



**OFC**

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**CHAMPIONS  
LEAGUE**

**REGULATIONS**

**OFC Men's Champions League  
2024**

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## DEFINITIONS

In these Regulations:

**Broadcast Rights** refer to the right to broadcast, cause to be broadcast, record, film, photograph, process or transmit the tournament in any form by radio, television, internet and/or any other form of transmission of text, still image, audio and/or video signals currently known or developed hereafter, that is delivered or transmitted wirelessly (e.g. by microwave links, satellite, mobile devices), via fixed line (e.g. wire, closed circuits, online communication such as web casting), or otherwise, live or deferred, in colour or monochrome;

**Club** means a club which participates in a league or competition under the auspices of an Ordinary Member Association;

**Competition** means the OFC Men's Champions League 2024 which includes without limitation, all matches in each stage of the Competition as set out in the match schedule, all activities on the pitch (other than matches), opening ceremonies, official activities, meetings, and events such as the Match Coordination Meeting, press conferences, and other media and marketing activities organised by OFC and/or the Host Association;

**Commencement of the Competition** means the first match of this Competition as set out in the match schedule;

**Commencement of the Centralised Tournament** means the first match of the Centralised Tournament stage of the Competition as set out in the match schedule;

**Commencement of the National Playoff** means the first match of the National Playoff stage of the Competition as set out in the match schedule;

**Commencement of the Qualifying Group** means the first match of the Qualifying Group stage of the Competition as set out in the match schedule;

**Competition Data** means any and all information related to the Competition, including but not limited to, the match schedule, image rights, information and/or statistics about the Participating Club and/or participating players, team officials, and/or match officials, information and/or statistics about their participation and/or performance in the Competition, match analysis, referee decisions, and any other information in relation to the Competition;

**Delegation Member** means any Player or Team Official included in the Official Team List;

**Force Majeure** means any event affecting the performance of any provision of these Regulations arising from or attributable to acts, events, omissions or accidents which are beyond the reasonable control of the 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; but not including events arising as a consequence of failing to action a requirement under these Regulations including but not limited to a delay in obtaining, or failing to obtain, any necessary official document required for international travel;

**Host Association** means an Ordinary Member Association that has been appointed to host a stage or match of the Competition by OFC;

**Hosting Letter of Appointment** means the letter of appointment whereby the Ordinary Member Association received the right to host;

**Marketing Rights** means all rights of commercial exploitation relating to the Competition by any means and in whatever form, currently known or developed hereafter, including, in particular but not limited to, by means of advertising, promotion, marketing, merchandising (including but not limited to publications, musical compositions, coins, stamps, DVDs, videos, apparel and electronic games of any nature), licensing any other rights and/or commercial opportunities relating to, or in connection with, the Competition, including any and all sale and concession rights, displays, sampling and hospitality at any venue of the Competition;

**Match Officials** means any individual appointed to officiate in the Competition in the role of Referee, Assistant Referee, Fourth Official, Fifth Official and any other Match Official stipulated in the Laws of the Game;

**Media Rights** means the right and license to produce, edit, and transmit, for intelligible reception throughout the world in any language and in any format, and on any platform including film, fixed media, digital media, games, internet, public exhibition, radio, mobile, and television, a visual, audio-visual, and/or audio signal and/or image or recording (including without limitation the basic feed, multi feeds, additional feeds, audio feeds, a feed incorporating Competition Data, world feed, and unilateral feeds) of the Competition, and all interview activities and action during and forming part of the Competition including Official Functions and the Image Rights by any and all means of transmission distribution, exhibition and reception, now existing or hereinafter developed including but not limited to analogue, digital, satellite cable and interactive communication systems, on a live, delayed, and unlimited repeat basis, in full or in part (including without limitation by way of clips and/or highlights and/or support programme and/or magazine shows and/or news access), and all rights to exploit any and all commercial opportunities (including for example broadcast sponsorship and commercial airtime opportunities) arising from and/or in connection with such rights.

**OFC** means Oceania Football Confederation Incorporated;

**OFC Competitions** means the OFC Competitions Department;

**Ordinary Member Association** means an OFC Ordinary Member Association as defined in the OFC Statutes;

**Participating Club** means a Club, as defined under these Regulations, that is a member of an Ordinary Member Association that has been accepted for entry into the Competition by OFC;

**Regulations** means this document and any amendments to it notified to the Ordinary Member Associations and Participating Clubs;

**Team** means the final-registered Players and Team Officials of a Participating Club for each match of the relevant stage of the Competition;

**Tournament Health Protocol** means the OFC Tournament Health Protocol (THP) for the Competition.

**Tournament Period** means the period commencing three days before the opening match until one day after the final match, of the Qualifying Group, or the Centralised Tournament.

## GENERAL PROVISIONS

### 1. The OFC Champions League

- 1.1. The OFC Men's Champions League takes place every year.
- 1.2. Every Ordinary Member Association affiliated to OFC may be represented by their Club(s) as determined by Article 2.
- 1.3. These Regulations regulate the rights, duties, and responsibilities of each Host Association, Ordinary Member Association, and Participating Club taking part in the Competition. The Regulations and all guidelines and circulars issued by OFC are binding for all parties participating and involved in the preparation, organisation, and hosting of the Competition.
- 1.4. The OFC Statutes and all OFC regulations, guidelines, circulars, directives, decisions stipulations, protocols and requirements in force shall apply. Any reference in these Regulations to the OFC Statutes and regulations refers to the Statutes and regulations valid at the time of application.
- 1.5. By entering the Competition, the Ordinary Member Associations and Participating Clubs undertake to accept all the obligations on them and the authority of OFC as set out in these Regulations.
- 1.6. Any rights not ceded by these Regulations to the Ordinary Member Associations and to the Participating Clubs in the Competition shall remain with OFC.
- 1.7. Each Ordinary Member Association and Participating Club must oblige their partners and sponsors to use the correct terminology. On entering this Competition, the Ordinary Member Associations and Participating Clubs guarantee to use and promote the following List of Official Terms in all official publications, promotional materials, websites, social media, and both within the respective Ordinary Member Association and when communicating with the media and other external stakeholders.
- 1.8. The Official Terms for this Competition are as follows:
  - 1.8.1. OFC Men's Champions League 2024; and
  - 1.8.2. OFC Champions League.Each Participating Club must oblige their players and team officials to use the correct terminology.
- 1.9. In case the FIFA Club World Cup 2025 Structure will not change, the highest ranked club between the OFC Men's Champions League winners in the four-year period 2021-24 qualifies for the FIFA Club World 2025. In the event of a club winning two or more editions of the OFC Men's Champions League during 2021-24, a club ranking based on sporting merit criteria will be used.

### 2. Entry Criteria

- 2.1. Unless otherwise approved by the OFC Executive Committee, the Ordinary Member Association shall ensure the top domestic championship from which

- the Participating Clubs qualify for the Competition meet the following minimum criteria;
- 2.1.1. minimum six Clubs in the top domestic championship; and
  - 2.1.2. minimum 10 matches for the Club in the top domestic championship.
- 2.2. The Ordinary Member Association must supply the following documents to OFC Competitions by the required deadline:
- 2.2.1. the completed Official Entry Form;
  - 2.2.2. a copy of the top domestic championship regulations;
  - 2.2.3. the results of all matches in the top domestic championship;
  - 2.2.4. a table summary of the final ranking of the top domestic championship; and
  - 2.2.5. the registration periods for the top domestic championship.
- 2.3. No individual or entity may, either directly or indirectly, have control or influence over more than one Participating Club. All Clubs that do not meet this criterion will be excluded from the Competition at any stage.
- 2.4. To be eligible to participate in the Competition, a Club must fulfil the following criteria:
- 2.4.1. it must have qualified on sporting merit (results);
  - 2.4.2. it must have complied with the Regulations of the last OFC Champions League that they participated in and have no outstanding debts related to their participation.
- 2.5. Clubs that are not admitted shall not be replaced.

### **3. Organisation of the OFC Champions League**

- 3.1. The OFC Executive Committee has appointed OFC Competitions to organise the Competition. OFC Competitions shall manage the Competition and have the right to decide on all matters.
- 3.1.1. The OFC Executive Committee has appointed the following Host Associations for the respective stages of the Competition:
- 3.1.1.1. Qualifying Group: Tonga Football Association;
  - 3.1.1.2. Fiji National Playoff: Fiji Football Association;
  - 3.1.1.3. New Caledonia National Playoff: Fédération Calédonienne de Football;
  - 3.1.1.4. New Zealand National Playoff: New Zealand Football;
  - 3.1.1.5. Papua New Guinea National Playoff: Papua New Guinea Football Association;
  - 3.1.1.6. Solomon Islands National Playoff: Solomon Islands Football Federation;
  - 3.1.1.7. Tahiti National Playoff: Fédération Tahitienne de Football ;
  - 3.1.1.8. Vanuatu National Playoff: Vanuatu Football Federation;
  - 3.1.1.9. Centralised Tournament: Fédération Tahitienne de Football .

Each Host Association shall be responsible for hosting the respective stage of the Competition under the general supervision of OFC. Subject to the



approval of OFC Competitions, each Host Association may appoint a Local Organising Committee ("LOC") to organise the respective stage of the Competition. All OFC Competitions decisions are final and binding.

