



AFC
CHALLENGE
CUP
2014

Regulations
AFC Challenge Cup 2014



Regulations

AFC Challenge Cup Maldives 2014

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DEFINITIONS

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

<i>Accommodation</i>	Hotels or any other locations providing accommodation to guests for the Competition.
<i>Accreditation or Accredited</i>	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.
<i>AFC</i>	The Asian Football Confederation.
<i>AFC Committees</i>	AFC Committees including The Disciplinary Committee, Appeals Committee, Referees Committee, Technical Committee, Finance Committee, Marketing Committee, AFC Executive Committee, Organizing Committee for AFC Competitions, AFC Professional League Ad-Hoc Committee and such other committees of the AFC as advised by AFC from time to time.
<i>AFC Competitions Committee</i>	The AFC Committee consisting of a Chairman and members whose duties are to organize 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 organization 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.
<i>AFC Delegation</i>	Any officials appointed by AFC, including but not limited to the Head of Delegation, Head of Administration, General Coordinator, Match Commissioner, Referee Instructor/Assessor, Referee, Assistant Referees, Fourth Official, Media Officer, Security Officer, Medical Officer and Technical Study Group Officer.
<i>AFC Headquarters</i>	AFC House, Jalan 1/155 B, Bukit Jalil, 57000 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
<i>AFC Logo(s)</i>	The official logo of AFC, and/or such other official logo, which shall be the only marks used by AFC, where otherwise mutually agreed by the parties.

<i>AFC Official Merchandise</i>	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.
<i>AFC Website</i>	www.the-afc.com
<i>AFCAS</i>	AFC Administration System (AFCAS) is a web-based system to manage the AFC's operations and monitor the status of competition and individual registrations.
<i>Best Category Ticket</i>	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.
<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>Competition</i>	AFC Challenge Cup 2014 which shall include the Matches as set out in the Match Schedule, activities on the field of play (other than matches), opening ceremonies, presentation or closing ceremonies, press conferences or official functions connected therewith.
<i>Competition Data</i>	Any and all information related to the Competition, including Fixture Lists, Image Rights, information and/or statistics about the Participating Member Associations 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.

<i>Competition Marks</i>	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.
<i>Competition Website</i>	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>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 media centres, international broadcast centres, Official Training Sites, designated official hotels (including but not limited to the official hotels for the Participating Member Associations), hospitality and VIP areas and facilities, other areas to which admission is regulated by the accreditation system, and surrounding and adjacent areas to the locations described above.
<i>FIFA</i>	The Federation International de Football Association.
<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.

<i>Host Broadcaster</i>	The organization appointed by AFC directly or indirectly to ensure and provide the production of the broadcast signals of the Matches and other events of the Competition, and the provision of all related services in accordance with the Broadcast Rights.
<i>Match(es)</i>	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.
<i>Match Schedule</i>	The published schedule containing details of the Competition (which details shall include but not be limited to the names of the Participating Member Associations, Venues, Stadia, and details of the Match kick-off times).
<i>Media</i>	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.
<i>Member(s)/Member Association(s)</i>	Those National Associations who are members of FIFA, and who have applied for and been granted Ordinary, Provisional, or Associate membership of AFC. For the purpose of this definition “Ordinary”, “Provisional”, “Associate” membership shall have the same meaning as contained in AFC Statutes.
<i>National Association(s)</i>	The controlling bodies for association football within each country or territory of Asia.
<i>Neutral Venue Organizing Association</i>	Association where the match is being played as a neutral venue and appointed to assist to organize, stage and host the competition.
<i>Official Functions</i>	Any official event organized in connection with the Competitions, including but not limited to press conferences, official dinners or lunches and banquets.
<i>Official Training Sites</i>	Training sites designated by the Organizing Association for use by the Participating Member Associations throughout the duration of the Competition.
<i>Organizing Association(s)</i>	A Member Association(s) and their Local Organizing 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 Team(s)/Participating Member Association(s)</i>	Those teams participating in the Competitions, under the authority of the Member Associations and AFC during the Competition.
<i>Regulations</i>	Those regulations controlled and published by AFC to be used in connection with the Competition.
<i>Stadia</i>	The official stadia (or any stadium) and the airspace and surrounding areas for the Matches, whether under the control of the Organizing Association or otherwise, used for the Matches, including without limitation parking facilities, VIP and hospitality areas, concourses, concession areas, fencing and entrances.
<i>Team's Official Delegation</i>	The Participating Member Association's Official Delegation will comprise of a maximum of 23 players and 8 officials who are named in the Final Registration for the Competition.
<i>Team's Official Duration</i>	The period of time from the official arrival date, to be determined by AFC, till one (1) day after the Participating Member Association's last Match in the Competition.
<i>Ticketing</i>	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.
<i>Venues</i>	Each host city and the immediately surrounding area in which the Stadia are located.

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

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

SECTION 1: REPRESENTATION

1. The Asian Football Confederation

- a) The AFC stages the AFC Challenge Cup (hereafter the “Competition”) for senior men’s national teams with Qualifying Stage (hereafter the “Qualifiers”) and Final Stage (hereafter the “Finals”) once every two (2) years according to Competitions Calendar.
- b) Any rights associated with the Competition which has not been granted by these Regulations and/or specific agreements to a Participating Member Association in the Competition belong to AFC.
- c) AFC stages the Competition with AFC’s Member Association(s) (hereinafter the Organizing Association(s) after the appointment of these 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, organization and hosting of the Competition. Any reference in these Regulations to the AFC Statutes refers to the Statutes valid at the time of entry and to all relevant AFC Regulations, Guidelines, Circulars and Codes.
- e) The winner of the Competition shall qualify directly and undertake to take part in the following competitions:
 - i. AFC Asian Cup 2015 (Final Competition);
 - ii. Other competitions arranged by AFC (if any).
- f) Member Associations are not authorized to represent AFC or the Competition without AFC’s prior written approval.
- g) AFC may appoint match officials including Match Commissioner, Referee Instructor/Assessor, Referees, General Coordinator, 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 organization.
- h) 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 referred to the AFC Disciplinary Committee.

