



# STADIUM REGULATIONS

**ONE ASIA • ONE GOAL**

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# DEFINITIONS

In these Stadium Regulations, capitalised terms shall have the following meanings, unless the context specifically indicates otherwise:

**Accommodation** Any location approved by the AFC which provides accommodation to the AFC Delegation, Team Official Delegations, AFC Commercial Rights Partner, and Official Licensees.

**Accreditation Card** Any physical item which is issued by the AFC and/or Host Organisation 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 Host Organisation.

**Advertising Rights** 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.

**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 Competitions Committee** The AFC's internal organising committee for its Competitions which has been appointed in accordance with the AFC Statutes, and which has the ultimate authority overall matters relating to the organisation of Competitions.

**AFC Delegation** (i) AFC staff;  
(ii) Match Officials;  
(iii) Other officials appointed by the AFC;  
(iv) AFC Committee members; and  
(v) AFC guests.

**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

**Clean Stadium** 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:  
(i) any advertising and commercial signage of any kind, whether on any stadium infrastructure, staff uniforms, accreditations, fences, equipment or elsewhere;  
(ii) third party agreements relating to the use and operation of the Stadium (or part thereof;) and/or  
(iii) stadium or venue naming rights.

**Club** A professional club or amateur club which participates in Leagues or competitions under the auspices of a Football Association.

**Commercial Rights** Advertising Rights, Concession Rights, Hospitality Rights, Image Rights, Media Rights, Merchandise Rights, Promotional Rights, Sponsorship Rights, and Travel and Tour Rights.

**Competition** 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.

Competition Regulations	The binding regulations for any Competition, regulating the rights, duties, and responsibilities of all Participating Teams or Participating Clubs.
Competition Marks	All design marks, slogans, designations, names, logos, insignia, emblems, mascot or devices (in any application) owned and/or controlled by the AFC (in any language) relating to the Competition.
Control Room	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.
Complimentary Tickets	Tickets which are supplied without charge.
Concession Rights	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.
Controlled Access Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) any Stadium;</li> <li>(ii) any Official Training Site;</li> <li>(iii) any official hotel (public areas being excepted), subject to and to the extent agreed in any executed hotel agreement;</li> <li>(iv) any official exclusion zone encircling a Stadium on a Match day;</li> <li>(v) any official parking area, accreditation centre, International Broadcast Compound, and/or hospitality area;</li> <li>(vi) the venue of any Official Function;</li> <li>(vii) any official AFC fan park;</li> <li>(viii) Facility Areas; and/or</li> <li>(ix) any other location and/or facility designated by the AFC as a Controlled Access Area, 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.</li> </ul>
Field of Play	The area described in Law 1 of the Laws of the Game issued by the IFAB and administered by FIFA.
FIFA	The Federation International de Football Association.
FIFA Quality Concept	The FIFA Quality Concept is the certification of a particular field that has been found to fully meet the requirements of the Quality Concept accorded by FIFA.

Facility Areas	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.
Football Association	The controlling body for football within a country or territory recognised by the AFC.
Force Majeure	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.
Hospitality Rights	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.
Host Broadcaster	The party appointed by the AFC to ensure and provide the production of broadcast signals of the Matches and other events of the Competition, and the provision of all related services in accordance with the Media Rights granted to it.
Host City	Any city and/or identifiable metropolitan area in which any Match is staged.
Host Organisation	A Member Association and/or Club approved by the AFC to organise, stage and host Matches.

League	A professional league and/or amateur league which consists of a combination of Clubs within the territory of a Football Association and which is subordinate to and under the authority of that Football Association.		
Match	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	Member Association	A Football Association which is a member of the AFC
Match Officials	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).	Official Function	<p>Any event which is officially organised or sanctioned by the AFC in connection with a Competition.</p> <p>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.</p>
Match Schedule	The official schedule which sets out, without limitation, the dates and times on which Matches will be played, the Stadia at which the Matches will be played, and the names of the Participating Teams.	Official Licensee	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.
Media	Any individual entitled to a media Accreditation Card as determined by the AFC.	Official Training Site	Any site designated by a Host Member Association or Host Club and approved by the AFC for use by Participating Teams throughout the duration of a Competition for training purposes.
Media Rights	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, AFC Asian Cup UAE 2019™ Competition Regulations 9 / 50 and unlimited repeat basis, in full or in part (including without limitation by way of clips and/or highlights and/or support programmes and/or magazine shows and/or news access), and all rights	Participating Official	Any official who is registered to participate in the Competition.
		Participating Player	Any player who is registered to participate in the Competition.
		Participating Team	Any representative team affiliated to a Member Association or club that is approved to participate in a Competition.
		Regulations	These Stadium 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 Team practice session takes place within the stadium), the aerial space above such stadium premises;</li> <li>(ii) parking facilities;</li> <li>(iii) VIP and hospitality areas (including any hospitality village);</li> </ul>

