



# AFC SAFETY AND SECURITY REGULATIONS

**ONE ASIA  ONE GOAL**

# AFC Safety and Security Regulations

2017 edition

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## DEFINITIONS

In these Safety and Security Regulations, capitalised terms shall have the following meanings, unless the context specifically indicates otherwise.

<b>Accommodation</b>	Any location approved by the AFC which provides accommodation to the AFC Delegation, Team Official Delegations, AFC Commercial Rights Partner, and Official Licensees.
<b>Accreditation Card</b>	Any physical item which is issued by the AFC and/or Organising Association which provides the recipient the right to access a Controlled Access Area (or part thereof) where the Controlled Access Area is under the control of the AFC or the Organising Association.
<b>Advertising Rights</b>	The right to promote brand and/or corporate names and/or products and/or services at and/or in relation to the Competition by whatever means available, whether existing now or to be developed in the future, whether at the Stadia or Facility Areas or within the Controlled Access Areas, in association with the Competition Marks and/or AFC Marks, by in-Stadium/out-Stadium perimeter signage and other advertising, digital signage and screens, closed circuit television, equipment usage or other methods and through printed matter (including digitally delivered printed matter) such as programmes, posters, letterheads, press releases, newsletters and Tickets, and subject to any AFC regulations, the right to display such advertising on the clothing or footwear worn, or on any equipment used, carried or transported by officials (including for the avoidance of doubt Match Officials), medical and security staff, ball kids, player escorts, flag bearers and/or photographers. The display of the name and/or logo of the bona fide supplier of clothing on the strip of the uniforms of the officials are also included. For the avoidance of doubt, advertising on the strip of Participating Players is excluded, other than where it is the trade mark of the bona fide

manufacturer and is in accordance with any FIFA and/or AFC regulations. Similarly, branding on any equipment, goods and/or services used in connection with the Competition, save where supplied by an Official Licensee, may only include customary branding of the bona fide manufacturer and may not be associated in any way with the Commercial Rights.

AFC	Asian Football Confederation.
AFCAS	The AFC Administration System, the AFC's online competition management and registration system.
AFC Commercial Rights Partner	The entity appointed by the AFC for the sale of Commercial Rights (or any part thereof) and the provision of services in relation thereto.
AFC Committee	Any Committee of the AFC as constituted in accordance with the AFC Statutes.
AFC Delegation	(i) AFC staff; (ii) Match Officials; (iii) Other officials appointed by the AFC; (iv) AFC Committee members; and (v) AFC guests.
AFC Marks	All design marks, slogans, designations, names, logos, insignia, emblems or devices (in any application) owned and/or controlled by the AFC (in any language) relating to the AFC itself, but excluding the Competition Marks.
AFC Website	The domain <a href="http://www.the-afc.com">http://www.the-afc.com</a> owned by the AFC, including without limitation all other domains or official media platforms and channels created and/or owned by the AFC (e.g. Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, etc).
Broadcast Licensee	Any entity, including the Host Broadcaster, which has been granted the Media Rights from the AFC or the AFC Commercial Rights Partner for the Competition.

<b>Clean Stadium</b>	<p>A Stadium or Official Training Site, whether inside, in the air space above or the outer perimeter, delivered to the AFC at a prescribed time, that is free from:</p> <p>(i) any advertising and commercial signage of any kind, whether on any Stadium infrastructure, staff uniforms, accreditations, fences, equipment or elsewhere;</p> <p>(ii) third party agreements relating to the use and operation of the Stadium (or part thereof;) and/or</p> <p>(iii) Stadium or venue naming rights.</p>
<b>Closed-Circuit Television System (CCTV)</b>	<p>Fixed cameras with pan and tilt facilities for monitoring spectators, Stadium approaches and entrances, and all viewing areas within the Stadium.</p>
<b>Club</b>	<p>Any location approved by the AFC which provides accommodation to the AFC Delegation, Team Official Delegations, AFC Commercial Rights Partner, and Official Licensees.</p>
<b>Commercial Rights</b>	<p>Advertising Rights, Concession Rights, Hospitality Rights, Image Rights, Media Rights, Merchandise Rights, Promotional Rights, Sponsorship Rights, and Travel and Tour Rights.</p>
<b>Competition</b>	<p>An AFC competition for which Regulations have been promulgated by the AFC Executive Committee, which includes without limitation, all Matches as set out in the Match Schedule, all qualifying Matches, all activities on the Field of Play (other than Matches), opening ceremonies, presentation or closing ceremonies, press conferences or Official Functions connected therewith.</p>
<b>Competition Data</b>	<p>Any and all information related to the Competition, including fixture lists, Image Rights, information and/or statistics about the Participating Teams and/or Participating Players, information and/or statistics about their participation and/or performance in the Competition, Match analysis, Referee decisions, and any other information in relation to the Competition.</p>