- 3.2. OFC and each Host Association undertake to observe these regulations and to assist, where practicable, in obtaining visas and recommending suitable accommodation for Participating Clubs and OFC Match Officials.
- 3.3. The responsibilities of OFC Competitions shall include, but are not limited to:
  - 3.3.1. supervising general preparations, the draws, and the entries to the Competition;
  - 3.3.2. determining the match schedule, first having consulted with each relevant Host Association;
  - 3.3.3. selecting venues for the Competition after consultation with each relevant Host Association;
  - 3.3.4. choosing the official match ball;
  - 3.3.5. reporting cases where appropriate to the OFC Disciplinary and Ethics Committee;
  - 3.3.6. dealing with cases of cancelled matches, unplayed or abandoned matches;
  - 3.3.7. dealing with unforeseen events; and
  - 3.3.8. dealing with any other aspect of the Competition that is not the responsibility of any other body pursuant to these Regulations or the Hosting Letter of Appointment.
- 3.4. The OFC Referee Department are responsible for appointing Match Officials to each match.
- 3.5. If OFC and/or the relevant Host Association do not own a venue for the Competition, the realm of responsibility must be clarified with the venue owner and clearly defined.
- 3.6. The responsibilities of each relevant Host Association shall include but not be limited to:
  - 3.6.1. ensuring that order and safety are maintained, particularly in and around the match and training venues;
  - 3.6.2. ensuring the presence of a sufficient number of ground staff and security stewards to guarantee safety and security;
  - 3.6.3. drafting, implementing and disseminating the Tournament Health Protocol for the Competition in accordance with their national health requirements and with the approval of OFC;
  - 3.6.4. ensuring that both the match and training venues are in a good condition to host the respective stage of the Competition, including but not limited to the pitch quality, markings and all of the equipment for the field, i.e. goals, nets, corner flags, covered benches for the teams and fourth official;
  - 3.6.5. concluding suitable insurance policies against possible spectator accidents or deaths;

- 3.6.6. concluding suitable insurance policies to cover all risks relating to the organisation of the Competition;
- 3.6.7. providing an adequate number of seats and the necessary installations for all media representatives (television, press, radio, and internet);
- 3.6.8. ensuring that order and safety are maintained around the accommodation of the participating Teams;
- 3.6.9. staging the Competition in a professional manner overall;
- 3.6.10. assigning a dedicated individual for the duration of the event (arrival to departure), who shall be responsible for assisting in the coordination of local transportation, baggage collection and any other needs as they arise for:
  - 3.6.10.1. Each of the Participating Clubs. The liaison must be fluent in the primary language of the country assigned, wherever possible;
  - 3.6.10.2. The Match Officials, including referees, referee assessors, fitness instructors;
  - 3.6.10.3. OFC Executive Committee Members and their guests;
- 3.6.11. assigning a dedicated individual responsible for local/national media relations and coordinating media activities prior to and during the Competition in conjunction with OFC Media Department; and
- 3.6.12. assigning a dedicated individual responsible for local/national TV and broadcast relations and coordinating TV and broadcast activities prior to and during the Competition in conjunction with OFC TV Department.

#### **4. Participating Clubs**

- 4.1. Participation in the Competition is subject to the confirmation of OFC Competitions.
- 4.2. OFC Ordinary Member Associations are entitled to the following number of entries to the Competition:

<b>Ordinary Member Association</b>	<b>Number of entries</b>
Football Federation American Samoa	1
Cook Islands Football Association	1
Fiji Football Association	2
Fédération Calédonienne de Football	2
New Zealand Football	2
Papua New Guinea Football Association	2
Football Federation Samoa	1
Solomon Islands Football Federation	2
Tonga Football Association	1
Fédération Tahitienne de Football	2
Vanuatu Football Federation	2

- 4.2.1. Subject to the confirmation by OFC Competitions, the winner of the top domestic championship of each Ordinary member Association shall participate in the Competition. Where an Ordinary Member Association is entitled to two entries, the runner-up of the top domestic championship shall also participate in the Competition.
- 4.2.2. Where there are two entries from one Ordinary Member Association who are approved to participate in the Competition, the winner of the top domestic championship shall be designated as Team 1 and the runner-up designated as Team 2.
- 4.3. Entry into the Competition is free of charge.
- 4.4. On entering the Competition, the Participating Clubs and the member associations automatically undertake to:
  - 4.4.1. observe these Regulations, the Laws of the Game, OFC's Statutes and regulations, guidelines, circulars, directives and decisions;
  - 4.4.2. take all necessary actions for their players and officials to understand and comply with all the OFC Statutes, regulations, guidelines, circulars, directives, decisions, stipulations, protocols and requirements;
  - 4.4.3. accept and obey the decisions passed by OFC under the terms of these Regulations;
  - 4.4.4. ensure that all Delegation Members (not only its players) observe the principles of fair play;
  - 4.4.5. participate with their best available Team in all matches of the Competition in which their Participating Club is scheduled to take part;
  - 4.4.6. refrain from any illegal, immoral or unethical behaviour that damages, or could damage the integrity and reputation of football and must always cooperate fully with OFC in its efforts to prevent, investigate and sanction such behaviour;
  - 4.4.7. ensure that they have consent of every person:
    - 4.4.7.1. to transfer their personal information to OFC to use for the Competition purposes;
    - 4.4.7.2. to transfer their personal information to relevant third parties such as FIFA, each relevant Host Association, travel agents, hotels, airlines etc;
    - 4.4.7.3. to transfer the Competition Data to third parties; and
    - 4.4.7.4. to post any Competition Data, images, player profile information and statistics on any website;
  - 4.4.8. accept that all the administrative, disciplinary and refereeing matters related to the Competition shall be dealt with by OFC;
  - 4.4.9. accept all the arrangements made by OFC and/or each relevant Host Association;
  - 4.4.10. submit to OFC all the required information and/or documentation no later than as prescribed by the relevant issued circular. Any Ordinary Member Association and/or Participating Club that fails to provide

- OFC with all requested information and/or documentation by a stipulated deadline shall be fined NZ\$ 500 by the OFC for each occasion, except in cases of Force Majeure;
- 4.4.11. accept the usage by OFC and/or sublicense by OFC to third parties, as well as the recordings and broadcast of the images, names and records of Delegation Members that may appear at or in connection with the Competition.
- 4.5. In addition, each Participating Club shall be responsible for:
- 4.5.1. the behaviour 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;
  - 4.5.2. confirming the necessary travel and accommodation arrangements for all Delegation Members in good time;
  - 4.5.3. applying for passports and visas in good time from the relevant authorities, and covering all costs involved (if necessary);
  - 4.5.4. arranging compulsory health, accident and travel insurance cover for all of its Delegation Members prior to departure from their home country;
  - 4.5.5. paying for incidental costs and expenses incurred by its Delegation Members during the course of their stay in the host country and for any costs incurred by any persons carrying out duties on its behalf, all of which must be paid in full prior to departure from the host country;
  - 4.5.6. paying for any costs of extending the stay of any Delegation Member or any persons carrying out duties on its behalf;
  - 4.5.7. attending and participating in all official activities, meetings and events such as team workshops, Match Coordination Meeting, press conferences, welcome function and other media and marketing activities, etc. organised by OFC and/or each relevant Host Association. A Participating Club that fails to attend any official activity, meeting, event and other official functions in the Competition shall be fined NZ\$ 500 by the OFC for each occasion; and
  - 4.5.8. Complying with and implementing (where applicable) the measures identified in the relevant Tournament Healthcare Protocol ('THP') established by each relevant Host Association.
- 4.6. Each Participating Club taking part in the Centralised Tournament stage of the Competition shall deposit a sum of NZ\$ 2500 with OFC no later than 31 March 2024(New Zealand Date) and such monies shall be held as bond to cover the costs set out in Article 36.1.2 and fines incurred by the individual Participating Club. After each stage of the Competition, each Participating Club shall pay in full for all costs set out in Article 36.1.2 and fines incurred by the Participating Club before the start of the next stage of the Competition. Non-payment of such amounts shall exclude the Participating Club from participation in the remainder of the Competition.

- 4.7. The Participating Club may only use its name and/or logo if all the following requirements are satisfied:
  - 4.7.1. the name is mentioned in the constitution or statutes of the Participating Club; and
  - 4.7.2. it is registered at the Ordinary Member Association and used in national competitions; and
  - 4.7.3. the name and logo do not refer to the name of a commercial partner.
- 4.8. In case the FIFA Club World Cup 2025 Structure will not change, the highest ranked club between the OFC Men's Champions League winners in the four-year period 2021-24 qualifies for the FIFA Club World 2025. In the event of a club winning two or more editions of the OFC Men's Champions League during 2021-24, a club ranking based on sporting merit criteria will be used.
- 4.9. The above-mentioned club shall pay to the OFC a sum equivalent to 5% of the total of all prizemoney received by the Participating Club as a result of participating in the FIFA Club World Cup 2025. This sum shall be due no later than one month from the date the Participating Club receives the prizemoney from FIFA.

## **5. Integrity of the Competition and match-fixing**

- 5.1. All persons bound by OFC's rules and regulations must refrain from any behaviour that damages or could damage the integrity of matches and the Competitions and must always cooperate fully with OFC in its efforts to combat such behaviour.
- 5.2. The integrity of matches and the Competition is violated, for example but not limited to, by anyone:
  - 5.2.1. who acts in a manner that is likely to exert an unlawful or undue influence on the course and/or result of a match or Competition with a view to gaining an advantage for themselves or a third party;
  - 5.2.2. who participates directly or indirectly in betting or similar activities relating to competition matches or who has a direct or indirect financial interest in such activities;
  - 5.2.3. who uses or provides others with information, which is not publicly available, which is obtained through their position in football, and damages or could damage the integrity of a match or Competition;
  - 5.2.4. who does not immediately and voluntarily inform OFC if approached in connection with activities aimed at influencing in an unlawful or undue manner the course and/or result of a match or the Competition; and
  - 5.2.5. who does not immediately and voluntarily report to OFC any behaviour they are aware of that may fall within the scope of this Article.
- 5.3. Concerns or complaints of match-fixing must be reported immediately to the OFC Integrity Officer by email to [integrity@oceaniafootball.com](mailto:integrity@oceaniafootball.com).

- 5.4. If filed after the relevant Competition stage has finished, complaints regarding match-fixing can have no impact on the sporting result of the Competition or match in question and, therefore, the match cannot be replayed.
- 5.5. If OFC concludes to its reasonable satisfaction that an Ordinary Member Association or Participating Club has been directly and/or indirectly involved in any activity aimed at arranging or influencing the outcome of a match at domestic or international level, such Ordinary Member Association or Participating Club will be declared ineligible to enter in the Competition.

## **6. Insurance**

- 6.1. The OFC shall provide the OFC Delegation, including Match Officials, travel insurance cover in accordance with OFC's policies from the time of their departure from home to the time of arrival. If they are not travelling internationally, no travel insurance cover will be provided. Match Officials who are not travelling internationally, if injured while officiating at a match or during other official duties, OFC will pay the reasonable medical costs of emergency treatment.
- 6.2. Each relevant Host Association must have public liability and indemnity insurance cover. Such insurance cover must involve an appropriate sum for injury and damage to persons and property and correspond to the specific responsibilities, circumstances of each relevant Host Association. The policies must fully cover all risks concerned with staging of the Competition. Each Host Association must provide to OFC certificates of insurance one month before the Competition commences.
- 6.3. If Vanuatu Football Federation is a Host Association, OFC must be named as an insured party on their policies.
- 6.4. The Participating Clubs must have insurance cover (including travel, medical and public liability) for their delegation, including players and officials, at their own expense, at an adequate level to cover the Competition. Claims for damages against OFC are expressly excluded, and the Participating Clubs shall hold OFC harmless against any such claims.
- 6.5. Each Participating Club must provide to OFC, before the Competition commences, a certificate of insurance of the insurance policies.
- 6.6. Each Participating Club and relevant Host Association shall discharge OFC and hold it harmless from all responsibility and relinquish any claim against OFC and the members of its delegation for any damages resulting from any act or omission relating to the organisation of the Competition other than damages as a result of the negligence of OFC or members of its delegation.
- 6.7. OFC maintains subrogation rights against the Participating Clubs and each relevant Host Association for any liability arising from their participation in the Competition.