- (iv) the media tribune;
- (v) concessions areas;
- (vi) commercial display areas;
- (vii) buildings;
- (viii) the Field of Play;
- (ix) any broadcast compound or stadium media centre;
- (x) any stands; and,
- (xi) any areas beneath the stands.

Team Official Delegation

1. Competition systems played in a home and away format  
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.

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.

Ticket

A pass providing access to a venue for the purpose of attending a Match or Official Training Site, or Official Function.

Ticketing

All operational measures to provide Tickets to all spectators of every Match and for Official Functions of the Competition allowing them to enter the 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.

Venue

The Host City and immediate surrounding area in which a Stadium is located.

For the purposes of these Regulations, 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; and
- (f) all defined terms, unless otherwise stated herein shall bear the same meaning as ascribed in the AFC Statutes, unless the context indicates otherwise.



## CHAPTER I: GENERAL PROVISIONS

### 1. Scope of Regulations

- 1.1. These Regulations set out the minimum requirements for a Stadium to be eligible to host Matches in all Competitions.
- 1.2. The relevant Competition Regulations, Competition Operations Manual (Manual) or Stadium Technical Annex (STA) may make references to matters which are inconsistent with these Regulations. In such cases, the relevant Competition Regulations, Manual or STA shall prevail and these Regulations shall be deemed amended accordingly.
- 1.3. These Regulations do not affect the legal obligations arising from national legislation applicable to Stadia.

### 2. Certification

- 2.1. Each Stadium shall be certified with a Safety Certificate (Certificate) from an appropriate body. The Certificate shall comply with the requirements in the AFC Safety and Security Regulations.
- 2.2. The Certificate issued by the appropriate body shall be valid for a maximum of two (2) years and shall be valid on match day.

### 3. Use of Stadium

- 3.1. The relevant Competition Regulations or AFC instructions provide the time periods whereby a Stadium:
  - 3.1.1. may not be used for any other matches and/or activities; and
  - 3.1.2. shall be delivered to the AFC as a Clean Stadium.

### 4. Location

- 4.1. A Stadium shall be located in a Venue which has an international airport within a radius of within two hundred (200) kilometers and a journey time of no more than one hundred fifty (150) minutes between the Stadium and the international airport.
- 4.2. Otherwise, the Stadium must be in a city which has at least four (4) connecting flights daily from the nearest international airport to the Venue of the Match.

## CHAPTER 2: STRUCTURAL CRITERIA

### Section 1: Areas relating to the Field of Play

#### 5. Field of Play

- 5.1. All Matches shall be played on a:
    - 5.1.1. natural playing surface; or
    - 5.1.2. artificial playing surface in accordance with the FIFA Quality Programme for Football Turf.
  - 5.2. The Field of Play shall have dimensions in accordance with the Laws of the Game.
  - 5.3. Artificial turf shall:
    - 5.3.1. be granted the required FIFA license; and
    - 5.3.2. have a green surface with white lines.
  - 5.4. The Stadium shall be equipped with the following facilities to ensure that the Field of Play is in Match-condition at all times:
    - 5.4.1. equipment (e.g. brushes) to assist with the draining of the Field of Play in case of heavy rain;
    - 5.4.2. equipment (e.g. blowers and shovels) to clear the Field of Play in case of snow; and
    - 5.4.3. sufficient personnel to react to unexpected adverse weather conditions.
  - 5.5. The Field of Play shall be:
    - 5.5.1. equipped with an appropriate watering system; and
    - 5.5.2. equipped with an appropriate drainage system to prevent flooding.
  - 5.6. In Stadiums with a moveable pitch, the Host Organisation shall ensure that the moveable pitch is in position by the morning of Match Day-2 at the very latest.
- #### 6. Warm-up Area
- 6.1. A warm-up area for substitutes shall be made available along the touchlines or behind the advertising boards behind the goal.
- #### 7. Goalposts, Crossbars and Spare Goals
- 7.1. Goalposts and crossbars shall comply with the Laws of the Game:
    - 7.1.1. distance between the posts shall be 7.32metres;
    - 7.1.2. distance from the lower edge of the crossbar to the ground shall be 2.44metres;