<b>Competition Title</b>	“[name of Competition]” or any variation thereof as advised and adopted by the AFC and expressly set out in the Regulations
<b>Competition Website</b>	The official website of the Competition with a dedicated URL including without limitation all other domains or official media platforms and channels of the Competition created and/or owned by the AFC (e.g. Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, etc).
<b>Complimentary Tickets</b>	Tickets which are supplied without charge.
<b>Concession Rights</b>	Sampling, vending, display and other distribution methods and payment methods connected therewith for and of products or services, including pourage rights at the Stadia and Facility Areas.
<b>Control room</b>	Room reserved for the persons who have overall responsibility for all match-related safety and security matters, namely the chief police officer, the Stadium security officer and their staff
<b>Controlled Access Area</b>	<p>(i) any Stadium;</p> <p>(ii) any Official Training Site;</p> <p>(iii) any official hotel (public areas being excepted), subject to and to the extent agreed in any executed hotel agreement;</p> <p>(iv) any official exclusion zone encircling a Stadium on a Match day;</p> <p>(v) any official parking area, accreditation centre, International Broadcast Compound, and/or hospitality area;</p> <p>(vi) the venue of any Official Function;</p> <p>(vii) any official AFC fan park;</p> <p>(viii) Facility Areas; and/or</p> <p>(ix) any other location and/or facility designated by the AFC as a Controlled Access Area,</p> <p>associated to the Competition to which access is permitted only to those in possession of an Accreditation Card, Ticket, and/or other officially-sanctioned entry permit.</p>

<b>Emergency Lighting System</b>	A system that ensures that lighting is maintained in the event of a power failure, including along all exit and evacuation routes, for the purposes of ensuring safety and guiding spectators
<b>Facility Areas</b>	The location of Official Functions, ceremonies, press centres, ticket offices, competition hotels, media areas (including without limitation areas used for viewing of any public exhibition), sponsor village areas (including without limitation “AFC fan park” areas, and areas used for the activation of the Commercial Rights), official hospitality areas (including without limitation areas used for the exploitation of the Hospitality Rights), and information centres controlled by or on behalf of the AFC and used in connection with the Competition whether at the Stadium or elsewhere at the Venues.
<b>Field of Play</b>	The area described in Law 1 of the Laws of the Game issued by the International Football Association Board (IFAB) and administered by FIFA.
<b>FIFA</b>	The Federation International de Football Association.
<b>Football Association</b>	The controlling body for football within a country or territory recognised by the AFC.
<b>Force Majeure</b>	Any event affecting the performance or any provision of these Regulations arising from or attributable to acts, events, omissions or accidents which are beyond the reasonable control of a party, and shall include but not be limited to abnormally inclement weather, flood, lightning, storm, fire, explosion, earthquake, structural damage, epidemic or other natural disaster, failure or shortage of power supplies, war, terrorist action, military operations, riot, crowd disorder, strike, lock-outs or other industrial action, or civil commotion.
<b>Hospitality Rights</b>	The opportunity to offer and sell hospitality and entertainment facilities at the Venues or within the Controlled Access Areas in combination with the Tickets as may be purchased from the



	Host Association whether such facilities are in boxes, marquees or otherwise, but excluding those private facilities reserved for AFC officials and its guests not forming part of the Commercial Rights.
<b>Host City</b>	Any city and/or identifiable metropolitan area in which any Match is staged.
<b>Laws of the Game</b>	The laws of association football issued by the IFAB.
<b>Match</b>	A football match in its entirety (including a replayed and/or deferred football match, Extra Time and Penalty Kicks) which takes place as part of the Competition in accordance with the Match Schedule.  For the avoidance of doubt, a Match formally commences when the Stadium is officially opened to spectators and formally concludes when the Stadium is officially closed to spectators.
<b>Match Official</b>	Any individual appointed to officiate a Match in the Competition in the role of referee, assistant referee, fourth official or fifth official, and the appointed Referee Assessor(s).
<b>Match Organiser</b>	A Member Association or Club responsible for organising a Match to be played at home or Member Association, Club or other entity responsible for organising a Match at a neutral venue, whether or not one (1) of its teams is involved
<b>Match Schedule</b>	The official schedule which sets out, without limitation, the dates and times on which Matches will be played, the Stadium at which the Matches will be played, and the names of the Participating Teams.
<b>Member Association</b>	A Football Association which is a member of the AFC.
<b>Official Countdown</b>	A document which stipulates the events and activities to be undertaken in a certain period of time before, during, and after a Match.
<b>Official Function</b>	Any event which is officially organised or sanctioned by the AFC in connection with the Competition.  For the avoidance of doubt, this expressly includes, without

limitation, all matches and/or events held at Official Training Sites, the opening ceremony, the closing ceremony, any AFC gala dinner, lunch, or banquet, cultural events, official press conferences, and launch events.

<b>Official Licensee</b>	Any entity to which the AFC and the AFC Commercial Rights Partner has granted the right to exercise and exploit the Commercial Rights (or any part thereof) in respect of the Competition.
<b>Official Training Site</b>	Any site designated by the Organising Association and approved by the AFC for use by the Participating Teams throughout the duration of the Competition for training purposes.
<b>Organising Association</b>	A Member Association approved by the AFC to organise, stage, and host Matches in the Qualifiers or the Finals.
<b>Participating Official</b>	Any official who is registered to participate in the Competition.
<b>Participating Player</b>	Any player who is registered to participate in the Competition.
<b>Participating Team</b>	Any representative team or Club affiliated to a Member Association approved to participate in a Competition.
<b>Police</b>	The public authority responsible for maintaining public order and security at the match.
<b>Public address system</b>	An electronic system for maintaining public order and security at the match.
<b>Regulations</b>	These Safety and Security Regulations.
<b>Safety Certificate</b>	A document which certifies a Stadium for safety. The certification is defined according to national law and shall include provisions related to safety. If such law does not exist, the Match Organiser shall establish its content in close cooperation with the appropriate bodies (e.g. local security authorities, the local hospital, fire brigade, police, etc.)
<b>Security Personnel</b>	Police officers and/or Stewards.