## **7. Withdrawal prior to commencement of the competition**

- 7.1. All Participating Clubs undertake to play all of their matches in the Competition until eliminated.
- 7.2. Any Participating Club that:
  - 7.2.1. withdraws from the Competition prior to its commencement; or
  - 7.2.2. is excluded from the Competition prior to its commencement; or
  - 7.2.3. is participating in the Qualifying Group and fails to arrive in the host country with a minimum of 16 Players and 3 Team Officials prior to the Commencement of the Qualifying Group;will be considered to have withdrawn from the Competition prior to its commencement.
- 7.3. In the case of a Participating Club withdrawing prior to the Commencement of the Competition, the OFC shall be responsible for making any decisions, including but not limited to changing the match schedule (cf. Article 14).
- 7.4. Any Participating Club that withdraws prior to the Commencement of the Competition will be liable for disciplinary action by the OFC Disciplinary and Ethics Committee and shall be fined NZ\$ 40,000.
- 7.5. Furthermore, any Participating Club that withdraws may be ordered to reimburse OFC and/or the relevant Host Association for any costs and expenses already incurred as a result of its involvement in the Competition and may also be obliged to pay compensation for any damages or losses incurred.
- 7.6. The OFC Disciplinary and Ethics Committee may also impose additional sanctions, including the right to ban the Participating Club from any other OFC Competition.
- 7.7. The OFC Disciplinary and Ethics committee shall determine the amount of damages for financial loss upon receipt of a substantiated and documented request from OFC and/or the relevant Host Association, and/or the Participating Club.
- 7.8. OFC shall take whatever action is deemed necessary in the case of Force Majeure.

## **8. Withdrawal after commencement of the competition**

- 8.1. Any Participating Club that:
  - 8.1.1. withdraws from the Competition after it has commenced; or
  - 8.1.2. is participating in the Centralised Tournament and fails to arrive in the host country with a minimum of 16 Players and 3 Team Officials prior to the Commencement of the Centralised Tournament;
  - 8.1.3. does not report for a Match; or
  - 8.1.4. refuses to play or continue a Match; or
  - 8.1.5. leaves the match venue prior to the completion of a Match,will be considered to have withdrawn from the Competition after its commencement.

- 8.2. A Participating Club that withdraws from the Competition after it has commenced shall:
- 8.2.1. be disqualified from participating in the Competition;
  - 8.2.2. have all its matches cancelled and considered null and void. OFC will award victory and the resultant three points to the opposing Team as well as the score of 3-0;
  - 8.2.3. be disqualified from participating in the next OFC Competition;
  - 8.2.4. be ordered to reimburse OFC, the relevant Host Association or any other Participating Club for any expenses incurred as a result of its behaviour;
  - 8.2.5. where applicable, be required to pay compensation for any damages incurred by OFC, the relevant Host Association or any other Participating Club. The association in question will also forfeit any claim to financial remuneration from OFC;
  - 8.2.6. be referred to the OFC Disciplinary and Ethics Committee which may impose further sanctions at its discretion, including the right to ban the Participating Club from any other OFC Competition.
- 8.3. Where a claim of damages for financial loss is made, the OFC Disciplinary and Ethics Committee will determine the amount upon receipt of a substantiated and documented request from OFC and/or the relevant Host Association, and/or the Participating Club.
- 8.4. Articles 8.1, 8.2. and 8.3. are not applicable in cases of Force Majeure.
- 8.5. OFC shall take whatever action is deemed necessary in the case of Force Majeure.

## **9. Cancellation or abandonment of a match**

- 9.1. 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:
- 9.1.1. The match is automatically suspended for the duration of 30 minutes to allow conditions to improve sufficiently to restart the match, unless the referee decides that the match can be resumed earlier.
  - 9.1.2. At the discretion of the Referee, another suspension of a maximum of 30 minutes shall be allowed if in his/her opinion this extra period of suspension will allow the match to be resumed. Otherwise, at the end of this second 30-minute period, the Referee must declare the match to have been abandoned.
  - 9.1.3. In the case of an abandoned match, OFC shall decide within two hours of the Referee's decision to abandon the match whether the match result at the time of abandonment is valid or whether a replay shall be organised, taking sporting and organisational considerations into account.



- 9.2. 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:
- 9.2.1. The match must first be delayed for a minimum of 30 minutes, unless the Referee decides that the match can commence earlier, before a decision to reschedule the match is taken.
  - 9.2.2. At the discretion of the Referee, another delay of a maximum of 30 minutes shall be allowed if in their opinion this extra period of delay will allow the match to commence. Otherwise, at the end of this second 30-minute period, the Referee must declare the match to have been cancelled.
  - 9.2.3. In the case of a cancelled match, OFC shall decide within two hours of the Referee's decision to cancel the match whether the match can be rescheduled, taking sporting and organisational considerations into account, or whether any other action and decision is needed to continue with the competition. Any disciplinary sanctions resulting from the cancelled match shall remain in force.
- 9.3. No appeals may be lodged against decisions stated in Article 9.1 and 9.2 above.
- 9.4. In the case a match is abandoned as a result of Force Majeure for any reason after it has already kicked off, the rescheduled match shall recommence with the same score at the minute at which play was interrupted, including penalty shoot-out, rather than being replayed in full. The following principles shall apply to the recommencement of the match:
- 9.4.1. Any recommencement of play must be scheduled so as to comply with the health testing requirements as mandated in the THP. In general, the match shall recommence with the same players on the pitch and substitutes available as when the match was abandoned. However, if a player who was on the pitch when the match was abandoned cannot participate in the recommenced match based on the requirements under the THP, they may be replaced with a substitute player from the Official Start List.
  - 9.4.2. The recommencement of play must be scheduled so as to comply with the health testing requirements as mandated in the THP. In general, no additional substitutes may be added to the list of players on the Official Start List. However, if a player who was a substitute in the abandoned match cannot participate in the recommenced match based on the requirements under the THP, they may be replaced with a player from the provisional list.
  - 9.4.3. The Teams can make only the number of substitutions to which they were still entitled when the match was abandoned;
  - 9.4.4. Players sent off during the abandoned match cannot be replaced;
  - 9.4.5. Any sanctions imposed before the match was abandoned remain valid for the remainder of the match;

- 9.4.6. The kick-off time, date (foreseen for the following day) and location shall be decided by OFC;
- 9.4.7. Any matters requiring further decision shall be treated by the OFC.
- 9.5. The COVID-19 pandemic and related circumstances are not, in and of themselves, considered cases of Force Majeure. However, examples of circumstances resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic that may be submitted to OFC for consideration as cases of Force Majeure include the following:
  - 9.5.1. A Host Association's country's national authorities announce just before a match is scheduled to be played restrictions that prevent the match from being staged;
  - 9.5.2. A Participating Club is not permitted to leave the country from which it is due to fly out as a result of closed borders;
  - 9.5.3. A Participating Club travelling to the country where a match is scheduled to be played is refused entry and returned to its country of origin;
  - 9.5.4. There is an insufficient number of Match Officials available to referee the match.
- 9.6. OFC has sole discretion to determine cases of Force Majeure resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

## DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

### 10. Disciplinary matters

- 10.1. Disciplinary incidents during the Competition are dealt with in compliance with the OFC Disciplinary Code in force as well as with the relevant Regulations, circulars and directives, with which the Ordinary Member Associations and Participating Clubs undertake to comply.
- 10.2. OFC may introduce new disciplinary rules and sanctions for the duration of the Competition. Such rules shall be communicated to the Ordinary Member Associations and Participating Clubs at least two weeks before the Commencement of the Competition.
- 10.3. The Participating Clubs and their Delegation Members agree to comply with the Laws of the Game and with the OFC Statutes and regulations, in particular the OFC Disciplinary Code, the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations and the FIFA Equipment Regulations, as well as with all directives and decisions of OFC. The players and team officials agree to comply with all further OFC guidelines, circulars and decisions that have any significance regarding the Competition.
- 10.4. In addition, the players agree notably to:
  - 10.4.1. respect the spirit of fair play and non-violence;
  - 10.4.2. behave accordingly;
  - 10.4.3. refrain from doping as defined by the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations.

### 11. Disputes

- 11.1. All disputes in connection with the Competition shall be promptly settled by arbitration.
- 11.2. In compliance with the OFC Statutes (Article 44), Ordinary Member Associations, and Participating Clubs and their Delegation Members may not take disputes to an ordinary court of law but to the exclusive jurisdiction of OFC and/or FIFA.
- 11.3. The Ordinary Member Associations, and Participating Clubs and their Delegation Members acknowledge and accept that, once all stages of appeal have been exhausted at OFC and/or FIFA their sole recourse shall be to the Court of Arbitration for Sport ("CAS"). Any such arbitration proceedings shall be governed by the CAS Code of Sports-related Arbitration.

