdraws from the competition before completion of its matches in the group stage, the results of all of its matches are declared null and void, and its points forfeited.
- 10.04 In all cases, the OFC Disciplinary Committee can take further measures if the circumstances so justify.

10.05 Upon receipt of a reasoned and well-documented request from the club or clubs concerned, the OFC administration may set an amount of compensation due for financial loss.

## Article 11

#### Match cancelled before departure of the visiting club

11.01 If the home club or the host association finds that a match cannot take place, for example because the field is not fit for play, the home club must notify the visiting club and the referee before their departure from home and the OFC administration at the same time. In this case, the match must, in principle, be played at another venue and/or on another date as decided by the OFC administration after consultation with the home club (for the venue) and with both clubs (for the date).

#### Match cancelled after departure of the visiting club

- 11.02 If any doubt arises as to the condition of the field of play after the visiting club's departure from home, the referee decides on the spot whether or not it is fit for play.
- 11.03 If the referee decides that the match cannot commence, for example because the field is unfit for play, the match must be played in the first instance at an alternative venue on the same day, must be either the next day, or on a reserve date or other date set by the OFC administration. A decision must be taken within two hours of the referee's decision to cancel the match, in consultation with the two clubs and the associations concerned. In case of dispute, the OFC administration fixes the date and kick-off time of the match. Its decision is final.

#### Match abandoned

11.04 If the referee decides to abandon the match, for example because the field is unfit for play, the match must be played either the next day, or on a reserve date or other date set by the OFC administration, unless the case is referred to the OFC Disciplinary Committee . The date on which the match will be completed must be decided within two hours of the referee's decision to abandon the match, in consultation with the two clubs and the associations concerned. In case of dispute, the OFC administration fixes the date and kick-off time of the match. Its decision is final.

#### Expenses

- 11.05 When the circumstances required the home club to notify the visiting club and the referee before their departure from home of a match not being able to be played and if the home club failed to do so, it is responsible for the travel, board and lodging expenses of the visiting club and the referee team.
- 11.06 In all other cases, each club bears its own expenses, including additional expenses resulting from the match having to be (re)played later than initially scheduled. However, if a match cannot take place for reasons beyond control and the visiting club returns home, the travel, board and lodging expenses of the visiting club, as well as the relevant hosting costs, are borne by the two clubs in equal parts.

#### VII Fixtures, Match Dates, Venues and Kick-off Times

## Article 12 Match dates

12.01 All matches are played according to the Match Calendar as stipulated in the relevant circular. These dates are final and binding on all concerned. The OFC administration determines on which days of the week the matches are to be played.

## **Kick-off times**

- 12.02 The OFC administration determines the kick off times for all group matches, semifinal and final.
- 12.03 In principle, the fixtures within a group on the last match day must be played simultaneously.

## Venues

12.04 In principle, a club must play all its matches in the competition at one and the same ground. Matches may be played either at the ground of the home club or at another ground in the same or another city within the territory of its association, or, if so decided by the OFC administration and/or the OFC disciplinary bodies, in the territory of another OFC member association for reasons of safety or as a result of a disciplinary measure. In principle, venues are approved only if direct international flights and/or charter flights are able to land within an acceptable distance of the venue, in the country of the club concerned. If the match is being played in another city or country, the venue is subject to the approval of the OFC administration.

OFC

## Alternative venues

12.05 If, at any time during the season, the OFC administration deems that, for whatever reason, some venues may not be fit for staging a match, OFC may consult the associations and clubs concerned and ask them to propose an alternative venue, in accordance with the OFC requirements. Should such an association and club not be able to propose an acceptable alternative venue by the deadline set by the OFC administration, OFC may select an alternative, neutral venue and make all the necessary arrangements for the staging of the match together with the relevant association and local authorities. In both cases, the costs of staging the match are borne by the home club. The OFC administration take a final decision on the match venue in due time.

#### Final

12.06 The matches of the final are organised by the respective home club on the basis of a contract between the home club and OFC. The date, venue and kick off times are decided by the OFC administration.

#### **VIII Stadiums and Match Organisation**

# Article 13 Stadium categories

13.01 Unless stipulated otherwise in these regulations, matches in the competition must be played in a stadium which meets the criteria set by OFC

#### **Exceptions to a criterion**

13.02 The OFC administration may grant an exception to a specific criterion for the stadium category in question in cases of particular hardship and upon reasoned request, for instance owing to the current national legislation or if the fulfilment of all the required criteria would force a club to play its home matches on the territory of another association. An exception can be granted for one or more matches in the competition or for the whole duration of the competition. Such decisions are final.

#### Stadium certificate and safety requirements

13.03 Each association on whose territory matches in the competition will be played is responsible for:

- a) inspecting every stadium concerned and issuing stadium certificates, which have to be forwarded to the OFC administration, confirming that the stadiums meet the structural criteria of the required stadium category;
- b) confirming to the OFC administration that the stadiums, including their facilities (emergency lighting system, first aid facilities, type of protection against intrusion by spectators into the playing area, etc.), have been thoroughly inspected by the competent public authorities and meet all the safety requirements laid down by the applicable national law.
- 13.04 The OFC administration accepts or rejects the stadiums on the basis of the above certificate and confirmation. Such decisions are final.