Security Officer	The individual responsible for safety and security matters at a Match. This individual shall hold one (1) of the qualifications set out in these Regulations.
Stadium	<p>Any Stadium at which a Match is played. For the avoidance of doubt, this includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) the entire premises (to the extent that a valid Accreditation Card or Ticket is required in order to gain access) of a Stadium facility inside the outer Stadium perimeter fence and (on Match days and any day on which any official training takes place within the Stadium), the aerial space above such Stadium premises;</li> <li>(ii) parking facilities;</li> <li>(iii) VIP and hospitality areas;</li> <li>(iv) the Media tribune;</li> <li>(v) concessions areas;</li> <li>(vi) commercial display areas;</li> <li>(vii) buildings;</li> <li>(viii) the Field of Play;</li> <li>(ix) any broadcast compound or Stadium media centre;</li> <li>(x) any stands; and,</li> <li>(xi) any areas beneath the stands.</li> </ul>
Stewards	All private parties appointed by the match organiser to help ensure that the match takes place without incident.
Team Official Delegation	<p><u>1. Competition systems played in a home and away format</u></p> <p>The final-registered delegation of a Participating Team for each Match of the relevant stage of the Competition subject to the limits set out in the competition regulations.</p>

## 2. Competition systems played in a centralised format

The final-registered delegation of a Participating Team for the duration of the relevant stage of the Competition subject to the limits set out in the competition regulations.

<b>Ticket</b>	A pass providing access to a venue for the purpose of attending a Match, official training, or Official Function.
<b>Ticketing</b>	All operational measures to provide Tickets to all spectators of every Match and for Official Functions of the Competition allowing them to enter the Stadium or a Venue. Ticketing shall include the management of the operation necessary for the production, sale, distribution, delivery and payment of the Tickets of the Competition.
<b>Travel and Tour Rights</b>	The right to organise and/or sub-license official travel and tour activities in relation to the Competition, which travel and tour activities shall, for the avoidance of doubt, include the provision of Tickets to a Match and/or Official Function of the Competition.
<b>Venue</b>	The Host City and immediate surrounding area in which a Stadium is located.

For the purposes of this Manual, and provided the context so permits:

- (a) the singular shall include the plural and vice-versa;
- (b) the feminine gender shall include the masculine and vice-versa;
- (c) reference to natural persons shall include any legal person or corporation;
  
- (d) references to the AFC shall include its successors and permitted assigns and, in relation to the availability of the Commercial Rights, its respective Member Associations and AFC Committees;
  
- (e) reference to the AFC Commercial Rights Partner or Official Licensees shall include where advised by the AFC, its successors, and permitted assigns and, in relation to the exercise and exploitation of the Commercial Rights;
  
- (f) all defined terms, unless otherwise stated herein shall bear the same meaning as ascribed in the AFC Statutes, unless the context indicates otherwise.

In accordance with the AFC Statutes, the AFC Executive Committee has issued the following AFC Safety and Security Regulations (Regulations):

## **SECTION 1: GENERAL PROVISIONS**

### **1. Scope of application**

- 1.1. These Regulations shall apply to all Competitions.
- 1.2. These Regulations govern the organisational measures intended to ensure safety and security in and around a Stadium before, during and after every Match in a Competition.
- 1.3. These Regulations do not constitute an exhaustive list of the organisational measures required to be taken by a Match Organiser. The Match Organiser shall take all reasonable measures necessary to ensure safety and security at the Stadiums.
- 1.4. These Regulations shall be used as a guideline for all international matches authorised by the AFC in accordance with the FIFA Regulations Governing International Matches and AFC Regulations Governing International Matches.
- 1.5. These Regulations constitute minimum requirements. In the event the respective Match Organiser has stricter or more exhaustive safety and security provisions than some or all the principles established hereinafter, those safety and security provisions shall only prevail in their respective domestic league.
- 1.6. These Regulations do not affect any legal obligations arising from any applicable national legislation.

### **2. Purpose**

- 2.1. The purpose of these Regulations is to ensure that Match Organisers are aware of their safety and security duties and responsibilities before, during and after a Match, and in particular to safeguard the safety and security of everyone present, as well as of the Stadium and its installations.

### **3. Appointment of a Security Officer**

- 3.1. Each Member Association shall appoint a Security Officer.
- 3.2. Each Club that participates in an AFC competition shall appoint a Security Officer in accordance with the AFC Club Licensing Regulations.

3.3. Security Officers shall:

- 3.3.1. be responsible for the safety and security of the Stadium;
- 3.3.2. keep in close touch with supporters and familiarise himself with their customs and preferences; and
- 3.3.3. endeavour to compile – in cooperation with the police authorities – a record of all known troublemakers to be used when liaising with fellow security coordinators of other Member Associations or Clubs, travel companies, supporters' clubs, other police authorities (etc.) in connection with both home and away Matches.