2. Participating Member Associations

- a) The obligations and responsibilities of the Participating Member Associations are stipulated in the Participating Team Agreement (PTA), its annexes and amendments, the AFC List of Requirements and in these Regulations and other AFC regulations, guidelines and circulars and any other agreements reached between AFC and the Participating Member Associations.
- b) Each Member Association taking part in the Competition shall ensure, as a condition of its participation in the Competition that every member of its delegation (players and officials) complies with a Participating Team Agreement to be issued by AFC.
- c) The eligible Member Association shall complete the Participating Team Agreement in full and submit it to the AFC Secretariat not later than the entry deadline communicated to the Member Association. If the Participating Team Agreement does not reach the AFC Secretariat by the entry deadline, the participation of the eligible Member Association will be cancelled.
- d) Only the Participating Team Agreement submitted to the AFC Secretariat by fax and courier post will be valid and taken into consideration.

3. Organizing Association

- a) For the duration of the Competition, the Organizing Association(s), and the relevant government authorities are responsible the following:
 - i. Concluding – with reputable insurers at their own cost – all necessary insurance in connection with the staging and organizing of the matches, including third-party liability and spectator accident coverage;
 - ii. Guaranteeing law and order as well as safety at the venue and in the stadiums, thus ensuring the application of the FIFA Safety Regulations;
 - iii. Complying with the guidelines and instructions issued by AFC.
- b) The Organizing Association(s) shall discharge AFC and hold it harmless from all responsibility and relinquish any claim against AFC and the members of its delegation for any damages resulting from any act or omission relating to the organization and course of the Competition to the exclusion of damages caused by AFC or the members of its delegation acting with intent or gross negligence.
- c) The Organizing Association(s) shall exempt (indemnify and hold harmless) AFC from all third party claims for damages relating to Match organization, regardless of whether individual Matches in question take place or not.

SECTION 2: TECHNICAL REGULATIONS

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

- a) All Matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game laid down by the International Football Association Board and published by FIFA.
- b) In case of any discrepancy in the interpretation of the Laws of the Game, the English version shall prevail and is authoritative.
- c) Only three (3) substitutes listed on the Match Starting List may take part in the Match. A player who has been substituted out may take no further part in the Match.
- d) If there are fewer than seven (7) players on either of the teams, the Match shall be abandoned. In this case, the AFC Competitions Committee (and if required the AFC Disciplinary Committee) shall decide on the consequences.

5. Duration of Matches

- a) Each Match shall last ninety (90) minutes, comprising two periods of forty-five (45) minutes, with an interval of fifteen (15) minutes in between from the whistle ending the first period to the whistle starting the second period.
- b) 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.
- c) If the result is still a draw after the two (2) periods of extra time, penalty kicks shall be taken to determine the winner, in accordance with the procedures described in the Laws of the Game.
- d) 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.
- e) If, through the fault of a Team, the taking of kicks from the penalty mark cannot be completed, Art. 20 c) of these regulations shall apply.

6. 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 organizational 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. 6 a).

7. 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 a match is abandoned as a result of force majeure for any reason after it has already kicked off, the match shall recommence with the same score at the minute at which play was interrupted rather than being replayed in full.

The following principles shall apply to the recommencement of the match:

- the match shall recommence with the same players on the pitch and substitutes available as when the match was initially abandoned;
- no additional substitutes may be added to the 'Match Starting List';
- the teams can make only the number of substitutions to which they were still entitled when the match was abandoned;
- players sent off during the abandoned match cannot be replaced;
- any sanctions imposed before the match was abandoned remain valid for the remainder of the match;
- the kick-off time, date (foreseen for the following day) and location shall be decided by the AFC;
- any matters requiring further decision shall be treated by the AFC.

b) No appeals may be lodged against decisions stated in Art. 7 a).

8. Stadiums (Stadia)

- a) The Stadium for the matches in the Competition shall be nominated upon bidding to host, by the Member Association and subject to inspection and approval by AFC. The cost of the inspection visit will be borne by the Organizing Association.
- 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 Organizing Association shall ensure that no Matches and/or other activities are held at the Stadium(s) nominated for the Matches at least ten (10) days prior to the Competition, unless written permission has been obtained from AFC. Unless specified or directed by AFC otherwise, the Stadia shall be made available for use for the Competition as of seven (7) working days prior to the first Match of the Competition until one (1) day after the last Match of the Competition.

9. Team Bench and Technical Area

- a) Up to a maximum of eight (8) team officials and a maximum of twelve (12) players (substitutes, injured or not playing) are allowed to sit on the team bench during the Match, provided they are in possession of the appropriate accreditation and access card.
- b) All officials and players on the team bench must wear their accreditation card at all times. The accreditation cards shall always be available for inspection prior to the start of the match.

- c) All persons on the bench must wear kits that are contrasting with the kit of the players and referees on the pitch. These kits must comply with the AFC Equipment Regulations.
- d) Team 'A' shall occupy the left hand side bench and Team 'B' shall be on the right hand side as viewed from the Fourth Official Bench.

10. Warming up

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

11. Official Training Sessions at the Stadium

- a) Depending on the weather and condition of the pitch, the Participating Member Association will be entitled to a one (1) hour Official Training Session in the Stadium where they are due to play on one (1) day or two (2) days before the Participating Member Association's first Match in the Stadium concerned.
- b) The field of play must be prepared to match conditions for this session. If the field of play is not in good condition, the AFC Match Commissioner may shorten or cancel the Training Session and direct the teams to inspect the field of play wearing training shoes only.
- c) If an artificial pitch is to be used for the matches, the visiting team is entitled to have either a two (2) one-hour official training sessions or one (1) two hour official training session in the Stadium where they are due to play on, one day or two days before their first match.
- d) If teams choose not to train at the match stadium, they have to inform AFC Match Commissioner of their Official Training time at other designated Official Training Site approved by AFC. This shall be treated as Official Training Session.