## **Stadium inspections**

13.05 The OFC administration may carry out stadium inspections at any time before and during the competition to check whether the required structural criteria have been and are still being met. Cases of non-conformity with an applicable structural criterion may be referred to the OFC Disciplinary Committee , which decides on appropriate measures in accordance with the OFC Disciplinary Code .

#### **Pitch conditions**

- 13.06 The home club must make every reasonable effort to ensure that the pitch is in the best possible condition for play. If the climatic conditions so require, facilities must be provided, to ensure that the field of play can be made available in a suitable condition on any match date. If the home club does not implement the appropriate measures and, as a consequence, the match cannot take place, the home club bears all the costs of the visiting team (travel, board and lodging expenses).
- 13.07 If deemed necessary by the referee or an OFC match officer, the home club may be requested to reduce the height of the grass for the match and training sessions.

## Artificial turf standard

13.08 Any matches in the competition may be played on artificial turf provided that such artificial turf meets the FIFA Recommended 2-Star Standard, in compliance with the FIFA Quality Concept – Handbook of Test Methods for Football Turf (May 2009 edition) and the FIFA Quality Concept – Handbook of Requirements for Football Turf Surfaces (May 2009 edition).



13.09 The owner of the artificial turf and the home club are fully responsible for meeting the above requirements, in particular those related to:

- maintenance work and on-going improvement measures; and

- safety and environmental measures as set out in the FIFA Quality Concept – Handbook of Test Methods for Football Turf and the FIFA Quality Concept – Handbook of Requirements for Football Turf Surfaces.

- 13.10 The owner of the artificial turf and the home club must obtain sufficient warranties and/or guarantees related to the material and the installation from the manufacturer and the installer of the artificial turf.
- 13.11 OFC cannot be held responsible for any damages to third parties resulting from the use of the artificial turf.

## Floodlights

- 13.12 Any matches in the competition may be played in daylight or under floodlights. If played under floodlights, the light average must correspond to Ev (lux) 1,000 towards the main camera(s) and Ev (lux) 700 towards areas of secondary interest.
- 13.13 Clubs must ensure that floodlighting installations are maintained and provide OFC with a valid lighting certificate issued within the previous 12 months. OFC may conduct an independent assessment of lighting levels in stadiums and will notify the clubs in good time of the results of such assessments and of any corrections to be made.

## Clocks

13.14 Clocks in the stadium showing the amount of time played may run during the match, provided they are stopped at the end of normal time in each half, i.e. after 45 and 90 minutes respectively. This stipulation also applies in the event of extra time (i.e. after 15 and 30 minutes).

## **Giant screens**

13.15 The results of other matches can be shown on the scoreboard and/or giant screen during the match, while simultaneous transmissions and replays are authorised for press monitors and closed-circuit channels only. Delayed footage of the match being played may be transmitted on the giant screen inside the stadium provided that the host club has obtained all the necessary third party permission to transmit such



footage, including (without limitation) permission from the relevant OFC match officer and any relevant local authorities. Moreover, the host club must ensure that such footage is transmitted on the giant screen during the match only when the ball is out of play and/or during the half-time interval or break before extra time (if any) and that it does not include any images that:

- a) may have an impact on the playing of the match;
- b) may be reasonably considered as controversial insofar as they are likely to encourage or incite any form of crowd disorder;
- c) may display any public disorder, civil disobedience or any commercial and/or offensive material within the crowd or on the pitch; or
- d) may be deemed to criticise, undermine or damage the reputation, standing or authority of any player, match official and/or any other party at the stadium (including any images that are aimed at highlighting, directly or indirectly, any offside offence, fault committed by a player, potential mistake of a match official and/or any behaviour which is contrary to the principle of fair play).
- 13.16 If requested by OFC, clubs must exclusively display on giant screens in the stadium a special video feed featuring the OFC Champions League branding and including information and images from all matches of the competition.

## **Public screens**

- 13.17 From the group phase onwards, simultaneous or delayed transmissions on public screens outside the stadium in which a match is played (e.g. in the stadium of the away club or in a public place anywhere) may be authorised subject to:
  - a licence being granted by OFC; and
  - authorisation being granted by the audio-visual rights holders in the territory of the screening and by the public authorities.
- 13.18 Until the third qualifying round (inclusive), such transmissions are subject to the terms of paragraph 28.05.

#### **IX Match Organisation**

## Article 14 Flags

14.01 The OFC flag and FIFA Fair Play flag must be flown at the stadium at all matches in the competition. They will be provided to the clubs by their association. From the



play-offs onwards, the OFC Champions League flag must also be flown. It will be provided by OFC to the clubs concerned in due time.

## Advertising boards operator position and accreditation

14.02 As of the group phase, the home club must ensure where necessary, that the operator of the LED advertising boards appointed by OFC is provided with:

a) a commentary position (or equivalent position) during the match; and

b) an accreditation permitting access to such position.