3.4. Security Officers shall as a minimum hold one (1) of the following qualifications:

- 3.4.1. a certified policeman or security person according to national law;
- 3.4.2. a safety and security diploma based on a specific course issued by the Member Association or by a state recognised organisation;
- 3.4.3. a “recognition of competence” approved by the Member Association, which is based on the participation in a specific safety and security course of the Member Association and at least one (1) year experience in such matters.

3.5. Security Officers shall have significant experience in matters related to crowd control, safety and security at football venues, public order, ticketing, and match organisation.

**4. Relationship with supporters' clubs**

4.1. Member Associations and Clubs shall foster and encourage a good relationship with their supporters' clubs (if any) by:

- 4.1.1. encouraging them to develop and maintain close cooperation with the Member Association or Club in question;
- 4.1.2. encouraging them to appoint Stewards from within their membership to help manage and inform spectators at Matches and to accompany parties of supporters travelling to away fixtures;
- 4.1.3. acknowledging their existence as the Member Association or Clubs' official supporters;
- 4.1.4. giving them preferential treatment in ticket allocation matters;

- 4.1.5. arranging Stadium tours, meetings with players and officials, and other similar activities;
  - 4.1.6. offering assistance with foreign travel, including informing contact details of the relevant consulates and embassies;
  - 4.1.7. generally keeping in touch with them by newsletter and any other suitable means of communication; and
  - 4.1.8. the appointment of emergency contact officers abroad.
- 4.2. Supporters' clubs shall be required by Member Associations and Clubs to ensure good behavioural standards from their members. A supporters' club shall cancel the membership of any person found to have engaged in any form of hooliganism or anti-social behaviour.
  - 4.3. Member Associations and Clubs shall insist that their supporters' clubs make every effort to ensure that during organised trips by its respective spectators the availability and consumption of alcohol is subject to the national law of the Match Organiser and the respective Stadium Code of Conduct.

## SECTION 2: COOPERATION

### 5. Duty to cooperate with the public authorities

- 5.1. In advance of each Match, the Match Organiser shall consult the relevant public authorities to ensure that the measures laid down in these Regulations will be implemented.
- 5.2. The Match Organiser and the Participating Teams shall undertake everything within their power to:
  - 5.2.1. enable the public authorities (especially the police), in all the countries involved, to carry out an effective exchange of appropriate cross-border intelligence and information; and
  - 5.2.2. prevent potential troublemakers attending the Match by cooperating with the public authorities (especially the police and the travel authorities) and supporters' clubs.
- 5.3. The Match Organiser and the Participating Teams shall cooperate in full.

**6. Identification of persons responsible for safety/security**

6.1. In addition to the Security Officer, the Match Organiser shall identify:

6.1.1. the chief police officer and/or Stadium security officer with overall responsibility for safety and security in relation to a Match; and

6.1.2. all other individuals responsible for safety and security, medical services and fire services.

**7. Security personnel**

7.1. In cooperation with the public authorities, the Match Organiser shall ensure that there are appropriate numbers of police officers taking into account the capacity of the Stadium, the risk of the match and all other factors, assisted where appropriate by Stewards to counter any possible outbreaks of violence or public disorder and to ensure the safety of the general public and the Match participants within the Stadium, in its surrounding environs, along the routes leading to and from the Stadium, training site, airport, and hotel.

**8. Spectator segregation and crowd dispersal strategy**

8.1. For a Match where spectators are segregated, a segregation strategy shall be drawn up by the Match Organiser in consultation with the Security Officer and chief police officer and/or Stadium security officer. If necessary, this strategy will also include a parking strategy for the different groups of supporters.

8.2. The end-of-match crowd dispersal strategy shall be discussed at the Match Coordination Meeting before the Match.

8.3. The Stadium security arrangements and procedures which ought to be implemented shall incorporate the segregation strategy and the end-of-match crowd dispersal strategy.

**9. Stadium Inspection**

9.1. The Match Organiser shall ensure that the Stadium has been inspected by the respective public authorities and is certified with a Safety Certificate (Certificate) by an appropriate body.

9.2. The Certificate shall provide at least the following information:

9.2.1. safety status of the Stadium structure and building fitness;



- 9.2.2. compliance statement regarding the Safety/Security Regulations of the competent civil authority; and
  - 9.2.3. approval of the entire Stadium capacity (individual seats, terraces and total number).
- 9.3. The Certificate issued by the appropriate body shall be valid for a maximum of two (2) years and shall be valid on match day.
- 9.4. The Match Organiser shall ensure that the Stadium is inspected prior to the Match in relation to safety and security. All security personnel shall be at the designated positions in accordance with the Official Countdown during the inspection and upon being briefed by the Security Officer.
- 10. First aid for spectators**
- 10.1. The Match Organiser shall ensure that first-aid treatment is made available in the Stadium for spectators. The first-aid treatment shall be performed by qualified medical personnel approved by the relevant public authorities (e.g. medical centres, medical authorities, hospitals).

### **SECTION 3: TICKETING**

#### **11. Ticket sales**

- 11.1. Ticket sales shall be strictly controlled.