12. Official Training Sites

- a) Official Training Sites in good condition and situated near the Teams' hotel shall be made available to the Participating Member Associations at least five (5) full days prior to the first Match in the Competition.
- b) The Participating Member Associations in the Competition shall use only those Training Sites which have been officially designated for training by AFC.
- c) These official training sites are reserved for training and practice matches and shall not be used for other matches and events as from five (5) days prior to the first match in the competition, unless written permission has been obtained from the AFC.
- d) AFC will decide the specific training schedule for the Participating Member Associations.

13. Footballs

13.1 Qualifiers: -

- a) The footballs for the Qualifiers shall be selected and supplied by the Organizing Association as follows:
 - i. Organizing Association must provide ten (10) new match balls for each match of the Qualifiers;
 - ii. Organizing Association must provide ten (10) new training balls to the Participating Member Associations at the Qualifiers venue;
 - iii. Only FIFA Approved balls are allowed to be used for the Qualifiers.

13.2 Finals: -

- a) The footballs for the Finals shall be selected and supplied by AFC as follows:
 - i. Each Participating Member Association will receive fifteen (15) training balls before the competition;
 - ii. Participating Member Associations are only allowed to use the training balls provided by AFC for training and warming-up purposes.
- b) Whenever the footballs are delivered to Organizing Association, the Organizing Association is responsible to cover the cost of storage, any taxes and/or fees pertaining to the clearance of these footballs.

14. Match Schedule

- a) All Matches shall be played according to the dates, stadium and kickoff times as set by the AFC Competitions Committee.

15. Competition System

- a) The Competition shall consist of following Stages:
 - i. Qualifying Stage
 - and
 - ii. Final Stage consisting of the Group stage (League system) and Knockout stage consisting of the Semi-finals, 3rd/4th play-off match and Final match (Knockout system)
 - a. The winner and the runners-up of each group in the Finals – Group stage shall qualify for the Semi-Finals;
 - b. The winners of Semi-Finals will play in the Final and the losers of Semi-Finals will play 3rd/4th placing play-off match.
- b) 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.

16. Technical Rules for the Competition

- a) In groups composed of several teams, with three (3) points awarded for a win, one (1) point for a draw and zero (0) point for a loss (league system).
- b) 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 as follows:
 - 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;
 - C) Greater number of goals scored in the group matches between the Teams concerned;
 - 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 1);
- H) Drawing of lots.

16.1 Qualifiers: -

- a) Should the best/better ranked second placed teams be required to participate in the AFC Challenge Cup 2014 (Finals), eligible teams shall be determined according to the following criteria (Please see Appendix 2 for illustration and in case where teams have played unequal number of group matches):
 - A. Number of points obtained in the group matches;
 - B. Goal difference in the group matches;
 - C. Greater number of goals scored in the group matches;
 - D. Fewer score calculated according to the number of yellow and red cards received in the group matches (please see Appendix 1);
 - E. Drawing of lots.

16.2 Finals: -

Group Stage

- a) The teams of the eight (8) Participating Member Associations taking part in the Competition shall be divided into two (2) groups of four (4) teams each.

Knockout Stage

- b) In the knockout stage, 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 ninety (90) minutes, extra time shall be played as per Art. 5. If the result is still a draw after the two periods of extra time, penalty kicks shall be taken to determine the winner as per Art. 5.

SECTION 3: ENTRIES FOR COMPETITION

17. Entries

17.1 Qualifiers:-

- a) The AFC shall determine the Member Associations who are eligible for the Competition.
- b) The eligible Member Association shall complete an official entry documents in full and submit it to the AFC not later than the entry deadline communicated to the national associations.
- c) All decisions by the AFC Competitions Committee regarding entries are final and not subject to appeal.

17.2 Finals:-

- a) Member Associations may participate in this stage of the Competition by virtue of:
 - i. Qualifying through a preliminary competition (Qualifiers);
 - ii. Being invited.

18. Eligible Teams

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

19. Duties and Obligations

- a) On entering the Competition, the Member Associations shall automatically undertake:
 - i. To observe any agreements entered into with AFC as well as AFC Statutes, Regulations, policies, decisions, guidelines and circulars issued by AFC and the applicable national and supra-national laws;
 - ii. To comply with the Laws of the Game laid down by the IFAB and published by FIFA;
 - iii. To accept that all the administrative, disciplinary and refereeing matters connected with the Competition shall be settled by AFC in compliance with these Regulations or the decisions of relevant AFC Committee(s);

- iv. To field their strongest team throughout the Competition;
- v. To observe the principles of Fair Play;
- vi. 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;
- vii. To accept all the arrangements made by the Organizing Association in agreement with the AFC;
- viii. To attend and participate in all official activities and events such as Team Manager's Meeting, Press Conferences, other Media & Marketing activities, etc. organized by AFC and/or the Organizing Association in accordance with guidelines and/or instructions in circulars issued by AFC regarding, in particular, Media access to Teams. Failure to attend the team managers' meeting, Press Conference and other official function in the Competition will result in the Member Association being fined US\$5,000.00 (Five Thousand US Dollars only);
- ix. To accept the use and/or sub-license by AFC of any of the records, names and images of the Member Association (including its mark), players and officials, including any still and moving representation thereof, which must appear or be generated in connection with the Participating of the Member Association and its Players and Officials in the Competition.

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

- i. To make the appropriate arrangements for the staging of their matches, visiting teams and AFC Delegation in accordance with the Regulations;
- ii. To guarantee that access to the stadium will be granted to the AFC Delegation, officials and players of the visiting teams, sponsors, traveling fans and media without any discrimination of gender, race or nationality.

20. Withdrawal, penalty for failing to play and replacement

- a) Participating Member Associations shall play in all of their matches in the Competition.
- b) Participating Member Associations that withdraw prior to, or are excluded from playing in the Competition, may be replaced by another Member Association. AFC Committees concerned shall make the relevant decision, including a change in the Competition system and the Technical Rules for the Competition if necessary.