## Substitution boards

14.03 For each match in the qualifying phase, the home club must ensure that two substitution boards are available.

## **Ticket allocations**

14.04 All clubs in the competition must make at least 5% of the total capacity of their stadium available exclusively to visiting supporters, in a segregated, safe area. In addition, visiting clubs are entitled to purchase up to 200 top-category tickets (unless otherwise agreed between the two clubs in question) for their VIP supporters, sponsors, etc.

14.05 Visiting clubs which have requested an allocation of tickets for the whole or part of the segregated area may return any unused tickets to the home club without payment up to seven days prior to the match, unless otherwise agreed by the two clubs in writing. After this deadline the visiting club must pay for the whole allocation, irrespective of whether all the tickets have been sold.

14.06 The home club may reallocate tickets returned or not requested by the visiting club provided that all safety and security measures are respected and that such tickets are not reallocated to supporters of the visiting club.

14.07 The official OFC representatives and at least 20 representatives of the visiting club and its association must be provided with top-category seats (and associated hospitality) in the VIP sector.

## Training sessions on the pitch

14.08 The day before the match, weather permitting, the visiting club is allowed to train on the pitch on which the match will be played. The length of this training session may not exceed one hour, unless agreed otherwise with the home club. If holding such a training session could render the pitch unfit for play the next day, an alternative training ground



approved by OFC in advance must be made available. In addition, the visiting club may hold private training sessions at a location to be agreed on with the home club, but not at the stadium where the match will be played.

14.09 The referee team may train on the pitch on which the match will be played the day before the match.

## Arrival of the Teams

14.10 Both teams must be at the stadium at least 75 minutes prior to kick-off.

## Handshake, walk -on music and anthems

14.11 At all matches in the competition the players are invited to shake hands with their opponents and the referee team after the line-up ceremony as well as after the final whistle, as a gesture of fair play. Furthermore, as from the group stage, the OFC Champions League walk-on music provided by OFC must be played from when the players emerge from the players' tunnel until they have lined up, at which point the OFC Champions League anthem provided by OFC must be played. National anthems may not be played.

## Substitutes benches, technical seats and technical area

- 14.12 Only seven team officials, one of whom must be a team doctor and seven substitute players are allowed to sit on the substitutes' bench, i.e. a total of 14 people. The names of all these persons and their functions must be listed on the match sheet.
- 14.13 If space so permits, up to five additional technical seats are allowed for club staff providing technical support to the team during the match (kit manager, assistant physiotherapist, etc.). Such seats must be outside the technical area and positioned at least five metres behind or to the side of the benches but with access to the dressing rooms. The names of all these persons and their functions must be listed on the match sheet.
- 14.14 Smoking is not allowed in the technical area during matches.
- 14.15 During the match, players and team officials listed on the match sheet are not allowed access to any TV footage of the match.

## **Medical requirements**

OFC

14.16 Minimum medical requirements concerning the provision of facilities, equipment and personnel by the host club are set out by OFC. . For the avoidance of doubt, the host club is solely responsible for the provision and operation of any facilities and equipment required in the above-mentioned annex.

#### IX Laws of the Game Article 15

15.01 Matches are played in conformity with the Laws of the Game promulgated by the International Football Association Board (IFAB).

## Substitution of players

- 15.02 The substitution of three players per team is permitted in the course of the match. The use of substitution boards (preferably electronic) to indicate the substitution of players is compulsory. Substitution boards must be numbered on both sides.
- 15.03 During the game, substitutes are allowed to leave the technical area to warm up. At the pre-match organisational meeting, the referee determines exactly where they may warm up (behind the first assistant referee or behind the advertising boards behind the goal) and how many substitutes are allowed to warm up simultaneously. In principle, three substitutes per team are allowed to warm up at the same time; exceptionally, if space so permits, the referee can allow up to seven substitutes of each team to warm up simultaneously in the dedicated area. The team fitness coach (indicated on the match sheet) may join the players warming up and is responsible for the respect of the referee's instructions.

## Match sheet

- 15.04 Before each match, each team receives a match sheet on which the numbers, surnames, first names (and dates of birth for qualifying-phase and play-off matches) and, if applicable, the shirt names of the 18 players in the squad must be indicated, together with the surnames and first names of the officials seated on the substitutes' bench and on the additional technical seats. The match sheet must be properly completed in block capitals, and signed by the captain and the competent club official.
- 15.05 The 11 first-named players must commence the match. The remainder are designated as substitutes. The numbers on the players' shirts must correspond with the numbers indicated on the match sheet. The goalkeepers and team captain must be identified.
- 15.06 Both clubs must hand their match sheets to the referee at least 75 minutes before kick-off.



- 15.07 The referee may ask to see the personal identity cards or passports of the players listed on the match sheet. Each player participating in OFC competition match must be in possession of a player's registration licence issued by his association or an official personal identity card / passport, each containing his photograph and date of birth.
- 15.08 If the match sheet is not completed and returned in time, the matter will be submitted to the OFC Disciplinary Committee
- 15.09 Only three of the substitutes listed on the match sheet may take part in the match. A player who has been substituted may take no further part in the match.
- 15.10 If there are fewer than seven players on either of the teams, the match is abandoned. In this case, the OFC Disciplinary Committee decides on the consequences.