- 7.1.3. goalposts and crossbars shall be white and shall not have any markings, while the sub-posts to support the goal net shall be made available and of a dark colour;
  - 7.1.4. goalposts and crossbar must be made of approved material. They must be square, rectangular, round or elliptical in shape.; and
  - 7.1.5. goalposts and crossbars shall not pose any danger to players.
- 7.2. Spare goals (consisting of goalposts and crossbars), which are easily installed shall be made available within the Stadium.

## 8. Floodlights

- 8.1. A Stadium shall be equipped with a floodlighting system with the minimum required level of horizontal illuminance is one thousand two hundred (1,200) Exposure Value (EV) (lux).
- 8.2. To ensure that a Match can proceed in the event of a power failure, an independent back-up power supply system shall be provided.
  - 8.2.1. The Host Organisation shall provide details of the emergency lighting source (e.g. time, delay and EV (lux) level) to the AFC;
- 8.3. The AFC may request a lighting certificate. The AFC may appoint an independent expert to check the level of floodlighting. Host Organisations shall cooperate fully with such inspections.
  - 8.3.1. The lighting certificate shall be issued for a maximum of one (1) year and be valid on the date of a Match.

## 9. Clocks and Scoreboard

- 9.1. A Stadium shall have a clock which shows the playing time during the Match.
- 9.2. The time shall run from zero (0) to forty-five (45) minutes during the first half and from forty-five (45) to ninety (90) minutes during the second half.
- 9.3. The time shall stop at the end of normal playing time in each half (at forty-five (45) and ninety (90) minutes respectively). This stipulation shall also apply if extra time is played (at fifteen (15) minutes of each half).
- 9.4. A Stadium shall have a scoreboard which shows the score of the Match at all times.
- 9.5. The aspect ratio of 16:9 for the video area of the screen is recommended, which may be extended if scoring and substitution details are also to be inserted around the main video content.

## 10. Control Room

- 10.1. A Stadium shall have a control room containing a television surveillance system with screen monitors that ensures an overall view of the vicinity inside of the Stadium, subject but not limited to entrances and viewing areas within the Stadium. The Control Room shall be equipped with communication facilities.

## 11. Team Benches and Fourth Official Bench

- 11.1. A Stadium shall be equipped with two (2) covered benches (or dugouts) at Field of Play level for both teams each with seating room for at least twenty (20) people, or in accordance with the Team Official Delegation number stipulated in the relevant Competition Regulations.
- 11.2. A Stadium shall be equipped with one (1) covered bench at Field of Play level for the Fourth Official with seating room and table(s) for at least three (3) people.
- 11.3. These benches shall be positioned at least five (5) metres from the touchline. Benches placed at Field of Play level shall not obstruct the view of spectators.
- 11.4. These benches shall be protected by a transparent "Plexiglas-type Shell" against bad weather or objects thrown by spectators.

## 12. Player Tunnel

- 12.1. In the event a stadium has a Player Tunnel, it shall be a minimum of four (4) metres wide and a minimum of two point four (2.4) metres high.
- 12.2. The point where the Participating Players and Match Officials enter the playing area shall be protected by means of a fireproof telescopic tunnel and shall extend into the playing area far enough to prevent the risk of injury to the match participants caused by objects thrown by spectators.
- 12.3. Such telescopic tunnels shall be capable of being extended or closed quickly so that they may be used during the match when a player is entering or leaving the field, without causing a lengthy viewing obstruction.

## 13. Flagpoles

- 13.1. A Stadium shall be equipped with flagpoles within the precinct. The Stadium shall be equipped with facilities to hang flags on the roof structure as instructed by the AFC.