- c) If a Participating Member Association withdraws after entering or does not report for a Match at any Stage of the Competition, except in cases of Force Majeure recognized by the AFC Competitions Committee, or if it refuses to continue to play or leaves the stadium before the end of the Match, the Participating Member Association shall:
- i. Be considered to have withdrawn from the Competition;
 - ii. Have all 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 Participating Member Associations, the AFC and AFC's Commercial and TV partner(s). The amount of compensation will be determined by the AFC Executive Committee;
 - iv. Be disqualified from taking part in the next edition of the Competition (and its qualifying competitions, if any);
 - v. Be disqualified from taking part in the Finals, if qualification has been attained;
 - vi. Be referred to the AFC Disciplinary Committee for additional sanctions and fines depending on the gravity of the situation, then to AFC Executive Committee for final decision;
 - vii. Return to the AFC any financial stipends that had been paid to them by AFC throughout the Competition or forfeit the right to the same;
 - viii. AFC Executive Committee may extend the suspension depending on the gravity of the situation and/or damages.
- d) The AFC Competitions Committee shall take whatever action it deems necessary in cases of Force Majeure.

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

21. Size of Delegation Attending Matches

- a) Each Participating Member Association is entitled to an Official Delegation of a maximum of twenty three (23) players and eight (8) officials who must be registered by the Member Association as per Article 22-31. The team's Official Delegation will be 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 four (4) officials, who will receive the same access to all competition areas. However, the total number of officials who will sit on the team bench must not exceed eight (8) officials, including head coach, as confirmed by the "Officials on the Team Bench" form submitted prior to the start of the match.

22. Eligibility of players

- a) A player is eligible to play in the Competition provided he fulfils all the following conditions:
 - i. He is duly registered with the AFC by the Member Association according to the provisions of these Regulations;
 - ii. He is a bona fide citizen of the country he represents, provided he fulfills the provision of Art. 24 c).
- b) A player is deemed ineligible if:
 - i. There is a violation of Art. 22 a);
 - ii. He is fielded despite being served a suspension;
 - iii. AFC finds that a document(s) submitted during registration is/are false.
- c) In the event there is a dispute pertaining to the status of a player, the case will be referred to FIFA.

23. Stages of Registration of Players

- a) There are three (3) stages of player's registration:
 - i. Preliminary Registration to determine a squad of a minimum of eighteen (18) players and up to a maximum of fifty (50) players;

- ii. Final Registration to specify a minimum 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.

24. Documentation of Registration of Players

- a) For the registration of players for the Competition, players must be registered using the 'AFC Challenge Cup – Official Registration Form for Players' or/and via AFCAS Online Registration with the supporting documents in accordance with Art. 24 b) by the deadline announced by AFC.
- b) Documentations for the registration of players are, but not limited to, the following (unless already previously submitted to AFC and available in AFCAS):
 - i. Official Registration form for Players;
 - ii. Color Copy of valid passport containing full name, passport number, date of birth, date of issue, date of expiry and nationality (group passport will not be accepted);
 - iii. Color Copy of national ID (when applicable);
 - iv. Passport-size colored photo (taken within 3 months prior to the submission of the registration).
- c) In cases of registration of naturalized players, the Member Associations concerned must present proof of naturalization by providing supporting documents issued by the competent authorities of their countries as proof of the Player's nationality in accordance with the Regulations Governing the Application of the FIFA Statutes. The supporting documents are, but not limited, to those listed in Appendix 3.
- d) AFC reserves the right to request for additional documents than those stipulated in clauses b) and c) above.

25. Principles for Registration of Players

- a) Throughout on every stage of Competition a Participating Member Association can register no less than eighteen (18) players and no more than fifty (50) players for the Competition in the Preliminary Registration in accordance with Art. 26.
- b) If a Participating Member Association fails to register a minimum of eighteen (18) players, the team will be considered to have withdrawn in accordance with Art. 20 c).

- c) Throughout the every 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 submitted to AFC during the preliminary registration:

- For Qualifiers – from 1-50;
- For Finals – from 1-23.

Jersey number 1 shall be reserved for the Goalkeeper.

- d) Participating Member Association must register a minimum of three (3) goalkeepers in their Preliminary and Final Registration for the players without any condition.
- e) Each column in the AFC Official Registration Form for the Players must be completed with correct information.
- f) Players with missing documentations will not be eligible for registration. All eligible players will be issued with official eligibility cards (Accreditation Card). Should the card have been misplaced, the teams shall be required to pay a USD 1,000 (One thousand US Dollars only) production fee for every card lost, to replace it.
- g) In case any Participating Member Association found guilty of violating Art. 22 b), the sanction will be pronounced in accordance with AFC Disciplinary Code.
- h) It is responsibility of the Member Association to ensure that all forms and supporting documents in accordance with Art. 24 are sent in good time and reach AFC Secretariat in Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia or submitted via AFCAS online registration before the deadline announced by AFC. Proof of submission is not proof of receipt.
- i) Should the AFC Secretariat not receive the AFC Official Registration Form with all required document by the deadline announced by AFC, the Participating Member Association shall be automatically disqualified from the Competition and be considered to have withdrawn in accordance with Art. 20 c).

26. Preliminary Registration of Players

- a) Each Member Association entering the Competition shall submit to AFC Secretariat, via fax, courier or online registration, the AFC Official Registration Form for the Players and the supporting documents in accordance with Art. 24 by the deadline announced by AFC.
- b) Once the AFC Official Registration Form has been received by AFC and after the deadline under no circumstances will the Member Associations be allowed to submit additional names or replacement of players for registrations, even if their quota of fifty (50) players has not been fulfilled.