## Replacement of players on the match sheet

- 15.11 After the match sheets have been completed, signed and returned to the referee by both teams, and if the match has not yet kicked off, no replacement is allowed except in the following cases:
  - a) If any of the first 11 players listed on the match sheet are not able to start the match due to unexpected physical incapacity, they may only be replaced by any of the seven substitutes listed on the initial match sheet. The substitute(s) in question may then only be replaced by a registered player (players) not listed on the initial match sheet, so that the quota of substitutes is not reduced. During the match, three players may still be substituted.
  - b) If any of the seven substitutes listed on the match sheet are not able to be fielded due to unexpected physical incapacity, they may only be replaced by a registered player not listed on the initial match sheet.
  - c) If none of the goalkeepers listed on the match sheet are able to be fielded due to unexpected physical incapacity, they may be replaced by registered goalkeepers not listed on the initial match sheet. The club concerned must, upon request, provide the OFC administration with the necessary medical certificates.

#### Article 16

## Half-time interval, break before extra time

16.01 The half-time interval lasts 15 minutes. If extra time is required, there is a fiveminute break between the end of normal time and the start of extra time. As a rule, the players remain on the field of play during this five-minute break, at the discretion of the referee.

# Article 17 Kicks from the penalty mark

- 17.01 For matches where the winners need to be decided by kicks from the penalty mark, the procedure laid down in the Laws of the Game applies.
- 17.02 The referee decides which goal will be used for the kicks:
  - a) For reasons of safety/security, state of the field of play, lighting or other similar reasons, the referee may choose which goal will be used without tossing a coin. In this case, he is not required to justify his decision, which is final.
  - b) If he considers that either goal can be used for the kicks, then, in the presence of the two captains, he decides that the head side of the coin corresponds to one goal and the tail side to the other. He then tosses the coin to determine which goal will be used.
- 17.03 To ensure that the procedure is strictly observed, the referee is assisted by the assistant referees and the fourth official, who also note down the numbers of the players on each team who take kicks from the penalty mark. The assistant referees position themselves according to the diagram in the Laws of the Game.
- 17.04 If the taking of kicks from the penalty mark cannot be completed because of weather conditions or for other reasons beyond control, the results will be decided by the drawing of lots by the referee in the presence of the OFC match delegate and the two team captains.
- 17.05 If through the fault of a club, the taking of kicks from the penalty mark cannot be completed, the provisions of Article 10 apply.

## X Player Eligibility

# Article 18 General provisions

- 18.01 Registration Forms shall contain such information for the guidance of the Player as shall apply to his particular status. The documents of registration and of the transfer of registration of a Player must be those issued by OFC.
- 18.02 In order to register a player in the prescribed registration form or transfer form submitted by the authorised Club Official, the same must be sent to OFC along with the domestic Transfer Certificate and International Transfer Certificate duly completed in accordance with these rules.

- 18.03 The receipt of the registering club of a Letter of Authorisation from OFC shall determine the eligibility of the Player to play in matches in accordance with these rules.
- 18.04 In order to be eligible to participate in the OFC club competitions, players must be registered with OFC within the requested deadlines to play for a club and fulfil all the conditions set out in the following provisions. Only eligible players can serve pending suspensions.
- 18.05 Players must be duly registered with the association concerned in accordance with the association's own rules and those of FIFA, notably the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players.
- 18.06 Each club is responsible for submitting a list of 30 players, duly signed, to its association for verification, validation, signature and forwarding to OFC. These lists must include the name, date of birth, shirt number and name, nationality and national registration date of all players to be fielded in the OFC club competition in question, as well as the surname and first name of the head coach. In addition, the lists must include the confirmation by the club's doctor that all players have undergone the requested medical examination; the club's doctor is solely responsible that the requested players' medical examination has been duly performed.
- 18.07 The club bears the legal consequences for fielding a player who is not named on list, or who is otherwise not eligible to play.
- 18.08 The OFC administration decides on questions of player eligibility. Challenged decisions are dealt with by the OFC Disciplinary Committee
- 18.09 As a rule, a player may not play in a OFC club competition (i.e. OFC Champions League for more than one club in the course of the same season.
- 18.10 If a Club cannot count on the services of at least two goalkeepers at any time because of long-term injury or illness, the Club concerned may temporarily replace the goalkeeper concerned and register a new goalkeeper at any time during the OFC Champions League provided he meets the criteria set out in Article 18. The Club must provide OFC with the necessary medical evidence. Once the injured or ill goalkeeper is fit to be fielded again he can resume his position in place of his nominated substitute. The change must be announced to OFC at least 24 hours before the next match in which the goalkeeper is due to play.

## Multiplicity of Registration

18.11 In the event of a Player signing registration forms for more than one Club, priority of registration shall be the deciding factor. The Club submitting the later form shall be notified



of the prior registration of the Player. OFC shall investigate the circumstances under which the registration forms were signed.

18.12 Any player found to have wilfully signed registration forms with more than one Club or a Club found to have knowingly induced a Registered Player of another Club to sign a registration form shall be dealt with by OFC, in such a manner it deems necessary.

## **Breach of Conditions of Registration**

18.13 Failure to comply with any of the conditions relating to registration will render the Player ineligible to play for the Club concerned.