## Section 2: Facilities for the Team Official Delegation and AFC Delegation

### 14. Team Dressing Rooms

- 14.1. A Stadium shall have minimum two (2) team dressing rooms.
- 14.1.1. For 'double-header' Matches, a Stadium is recommended to have four (4) team dressing rooms of equal size and comfort.
- 14.2. Each team dressing room shall be equipped with a minimum of:
- 14.2.1. four (4) showers and four (4) individual seated toilets;
- 14.2.2. a room that fits and would be able to seat at least thirty (30) persons, sporting attire and clothes-hanging facilities;
- 14.2.3. one (1) massage table;
- 14.2.4. one (1) tactical board with marker pens and 'eraser'; and
- 14.2.5. one (1) refrigerator.
- 14.3. Each team dressing room shall be air-conditioned and/or adequately heated, depending on the weather conditions.
- 14.4. A Stadium shall guarantee a direct, private and protected area which can be accessed by team buses, cars and ambulances, from which the Team Official Delegation can enter or leave the Stadium safely, away from the public, the media and any unauthorised people.
- 14.5. Access paths designated solely for teams may be shared by the Match Officials.

### 15. Referee Dressing Room

- 15.1. A Stadium shall have minimum one (1) referee dressing room which shall be equipped with a minimum of:
- 15.1.1. two (2) showers and one (1) individual seated toilet;
- 15.1.2. room to seat at least five (5) persons;
- 15.1.3. one (1) table and five(5) chairs; and
- 15.1.4. one (1) refrigerator.
- 15.2. The referee dressing room shall be air-conditioned and/or adequately heated, depending on the weather conditions.
- 15.3. A Stadium shall guarantee direct, private and protected access from the referee drop-off area to the referee dressing rooms and from the referee dressing room to the Field of Play.
- 15.4. The Stadium shall have designated pathways specifically for Match Officials' movements around the Stadium to ensure that their safety upon arrival and until their departure is always protected.

### 16. Office Space and Meeting Rooms

- 16.1. A Stadium shall be equipped with:
- 16.1.1. one (1) room designated as the AFC Secretariat, with seating room for at least five (5) persons (i.e. two (2) tables that can accommodate ten (10) chairs);
- 16.1.2. one (1) room for the AFC Commercial Rights Partner with seating room for at least five (5) persons (i.e. one (1) table that can accommodate five (5) chairs); and
- 16.1.3. one (1) room for the ball kids and flag bearers with nearby toilet facilities which accommodates at least twenty (20) persons;
- 16.2. The AFC Secretariat shall be equipped with:
- 16.2.1. wireless broadband internet connection;
- 16.2.1.1. the internet connection shall be fast, whether wireless or cabled, with a minimum speed of ten (10)Mb/sec, DHCP, and all ports open so virtual private networks can be used;
- 16.2.1.2. the provided wireless connections shall be sufficient for up to twenty (20) devices.
- 16.2.2. one (1) desktop or laptop computer that is connected to the internet and to a printer. The operating language of the computer and for its software shall be in English;
- 16.2.3. one (1) printer as well as all relevant consumables (including without limitation paper, toner and cartridges); and
- 16.2.4. one (1) heavy-duty photocopy machine with sorting facilities as well as all relevant consumables (including without limitation paper, toner and cartridges).
- 16.2.5. The AFC may alter the specifications and requirements mentioned in Article 16.2.
- 16.3. The AFC Secretariat shall have easy access and be located near to the team dressing rooms and to the Field of Play
- 16.4. All rooms shall be air-conditioned and/or adequately heated depending on the weather conditions.
- 16.5. All rooms shall be in an area protected from the public and Media.
- 16.6. The AFC reserves the right to amend the requirements of the AFC Secretariat shall it deem fit to do so.

**17. Storage Facilities**

- 17.1. A Stadium shall have a minimum of one (1) storage room with an area of 10m<sup>2</sup> (ten square metres) that can be secured with close access to the Field of Play.
- 17.2. All storage rooms shall be in an area protected from the public and Media.

**18. AFC Match Commissioner and AFC Referee Assessor Seating Area**

- 18.1. A Stadium shall have a covered area, with a minimum of three (3) seats, dedicated for the AFC Match Commissioner and AFC Referee Assessor, in an area protected from the public, VVIP/VIP and Media.
- 18.1.1. This dedicated seating area shall be equipped with television monitor(s) to receive the live feed of the Match as instructed by the AFC.
- 18.2. The AFC Match Commissioner and AFC Referee Assessor area shall be located centrally, as close to the halfway line as possible, and with easy access to the Field of Play, the team dressing rooms and Referee dressing room.
- 18.3. The AFC Match Commissioner and AFC Referee Assessor area shall be equipped with:
- 18.3.1. tables and chairs;
  - 18.3.2. power sockets; and
  - 18.3.3. wireless broadband internet connection.
- 18.4. The AFC may amend these requirements in the event it appoints additional officials and/or individuals.