27. Final Registration of Players

- a) Participating Member Associations 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 fifty (50) players in the Preliminary Registration:
 - For Qualifiers – at the Team Managers’ Meeting;
 - For Finals – at ten (10) days before the First Match of the Competition
- 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, Participating Member Associations can still replace any of these players on any grounds, up until six (6) hours before their first Match in the Competition.
- c) However, the replacement player (i.e. ‘new player’) must be nominated from the list of up to fifty (50) players already registered in accordance to the Preliminary Registration of Players.
- d) Participating Member Association must hand over the Accreditation card of the player to be replaced to the AFC Match Commissioner. The AFC Match Commissioner will then, in exchange, hand over the Accreditation card of the replacement player.
- e) Only when the replacement player has received his Accreditation card will he be considered to be registered for the Competition and eligible to participate in the Competition.

28. Match Starting List

- a) Participating Member Associations must hand their ‘Officials on the bench’ list with the names of eight (8) officials who shall be entitled to sit on the bench and ‘Player Selection List’ with the names of eleven (11) players who will start the Match and other twelve (12) players who are designated as either substitutes, suspended or not playing, to the AFC Match Commissioner at least ninety (90) minutes before the kick-off of their Match. The team captain must be identified on the ‘Player Selection List’.
- b) After the ‘Match Starting List’ has been completed and signed by both Teams and returned to the AFC Match Commissioner, and if the Match has not yet kicked-off, the following instructions apply:
 - i. If any of the eleven (11) players listed on the Match Starting List selected to start the Match are not able to start the Match for any

- reason, they may be replaced by any of the substitutes listed on the Match Starting List. During the Match, three (3) players may still be replaced;
- ii. The replaced players shall no longer be eligible to participate in the match.

29. Registration of Officials

- a) Each Member Association entering the Competition shall submit to AFC Secretariat, via fax, courier or online registration, the AFC Official Registration Form for Officials and the supporting documents in accordance with Art. 30-31 by the deadline announced by AFC.

30. Documents for Registration of Officials

- a) For the registration of officials for the Competition, officials must be registered using the 'AFC Challenge Cup – Official Registration Form for Officials'.
- b) Documentations for the registration of Officials are, but not limited to, as following (unless already previously submitted to AFC and available in AFCAS);
 - i. Official Registration form for Officials;
 - ii. Passport-size colored photo (taken within 3 months prior to the submission of the registration);
 - iii. Color copy of valid passport containing full name, passport number, date of birth, date of issue, date of expiry and nationality (group passport will not be accepted);
 - iv. Color copy of National ID (when applicable, unless the official is a foreigner from a non AFC Member Association);
 - v. Certificate/Qualifications based on his/her function:
 - A. Head coach and Assistant Coach: Individual's coaching certificate or coaching license;
 - B. Doctor: Medical Qualification.
- c) AFC has the right to ask further documentations for the clarification of the eligibility of the officials other than documentations listed in the Art. 30 b).

31. Principles of Registration of Officials

- a) The Participating Member Associations can nominate maximum twelve (12) officials in the registration.

- b) The Participating Member Association is entitled to register 'Video Analyst', as one of officials who will record the Matches in the Competition while this recording shall be strictly used only for technical purpose and not interfere with match operation.
- c) Each column in the AFC Official Registration Form for the Officials shall be filled up with correct information.
- d) Officials with missing documentations will not be eligible for registration. All eligible Officials will be issued with Accreditation card. Should the card have been misplaced, the Member Association shall be required to pay a USD 1,000 (US Dollars One thousand only) production fee for every card lost, to replace it.
- e) It is responsibility of the Member Associations to ensure that all forms and supporting documents in accordance with Art. 30-31 are sent in good time and reach AFC Secretariat in Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia or submitted via AFCAS online registration before the deadline announced by AFC. Proof of submission is not proof of receipt.
- f) Should the AFC Secretariat not receive the AFC Official Registration Form with all required document in accordance with Art. 30, the team shall be automatically disqualified from the Competition and be considered to have withdrawn in accordance with Art. 20 c).
- g) Member Association may replace or add any of its officials on any grounds until seven (7) days before their first Match in the Competition provided all necessary documents have been submitted as per Art. 30-31. Further, the Accreditation Card of the replaced official must be returned to the AFC before the Accreditation Card of the new official can be produced. The new official is not considered part of the Team's Official Delegation until he/she receives his/her Accreditation card.

SECTION 5: LOGISTICS

32. Visa Application

- a) Participating Member Association must apply for entry visas to the country hosting the Competition not later than one (1) month before the first match of the Competition and to pay all visa application costs for itself.
- b) If a Participating Member Association fails to secure a visa in time for their match as a result of non-compliance of Art. 32 a), the Participating Member Association will be considered to have withdrawn in accordance to Art. 20 c).
- c) Organizing Association must guarantee and ensure that entry visa will be granted to the AFC Delegation, officials and players of the visiting teams, sponsors, traveling fans and media without any discrimination of gender, race or nationality.
- d) Organizing 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.

33. Taxes

- a) The Organizing 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 Organizing 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.

34. Arrival & Departure, Travel Arrangements

- a) Each Participating Member Association taking part in the Competition shall arrive in the team hotel reserved for it in the host country by the official arrival date to be determined by AFC and leave one day after the team's last Match.
- b) All Participating Member Associations shall pay for their own airfares (international and domestic airfares) from the Participating Member Associations home venue to the venue of the Competition and vice-versa.
- c) Participating Member Associations are required to purchase the published-fare air tickets (full fare air tickets) for their delegation to and from the Host Country to allow for potential change of departure dates. 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.

- d) Any costs relating to non-compliance to Art. 34 b), c), d) or e) shall be borne by the Participating Member Association concerned.
- e) Participating Member Association shall undertake not to play in any commercially driven Matches when traveling to and from the venue of the Competition.