## **List of Players**

18.14 All Players in the OFC Champions League must be under contract, either as;

- Amateur
- Non-Amateur (full-time and part-time)

## **Foreign Players**

18.15 Teams may register as many foreign players as they wish as part of their delegation. A foreign player is defined as any player that cannot qualify to represent the national team of the country of the club.

## XI Kit

## Article 19 OFC Equipment and Team Colours

- 19.01 The Club shall undertake to comply with the FIFA Equipment Regulations in force.
- 19.02 Delegation Members are not allowed to display political, religious, commercial or personal messages in any language or form on their playing or team kits, equipment, or body during the time spent in the venue or any other areas where accreditation is required to gain access. Any violations shall be referred to the OFC Disciplinary Committee for the necessary sanctions to be imposed in accordance with the OFC Disciplinary Code.

## **Kit Approval Procedure**

- 19.03 Kit used by clubs that qualify for the OFC Champions League must be approved by the OFC administration.
- 19.04 Each Club shall inform OFC of two [2] different and contrasting colours [one predominantly dark and one predominantly light] for its "Home Colours" and "Away Colours" [shirt, shorts, socks].

- 19.05 In addition, each Club shall select three [3] contrasting colours for its goalkeepers kits. These three [3] goalkeeper kits must be distinctly different from each other as well as different from the "Home Colours" and "Away Colours".
- 19.06 This information shall be sent to OFC on the Official Team Colours Form sent with the relevant circular. Only these colours may be worn during matches.
- 19.07 The Club must provide photos or samples of their "Home" and "Away" colours, and any additional kit including the goalkeepers [shirts, shorts, and socks] together with the Official Team Colours Form duly completed and signed by the deadline stipulated by OFC.
- 19.08 OFC will inform the Club of the colours that they shall wear during matches.

## Colours

- 19.09 For all matches in this competition, the home club has the first choice as to which of its The clubs agree on the colours to be worn from their kits. If the clubs are unable to agree on the colours to be worn by their teams, they inform the OFC administration who will take a final decision.
- 19.10 For the final, both teams may wear their home colours. However, if there is a clash, the team designated as the away team must wear alternative colours. If a clash still exists and the team officials are unable to agree, the OFC administration will decide on the colours.
- 19.11 In any case, if the referee notices on the spot that the colours of the two teams could lead to confusion, he decides on the colours, after consulting the OFC match delegate and the OFC administration. As a rule, in such cases it is the home team that has to change colours, for practical reasons.

## Player names and number

- 19.12 For all matches player numbers must be shown on the back of shirts.
- 19.13 At all stages of the competition all registered players, including those registered at a later stage, must wear set numbers (on shirts and shorts) between 1 and 99. If the number 1 is used, it must be worn by a goalkeeper. No number may be used by more than one player on a team and no player may use more than one number in the course of the competition.
- 19.14 Throughout the competition, each Player shall wear the number assigned to him on the Official Team List.
- 19.15 In the event of a Player's shirt needing replacement during a match, each Club shall provide at least three [3] "Blood Shirts" in both "Home" and "Away" colours without a number displayed on the back of the shirt in order to distinguish a Player should they need to change their shirt.
- 19.16 In the event of a goalkeeper being replaced by an outfield Player, each Club shall provide a goalkeeper kit without a number displayed on the back of the shirt in order to distinguish this replacement goalkeeper from other Players.

#### Choice of shirt sponsor

19.17 The club may only use a sponsor approved beforehand by its association and OFC. This provision also applies to the official training session and any OFC Champions League media activities the day before a match.

## Change of shirt sponsor

- 19.18 Clubs may change their shirt sponsor during the season as follows:
  - a) clubs may change the shirt sponsor only once during the competition;
  - b) Starting the competition without a sponsor but subsequently using one is not considered as a change of sponsor.
  - c) A change regarding the content of the sponsor advertising is considered to be a change of sponsor, even if the sponsor remains the same.

#### Deadline for changes of shirt sponsor

- 19.19 Clubs which want to change their shirt sponsor in accordance with paragraph 19.18, must follow submit their request to the OFC administration at least ten working days prior to the first match in which they wish to use the new sponsor.
- 19.20 OFC reserves the right to request any OFC logo to appear on the right sleeve of the shirt during matches, between the shoulder seam and the elbow. OFC will provide each Club with sufficient temporary sleeve patches to cover their needs throughout the OFC Champions League.

#### Non- use of shirt sponsor due to national legislation

19.21 If the national legislation applicable at the match venue prevents a visiting club from using its approved shirt sponsor, the club may ask OFC to replace its sponsor with an OFC endorsed programme. Such requests must be submitted to the OFC administration at least seven days before the match in question.

## **Competition badge**

19.22 From the group stage onwards the competition OFC Champions League competition badge must appear on the free zone of the right shirt sleeve. OFC will provide the clubs concerned with sufficient badges to cover their needs (as determined by OFC) throughout the competition. The OFC Champions League badge may not be used in any other competition or at any earlier stage of the competition.