**19. Technical Study Group (TSG) seating area**

- 19.1. The Technical Study Group (TSG) area shall be covered, with a minimum of six (6) seats dedicated for the TSG, which is in protected area from the public and Media.
- 19.2. The TSG area shall be located centrally, as close to the halfway line as possible, with easy access to the Field of play, the team dressing rooms and Referee dressing room.
- 19.3. The TSG area shall be equipped with:
- 19.3.1. table and chairs;
  - 19.3.2. power sockets; and
  - 19.3.3. wireless broadband internet connection.
- 19.4. The AFC may amend these requirements in the event it appoints additional officials and/or individuals.

**20. Parking Area for Team Official Delegation and AFC Delegation**

- 20.1. A Stadium shall provide parking space for a minimum of:
- 20.1.1. two (2) buses for the teams; and
  - 20.1.2. ten (10) cars for the teams and AFC Delegation.
- 20.2. Designated parking spaces shall be provided free of charge for the use of AFC and Official Licensees only.
- 20.2.1. The parking spaces shall be safe and secured and allow easy access to the areas concerned.
  - 20.2.2. To gain access to these parking spaces, the AFC will normally provide a car parking pass to be displayed clearly on the windscreen. Should a Host Organisation prefer to utilise an existing parking pass system, it shall be clear of third-party branding and an example of the parking pass shall be sent to AFC for approval one (1) month prior to the Competition.

### Section 3: Facilities for the Broadcaster Licensees and Media

#### 21 Media Centre

21.1 A Stadium shall have one (1) air-conditioned and/or adequately heated media centre which is located on the same side as the Media tribune, press conference room, and mixed zone. It shall be equipped with the following unless otherwise instructed by the AFC:

- 21.1.1 tables, chairs and internet connection for minimum of seventy (70) persons;
- 21.1.2 one (1) photocopy machine with all consumables;
- 21.1.3 pigeonholes for Media representatives; and
- 21.1.4 information services, catering and transport office, if required by the AFC.

21.2 Host Organisations shall provide a secured room for non-rights-holding broadcasters to store cameras during the Match. These cameras shall be deposited on entry to the Stadium on Match-day and released at the end of the Match.

21.3 There shall be an exclusive access path for Media from the media centre to the press conference room and the media tribune.

#### 22 Media Tribune

22.1 A Stadium shall have a media tribune which shall be completely covered and shall be equipped with the following unless otherwise instructed by the AFC:

- 22.1.1 minimum fifty (50) seats with desks and twenty (20) seats without desks. It shall be equipped with power supplies and internet connection. The desks shall be big enough to accommodate a laptop computer and note pad.

22.2 The location of the media tribune shall preferably be in a central position and on the same side as the media centre, press conference room and mixed zone.

#### 23 Press Conference Room

23.1 A Stadium shall have one (1) air-conditioned and/or adequately heated press conference room equipped with the following unless otherwise instructed by the AFC:

- 23.1.1 desks and chairs arranged in classroom style to accommodate minimum seventy(70) persons;
- 23.1.2 a podium, together with tables and chairs, large enough to accommodate at least five (5) people and a backdrop;

- 23.1.3 a camera platform sufficiently stable to avoid vibration for ENG cameras;
- 23.1.4 an audio split box with a minimum of six (6) audio outputs;
- 23.1.5 a sound system (such as microphones, loudspeakers and, in the case of simultaneous interpretation, booths and headsets); and
- 23.1.6 sufficient lighting shall be provided to enable Broadcast Licensees to film the press conferences.

#### 24 Mixed Zones

24.1 A Stadium shall allocate a well-lit area for the mixed zone which shall be the pathway to/from the team dressing rooms and the team drop-off area.

24.2 The mixed zone shall be secured and accessible only to the Team Official Delegation, Broadcast Licensees and Media.

24.3 The mixed zone shall be divided into two(2)areas for:

- 24.3.1 Broadcast Licensees; and
- 24.3.2 print journalists, radio reporters and non-rights holders.

24.4 A single mixed zone shall be used for both Participating Teams rather than separate mixed zones for home and away teams.