### 12. Protests

- 12.1. For the purpose of these Regulations, protests are objections of any kind related to events or matters that directly affect matches, including but not limited to the state of and markings on the pitch, accessory match equipment, eligibility of players, venue installations and match balls.
- 12.2. Unless otherwise stipulated in this Article, protests shall be:

- 12.2.1. Submitted in writing to the OFC General Coordinator within two hours of the conclusion of the match in question; and
- 12.2.2. Followed up within 24 hours by a full written report, sent via email to [competitions@oceaniafootball.com](mailto:competitions@oceaniafootball.com) including a copy of the original protest, accompanied by a fee of NZ\$ 500 to OFC. No fee is required to lodge a protest to the Referee under Article 12.4 and 12.6.
- 12.2.3. Protests shall be sent by the specified deadline, otherwise they will be disregarded.
- 12.3. Protests regarding the eligibility of Players nominated for matches shall be submitted in writing to OFC Competitions no later than five working days from distribution of the Official Team List, accompanied by a fee of NZ\$ 500 to OFC, otherwise they will be disregarded.
- 12.4. Protests regarding the state of the pitch, its surroundings, markings, or accessory items shall be made in writing to the Referee before the start of the match by the Head of Delegation of the Participating Club lodging the protest.
- 12.5. If the state of the pitch becomes unplayable during a match, the captain of the protesting Participating Club shall immediately lodge a protest with the Referee in the presence of the captain of the opposing Participating Club. The protest shall then be confirmed in writing to the OFC General Coordinator by the Head of Delegation no later than two hours after the match.
- 12.6. Protests regarding any incidents during the course of a match shall be directed to the Referee by the captain immediately after the disputed incident and before play has restarted.
- 12.7. No protests may be made about the Referee's decisions regarding facts connected with play, such decisions being final.
- 12.8. A protest against a caution or expulsion from the field of play after two yellow cards is admissible only if the Referee's error was to mistake the identity of the Player.
- 12.9. If an unfounded or irresponsible protest is lodged, the OFC Disciplinary and Ethics Committee may impose a fine.
- 12.10. Protests shall be sent via email to [competitions@oceaniafootball.com](mailto:competitions@oceaniafootball.com) by the specified deadline, otherwise they will be disregarded.
- 12.11. In compliance with Article 44 of the OFC Statutes, Participating Clubs may not take disputes to a civil court. If decisions are subject to appeal, the Participating Clubs shall undertake to submit any such disputes to the jurisdiction of OFC, and, should the need arise, to FIFA and/or CAS.
- 12.12. Once each stage of the Competition has finished, any protests regarding the sporting procedure during that stage of the Competition shall be disregarded.

### **13. Yellow and Red Cards**

- 13.1. If a Player or Official receives two yellow cards in two different matches in the same stage, they will be suspended from their Participating Clubs next match in the Competition.

- 13.2. If a Player or Official is sent-off as a result of a direct red card or two yellow cards during the same match, they will be automatically suspended from their Participating Clubs next match in the Competition. In addition, further sanctions can be imposed in line with the OFC Disciplinary Code in force at the time of the Competition.
- 13.3. Should a Player or Official finish the Qualifying Group or National Play-off having received one caution, this caution shall not be carried forward to the Centralised Tournament.
- 13.4. Should a Player or Official finish the group matches of the Centralised Tournament having received one caution, this caution shall not be carried forward to the knockout stage.
- 13.5. Cautions and pending yellow card suspensions from the Competition expire at the end of the Competition.
- 13.6. Red card suspensions from the Competition carry through to the next OFC Champions League.

## COMPETITION FORMAT

### 14. Competition format

- 14.1. 18 Participating Clubs shall participate in the Competition.
- 14.2. The Competition shall comprise of three stages:
  - 14.2.1. Qualifying Group;
  - 14.2.2. National Playoff;
  - 14.2.3. Centralised Tournament including a group stage, semi-finals and a final.

#### 14.3. Qualifying Group

- 14.3.1. The Participating Clubs from the Ordinary Member Associations of American Samoa, Cook Islands, Samoa, and Tonga will contest the Qualifying Group stage.
- 14.3.2. The Qualifying Group will be played based on a round-robin, league system where each Team plays each other Team once, according to the league system (three points for a win, one for a draw, and none for a defeat).
- 14.3.3. The OFC Competitions will draw in public the schedule of the Qualifying group stage according to the match schedule below:

<b>MATCH DAY 1</b>	<b>MATCH DAY 2</b>	<b>MATCH DAY 3</b>
1 v 2	1 v 3	4 v 1
3 v 4	4 v 2	2 v 3

- 14.3.4. The Participating Club finishing first in the Qualifying Group qualifies for the Centralised Tournament stage.

#### 14.4. National Playoff

- 14.4.1. The Participating Clubs from the Ordinary Member Associations of Fiji, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tahiti, and Vanuatu will contest the National Playoff stage.
- 14.4.2. The National Playoff will be played home and away according to the match schedule below:

<b>MATCH 1</b>	<b>MATCH 2</b>
Team 2 v Team 1	Team 1 v Team 2

- 14.4.3. The Team which scores the greater aggregate of goals in the two matches will be declared the winner, and their Participating Club will qualify for the Centralised Tournament stage.
- 14.4.4. If the aggregate score at the end of the normal playing time of Match 2 is level, extra time shall be played. Extra time shall consist of two 15-minute periods, with an interval not exceeding five minutes before the first period of extra time begins and a short drinks break (interval) not

exceeding one minute at half-time. The players shall remain on the pitch during both of these intervals.

14.4.5. If the aggregate score is still level at the end of extra time, kicks from the penalty mark shall be taken to determine the winner, in accordance with the procedure specified in the IFAB Laws of the Game.

#### 14.5. Centralised Tournament

14.5.1. The Centralised Tournament stage will be played in a group stage, followed by a knockout stage consisting of the semi-finals, and the final.

14.5.2. The eight Participating Clubs that qualify for the Centralised Tournament stage will be divided into two groups of four Participating Clubs each. The Participating Clubs will be designated as follows:

##### **Group A      Group B**

A1	B1
A2	B2
A3	B3
A4	B4

14.5.3. The group matches will be played following the match schedule below. Each Team will play one match against each of the other Teams in the same group, according to a league system (with three points for a win, one point for a draw, and none for a defeat).

##### **Match Day 1                      Match Day 2                      Match Day 3**

A1 v. A2	A1 v. A3	A4 v. A1
A3 v. A4	A4 v. A2	A2 v. A3
B1 v. B2	B1 v. B3	B4 v. B1
B3 v. B4	B4 v. B2	B2 v. B3

14.5.4. The two Teams finishing first and second in the group will contest the semi-finals as follows:

Semi-final 1	Winner Group A	v.	Runner-up Group B
Semi-final 2	Winner Group B	v.	Runner-up Group A

14.5.5. The two winners of the semi-finals will contest the final.

14.5.6. In the knockout stage matches, if a match is level at the end of normal playing time, extra time shall be played. Extra time shall consist of two 15-minute periods, with an interval not exceeding five minutes before the first period of extra time begins and a short drinks break (interval) not exceeding one minute at half time. The players shall remain on the pitch during both intervals.

14.5.7. If the score is still level at the end of extra time, kicks from the penalty mark shall be taken to determine the winner, in accordance with the procedure specified in the IFAB Laws of the Game.

14.6. If a match played as part of the Competition is abandoned due to a Team having an insufficient number of players available:

14.6.1. The Competition should proceed as scheduled whenever possible;

14.6.2. OFC will decide on the matter.

## **15. The draw**

- 15.1. The Official Draw for the Qualifying Group stage will take place at least one month prior to the Commencement of the Qualifying Group of the Competition.
- 15.2. The Official Draw for the Centralised Tournament will take place no later than two weeks after the last match of the Qualifying Group or the National Playoff, whichever is the latter.

## **16. Determination of the winner of Qualifying Group and Centralised Tournament**

- 16.1. Once the format has been confirmed and Competition has started, any change of format must be approved by the OFC Executive Committee. The ranking in each group is determined as stated in the paragraphs below.
- 16.2. The ranking of each Team in the league system for the group matches in the Qualifying Group and the Centralised Tournament shall be determined as follows:
  - 16.2.1. greater number of points obtained in all round-robin matches;
  - 16.2.2. superior goal difference in all around-robin matches;
  - 16.2.3. greater number of goals scored in all round-robin matches.
- 16.3. If two or more Teams are equal on the basis of the above three criteria, their rankings shall be determined as follows:
  - 16.3.1. greater number of points obtained in the group matches between the Teams concerned;
  - 16.3.2. superior goal difference resulting from the group matches between the Teams concerned;
  - 16.3.3. greater number of goals scored in all the group matches between the Teams concerned;
  - 16.3.4. fair play point system in which the number of yellow and red cards are evaluated;
  - 16.3.5. coin toss (or drawing of lots by OFC).

## **17. Duration of a match**

- 17.1. Each match shall last 90 minutes, comprising two periods of 45 minutes, with an interval of 15 minutes from whistle to whistle.
- 17.2. Extra time shall consist of two 15-minute periods, with an interval not exceeding five minutes before the first period of extra time begins and a short drinks break (interval) not exceeding one minute at half-time. The players shall remain on the pitch during both of these intervals.



## **18. Penalties (penalty shoot-out)**

- 18.1. Penalties (penalty shoot-out) shall be taken in accordance with the procedure specified in the IFAB Laws of the Game.
- 18.2. The penalty shoot-out will take place according to the IFAB Laws of the Game.
- 18.3. 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 of each Team who take each kick in the penalty shoot-out. The Assistant Referees position themselves according to the diagram in the Laws of the Game.
- 18.4. If, at the end of match and before penalty shoot-out begins, one Team has greater number of players than its opponents, it must reduce its numbers to equate with that of its opponents and the Team captain must inform the referee of the name and number of each player excluded. Any player thus excluded may not participate in kicks from the penalty mark.
- 18.5. Before the start of penalty shoot-out, the referee must ensure that an equal number of players from each Team remains within the centre circle, and they shall take the kicks.

## VENUES, DATES AND KICK-OFF TIMES

### **19. Match venues, training venues, dates and kick-off times for matches**

- 19.1. OFC Competitions shall fix the match venue(s), dates and kick-off times. The decisions of OFC regarding the venues, dates, and kick-off times of the matches are final and binding.
- 19.2. OFC Competitions shall ensure that the match venue(s) comply with the FIFA Stadium Safety Guidelines and other OFC and FIFA guidelines and instructions for international matches in force.
- 19.3. Each relevant Host Association is responsible for safety and order in and around the match venue(s) before, during and after the matches.
- 19.4. The match and training venue(s), pitch, markings, equipment and all facilities for each match shall be in optimum condition and comply with the Laws of the Game and all other relevant regulations.
- 19.5. The pitch shall have the following dimensions:
  - 19.5.1. Minimum length 100m, Maximum length 110m;
  - 19.5.2. Minimum width 64m, Maximum width 75m.
  - 19.5.3. OFC's preferred dimensions are 105m x 68m.
- 19.6. In particular, the floodlighting installations at all match venues must meet the minimum lighting requirements laid down by the host broadcaster in conjunction with OFC.
- 19.7. Clocks in the stadium showing the amount of time played may run during the match, provided that they are stopped at the end of normal playing time in each half, i.e., after 45 and 90 minutes respectively.
- 19.8. Each Host Association of the Qualifying Group and the Centralised Tournament shall provide a sufficient number of training venues for the Participating Clubs. The training venues shall be available for at least the Tournament Period.
- 19.9. Whenever possible, the match and training venue(s) for the Qualifying Group and the Centralised Tournament shall not be used for any other matches or events from at least three days prior to the Tournament Period until the Tournament Period is completed, unless OFC gives special permission.
- 19.10. Whenever possible, the match and training venue(s) shall be available and free of all commercial activities and identifications (e.g. boards and other signage) other than those of OFC partners for each match in the Competition.
- 19.11. If, at any time during the Competition, OFC Competitions deems that for whatever reason, some venues may not be fit for staging a match; OFC Competitions may consult the relevant Host Association concerned and ask them to provide an alternative venue in accordance with the requirements of OFC. Should the relevant Host Association not be able to propose an acceptable alternative venue, OFC Competitions will select an alternative venue and make all the necessary arrangements for the staging of the Competition.