#### Items which do not form part of the playing attire

- 19.23 From the group stage onwards, all items worn by players and club officials which do not form part of the playing attire (shirt, shorts and socks) must be free of sponsor advertising. Manufacturer identification is allowed. This provision applies:
  - a) to any official training session before the match;
  - b) to any media activities (in particular for interviews and press conferences and appearances in the mixed zone) before and after the match;
  - c) on the day of the match from arrival at the stadium until departure from the stadium

## Special material used in the stadium

- 19.24 From the play-offs, all special material used in the stadium, such as kit bags, medical bags, drink containers, etc., must be free of any sponsor advertising and/or manufacturer identification. This provision applies:
  - a) to any official training session before the match;
  - b) to any media activities (in particular for interviews and press conferences and appearances in the mixed zone) before and after the match;
  - c) on the day of the match from arrival at the stadium until departure from the stadium.

## **Balls and official ball**

- 19.25 The Official Match Ball for the OFC Champions League shall be selected by OFC and ten [10] match balls will be supplied to each Club. The Official Match Ball must be used for all matches of the OFC Champions League. Failure to comply with this regulation will result in OFC awarding victory and the resultant three [3] points to the opposing team as well as the score of 3-0. The Club may also be disqualified from the OFC Champions League.
- 19.26 The Official Match Ball chosen for the OFC Champions League shall conform to the provisions of the Laws of the Game and FIFA Equipment Regulations. They shall bear one of the following three designations: the official "FIFA APPROVED" logo, the official "FIFA INSPECTED" logo or the reference "INTERNATIONAL MATCH BALL STANDARD".
- 19.27 The applicable official OFC Champions League match ball determined by the OFC administration must be used for all matches from the play-offs and for the official training sessions before these matches.

## **XII Referees**

## Article 20

20.01 The referee team is composed of the referee, two assistant referees, the fourth official and, if appointed, two additional assistant referees.



## Appointment

20.02 The Referees Assistance Programme (RAP) officials for OFC in cooperation with the OFC administration, appoints the referees for each match.

#### Arrival

- 20.03 The referee team must arrange to arrive at the venue the day before the match.
- 20.04 If a member of the referee team does not arrive at the match venue by the evening before the game, the OFC administration and both clubs must be informed immediately. The Referees Assistance Programme (RAP) officials for OFC in cooperation with the OFC administration, takes the appropriate decisions and shall decide to replace a member of the referee team, such a decision is final, and no protests against the person or nationality of the member of the referee team are allowed.

#### **Unfit referee**

20.05 If a referee or assistant referee becomes unfit before or during a match, and is unable to officiate, he is replaced by the fourth official.

#### **Referee's report**

20.06 Directly after the match, the referee validates the official match report and has it sent to the OFC administration together with both match sheets.

#### **General Coordinator**

- 20.07 A General Coordinator will be appointed by OFC for each match who will be solely responsible for all aspects of the match organization.
- 20.08 Match Coordination Meeting shall be held at any time before the match but no later than at the latest 10H00 on the morning of the match.
- 20.09 The General Coordinator must complete the General Coordinator Report with a copy of the Start List and transmit them together with the Referees Report to OFC by fax [+649 529 5143] within 3 hours of the completion of the match. In addition, the originals must be sent by express mail within 24 hours of the Match Day.

#### **Referee Assessor**

20.10 A Referee Assessor will be appointed by the OFC from the host association for each match who shall also double as the double as the referee liaison officer who shall be responsible for taking care of the Match Officials during their stay in the Host Country.



- 20.11 In the event that the Referee Assessor is not from the Host Country, the Match Officials are taken care of by a Referee Liaison Officer, who shall be an official representative of the Member Association of the Home Club.
- 20.12 The Referee Assessor must complete the Referee Assessors Report and transmit it to OFC by fax [+649 529 5143] within 3 hours of the completion of the match. In addition, the originals must be sent by express mail within 24 hours of the Match Day.

#### XIII Disciplinary Law and Procedures – Doping

## Article 21

## **OFC** Disciplinary Regulations

- 21.01 The provisions of the OFC Disciplinary Code apply for all disciplinary offences committed by clubs, officials, members or other individuals exercising a function at a match on behalf of an association or club, unless the present regulations stipulate otherwise.
- 21.02 Participating players agree to comply with the Laws of the Game, OFC Statutes, OFC Disciplinary Code, FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations, well as the present regulations. They must notably:
  - a) respect the spirit of fair play and non-violence, and behave accordingly;
  - b) refrain from any activities that endanger the integrity of the OFC competitions or bring the sport of football into disrepute;
  - c) refrain from anti-doping rule violations as defined by the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations.

## Article 22

## Yellow and red cards

- 22.01 As a rule, a player who is sent off the field of play is suspended for the next match in the competition. A player who receives 2 yellow cards in 2 separate matches of the same stage is automatically suspended from the next match. The OFC Disciplinary Committee is entitled to augment this punishment. For serious offences the punishment can be extended to all OFC competition categories.
- 22.02 Single yellow cards and are cancelled after the preliminary stage and again after the group phase that have not resulted in a suspension during these respective stages to restore the balance between teams that have not played the same amount of matches. Red-card suspensions from matches carry through to the next season.