#### **12. Ticket allocation**

- 12.1. Each Participating Team to which Match tickets are allocated is responsible for ensuring that these tickets are allocated only to its own supporters.
- 12.2. When a Match is played at a neutral venue, the Match Organiser is responsible for ensuring that none of its ticket allocation is provided to supporters of the “away” participating team, unless both teams agrees.
- 12.3. Match organisers and Participating Teams shall ensure that their allocated tickets shall be free from any black market activity and that they are not utilised and exploited by unauthorised individuals or agencies.

### **13. Ticket-holder details**

13.1. Travel agents, Match Organisers and Participating Teams upon distributing allocated Match tickets shall ensure that:

13.1.1. Spectators personal identification might be required to purchase tickets ; and

13.1.2. Tickets are not distributed to other sources where they have no control over their distribution.

13.2. Match Organisers and Participating Teams that distribute tickets shall keep detailed records of sales. This information may be requested by the AFC.

13.3. All such personal information, as well as any information gathered regarding supporters travelling without match tickets or believed to be doing so, shall be made available, if required, to the public authorities in the country where the match is being staged or in countries through which supporters will travel en route to the match, as well as to the AFC General Secretariat.

### **14. Ticket allocation strategy**

14.1. In consultation with the police and/or other public authorities, the Match Organiser shall ensure that the tickets are allocated in such a way as to ensure optimum segregation of the different groups of supporters, bearing in mind that, for a Match played at a neutral venue, there could be three (3) groups of spectators.

14.2. As part of the segregation arrangements, prospective spectators shall be informed:

14.2.1. of the Stadium sector(s) for which they are allowed to purchase tickets; and

14.2.2. that if they are identified in the wrong sector they may be moved to a preferred sector, as decided by the Security Officer, police and/or other public authorities.

14.3. Once the ticket allocation strategy has been agreed with the police and/or other public authorities and tickets have been distributed accordingly, no considerations of any kind will be taken into account to alter the said strategy, unless the segregation of supporters requires some tickets to be withheld from sale for a given sector.

### **15. Black market and anti-counterfeit measures**

15.1. The Match Organiser shall, if necessary, discuss with the police and/or other public authorities what action to take against black-market ticket-sellers around the Stadium, particularly bearing in mind that such activities can jeopardise the segregation strategy.

- 15.2. Such action can consist in limiting the number of tickets sold per person.
- 15.3. The most sophisticated anti-counterfeit measures shall be incorporated into Match tickets, and all security personnel on duty in and around the Stadium shall be familiar with these measures, to facilitate the rapid identification of counterfeit tickets.
- 15.4. As soon as the Match Organiser becomes aware that counterfeit tickets may be in circulation, it shall contact the police and/or other public authorities to agree on a strategy for dealing with the problem.

## **16. Ticket quotas and prices**

- 16.1. The ticket quotas for Participating Teams shall be distributed upon the instruction of the AFC with reference to any relevant competition regulations.
- 16.2. Even if the segregated area of the Stadium for visiting supporters constitutes more than number of tickets granted to the visiting Participating Team, all places in the segregated area shall be made available.
- 16.3. Unless the Participating Teams agree otherwise (and approved by the AFC), the price of tickets for supporters of the visiting Participating Team shall not exceed the price paid for tickets of a comparable category that are sold to supporters of the home Participating Team.

## **17. Stamping of tickets**

- 17.1. Where the Match Organiser allocates five percent (5%) or more of the total number of tickets purchased by any party (e.g. the visiting Participating Team), the Match Organiser shall stamp on the face of the tickets to facilitate the quick identification of the distributor and to assist the segregation process.

## **18. Information on tickets**

- 18.1. Tickets shall provide holders with all the information they may need (e.g. the names of the competition, Participating Teams and Stadium, the date and kick-off time).
- 18.2. Tickets shall include seat numbering and serial numbering, and shall only include Competition Marks and or marks of Licensees which are part of the ticket template designed and approved by the AFC.

## **19. Match information**

- 19.1. Match information shall be produced and informed by the Match Organiser with the ticket and/or at the outside stadium arrival points :

19.1.1. Stadium opening time;

19.1.2. Stadium map and location of viewing sectors (A, B, C or as appropriate);

19.1.3. Stadium regulations or code of conduct, including the prohibition of items and offensive articles as well as the procedure for searching spectators.

19.2. Guidelines for a Stadium code of conduct can be found in Annex A.

## **20. Ticket counting system**

20.1. Each Match Organiser shall establish a system that records the number of spectators that have entered the Stadium and are present in the Stadium.

20.2. The rate of flow and numbers of spectators inside the Stadium shall be regularly updated at every fifteen (15) minutes from the time the Stadium gates are open until kick-off plus thirty (30) minutes. This information shall be provided to the AFC Security Officer and/or AFC Match Commissioner when it is requested.

20.3. For Stadia that have more than one Match being played on the same day, entry monitoring shall be maintained until kick-off plus thirty (30) minutes of the last game.

The counting system shall take into account the spectators in hospitality facilities within the Stadium.

## **SECTION 4: VISITING TEAM AND SUPPORT**

### **21. Safety of the visiting team**

21.1 The Match Organiser shall seek the cooperation of the local police to ensure the safety of the visiting Team Official Delegation and Match Officials in relation to their movement to attend official functions, trainings and the Match.