35. Accommodation, Local Hospitalities, Meals and Refreshments

- a) Only official hotels approved by AFC shall be used for Accommodation.
- b) The Participating Member Associations will be provided with the following in the official hotel for the Official Delegation for the Team's Official Duration:
 - i) Accommodations for the Team's Official Delegation as per Art. 21, not exceeding thirty-one (31) persons [Eleven (11) double rooms, nine (9) single rooms]. All rooms must be on the same floor whenever possible or split to two floors, depending on the hotel floor layout.
 - ii) One (1) empty room shall be set aside for each Participating Member Association at the team's hotel for the purposes of medical treatment and storage.
 - iii) Minimum of one (1) briefing room for four (4) teams on sharing basis for the whole duration of the Competition shall be set aside at the team's hotel equipped with whiteboard, DVD player and TV.
 - iv) Suitable meals three times a day in international buffet style of sufficient quantity and an additional light meal on Match days in a dedicated dining area for each Participating Member Association's Official Delegation.
 - v) A minimum of three (3) liters of water per person per day for each Participating Member Association's Official Delegation ice and refreshments for the teams at the hotel.
 - vi) A minimum of three (3) liters of water per person per day for each Participating Member Association's Official Delegation ice and refreshments for the teams per training session and per Match.
 - vii) Laundry but no dry cleaning or pressing for playing and training outfits (6 pieces per day per person) for each Participating Member Association's Official Delegation.

viii) Liaison Officers proficient in English and the language of the Organizing Member Associations.

- c) The Participating Member Associations shall pay for incidental expenses incurred by its delegation members during the course of their stay in the host country and for any costs incurred by additional members of the delegation and extending their stay other than those mentioned in these Regulations.
- d) The Organizing 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 Venue, transportation services from the hotel Accommodation and the centre of Venue and, if applicable, air transportation to the Venue.

36. Local Land Transportation

- a) The Participating Member Associations will be provided with the following for the Official Delegation for the Team's Official Duration:
 - i. One (1) bus with forty-five (45) seats 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 during airport transfers and on Match days, as well as hotel transfers between venues (if applicable).

SECTION 6: MEDIA

37. General requirements

- a) The Organizing Association is responsible to ensure all Media requirements and facilities, as stated in the AFC Stadia Regulations, are met at its own cost.
- b) The Participating Member Associations are encouraged to link the Competition website (www.the-afc.com) to its own website respectively upon entry to the Competition.

38. Media Accreditation

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

39. 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 Organizing 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 Organizing 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.

40. Training Session

- a) All Training Sessions must be opened to the Media. Should the Participating Member Associations wish to close its Training Session to the Media, it shall open for at least the first fifteen (15) minutes of the training. If the Training is to be held at the Match stadium, the areas accessible by the Media shall be the same areas available to them on Match day, and the access to such areas must be security controlled.

41. Press Conferences

- a) The Participating Member Associations must attend a pre-Match press conference to be conducted under supervision of AFC Media Officer and/or AFC Match Commissioner one day prior to each match of the Competition.
- b) The Head Coach of each Participating Member Associations is obliged to attend and participate in a pre-Match/Tournament press conference to be held at least one day before the Match.
- c) Both teams are obliged to ensure attendance of their Head Coach at Post-Match press conference after each match.
- d) Interpretation of the coaches and players' language into English during the interview with media and at the press conferences is the responsibility of each participating team. Interpretation into local language will be the responsibility of the Organizing Association.
- e) Non-compliance with clauses a), b) and c) above will result in disciplinary action which may include a fine of a minimum of USD 1,000 (US Dollars One thousand only) and the Head Coach may be subject to a ban from the dressing room and/or the substitutes' bench.

42. Mixed Zone

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

43. Interviews

- a) If requested by AFC, the Participating Member Associations should have their Head Coach and one player available for the day before each Match and/or on the Match day for an interview of up to ten (10) minutes, to be recorded by the main TV rights-holding broadcaster (or local TV rights-holding broadcaster) or by AFC's official website www.the-afc.com in the territory of the relevant Team, for the purpose of continental news-exchange distribution to all Competition Right holders.
- b) Players and officials of Participating Member Associations are not permitted to give interviews during the Match on the field of play or in its immediate vicinity. However, the AFC Media Officer and/or AFC Match Commissioner may designate an area between the substitutes' benches and dressing rooms in which "flash" interviews for the Host Television Broadcaster only, including the visiting TV rights-holding broadcaster if there is, can take place at the end of the Match. Players and officials violating this Article will be subject to disciplinary measures.
- c) If requested by AFC for the 'flash' interviews, the Head Coach and at least one (1) key player from both Participating Member Associations must be available for at least the Host Broadcaster and the TV rights-holding broadcaster.
- d) All interview locations should be assigned by AFC Media Officer and/or AFC Match Commissioner.

44. Audio/Video Recording of Matches

- a) The Organizing Association is responsible, at its own cost, to provide four (4) copies of DVD of each match of the Competition to AFC General Coordinator or AFC Match Commissioner immediately after the match. The Organizing Association shall guarantee the DVD is of good quality and covering entire duration of the match.
- b) Failure to provide any of the provision of Art. 44 a) will result in a minimum fine of USD 5,000 (US Dollar Five thousand) and any further action that AFC Disciplinary Committee may deem necessary, which may include the forfeiture of host subsidies (if any) due to the Organizing Association.
- c) The Participating Member Associations in the Finals will be provided with Digital Video Disc (DVD) of each Match of the Competition by AFC.

SECTION 7: EQUIPMENT/KIT

45. AFC Equipment Regulations

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

46. Sleeve Patches

- a) Each Participating Member Association shall, for each Final Stage Match in which it participates, allow space on the sleeves of the players uniform available (or such other part of the player uniform as AFC may determine) to affix to the relevant Match identifier in a form, manner and position to be determined by AFC as below.
 - i) AFC Challenge Cup sleeve patch on the right;
 - ii) AFC Fair Play Logo sleeve patch on the left.