## PLAYERS AND OFFICIALS LISTS

### 20. Eligibility of players

- 20.1. Each Ordinary Member Association and Participating Club shall ensure they comply with the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfers of Players and the FIFA Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes in force when selecting its players for the Competition.
- 20.2. Each Participating Club shall certify the following when submitting its Team for the Competition:
  - 20.2.1. all Players shall be eligible to play provided they are duly registered with their Participating Club in accordance with the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players as well as the regulations of the Participating Club's respective Ordinary Member Association, no later than 31 January 2024 (New Zealand date). For clarity, the player must be registered as an amateur or professional with the Participating Club's Ordinary Member Association for the relevant Participating Club during the registration period fixed by the relevant Ordinary Member Association, but no later than 31 January 2024 (New Zealand date);
  - 20.2.2. a Player registered with one Ordinary Member Association may only be registered with another Ordinary Member Association once the latter has received the International Transfer Certificate from the Ordinary Member Association that the Player is leaving;
  - 20.2.3. a Player may not play in the Competition for more than one Participating Club in the course of the same season; and
  - 20.2.4. a Player has had medical clearance to compete in the Competition.
- 20.3. Only players who comply with and pass the testing requirements and timelines stipulated in the THP (negative test result where applicable) will be considered eligible players.
- 20.4. Any Team that is found guilty of fielding an ineligible player shall forfeit the match or matches it has played. Victory and the resultant three points will be awarded to the opposing Team as well as the score of 3-0, or greater, depending on the score of the match. OFC is the competent body to decide in this regard. Decisions taken by OFC are final and binding and not subject to appeal.
- 20.5. The matter is then to be referred to the OFC Disciplinary and Ethics Committee for appropriate disciplinary action against the Ordinary Member Association and/or the Participating Club.

### 21. Official Team List (General)

- 21.1. The Official Team List for the Competition must be completed in COMET to OFC no later than the stipulated deadline prescribed in relevant Circular.

- 21.2. Should the Official Team List not be completed by the stipulated deadline prescribed in Article 21, the Participating Club will be subject to the provisions contained at Article 4.4.10.
- 21.3. Each Player and Official must be registered in COMET, with the COMET ID for each Player or Official containing all of the following items of data;
  - 21.3.1. Surname
  - 21.3.2. First name(s)
  - 21.3.3. OFC name
  - 21.3.4. Date of birth
  - 21.3.5. Country of birth
  - 21.3.6. Passport nationality
  - 21.3.7. Valid passport number
- 21.4. Any Participating Club that fails to provide OFC with the items of data required by article 21.3 will be fined NZ\$ 100 by the OFC for each item of data not provided, and NZ\$ 200 for each item of incorrect or missing data at the proof of identity and nationality undertaken in accordance with Article 22.7.
- 21.5. Only the Players and Officials in the Official Team List will be permitted to participate in the Competition.
- 21.6. OFC shall issue each Player and Official in the Official Team List with an Accreditation. The Accreditation shall always be available for inspection during the Competition.

## **22. Official Team List (Player)**

- 22.1. Each Participating Club may include up to 30 Players in the Official Team List for the Competition, three of whom must be goalkeepers, regardless of the total number of Players nominated.
  - 22.1.1. When the regulations of the Ordinary Member Association of the respective Participating Club permit less than 30 Players, the maximum number of players permitted according to the regulations of their Ordinary Member Association will apply to the respective Participating Club;
  - 22.1.2. When the regulations of the Ordinary Member Association of the respective Participating Club permit more than 30 players, the maximum number of players permitted by that respective Participating Club is 30.
- 22.2. The Participating Club may include up to three Non-citizen Foreign Players (Players who do not hold the nationality of the Ordinary Member Association to which the Participating Club is affiliated) within the maximum of 30 Players. Each Participating Club may also include one additional Non-citizen Foreign Player who holds the nationality of an OFC Ordinary Member Association, within the maximum of 30 Players. In all cases, the nationality of the Player shall be in accordance with the FIFA Statutes – Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes.

- 22.3. In addition to the information specific in article 21.3, the Official Team List must also include the following items of data for each Player:
  - 22.3.1. Number on shirt
  - 22.3.2. Position
  - 22.3.3. Date of registration with the Participating Club
- 22.4. Any Participating Club that fails to provide OFC with the required information will be fined NZ\$ 100 by the OFC for each item of data not provided, and NZ\$ 200 for each item of incorrect or missing data at the proof of identity and nationality undertaken in accordance with Article 22.7.
- 22.5. No further players may be added to the Official Team List after the deadline for submission has passed.
- 22.6. No Players in the Official Team List can be replaced after the deadline for submission has passed.
- 22.7. Before their first match in the Competition, each Player on the Official Team List must prove their identity and nationality by producing their legally valid individual passport with a photograph (stating day, month and year of birth). Any Player who fails to present their passport will not be allowed to take part in the Competition.
  - 22.7.1.

### **23. Official Team List (Team Officials)**

- 23.1. Each Participating Club may include an unlimited number of Team Officials in the Official Team List for the Competition.
- 23.2. Where appointed, the following Officials must meet the minimum coaching qualification specified:
  - 23.2.1. The head coach and assistant must hold at the minimum an OFC C License (or equivalent).
  - 23.2.2. The goalkeeper coach must hold at the minimum an MA Certificate (or equivalent).
- 23.3. Failure of any coach to meet the minimum coaching qualification requirements listed in Article 23 will result in that Team Official not being issued with an Accreditation.
- 23.4. The Participating Club is entitled to register a '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.
- 23.5. In addition to the information specific in Article 21.3, the Official Team List must also include the following items of data for each Team Official;
  - 23.5.1. Function
  - 23.5.2. Coaching License (where applicable)
  - 23.5.3. FIFA Nationality
- 23.6. Any Participating Club that fails to provide OFC with the required information will be fined NZ\$ 100 by the OFC for each item of data missing, at each deadline.

- 23.7. At any time after the deadline for submission of the Official Team List has passed, an Official may be:
- 23.7.1. added to the Official Team List; or
  - 23.7.2. replaced by another Official.

## **24. Tournament Team List**

- 24.1. Before the Qualifying Group stage, and Centralised Tournament stage of the Competition, each Participating Club will provide a Tournament Team List. Only the Players and Officials which were included in the Participating Club's Official Team List will be able to be selected to include in the Tournament Team List. The Tournament Team List will be required to be submitted within the deadlines as prescribed in the relevant issued circular.
- 24.2. The Tournament Team List may include the maximum number of Players as follows:
- 24.2.1. Qualifying Group: a maximum of 18 Players for the Qualifying Group;
  - 24.2.2. Centralised Tournament: a maximum of 23 Players for the Centralised Tournament.
  - 24.2.3. For clarity purposes, a Tournament Team List is not required by OFC for the matches played in the National Play-offs stage.
- 24.3. A Player on the Tournament Team List may only be replaced by a Player on the Official Team List in the event of serious injury or illness, or exceptional personal circumstances recognised by OFC Competitions up until 24 hours before the kick-off of their Team's first match in the respective stage of the Competition.
- 24.3.1. In the event of serious injury or illness, such replacement must be approved in writing by OFC Competitions, after a detailed medical assessment in one of the two OFC official languages (English and French) has been submitted to OFC, and only after acceptance and confirmation by a designated medical officer that the injury is sufficiently serious to prevent the Player from taking part in the Competition.
  - 24.3.2. In the event of exceptional personal circumstances recognised by OFC Competitions, after a detailed written request in one of the two OFC official languages (English and French) has been submitted, and only after acceptance and confirmation that the personal circumstance prevents the Player from taking part in the Competition.
  - 24.3.3. The Participating Club shall then immediately nominate the replacement and inform OFC accordingly.
- 24.4. During the Qualifying Group stage, and the Centralised Tournament stage, no Player may be replaced in the Tournament Team List, except if it involves a goalkeeper who is injured during the Competition and can no longer take part in the remainder of the Competition, and only after acceptance and confirmation by a designated medical officer that the injury is sufficiently serious to prevent the goalkeeper from taking part in the Competition. The

Participating Club shall then immediately nominate the replacement from their provisional list and inform OFC Competitions accordingly.

## KIT AND TEAM EQUIPMENT

### 25. Equipment and team colours

- 25.1. The Participating Club shall comply with the FIFA Equipment Regulations in force unless otherwise specified in these Regulations. The display of political, religious, or personal messages or slogans in any language or form by players and officials on their playing or Team kits, equipment (including kit bags, beverage containers, medical bags, etc.) or body is prohibited. The similar display of commercial messages and slogans in any language or form by players and officials is not allowed for the duration of their time at any official activity organised or recognised by OFC (including in the stadiums for official matches and training sessions, as well as during official media conferences and mixed-zone activities).
- 25.2. Any Participating Club that does not comply with Article 25.1 shall be fined a minimum of NZ\$ 2000 by the OFC Disciplinary and Ethics Committee.
- 25.3. Each Participating Club shall inform OFC Competitions of two different and contrasting colours (one predominantly dark and one predominantly light) for its official and reserve Team kits. In addition, each Participating Club shall select at least three contrasting colours for its goalkeeper kits. These three goalkeeper kits must be different and contrasting from each other as well as different from the official and reserve Team kits.
- 25.4. This information, supported by photos or samples of their official and reserve Team kits, shall be sent to OFC Competitions on the official form and no later than as prescribed by the relevant issued circular. Only these colours may be worn during matches. Any Participating Club that does not comply with this Article shall be fined NZ\$ 500 by the OFC.
- 25.5. OFC Competitions will inform the Participating Club of the playing colours before the start of each match. As far as possible, each Team shall wear its official colours as declared on the official form. If the two Teams' colours and the match officials' colours might cause confusion, in principle, Team A in the match schedule shall be entitled to wear its official kit and Team B shall use its reserve kit or, if necessary, both Teams may have to wear a combination of their official and reserve Team kits. The colours decided by OFC Competitions, in consultation with the Match Officials, is final.
- 25.6. The playing jerseys must use numbers between 1 and 99. The number 1 shall be reserved exclusively for one of the goalkeepers. The numbers on the playing jerseys shall correspond with the numbers indicated on the Official Team List. The number must be displayed on the back of the playing shirt and on the front of the shorts. The same number may, at the Participating Clubs' discretion, be displayed on the front of the shirt. In the event of a goalkeeper being replaced by an outfield Player, each Participating 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.