## **SECTION 5: ADMISSION OF SPECTATORS TO THE STADIUM**

### **22. Checking and guarding of the Stadium**

22.1 The Match Organiser shall ensure that:

22.1.1 the Stadium is guarded against intrusion by any unauthorised individual from one (1) day before the Match; and

22.1.2 an efficient security check of the Stadium (to search for unauthorised persons or prohibited objects/substances) is carried out before spectators are admitted inside the Stadium on Match day.

### **23. Segregation of spectators**

23.1 The segregation of the different groups of supporters shall begin as far from the Stadium as possible, to safeguard against the undesirable mixing of the various groups in the Stadium approaches or turnstile areas.

23.2 Separate car and bus parks, preferably on different sides of the Stadium and as near as possible to their respective viewing sectors, shall be provided.

### **24. Information for spectators**

24.1 The Match Organiser shall ensure that spectators are made aware before the Match by public address system announcements or any other appropriate means of all prohibitive measures and controls related to the Match.

24.2 The Match Organiser shall remind spectators of the importance of not attempting to take prohibited items or substances into the Stadium, of the need to behave in a sporting and reasonably restrained manner, and of the potentially serious consequences any breach of these obligations could have for the players and teams they support, including disqualification from Competitions.

### **25. Presence of safety and security personnel**

25.1 Security personnel, first-aiders, medical service and fire service personnel, and public address announcer(s) shall be in their allocated positions in and around the Stadium before the Stadium gates are opened to the public as per the Official Countdown.

25.2 Security personnel, first-aiders, medical and fire service personnel, and public address announcer(s) shall remain in their allocated positions in and around the Stadium for the entire time that spectators are in the Stadium until they have dispersed, in accordance with the instructions of the chief police officer or Stadium security officer.

### **26. Opening of the Stadium gates to spectators**

26.1 The Match Organiser in consultation with the AFC Match Commissioner or AFC General Coordinator, together with the Security Officer and the chief police officer or Stadium security officer, decides at what time the Stadium gates should be opened to spectators, taking into account the following criteria:

26.1.1 anticipated number of spectators;

26.1.2 expected time of arrival at the Stadium of the different groups of spectators;

26.1.3 entertainment in the Stadium (entertainment on the playing field, refreshment possibilities, etc.);

26.1.4 space available outside the Stadium;

26.1.5 possibility for entertainment outside the Stadium;

26.1.6 segregation strategy outside the Stadium.

## **27. Signposting**

27.1 Where the ticketing system is colour-coded to represent the respective sector layout, appropriate colours shall be displayed on all signs guiding the spectators to the various sectors of the Stadium.

## **28. Security personnel**

28.1 Turnstiles, entry points, exit doors and gates shall be operational and coordinated by properly trained security personnel.

28.2 Adequate security personnel shall be made available at all entry points of the Stadium, at the turnstiles, and throughout the interior of the Stadium, The placement of the security personnel will be at the discretion of the Security Officer, chief police officer, or Stadium security officer.

28.3 Sufficient and properly trained Stewards shall be on duty within the Stadium to ensure that spectators are directed to their seats efficiently and smoothly without any delay and confusion.

28.4 All security personnel should be familiar with the layout of the Stadium and in particular its safety, emergency and evacuation procedures.

## **29. Screening and searching of spectators**

29.1 Spectators shall be initially screened by security personnel at the outer perimeter fence if there is one, or at the outer cordon created by security personnel in venues which does not have an outer perimeter fence. This is to ensure that only ticket-holders approach the turnstiles, and to make the first checks to prevent the introduction of prohibited objects/substances into the Stadium.

29.2 Final screening and searches shall be carried out by security personnel outside the turnstile entrances to ensure that:

- 29.2.1 spectators enter the correct part of the Stadium;
  - 29.2.2 spectators do not bring any objects/substances into the Stadium that are likely to be used in acts of violence, or alcohol or fireworks of any kind;
  - 29.2.3 access is forbidden to known or potential troublemakers, or persons who are under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- 29.3 Each spectator shall be screened and searched by a member of the security personnel of the same gender.
- 30. Expulsion or refusal of entry**
- 30.1 The Match Organiser shall cooperate with the police to ensure that any person that has been refused entry to the Stadium for any reason, or who has been expelled from the Stadium, is not admitted or re-admitted thereafter, and that the person in question is kept well away from the Stadium during the Match, at least until all spectators have dispersed.

## **SECTION 6: SPECTATOR CONTROL AT THE STADIUM**

### **31. Distribution of beverages**

#### **31.1 The Match Organiser shall ensure that:**

31.1.1 there shall be no consumption, public sale or distribution of alcohol within the Stadium or its private environment, if it is prohibited by national law;

31.1.2 all drinks which are sold or distributed are dispensed in paper or open plastic containers which cannot be used in a dangerous manner.

### **32. Limitation of spectator movement**

32.1 The Match Organiser shall take measures and appropriate procedures to ensure that spectators cannot move from one sector to another in the Stadium.

32.2 In the event there is more than one group of spectators in a particular sector which operationally can't be avoided, a division shall be maintained between the spectators by means of an insurmountable barrier or fence controlled by security personnel, or by the creation of a "no-entry area" kept free of spectators and occupied only by security personnel.