47. Kit Approval Procedure

- a) The Equipment Regulations require the Participating Member Associations to submit to AFC, for AFC's approval, one sample of all kit which the AFC Equipment Regulations cover. At the same time, when required, the Participating Member Associations shall submit also to AFC, for AFC's approval, one sample of all other apparel to be worn by their Team's Official Delegation within the Controlled Access Areas during the Competition Period.
- b) The Participating Member Association shall submit to the AFC Secretariat the above-mentioned equipment by a date to be determined by AFC. If any equipment submitted infringes any of the AFC Equipment Regulations and/or event Regulations, AFC will require the Participating Member Associations to take corrective action and resubmit to AFC the corrected equipment.
- c) All items to be used by a Participating Member Associations within the Controlled Access Areas during the Competition period shall be subjected to AFC's approval in accordance with the procedure set forth by AFC.
- d) The AFC Match Commissioner, the AFC General Coordinator, and/or the AFC Marketing Manager has/have the right and duty to check kit items at the Match venue and are entitled to send such items to the AFC Headquarters for further control after the Match.

48. 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 Member Association and its sponsor(s) on account of the advertising provisions of the AFC Equipment Regulations. The teams agree to hold AFC harmless from any and all damages which may arise from decisions regarding kits.

SECTION 8: TICKETING

49. Policy

49.1 Qualifiers: -

- a) The entire ticketing system regulating ticket design, pricing policy, procedures and implementation shall be approved by AFC.
- b) Cost of printing match tickets shall be borne by Organising Association.

49.2 Finals: -

- a) The entire Ticketing system regulating ticket design, printing, pricing strategy, procedures, and implementation plan is AFC's responsibility and will be drawn up in cooperation with the Organising Association.
- b) The Organising 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 requested and/or agreed by AFC as parts of the ticket design.

50. Terms and Conditions

- a) For the Finals, AFC will, in collaboration with the Organising Association, 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.

51. Complimentary Tickets

- a) Each Participating Member Association shall be provided with the following allocation per Match it features in:
 - i. One (1) VVIP ticket;
 - ii. Five (5) VIP tickets;
 - iii. Twenty (20) 'Category 1' tickets.
- b) Each Participating Member Association shall be provided with two (2) 'Category 1' tickets per Match other teams feature in.

52. Purchasable Tickets

- a) Each Participating Member Association has the right to purchase up to 8% of net saleable capacity of each stadium for the Match it features in, in segregated and safe area determined by AFC and Organizing Association.
- b) This 8% allocation shall be comprised of a mixture of 'Category 1' and 'Category 2' tickets. The Participating Member Associations must declare the number of seats required (up to 8% of the net saleable capacity) one month prior to the start of the competition. The Participating Member Associations is responsible for the cost of all seats declared.

SECTION 9: MEDICAL AND ANTI-DOPING

53. Medical Treatment

- a) Participating Member Associations must pay for any and all costs of hospitalization, surgical operation and specialized investigative procedures for all members of its delegation.
- b) The Organizing Association must provide, at its own cost, the following to the Participating Member Associations from the Team's Official Duration and to the AFC Delegation from the moment they arrive to the Venue until one (1) day after the Competition:
 - i. Medical treatment, including hospital facilities for injuries and emergencies related to the Match, sustained/occurring during their stay in the host country. The treatment must cover basic/primary medical care as listed below:
 - Outpatient treatment
 - Minor surgeries (suturing, etc.)
 - Radiological Investigation
 - Emergency Treatment
 - ii. An emergency medical room located in close proximity to player's dressing room/field of play, fully equipped with emergency medical supplies.
 - 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 necessary facilities.

54. Medical Personnel

- a) The Organizing Association must provide, at its own cost, the following medical personnel on match day at the Stadium where the match is organized:
 - i. On-Pitch Medical Services:
 - One (1) on pitch Medical Officer trained in Emergency Medicine
 - Eight (8) trained stretcher bearers in good physical condition
 - A team of support Para-medical staff trained in emergency medical care (CPR/ATLS)
 - ii. Doping control personnel:

- One Doping Control Assistant (must be physician)
- Four (4) Doping Stewards
- One (1) Security Officer

55. Anti-Doping

- a) Doping is prohibited. AFC shall inform the Participating Member Associations by means of a circular of the doping control procedure. List of prohibited substances/methods can be downloaded from the AFC or WADA website (www.wada-ama.org)
- b) The AFC Organizing Committee shall be responsible for the approval of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) accredited laboratory which will carry out the analysis of samples.
- c) The AFC Disciplinary Code, the AFC Anti-Doping Regulations, as well as all relevant AFC directives will apply to this tournament.

SECTION 10: DISCIPLINARY LAWS AND PROCEDURES

56. Disciplinary measures and appeals

- a) Disciplinary measures and appeals are dealt with in compliance with the current AFC Statutes, AFC Disciplinary Code, AFC Code of Ethics and the relevant AFC circular(s).
- b) AFC may initiate investigations should it suspect and/or is aware of any violations of the Laws of the Game and contravention of its Statutes, Rules, Regulations, Instructions and decisions by its Member Associations, officials and players.
- c) AFC may impose the disciplinary measures for any violations of the Laws of the Game and contravention of its Statutes, Rules, Regulations, Instructions and decisions by its Member Associations, Officials and Players.

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

- a) A player who receives two (2) cautions (yellow cards) during the Qualifiers or Finals shall automatically be suspended from the Match following the Match in which he received the second caution.
- b) Single yellow card received in the Qualifiers will not be carried forward to the Finals.
- c) If the player receives a second caution during the Team's last match in the Qualifiers, the suspension will be carried forward to the Finals if qualification has been obtained.
- d) Single yellow card received in the Finals – Group Stage will not be carried over to the Semi-Final match.
- e) A player and/or official who received a red card or sent-off during the Competition shall automatically be suspended from the match following the match in which he received the red card or sent-off. If the player and/or official received the red card or sent-off in his team's last match in the Competition, the suspension will be carried forward as indicated in the AFC Disciplinary Code.
- f) Any player and/or official who received a red card or sent-off during the Competition shall remain suspended from further play until his/her case has been decided by the AFC Disciplinary Committee.
- g) A suspended player and/or official shall not be allowed on the substitution bench and technical area.