- 25.7. Throughout all stages of the Competition, each Player shall wear the number assigned to them on the Official Team List.
- 25.8. The official and reserve Team playing kits and all goalkeeper kits (including the goalkeeper shirts without names and numbers) shall be taken to every match.
- 25.9. In the event of a Player's shirt needing replacement during a match, each Participating Club shall provide at least three "blood shirts" in both "official" and "reserve" colours without a number displayed on the back of the shirt in order to distinguish a Player should they need to change their shirt.
- 25.10. In the event of a goalkeeper being replaced by an outfield Player, each Participating 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.
- 25.11. A Participating Club may only use a sponsor approved by its Ordinary Member Association before the top domestic championship in which the club qualified commenced and used in that championship as a shirt sponsor.
- 25.12. A Participating Club shall not change their shirt sponsor during the Competition.
- 25.13. OFC Competitions reserves the right to request any FIFA or OFC logo to appear on the right sleeve of the shirt during matches, between the shoulder seam and the elbow. OFC Competitions will provide each Participating Club with sufficient temporary sleeve patches to cover their needs throughout the Competition.
- 25.14. OFC will determine the official match ball of the Competition and each Participating Club will receive a minimum of ten official match balls for training purposes on arrival in the host country for the Qualifying Group and the Centralised Tournament.

## **MATCH DAY ORGANISATION**

### **26. OFC General Coordinator**

- 26.1. An OFC General Coordinator shall be appointed for each match of the Competition. The General Coordinator will be responsible for all aspects of the match organisation.
- 26.2. The OFC General Coordinator must complete the competitions report with a copy of the Official Start List and transfer them together with the Referee Report to OFC Competitions at the conclusion of the match.
- 26.3. Team Arrival Meetings and Match Coordination Meetings shall take place as directed by OFC Competitions and/or the OFC General Coordinator.

### **27. Match Organisation**

- 27.1. The official countdown to kick-off provided to both Teams at the Match Coordination Meeting in advance of the match shall be strictly complied with by both Teams.
- 27.2. The OFC and FIFA flags must be hoisted or draped in the venue clearly visible to spectators at every match. In addition, OFC retains the right to fly additional flags should the need arise.
- 27.3. The FIFA anthem shall be played while the Participating Clubs are entering the field. No national anthems are played during the Competition.
- 27.4. Not more than 23 people (maximum 11 Team Officials and 12 Substitutes) shall be allowed to sit on the team bench in the technical area.
- 27.5. Smoking is not permitted in the technical area, in the vicinity of the field of play or within the Competition areas such as the changing rooms.
- 27.6. The use of any electronic communication equipment and/or systems is regulated by the IFAB Laws of the Game and the relevant instructions issued. Under no circumstances may any such systems be used by teams in connection with any kind of refereeing decision or matter.
- 27.7. Whenever possible, both Teams will be entitled to an Official Training Session of a maximum of 45 minutes the day before the match at the venue where they are scheduled to play. Training times will be communicated by OFC. OFC reserves the right to shorten or cancel the Official Training Session.
- 27.8. Whenever possible, both Teams will be entitled to warm-up on the pitch before the match. The OFC General Coordinator reserves the right to shorten or cancel the warm-up session.

### **28. Official Start List**

- 28.1. Before each match, each Participating Club must submit an Official Start List in COMET, containing the names and numbers of the Players, and Team Officials on the bench, selected for that match.

- 28.2. For each stage of the Competition, the Official Start List shall be selected from the following:
  - 28.2.1. For the National Play-off stage, the Official Start List for each match shall be selected from the Official Team List submitted in accordance with Articles 20, 21 and 22; and
  - 28.2.2. For the Qualifying Group stage, the Official Start List shall be selected from the Tournament Team List submitted in accordance with Articles 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24; and
  - 28.2.3. For the Centralised Tournament stage, the Official Start List shall be selected from the Tournament Team List submitted in accordance with Articles 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24.
- 28.3. The 11 selected Players must commence the match. The remaining eligible players are designated as Substitutes. The numbers on the shirts must correspond with the numbers indicated on the Official Start List. The goalkeepers and Team captain also must be identified.
- 28.4. The Official Start List must contain a minimum of 14 players, one of which must be a goalkeeper. If there are fewer than 14 players available, OFC will consider the matter and may make exceptions on a case-by-case basis. The 11 first-named players must start the match, and the remaining players on the Official Start List are designated as substitutes. The numbers on the players' shirts must correspond with the numbers indicated on the Official Start List. All goalkeepers and the captain must be identified as such. At least one player must be a goalkeeper, up to a maximum of three, with the number 1 shirt reserved for one of them.
- 28.5. Both Teams must submit their Official Start List on COMET at least 85 minutes before kick-off.
- 28.6. The OFC General Coordinator and/or Match Official may ask to see the accreditations and passports of the players whose names are listed on the Official Start List.
- 28.7. Each player who is named on the Official Start List must be available at the equipment check undertaken by the fourth official and/or the OFC General Coordinator before every match.
- 28.8. After the Official Start List has been submitted, and if the match has not yet kicked-off, the following instructions apply:
  - 28.8.1. If any of the first 11 players (starting players) named on the Official Start List are not able to start the match for any reason, they may be replaced by any of the available substitutes. The replaced player(s) may no longer take part in the match, and the quota of substitute players shall be reduced accordingly. During the match, up to five players may still be replaced.
  - 28.8.2. If any of the substitutes named on the Official Start List are not able to be fielded for any reason, the player(s) concerned may not be replaced on the bench by an additional player, which means that the quota of substitutes shall be reduced accordingly. During the match, up to five players may still be replaced.

- 28.8.3. Further to the above, any injured or ill Player who is removed from the Official Start List will no longer be eligible to take part in the match, and thus cannot be selected as a substitute player at any time during the game. Such a change to the Official Start List will not reduce the number of official substitutions that may be made by a Team during the match. In accordance with Law 3 of the Laws of the Game, up to a maximum of five substitutions may still be made.
- 28.8.4. Although no longer eligible to play as a substitute, the injured or ill Player who was removed from the Official Start List may be seated on the substitutes' bench, and if so, would then also be eligible for doping control selection.
- 28.8.5. Only the players who were identified on the Official Start List submitted to the OFC General Coordinator or were confirmed as a warm-up injury/illness replacement player, may start the match. In the case of any discrepancies of players on the pitch at the beginning of a match, the matter may be submitted to the OFC Disciplinary and Ethics Committee for a decision.
- 28.9. A suspended Player will not be allowed to sit on the team bench.

## **29. Substitution and Warm-up of Players**

- 29.1. The substitution of five players per Team is permitted in the course of a match, in accordance with Law 3 – The Players – temporary amendment.
  - 29.1.1. During the match, each Team:
    - 29.1.1.1. may use a maximum of five substitutes
    - 29.1.1.2. has a maximum of three substitution opportunities\*
    - 29.1.1.3. may additionally make substitutions at half-time
  - 29.1.2. Where extra time is played, each Team:
    - 29.1.2.1. may use an additional substitute (whether or not the Team has used its maximum number of substitutes)
    - 29.1.2.2. has one additional substitution opportunity\* (whether or not the Team has used its maximum number of substitution opportunities)
    - 29.1.2.3. may additionally make substitutions:
      - 29.1.2.3.1. in the period before the start of extra time;
      - 29.1.2.3.2. at half-time in extra time.
  - 29.1.3. If a Team has not used its maximum number of substitutes or substitution opportunities, the unused substitutions and opportunities may be used in extra time.
  - 29.1.4. \*Where both Teams make a substitution at the same time, this will count as a used substitution opportunity for each Team.  
NB: the use of return substitutes is not an option for senior competitions.
- 29.2. During the match, substitutes are allowed to leave the technical area to warm-up. At the Match Coordination Meeting, the General Coordinator will

confirm the warm-up area for substitutes. In principle, all substitutes must wear bibs and the warm-up area is behind the goal closest to the team bench. Only the goalkeeper may warm up with a ball.

- 29.3. If space permits, a maximum of six substitutes per Team shall be allowed to warm-up at the same time. A maximum of two officials are permitted to accompany the Players.

### **30. Media and TV**

- 30.1. Amendments to media provisions may be necessary in accordance with the requirements of the Confederation, the guidelines in the THP or the directives issued by the competent local authority.
- 30.2. OFC will set up and manage a media accreditation programme to manage access and privileges of all media personnel and agencies.
- 30.3. No representatives of the written press or radio journalists are allowed in the playing area or the area between the boundaries of the field and the spectators.
- 30.4. Only a limited number of photographers, TV cameramen and technicians of the host broadcaster – all equipped with special permits for the event – are allowed in the area between the boundaries of the field and the spectators, where they will carry out their work in the specific locations assigned to them.
- 30.5. A post-match press conference or mixed zone may be conducted at the venue and must start 15 minutes after the final whistle. At least the coach and captain of the Participating Club must be available for the press conference or mixed zone.
- 30.6. The team dressing-rooms are off-limits to representatives of the media before, during and after the match.
- 30.7. If Participating Clubs wish to engage their respective recording(s) and/or media person(s) to record any part of the match and/or training session, such filming and/or recording shall only be done with the prior written approval of OFC and that such recording shall only be used for non-commercial and/or technical analysis purposes for their Teams own match and training session.
- 30.8. OFC will provide the Participating Club with video footage of matches involving their Team with the sole purpose of technical analysis only. Any Participating Club found to have violated and abused the use of this video footage will be liable for disciplinary action and sanctioned by the OFC Disciplinary and Ethics Committee. Video footage of the matches not involving their Team will only be distributed upon the agreement by the majority of the Participating Clubs at the Match Coordination Meeting prior to the Competition.
- 30.9. OFC may issue additional Media and Marketing Regulations specifying the media requirements. All Participating Clubs shall fully comply with these Regulations and ensure that their Delegation Members and any other persons acting on behalf of the Participating Club also comply.