## Article 23

## Declaration of protests

23.01 Associations and their clubs are entitled to protest.

- 23.02 Protests must reach the OFC Disciplinary Committee in writing, stating the reasons, within 24 hours of a match.
- 23.03 This 24-hour time limit cannot be extended.
- 23.04 The protest fee is NZD500.00. It must be paid at the same time as the protest is filed.

## Article 24

## **Reasons for protests**

- 24.01 A protest is directed against the validity of a match result. It is based on a player's eligibility to play, a decisive breach of the regulations by the referee, or other incidents influencing the match.
- 24.02 Protests concerning the state of the field of play must be submitted to the referee in writing by the relevant officials before the match. If the state of the field of play becomes questionable in the course of the match, the team captain must inform the referee, in the presence of the captain of the opposing team, orally without delay.
- 24.03 Protests cannot be lodged against factual decisions taken by the referee.
- 24.04 A protest against a caution or expulsion from the field of play after two cautions is admissible only if the referee's error was to mistake the identity of the player.

# Article 25

## Appeals

25.01 The OFC Appeals Committee deals with appeals lodged against decisions of the OFC Disciplinary Committee. The OFC Disciplinary Code apply.

# Article 26

## Doping

- 26.01 Doping is defined as the occurrence of one or more of the anti-doping rule violations set out in the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations.
- 26.02 Doping is forbidden and is a punishable offence. In case of anti-doping rule violations, OFC will instigate disciplinary proceedings against the perpetrators and take the appropriate disciplinary measures in accordance with the OFC Disciplinary Regulations and FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations. This may include the imposition of provisional measures.
- 26.03 OFC may test any player at any time.

## **XIV Financial Provisions**

Article 27 Financial provisions

- 27.01 OFC owns the commercial rights for the O-League.
- 27.02 OFC shall bear all the costs and expenses specified in Article 27.05
- 27.03 The home club shall bear all the costs and expenses specified in Article 27.06
- 27.04 The Away Club shall bear all the costs and expenses specified in Article 27.07

#### **Financial provisions for OFC**

- 27.05 OFC shall bear the costs and expenses of the following in relation to the competition;
  - a) international travel for the Away Club for a maximum of 18 persons;
  - b) international travel costs and the daily allowances for the Match Officials;
  - c) match balls for each of the Clubs [x10];
  - d) doping control [if required].
  - e) accommodation for match officials
  - f) meals for match officials [minimum of three [3] per day];

## **Financial provisions for the Home Club**

27.06 The home club shall bear the costs of the following in relation to the home match in this competition;

## a. costs related to internal arrangements;

- i. all match venue[s] and training site[s] costs;
- ii. the provision of adequate safety and security measures at the venue[s];
- iii. suitable insurance policies to cover all risks relating to the organisation of the home match;
- iv. suitable insurance policies against possible spectator accidents or deaths;
- v. any additional internal costs not outlined above.

## b. costs related to the Away Club;

- i. internal transport [maximum 30 persons for the duration of their stay in that country for the match]
- ii. return transfers from the airport;
- iii. return transfers for training sessions [one [1] per day for the duration of their stay in that country for match]
- iv. return transfers for match days.
- v. water [minimum 2 litres per Player on match day];
- vi. ice [minimum 5kg per team on match day]

#### c. costs related the Match Officials;

- i. return transfers from the airport;
- ii. return transfers for training sessions [one [1] per day for the duration of their stay in that country for the match];
- iii. return transfers for match days.
- iv. water [minimum 2 litres per match official per day for the duration of the stay];
- v. ice [minimum 5kg] on match day

## Financial provisions for the Away Club

27.07 The Away Club shall bear the costs and expenses for the following in relation to their participation in the away match;

- i. international air travel [for additional persons outside of the 18 tickets provided by OFC];
- ii. accommodation for away matches
- iii. visas and/ or taxes to and from the Host Country;
- iv. transit costs incurred to and from the Host Country;
- v. incidental costs and expenses incurred during the course of their stay in the Host Country;
- vi. any costs incurred by any persons carrying out duties on its behalf;
- vii. water and ice for non-match days;
- viii. miscellaneous costs, including but not limited to return transport for additional training sessions or team functions and team-related activities;

## XV Exploitation of the Commercial Rights

## Article 28 Commercial rights

28.01 For the purposes of these regulations:

- a) "commercial rights" means any and all commercial and media rights and opportunities in and in relation to this competition including, without limitation, media rights, marketing rights and data rights;
- b) "media rights" means the right to create, distribute and transmit on a linear and/or on demand basis for reception on a live and/or delayed basis anywhere in the world by any and all means and in any and all media, whether now known or devised in the future (including, without limitation, all forms of television, radio, wireless and internet distribution), audiovisual,

visual and/or audio coverage of this competition ("match coverage") and all associated and/or related rights, including fixed media and interactive rights;

- c) "marketing rights" means the right to advertise, promote, endorse and market this competition; to conduct public relations activities in relation to this competition; and to exploit all advertising, sponsorship, hospitality, licensing, merchandising, publishing, betting, gaming, retailing, music and franchising opportunities and all other commercial association rights (including through ticket promotions) in relation to this competition;
- d) "data rights" means the right to compile and exploit statistics and other data in relation to this competitions.
- 28.02 OFC is the exclusive, absolute legal and beneficial owner of the commercial rights. Subject to paragraph 28.03(c), OFC expressly reserves all commercial rights and is exclusively entitled to exploit, retain and distribute all revenues derived from the exploitation of such commercial rights. OFC may appoint third parties to act as brokers or agents on its behalf and/or as service providers in the exploitation of some or all of the commercial rights.