- h) Each Participating Member Association shall bear the responsibility of monitoring the cautions and/or suspensions received by its players and officials and to ensure that all players and officials registered and/or fielded during the Competition are eligible to play.

58. Indiscipline or Violent Conduct 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 shall be dealt with by the relevant AFC Committees in accordance with these Regulations, the AFC Statutes, Disciplinary Code and Code of Ethics.

59. Protest

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

60. Arbitration

- a) Pursuant to AFC Statutes, Member Associations are forbidden from taking disputes to a civil court but may only submit them to the appropriate body of AFC in accordance with the applicable procedure.
- b) Furthermore, any disputes involving AFC, Member Associations, confederations, leagues, teams, players, officials and licensed agents in connection with the Competition shall be promptly settled by negotiation.
- c) If no solution can be reached, or a formal appeal is envisaged, the issue shall be exclusively resolved under the auspices of the arbitration chamber set forth in the AFC Statutes, namely the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) with headquarters in Lausanne. The Code of Sports-related Arbitration of the CAS and all the relevant CAS Regulations shall apply. The language of arbitration is English.

SECTION 11: ADMINISTRATION

61. Awards

- a) For the Finals, the following Player Awards and Team Award will be presented:
 - i. The Abdullah Al Dabal Most Valuable Player (MVP) of the AFC Challenge Cup 2014;
 - ii. Top Goal Scorer for the AFC Challenge Cup 2014;
 - iii. AFC Fair Play Award for the AFC Challenge Cup 2014.
- b) The Abdullah Al Dabal MVP of the Competition is given to the player who have 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.
- d) The AFC Fair Play Award is awarded to the team who has a best Fair Play record.
- e) There are no official awards other than those listed above, unless otherwise decided by the AFC.

62. Trophy and medals

- a) AFC Competition trophy is presented to the winner of the Competition for one (1) year. AFC may request for the return of the trophy at an earlier date. AFC is responsible for engraving the trophy with the name of the winning Member Association. The trophy will remain the property of AFC. The champion Member Association will be awarded a scaled-down replica of the trophy by AFC as its permanent possession.
- b) The champion Member Association shall be responsible for the loss, or any damage to the trophy (and trophy case) and shall return it in perfect condition when requested to do so by AFC.
- c) The champion Member Association may have a copy of the trophy made, 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 five (35) gold medals to the champion Member Association;

- ii. Thirty five (35) silver medals to the runner-up Member Association;
- iii. Thirty five (35) bronze medals to the 3rd placed Member Association;
- iv. Thirty five (35) Fair Play medals to the Member Association who won the Fair Play Award;
- v. Commemorative medals for Referees.

f) Additional medals may not be produced.

63. 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.
- b) The teams and individuals that qualify to receive the Awards, Trophy and Medals are required to attend the prize presentation ceremony. Teams may be represented by the Team's Official Delegation for the final match awarding ceremony subject to AFC's prior approval.

64. Protocol

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

65. Special Provisions

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

66. 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.

67. Ratification

- a) These Regulations were ratified by the AFC Executive Committee in 13 March 2013 and came into force immediately.

For the AFC Executive Committee

Acting President:
Zhang Jilong

General Secretary:
Dato' Alex Soosay

Kuala Lumpur, 13 March 2013

APPENDIX 1: Determining the Ranking in a group using Fair Play criteria

As provided for in Art. 16 a) 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 2: Determining the best runner-up among the groups

As provided for in Art. 16.1 of this Competition Regulation, in the event that the best second-placed team needs to be determined, the following procedure will be applied (example given here is the determination of best runner-up. However, the same principle applies)

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

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

Illustration 1:

Group A

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

Group B

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

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

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

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

Illustration 2:

Group A

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

Group B

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

Teams in groups A and B have played different number of matches (i.e. teams in group A have played 3 matches while teams in group B have played 4 matches). Therefore, in order to identify the best runner-up among these groups, we need to ensure we are comparing the teams over an equal number of matches.

As the minimum number of matches played is by teams in Group A (i.e. three matches), for the sake of equal comparison, we need to reduce the number of matches played by teams in group B to three matches. As such, the matches between the runner-up team of group B (i.e. team F) and

the bottom team of group B (i.e. team I) will be considered null and void. Note: assume team F beats team I: 3-0.

Once this is done, we will have a new calculation for team F (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 B who has a negative goal difference.

APPENDIX 3: Registration of Naturalized Players: Documents to be provided to AFC

Documents to be submitted for registration of naturalized player who has NOT YET participated in a Match (either in full or in part) in an official competition of any category or any type of football.

No.	Documents	Attached (please tick)
1.	Registration form for naturalized player, including passport photo	
2	Must provide the following:	
a)	Letter from the Member Association of the player's previous nationality stating that the player concerned has never played (either in full or in part) for any representative teams of the Member Association in an official competition of any category or any type of football.	
AND		
b)	Letter from the player himself stating he has never played for any representative teams of any Member Association (either in full or in part) in an official competition of any category or any type of football.	
OR		
c)	Decision of FIFA Players' Status Committee allowing player to change Association	
3.	Clear copy of player's passport	
4.	Clear copy of player's Birth certificate	
5.	Clear copy of player's national ID card when applicable	
6.	Must provide either <u>one of the following</u> evidence:	
a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Birth certificate or passport of father/mother of the player showing he/she was born on the territory of the relevant Association ... AND 	
OR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Documents proving that the father/mother is indeed the biological father/mother of the player ... 	
OR		
b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Birth certificate or passport of grandfather/grandmother showing he/she was born on the territory of the relevant Association ... AND 	
OR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Documents proving that the grandfather/grandmother is indeed the biological grandfather/grandmother of the player 	
OR		
c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Letter from the relevant ministry that the player has lived continuously on the territory of the relevant Association for at least five (5) years after the age of 18 years old. 	