### **33. Public passageways**

33.1 The Match Organiser shall take measures to ensure that all public passageways, corridors, stairs, doors, gates and emergency exit routes are kept free of any obstructions, which could impede the free flow of spectators.

### **34. Doors and gates**

34.1 The Match Organiser shall take measures to ensure that:

34.1.1 all exit doors and gates in the Stadium, and all gates leading from the spectator areas into the playing area, remain unlocked and will be control by security personnel while spectators are in the Stadium;

34.1.2 each of these doors and gates is attended at all times by a specially appointed stewards, to guard against abuse and ensure immediate escape routes in the event of an emergency evacuation;

34.1.3 none of these doors or gates may be locked with a key under any circumstances.

### **35. Protection of the playing area**

35.1 The Match Organiser shall ensure that Participating Players, Participating Officials and Match Officials are protected against the intrusion of spectators into the playing area. This may be accomplished in various ways, subject but not limited to the use of one (1) or more of the following measures, depending on the specific circumstances:

35.1.1 the presence of security personnel in or near the playing area;

35.1.2 moats of a sufficient width and depth;

35.1.3 a seating configuration which situates front-row spectators at a height above the arena which would render intrusion into the playing area improbable, if not impossible;

35.1.4 insurmountable transparent screens or fences, which may either be mounted permanently or affixed in such a way that they may be removed whenever it is felt that their use is not necessary for any particular match.

35.2 Whichever form of protection against intrusion is used, it shall incorporate adequate means for spectators to escape into the playing area in an emergency.



35.3 The type of protection adopted against intrusion shall be approved by the public authorities and shall not represent a danger to spectators in the event of panic or an emergency evacuation.

### **36. Closed-Circuit Television System**

36.1 The Stadium closed-circuit television system shall be used by the chief police officer or Stadium security officer to monitor spectators and all approaches and entrances (entry-points), as well as all viewing areas within the Stadium.

36.2 The system shall be managed and controlled from the control room by the chief police officer or Stadium security officer and/or their staff.

### **37. Political action**

37.1 The promotion or announcement, by any means, of political messages or of any other political actions inside or in the immediate vicinity of the Stadium is strictly prohibited before, during and after the Match.

### **38. Provocative action and racism**

38.1 The Match Organiser, together with the Security Officer and the chief police officer or Stadium security officer, shall prevent any provocative action being taken by spectators inside or in the immediate vicinity of the Stadium (e.g. unacceptable levels of verbal provocation from spectators towards players or opposing fans, racist behaviour, provocative banners or flags).

38.2 Should such action arise, the Match Organiser together with the Security Officer and the chief police officer or Stadium security officer shall intervene over the public address system or remove any offensive material.

38.3 Stewards shall draw the attention of the police to any serious acts of misconduct, including racist insults; so that offenders may be removed from the Stadium should the police so decide.

### **39. Retention of supporters within the Stadium**

39.1 If the chief police officer or Stadium security officer decides that, for security reasons, a group of supporters should be retained within the Stadium for a period of time while other supporters disperse, the following principles shall be observed:

39.1.1 the decision to retain a group of supporters shall be announced over the public address system in the language of the supporter group concerned;

- 39.1.2 the announcement shall be repeated shortly before the end of the Match;
- 39.1.3 the Match Organiser shall ensure that, during this period of retention, the retained supporters have access to refreshments and sanitary facilities;
- 39.1.4 if possible, the retained supporters shall be entertained (e.g. music, video scoreboard), to help the waiting time pass more quickly and keep them calm; and
- 39.1.5 they shall be informed regularly of how much longer they may have to wait before being allowed to leave the Stadium.

## SECTION 7: Accreditation

### 40. Accreditation Device

- 40.1 An Accreditation device is a physical item issued by the AFC or Match Organiser which provides the recipient the right to access a Controlled Access Area (or part thereof).
- 40.2 The relevant Competition Regulations and Competition Operations Manual may provide for the grant of an Accreditation device
- 40.3 An Accreditation device does not permit the individual to attend a Match or to occupy any seat in the Stadium.
- 40.4 A background/criminal check shall be performed by the Match Organiser authorities as part of the accreditation process where necessary
- 40.5 Provision shall be made for the withdrawal (on a temporary or permanent basis) of Accreditation if the holder is acting in a manner that may prejudice the safety and security of others, a criminal act has been committed or suspected to have been committed by the holder, the holder's actions are prejudicing the smooth running of the event or the holder has breached the Stadium code of conduct.
- 40.6 Subject to the agreed security concept and approved Accreditation plans, identity cards held by members of the police and other official agencies (including fire and ambulance services) that allow them to carry out operational tasks at the Stadium shall also be regarded as valid permits provided said members are in uniform and clearly identifiable.

## SECTION 8: ADMINISTRATION

### 41. Taxes and Duties

41.1 Match Organisers are responsible for the payment of all taxes, duties, and other charges payable in relation to the implementation of these Regulations.

### 42. Fees and Expenses

42.1 Match Organisers are responsible for the payment of all fees and expenses in relation to the implementation of these Regulations, except where expressly identified otherwise in these Regulations or relevant AFC regulations.