## REFEREEING

### 31. OFC Referee Assessor

- 31.1. The OFC Referee Department will appoint a Referees Assessor for each match of the Competition. The Referee Assessor will be responsible for the match officials for each match of the Competition.
- 31.2. The OFC Referee Assessor must complete the Referee Assessor Report and send it to the OFC Referees Department at the conclusion of the match.

### 32. Match Officials

- 32.1. Up to five Match Officials (one Referee, plus two Assistant Referees, one Fourth Official and one Fifth Official) will be appointed for each match by the OFC Referee Department. Whenever possible, they shall be selected from the FIFA International Refereeing List in force. They shall be neutral and not a citizen of a country or member of a Participating Club whose Team is playing in the match in question.
- 32.2. The OFC Referee Department may decide to appoint a Match Official not on the FIFA International Refereeing List in force, but who have the necessary experience to officiate at the Competition.
- 32.3. All Match Officials appointed to the Competition may be required to pass the FIFA Referees Fitness Test upon arrival in the host country and before the Commencement of the Competition.
- 32.4. If a Match Official proves to be unfit or fails the FIFA Referees Fitness Test, they will be sent home and the costs of their international air travel, accommodation, meals and other incidental costs and expenses will be reimbursed to OFC by their Ordinary Member Association.
- 32.5. The Match Officials shall receive their Official Referee Uniform upon arrival in the host country. They shall wear only the Official Referee Uniform while representing OFC.
- 32.6. The Match Officials shall be given the opportunity to use the training site(s).
- 32.7. If one of the Match Officials is prevented from carrying out their duties, such Match Official shall be replaced by the Fourth Official or Fifth Official. The OFC Referee Department shall be informed immediately.
- 32.8. A minimum of three Match Officials are needed to referee the match.
- 32.9. After each match the Referee shall complete and signs the Referee Report. The lead match official shall hand it to the OFC General Coordinator at the venue immediately after the match. On the Referee Report the lead referee shall note all occurrences of significance, such as misconduct of players leading to caution or expulsion, unsporting behaviour by supporters and/or officials or any other person acting on behalf of a Participating Club at the match and any other incident happening before, during and after the match in as much detail as possible.

32.10. The decisions of the OFC Referee Department are final and not subject to appeal.

### **33. Laws of the Game**

All matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game in force at the time of the Competition and as laid down by the International Football Association Board. In the case of any discrepancy in the interpretation of the translations of the Laws of the Game, the English version shall be authoritative.

## FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

### 34. Financial provisions (OFC)

34.1. OFC shall bear the costs of the following in relation to the Competition:

34.1.1. Costs related to the Participating Clubs:

34.1.1.1. Qualifying Group and Centralised Tournament:

34.1.1.1.1. the total cost of a group booking including return airfares for a maximum of 21 people, on the most direct route from the airport, international or domestic, closest to the Participating Clubs registered headquarters to the nearest airport of the match venue, on the dates according to the Tournament Period. Where a Participating Club chooses to travel with more than 21 people, the total cost of the 21 lowest priced airfares will be used to calculate the total cost. OFC shall not be responsible for the costs of airfares for people departing from or returning to an airport other than the airport, international or domestic, closest to the Participating Clubs registered headquarters.

34.1.1.1.2. The accommodation costs for players and officials (up to 21 persons), as defined in the relevant circular, occurred during the qualifying stage for the winner of the qualifying stage participating to the centralised tournament.

34.1.1.2. National Playoff:

34.1.1.2.1. The total cost of return airfares and/or land transport for a maximum of 21 people on the most direct route from the domestic airport closest to the Participating Clubs registered headquarters to the nearest airport of the match venue, on the dates according to the Tournament Period. Where a Participating Club chooses to travel with more than 21 people, the cost of the 21 lowest priced airfares will be used to calculate the cost.

34.1.2. costs related to equipment;

34.1.2.1. Official match balls (minimum 10 per Participating Club).

34.1.3. costs related to the OFC Delegation and OFC Match Officials;

34.1.3.1. international air travel (including domestic connections);



- 34.1.3.2. the daily allowances;
- 34.1.3.3. accommodation and meals (minimum 3 per day);
- 34.1.3.4. travel insurance for overseas-based match officials; and
- 34.1.3.5. All health testing as required under the THP of the OFC delegation members, including match officials.
- 34.1.4. miscellaneous costs;
  - 34.1.4.1. Broadcast costs of the Competition as determined by OFC;
  - 34.1.4.2. Production of OFC signage; and
  - 34.1.4.3. The OFC Champions League trophy, awards and medals for the Competition.

### **35. Financial provisions (Host Association)**

- 35.1. Each relevant Host Association shall bear the costs of the following in relation to the Competition:
  - 35.1.1. costs related to internal arrangements;
    - 35.1.1.1. all match venue(s) and training venue(s) costs;
    - 35.1.1.2. the provision of adequate safety and security measures at the venue(s);
    - 35.1.1.3. all costs related to all health measures required under the THP at the match stadium;
    - 35.1.1.4. suitable insurance policies to cover all risks relating to the organisation of the Competition;
    - 35.1.1.5. suitable insurance policies against spectator accidents or deaths;
    - 35.1.1.6. VIP Hospitality on the match days;
    - 35.1.1.7. Any official events, such as opening and closing ceremonies;
    - 35.1.1.8. doping control (if required); and
    - 35.1.1.9. any additional internal costs not outlined above.
  - 35.1.2. costs related to Participating Clubs;
    - 35.1.2.1. For the Qualifying Group and Centralised Tournament, all internal transport (maximum of 31 people for the duration of the Tournament Period) including:
      - 35.1.2.1.1. return transfers from the airport;
      - 35.1.2.1.2. return transfers to any official activity, meeting or event;
      - 35.1.2.1.3. return transfers for the training sessions (one per day) for the duration of the Tournament Period); and
      - 35.1.2.1.4. return transfers for the match days.
    - 35.1.2.2. water (minimum 2 litres per Player, per match);
    - 35.1.2.3. ice (minimum 5kg) per Team, per match.
  - 35.1.3. costs related to the OFC Delegation and OFC Match Officials;
    - 35.1.3.1. all internal transport specifically;

- 35.1.3.1.1. return transfers from the airport;
      - 35.1.3.1.2. return transfers for training sessions (one per day for the Tournament Period); and
      - 35.1.3.1.3. return transfers for match days.
    - 35.1.3.2. water during the match officials' stay at the hotel and training sessions;
    - 35.1.3.3. water for the duration of their stay and per match (minimum 2 litres per match official, per match); and
    - 35.1.3.4. ice (minimum 5kg) per match.
  - 35.1.4. insurance
    - 35.1.4.1. policy to cover all risks relating to the organisation of the Competition; and
    - 35.1.4.2. policies against spectator accidents and/or death.
- 35.2. All receipts from admission, ticket sales, radio, ground advertising rights and sponsor's contributions shall be received and accounted for by each relevant Host Association. The receipts will then be distributed in accordance with an agreement between OFC and the relevant Host Association which is concluded before the start of the Competition.

### **36. Financial provisions (Participating Clubs)**

- 36.1. The Participating Clubs shall bear the costs and expenses of the following in relation to the Competition:
  - 36.1.1. The costs of air travel for all people in excess of 21 people;
  - 36.1.2. full costs incurred by any flight changes, cancellations, name changes and excess luggage relating to flights which is no fault of OFC;
  - 36.1.3. cost of accommodation and meals for all Delegation Members, including transit stops;
  - 36.1.4. laundry for all Delegation Members in the host country;
  - 36.1.5. visas and/or taxes for all Delegation Members to and from the host country;
  - 36.1.6. transit costs for all Delegation Members incurred to and from the host country;
  - 36.1.7. medical costs outside the matches;
  - 36.1.8. all costs related to testing and documentation required under the THP shall be borne by the Participating Club in question;
  - 36.1.9. health, accident and travel insurance cover for all Delegation Members;
  - 36.1.10. Public Liability policy at an adequate level to cover the Competition including the entire stay in the host country;
  - 36.1.11. incidental costs and expenses incurred by all Delegation Members during the course of their stay in the host country, and any costs incurred by any persons carrying out duties on its behalf;

- 36.1.12. any costs of extending the stay of any Delegation Member, and for any persons carrying out duties on its behalf;
- 36.1.13. miscellaneous costs, including but not limited to return transport for additional training sessions or Team functions and Team-related activities;
- 36.1.14. additional water and ice for non-match days; and
- 36.1.15. any costs for all Delegation Members outside the Tournament Period.

### **37. Payment of sums of money**

- 37.1. Payment of any sum of money under Article 36 must be made by the Participating Club in accordance with the agreed terms with the suppliers.
- 37.2. Payment by the Participating Club of any sum of money to OFC will be paid by the date stipulated by OFC.
- 37.3. Failure to pay by the deadlines set by OFC may result in a match, or matches, being forfeited (awarding victory and the resultant three points to the opposing Participating Club as well as the score of 3-0, or greater, depending on the score in the match at the time of abandonment) or the exclusion of the Ordinary Member Association or Participating Club concerned from the future edition of the Competition.
- 37.4. All outstanding debts at the conclusion of the Competition must be settled in full by the Participating Club within two months of their last match in the Competition.
- 37.5. Any outstanding debts at the conclusion of the Competition will be the responsibility of the Participating Club concerned.

### **38. Ticketing**

- 38.1. Where possible, each Participating Club in the Competition is entitled to receive the following minimum number of complimentary tickets:
  - 38.1.1. At least 15 complimentary tickets for each of the Participating Club's matches at the Competition;
  - 38.1.2. At least three tickets in the VIP area for each of the Participating Club's matches at the Competition.
- 38.2. OFC shall receive the following minimum number of complimentary tickets:
  - 38.2.1. At least 50 complimentary tickets for each match day of the Competition;
  - 38.2.2. At least 12 tickets in the VIP area for each match day of the Competition.