#### 25 Photographers' Working Area

25.1 Host Organisations shall provide seating for photographers at pitch-side positions, as well as cabled or wireless internet connections.

25.2 In principle, photographers shall work behind the advertising boards behind the goals. If space and safety considerations permits, the AFC may grant special dispensation for photographers to work behind the advertising boards along the touch line opposite the team benches.

#### 26 Internet Connectivity

26.1 Host Organisations shall provide internet connections that are appropriate for the number of media representatives present, in accordance with the minimum levels set out:

- 26.1.1 minimum 10Mb/s can be shared between the media working area and media seating;
- 26.1.2 photographers need greater bandwidth than representatives of the written press because of higher upload usage at matches, the upload-download ratio shall also be symmetrical; and
- 26.1.3 any wireless networks shall be password-protected.

26.2 All internet connections shall be provided free of charge.



**27 Camera Positions**

- 27.1 Host Organisations shall provide space for the installation of broadcast facilities. If necessary, this may require the removal of seats, even if this reduces ticket sales. All camera positions and activities are subject to the approval of AFC.
- 27.2 All camera positions shall have an unobstructed view of the Field of Play.
- 27.3 A Stadium shall provide at least one (1) main camera platform in the grandstand. It shall be centrally situated and at a height above the pitch which guarantees optimum picture quality.
- 27.4 The main position shall be exactly in line with the halfway line, these cameras shall be covered and located in a manner that it faces away from the sun.
- 27.5 The space for the main camera shall be able to accommodate at least three cameras (on a platform at least six (6) metres in length). The cameras shall have a full and clear view of the whole Field of Play, and it shall be available to use them unaltered (e.g. without applying side viewfinders).
- 27.6 Due to technological advances during a season, new camera equipment may be developed, which may require new positions in a Stadium. Subject to the availability of space and safety and security considerations, such camera positions may be approved by the AFC on a case-by-case basis in consultation with the Broadcast Licensee(s) and Host Organisation.

**28 Commentary Positions**

- 28.1 A Stadium shall provide the number of enclosed and air-conditioned rooms which have unobstructed views of the entire Field of Play as commentary positions requested by the AFC.
- 28.2 The commentary positions shall be located on the same side as the main camera position.
- 28.2.1 If a non-enclosed position is required by the AFC, there shall be sufficient space to accommodate three (3) commentators per position, with a minimum width of 180cm; the height of the table shall be approximately 75cm and depth preferably 50cm. There shall be access on each side and behind the seats for other commentators to move into their positions;
- 28.2.2 Sufficient space shall be allowed on the table to accommodate two monitors, a standard commentary box, a phone and papers. Ideally, it shall be able to recess the television monitors into the table and provide chairs at the appropriate height to enable commentators to see the entire pitch and the monitor at the same time.

- 28.3 Each commentary position requires power jacks and phone jacks which shall be connectable to IDD/ISDN and ADSL. Commentary positions shall have the facility to patch videos from the outside broadcast (OB) van to the commentary position, and to patch audio from commentary positions to OB van.

28.3.1 ADSL lines shall have 512 Kb/sec minimum upload speed, 512 Kb/sec download speed, RJ45 connection, and all ports open.

- 28.4 There shall be a main and a back-up power supply to the commentary positions.

**29 Broadcast Studios**

- 29.1 Host Organisations shall provide space for at least two (2) indoor studios with the following requirements:
- 29.1.1 minimum five (5) metres long by five (5) metres wide by two point three (2.3) metres high;
- 29.1.2 contain a presentation studio with a view of the Field of Play.
- 29.2 In the event a suitable facility does not exist within the Stadium, the Host Organisation shall provide an allocated space for a studio to be constructed, which may entail the removal or non-scale of seats.
- 29.2.1 Any seats lost and all safety-related approval and security measures are the responsibility of the Host Organisation.

**30 Broadcast Compound**

- 30.1 Host Organisations shall provide a clear, solid and even parking area (known as the Broadcast Compound) for Broadcasters' production vehicles – including OB vans, tender trucks, generators, satellite uplink vehicles, graphics vans and any other technical and support vehicles that may be required.
- 30.2 A Stadium shall have a Broadcast Compound located on the same side as the main camera position which is at least 600 m<sup>2</sup> (six hundred square metres).
- 30.2.1 Matches with high media interest may require more space than the minimum amounts set out above. In such cases, the Host Organisation shall provide full support to meet any additional needs.
- 30.3 A Stadium shall supply access to the main back-up power for the Broadcast Compound as required by the AFC.
- 30.4 The area shall be appropriate for the multilateral and unilateral broadcast operations of the Host Broadcaster and any Broadcast Licensees including up/down-linking to domestic and international satellites and easy access for large vehicles.