### 43. Indemnification

43.1 Match Organisers shall indemnify, hold harmless and defend the AFC, its officers, members, agents, auxiliary persons, representatives, and employees from and against all liabilities, obligations, damages, losses, claims, demands, recoveries, deficiencies, costs or expenses (including without limitation all attorneys' fees and expenses) which such parties may suffer or incur in connection with, resulting from, or arising out of any breach by the Match Organiser (including its officers, directors, representatives, auxiliary persons, employees or agents) or any act or omission of the Match Organiser (including its officers, directors, representatives, auxiliary persons, employees or agents) in connection with the performance of its obligations pursuant to these Regulations.

### 44. Disciplinary Measures

44.1 All disciplinary measures in relation to these Regulations shall be undertaken in accordance with the current AFC Statutes, AFC Disciplinary and Ethics Code, and any relevant AFC circular.

### 45. Decisions

45.1 All decisions made in accordance with these Regulations, except where expressly identified otherwise, are final and binding and not appealable in accordance with the AFC Statutes.

### 46. Amendments

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

**47. Force Majeure**

47.1 The AFC Competitions Committee is the only body capable of declaring a Force Majeure event pursuant to these Regulations.

**48. Matters not provided for**

48.1 Matters not provided for in these Regulations shall be decided by the AFC Competitions Committee. Such decisions are final and binding and not appealable.

**49. Closing Provisions**

49.1 The AFC General Secretariat is entrusted with the operational management of the Regulations and is therefore entitled to make decisions and adopt the detailed provisions necessary for implementing these Regulations.

**50. Enforcement**

50.1 These Regulations were ratified by the AFC Executive Committee on 31 March 2017 and came into force immediately.

For the AFC Executive Committee

**President:**

**Sheikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa**

**General Secretary:**

**Dato' Windsor John**

## **Annex A: RECOMMENDED CONTENT OF THE STADIUM CODE OF CONDUCT**

For all AFC events, a formal Stadium code of conduct shall be established between the AFC, the host nation, the relevant local authority and the Stadium authority. The Stadium code of conduct shall contain provisions that help to reduce the risk of any spectator behaviour that may threaten safety, security or good order. If these provisions are violated, the offender(s) shall be punished in accordance with the host nation's laws and subject to eviction and/or banning from Stadiums. When drawing up the Stadium code of conduct, the following should be considered:

### **1. Entry to the Stadium**

This section describes the conditions of entry into the Stadium by visitors and accredited persons. It should include the requirements of producing a valid ticket or accreditation and, where requested, proof of identity. Furthermore, Stadium visitors and accredited persons shall submit to searches and agree that access is limited to those areas of the Stadium as specified on the ticket or accreditation.

### **2. Prohibited items**

This section deals with all items that Stadium visitors and accredited persons are not permitted to use, possess, hold or bring into the Stadium. Prohibited items are loosely grouped into the following categories:

- 2.1 Any item that could be used as a weapon, cause damage and/or injury or be used as a projectile.
- 2.2 Illegal substances, not just limited to narcotics.
- 2.3 Items of a racist, xenophobic, charitable or ideological nature or items that could detract from the sporting focus.
- 2.4 Items that increase the risk of fire or are harmful to health, not solely pyrotechnics.
- 2.5 Animals, except those used for the purpose of assisting people with disabilities or impairments.
- 2.6 Large, unwieldy objects that cannot be stowed under a seat.
- 2.7 Any item that could distract the players and/or officials, including laser pointers and items that produce excessive volumes of noise.
- 2.8 Promotional or commercial materials.
- 2.9 Recording devices or cameras of any kind other than those for personal use.
- 2.10 Any other object that could compromise public safety and security and/or harm the reputation of the event.
- 2.11 Any items that could restrict the view of other spectators.

### 3. Common sense conduct inside the Stadium

This section sets out the required standard of behaviour of Stadium visitors and accredited persons whilst inside the Stadium. It should include, but not be restricted to, such provisions as:

Stadium visitors and accredited persons shall:

- 3.1 Conduct themselves in a manner that is not offensive to, endangers the safety of, hinders or harasses others.
- 3.2 Only occupy seats and hospitality facilities as indicated on the ticket.
- 3.3 Not cause obstructions or restrict the circulation of people or vehicles.
- 3.4 Not drop litter.
- 3.5 Smoke only in designated areas.
- 3.6 Not enter the field of play or other restricted areas, unless authorised.
- 3.7 Not obstruct the view of others.
- 3.8 Not throw any objects or substances at others or on to the field of play.
- 3.9 Not cause fire or the risk of fire or use pyrotechnics of any kind.
- 3.10 Not act in a manner that could cause offence to others, including but not restricted to acts of racism.
- 3.11 Not act in a manner that could detract from the sporting event.
- 3.12 Not sell goods or tickets to others unless authorised to do so.
- 3.13 Not create any threat to safety or life, or harm themselves or others.
- 3.14 Not climb on or over any structures not intended for general use.
- 3.15 Unless authorised to do so, not record, photograph, transmit or disseminate any sound, image, description or result of any activity within the Stadium for commercial use.
- 3.16 Not act in a manner that could distract or harm the players or officials.
- 3.17 Not engage in any activity that could compromise the safety, security or reputation of the event.

When drawing up the Stadium code of conduct, the local laws, customs and past spectator behaviour will need to be considered.