## MEDICAL

### 39. Medical/Doping

- 39.1. Each Participating Club shall include a medical doctor in its delegation for each match.
- 39.2. To protect players' health, each Participating Club shall ensure that all its players undergo a pre-competition medical assessment prior to the start of the Competition, conducted by a registered medical professional who must certify that players are medically fit to play.
- 39.3. Failure to comply with the aforementioned provision will result in the Participating Club being liable for disciplinary action and shall be sanctioned by the OFC Disciplinary and Ethics Committee in accordance with the OFC Disciplinary Code.
- 39.4. All Participating Clubs will be aware of the travel and entry requirements of the host country, specifically in relation to any medical requirements, and ensure compliance is achieved with all entry and travel-related requirements.
- 39.5. All Participating Clubs will be aware of the re-entry requirements for their home country in the event that any of their travellers may come into contact with a communicable disease whilst travelling and ensure that all travellers meet the respective requirements.
- 39.6. All Teams must be prepared with a comprehensive first aid/medical kit which must include a thermometer and masks, and a plan for isolating any travellers who become unwell.
- 39.7. Doping is strictly prohibited. OFC shall be responsible for deciding which laboratory among those accredited by the World Anti-Doping Agency ("WADA") will analyse samples.
- 39.8. The OFC Disciplinary Code, the FIFA Doping Control Regulations and all other relevant OFC and/or FIFA directives shall apply to the Competition.

### 40. Cooling Break

- 40.1. The cooling break will be applied in line with the FIFA Football Emergency Medicine Manual during the Competition.
- 40.2. The Wet Bulb Globe Temperature (WBGT) will be the official measure used to determine whether cooling breaks shall be implemented. The WBGT is a composite temperature used to estimate the effect of temperature, humidity, wind speed (wind chill), and visible and infrared radiation on players.
- 40.3. In principle, the break will apply on a match-by-match basis during the Competition if the WBGT is greater than 28°C and will be confirmed to the Teams and Match Officials by the OFC General Coordinator of each match.
- 40.4. The cooling break will be the maximum of three minutes in duration and will be signalled by the referee at approximately 30 minutes into the run-of-play in both halves of the match.

- 40.5. The below procedures will be applied during Competition matches:
- 40.6. The ball must be out of play for the cooling break to commence
- 40.7. The referee will signal the start of the break
- 40.8. All players will go to their respective bench/technical area and use ice and cold towels to cool down
- 40.9. The match time will continue to run
- 40.10. After three minutes the referee will signal the conclusion of the break and the match will restart
- 40.11. The three minutes will be added to stoppage time

## COMMERCIAL PROVISIONS

### 41. Commercial rights

- 41.1. OFC owns and controls all commercial rights in relation to the Competition.
- 41.2. All Ordinary Member Associations and Participating Clubs shall fully comply with these Regulations and ensure that their Delegation Members and any other persons acting on behalf of an association also comply.

### 42. Commercial regulations

- 42.1. OFC owns all of the rights in, and relating to, the OFC marks and the marks of the Competition, including the trademarks (and all translations thereof);
  - 42.1.1. OFC Men's Champions League;
  - 42.1.2. OFC Men's Champions League 2024;
  - 42.1.3. The Official Trophy;
  - 42.1.4. The Official Emblem;
  - 42.1.5. The Official Mascot (if applicable);
  - 42.1.6. The Official Music (if applicable).Only these marks may be used in connection with the Competition.
- 42.2. The only Official Emblem for the Competition is contained at Appendix A of these Regulations.
- 42.3. OFC will take all legal and any other steps it deems appropriate to prevent and prohibit unauthorised companies, including the Ordinary Member Associations and Participating Clubs own partners from commercially identifying with, or otherwise exploiting the Competition.
- 42.4. The Ordinary Member Associations and Participating Clubs shall assist OFC in resolving any intellectual property infringements or ambush activities involving the Ordinary Member Associations and Participating Clubs' own partners.
- 42.5. Ordinary Member Associations and Participating Clubs are expressly prohibited from identifying their Partners in connection with the Official Emblem or name of the Competition in any media, including official match publications, promotional materials and tickets, in such a way as may give rise to an association between the Ordinary Member Associations and Participating Clubs own Partners and the Competition, without prior written approval and/or agreement from OFC.
- 42.6. The Ordinary Member Associations and Participating Clubs shall further inform their partners in writing of the Ordinary Member Association's and Participating Club's obligations in this respect and shall notify their partners that they may not conduct any promotional activities which involve use of the Official Emblem, the Official Mascot (if applicable) or any marks which are confusingly similar to the OFC marks relating to the Competition. In particular, not:
  - 42.6.1. Sell, offer to sell, or authorise any third party to sell any tickets over the internet, or;

- 42.6.2. Use or authorise any entity, including the Ordinary Member Associations' and Participating Clubs own partners, to use any tickets for advertising, sales promotions, or other commercial purposes, including premiums, give-aways or prizes in a tournament, contest, or sweepstake.
- 42.7. If an Ordinary Member Association or Participating Club fails to comply with the above obligations, it will be liable to disciplinary action and sanctions imposed by the OFC Disciplinary and Ethics Committee.

### **43. Commercial exploitation of Marketing Rights**

- 43.1. OFC owns all rights of commercial exploitation including all Marketing Rights (as defined in these Regulations), and all other rights relating to, or accruing in connection with the Competition and its organisation.
- 43.2. OFC may grant certain exclusive rights to its Partners to commercially exploit the Marketing Rights and no entity other than those appointed by OFC are entitled to commercially exploit any Marketing Rights whatsoever.
- 43.3. At the request of a Host Association, OFC may grant certain rights to the relevant Host Association to commercially exploit the Marketing Rights. The relevant Host Association will not be permitted to transfer or delegate the rights to any third party and only the rights granted by OFC to the relevant Host Association will be allowed to be exploited by the relevant Host Association in accordance with OFC's directives.
- 43.4. All Ordinary Member Associations and Participating Clubs shall take all legal and other measures OFC deems appropriate to prevent and prohibit unauthorised use of the Marketing Rights by any parties, to ensure that all Marketing Rights are owned solely and without restrictions by OFC and can be exploited without any restrictions whatsoever.

### **44. Marketing Rights**

- 44.1. OFC owns and has the sole and exclusive right to exploit all Marketing Rights relating to the Competition in any manner at its sole discretion.
- 44.2. The Ordinary Member Associations and Participating Clubs have no Marketing Rights in connection with the Competition whatsoever. Ordinary Member Associations and Participating Clubs must not undertake any commercial activity of any nature related to the Competition without prior written approval from OFC.
- 44.3. All Ordinary Member Associations and Participating Clubs shall take all legal and other measures OFC deems appropriate to prevent and prohibit unauthorised use of the Marketing Rights by any parties, to ensure that all Marketing Rights are owned solely and without restrictions by OFC and can be exploited without any restrictions whatsoever.

#### **45. Media rights**

- 45.1. OFC owns and controls all Media Rights in relation to the Competition.
- 45.2. All Ordinary Member Associations and Participating Clubs shall fully comply with these Regulations and ensure that their Delegation Members and any other persons acting on behalf of an Ordinary Member Association or Participating Club also comply.

#### **46. Media regulations**

- 46.1. OFC owns all rights of commercial exploitation including all Media Rights, and all other rights relating to, or accruing in connection with the Competition and its organisation.
- 46.2. OFC may grant certain exclusive rights to partners to commercially exploit the Media Rights and no entity other than those appointed by OFC are entitled to commercially exploit any Broadcast Rights whatsoever.
- 46.3. All Ordinary Member Associations and Participating Clubs are required to correctly refer to the OFC Men's Champions League and OFC in all media releases, including any related sponsor name(s).

#### **47. Broadcast Rights**

The Ordinary Member Associations and Participating Clubs have no Broadcast Rights in connection with the Competition whatsoever.



## AWARDS

### **48. Trophies, awards and medals**

- 48.1. A representative from OFC will present the winner with the OFC Men's Champions League trophy.
- 48.2. 35 medals will be presented to each of the Teams contesting the final.
  - 48.2.1. Gold medals to the winners;
  - 48.2.2. Silver medals to the runner-up.
- 48.3. A fair play contest will be held during the Competition, with the number of yellow and red cards in all stages of the Competition being considered according to the points below. OFC will determine the ranking at the end of the Competition. Such decisions are final.
  - 48.3.1. first yellow card: minus 1 point
  - 48.3.2. second yellow card/indirect red card: minus 3 points
  - 48.3.3. direct red card: minus 4 points
  - 48.3.4. yellow card and direct red card: minus 5 points
- 48.4. At the conclusion of the Final Competition, the following special awards will be presented by a representative from OFC:
  - 48.4.1. Fair Play Trophy, presented to the Team finishing first in the fair play contest.
  - 48.4.2. Golden Boot, awarded to the Player who scores the most goals in the Competition.
  - 48.4.3. Golden Ball, awarded to the most influential Player in the Competition as determined by OFC.
  - 48.4.4. Golden Glove, awarded to the best goalkeeper in the Competition as determined by OFC.
- 48.5. There are no official awards other than those listed above unless otherwise decided by the OFC Executive Committee.

## FINAL PROVISIONS

### 49. **Special circumstances**

OFC Competitions shall issue any instructions necessitated by special circumstances that may arise in the host country. These instructions shall form an integral part of these Regulations.

### 50. **Matters not provided for**

Any matters not provided for in these Regulations shall be decided by OFC. All decisions shall be final and binding and not subject to appeal.

### 51. **Languages**

If any discrepancy in the interpretation of the English or French texts of these Regulations, the English text shall be authoritative.

### 52. **No waiver**

Any waiver by OFC of any breach of these Regulations (including any document referred to in these regulations) will not operate as, or be construed to be, a waiver of any other breach of such provision or of any breach of any other provision or a waiver of any right arising out of these regulations or any other document. Any such waiver shall only be valid if given in writing. Failure by OFC to insist upon strict adherence to any provision of these regulations or any document referred to in these regulations on one or more occasions will not be considered to be a waiver of or deprive OFC of the right to subsequently insist upon strict adherence to that provision or any other provision of these regulations or any document referred to in these regulations.

### 53. **Enforcement**

53.1. These regulations have been approved by the OFC Executive Committee on (insert date) and come into force immediately.

53.2. The previous version of these Regulations shall apply mutatis mutandis to any matters that arose before these Regulations came into force.

OFC President

Lambert Malfock

OFC General Secretary

Franck Castillo

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**APPENDIX A** – Official Emblem as per Article 42



**OFC**

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**CHAMPIONS  
LEAGUE**



**OFC**

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**CHAMPIONS  
LEAGUE**