28.03 Exploitation of commercial rights for the OFC Champions League :

- a) Media rights Subject to paragraph 28.03(c), all media rights in and to the OFC Champions League
- b) All other commercial rights OFC has the exclusive right to exploit all other commercial rights and to appoint partnersfor the competition (including the OFC Champions League, the play-offs and the whole qualifying phase). Any such partners appointed by OFC (and any other third party designated by OFC) may have the exclusive right to exploit certain commercial rights (including in respect of their products and/or services) in and to the OFC Champions League and their matches.

In accordance with Article 19 of the present regulations advertising on players' kits is exempt from this exclusivity.

c) Rights of the clubs participating in this competition

The clubs may exploit certain media rights in accordance with the Club Media Rights Guidelines as set out as Annex IV.

In addition and without prejudice to the Club Media Rights Guidelines, the clubs are entitled to (i) use the match coverage of their own matches as OFC shall, at its sole discretion, decide to make available or (ii) in exceptional circumstances, produce their own coverage of their own matches (with a maximum of one camera and subject to OFC's approval given in advance in writing and under conditions notified by OFC) for the clubs' own non-commercial purposes, as defined in Annex IV, such as their own internal training purposes. The licence granted by OFC in respect of all such footage is strictly limited to the above uses. The clubs are responsible for any additional necessary rights or third party clearances required in relation to any such uses.



#### **Promotional purposes**

- 28.04 All clubs participating in the OFC Champions League must grant OFC the right to use and authorise others to use photographic, audio-visual and visual material of the team, players and officials (including their names, relevant statistics, data and images), as well as the club name, logo, emblem and team shirt (including references to the shirt sponsors and kit manufacturers) free of charge and worldwide for the full duration of any rights for
  - (i) non-commercial, promotional and/or editorial purposes and/or
  - (ii) as reasonably designated by OFC. No direct association will be made by OFC between individual players or clubs and any partner. On request, the clubs must supply OFC free of charge with all appropriate material as well as the necessary documentation required to allow OFC to use and exploit such rights in accordance with this article.

#### **Compliance with laws and regulations**

- 28.05 The commercial rights shall be exploited in compliance with relevant laws and regulations.
- 28.06 All contracts that a club (or any third party acting on behalf of a club) enters into in respect of any commercial rights authorised by these regulations in relation to the competition must expire at the conclusion of the OFC Champions League season

## Disclaimer

28.07 OFC declines all responsibility in the event of conflicts arising from contracts between a club or any of its players, officials, employees, representatives or agents and any third party (including, without limitation, their sponsors, suppliers, manufacturers, broadcasters, agents and players) on account of the provisions of these regulations and/or any other OFC regulations and such persons' obligations thereunder.

#### Indemnity

28.08 Each club indemnifies, defends and holds OFC, its subsidiaries and any LOC (as referred to in paragraph 12.09) and all of their officers, directors, employees, representatives, agents and other auxiliary persons free and harmless against any and all liabilities, obligations, losses, damages, penalties, claims, actions, fines and expenses (including reasonable legal expenses) of whatsoever kind or nature

OFC

resulting from, arising out of, or attributable to any non-compliance by the club or any of its players, officials, employees, representatives or agents with the present regulations.

#### **XVI Intellectual Property Rights**

#### Article 29

#### Intellectual Property Rights

- 29.01 OFC is the exclusive owner of all intellectual property rights of the competition, including any current or future rights of OFC's names, logos, brands, music, medals and trophies. Any use of the aforementioned rights requires the prior written approval of OFC, and must comply with any conditions imposed by OFC.
- 29.02 All rights to the fixture list, as well as any data and statistics in relation to the matches in the competition, are the sole and exclusive property of OFC.

#### XVII Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS)

#### Article 30

30.01 In case of litigation resulting from or in relation to these regulations, the provisions regarding the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) laid down in the OFC Statutes apply.

#### XVIII Unforeseen Circumstances

#### Article 31

31.01 Any matters not provided for in these regulations, such as cases of force majeure, will be decided by the Emergency Committee or, if not possible due to time constraints, by the President or, in his absence, by the General Secretary. Such decisions are final.

#### **XIX Closing Provisions**

#### Article 32

32.01 The OFC administration is entrusted with the operational management of the competition and is therefore entitled to take the decisions and adopt the detailed provisions necessary for implementing these regulations.

- 32.02 Any breach of these regulations may be penalised by OFC in accordance with the OFC Disciplinary Regulations.
- 32.03 If there is any discrepancy in the interpretation of the English or French versions of these regulations, the English version prevails.
- 32.04 These regulations were adopted by the OFC Executive Committee at its meeting on Date and come into force on Date.

For the OFC Executive Committee:

David Chung President Date Tai Nicholas General Secretary

OFC