30.5 A Stadium shall have adequate office space in the Broadcast Compound for the technical, administrative and production offices and rooms of the Host Broadcaster with necessary air conditioning and/or heating depending on the weather conditions.

30.6 Security shall be provided at all times for all television broadcast areas.

30.7 The Broadcast Compound shall be:

30.7.1 fully secured using high fences (at least two (2) metres high); and

30.7.2 lit to 100 EV (lux) to enable Broadcast Licensees to work at night.

**31 Cabling**

31.1 Host Organisations shall provide the necessary cabling infrastructure (e.g. cable routes, cable bridges, trenches) to enable Broadcast Licensees to install all broadcaster cables safely and securely.

31.1.1 Access to any existing pre-cabled systems in Stadia shall be free of charge where requested.

31.2 Cables shall not cause any obstruction or be a safety hazard to the Team Official Delegations or the public. Measures shall be taken to ensure that cables are as unobtrusive as possible within the Stadium and the area surrounding the Field of Play.

31.3 Where necessary, cable bridges, cable covers, cable hooks, Stadium dressing and other means shall be used to make cables safe and secure.

**32 Power and Lighting**

32.1 Electricity shall be provided by the Host Organisation free of charge.

32.2 The following technical power shall be provided by the Host Organisation in the relevant positions as stipulated:

Indoor and pitch view studios	Up to 12 KW	380V	32A CEE	3ph
Pitch side presentation positions	Up to 3KW	Up to 220V	16A CEE	1ph

32.3 Working lights shall be provided to Broadcast Licensees, which allow work to be conducted in and around the Stadium before and after the Match.

**33 Observer Seats**

33.1 On request, Host Organisations shall provide up to thirty (30) observer seats for Broadcast Licensees with pre-and post-Match roles. These observers shall have no role during the Match itself.

**34 Host Broadcaster Office**

34.1 On request, Host Organisations shall provide a small office for the Host Broadcaster from the morning of Matchday-2 to the end of the Match.

**35 Parking Area for Host Broadcasters and the Media**

35.1 A Stadium shall provide a minimum of twenty (20) parking places for exclusive use by the AFC, the Host Broadcaster, and Broadcast Licensees. Such parking spaces shall be of adequate size to accommodate the technical vehicles of the Host Broadcaster and Broadcast Licensees.

35.2 All parking spaces for the Host Broadcaster shall be designated in preferential locations adjacent to, or as close as possible to, the Host Broadcaster working areas and shall provide direct access to such areas.

35.3 Where the physical configuration of any Stadium does not allow for all such parking spaces to be situated, a dedicated unilateral equipment and personnel drop-off point for Broadcast Licensees shall be designated as close as possible to the Stadium entrance.

## Section 4: Facilities for First Aid and Medical and Doping Room

### 36 First Aid and Treatment Facilities

- 36.1 The facilities and requirements for the Medical Rooms and Doping Room shall be in accordance with the Manual and any STA.

## Section 5: Facilities for Spectators

### 37 Stands

- 37.1 Each stand within a Stadium shall be capable of being divided into separate sectors or tribunes, each with its own access points, refreshment outlets and toilet facilities and other essential services, such as spectators' medical centres, security stations and areas for stewards and marshals.
- 37.1.1 Barriers which are in accordance with national law and approved by the local authorities shall be used to sub-divide sectors. It shall be possible to see through the barriers.
- 37.1.2 The barriers shall prevent spectators from moving from a sector or sub-sector to another, unless required for the Stadium evacuation process.
- 37.2 The use of temporary stands is prohibited.

### 38 Seating

- 38.1 All spectators shall be seated. Their seats shall be individual and separated, affixed to the structure (eg. the floor) and comfortably shaped, with backrests to provide support.
- 38.1.1 Seats shall be unbreakable, fireproof and capable of withstanding the rigours of the prevailing climate.
- 38.1.2 There shall be sufficient leg-room between the rows of the seats behind from the row of the seats in front to ensure that spectators' knees do not touch the seats in front and simultaneously do not obstruct the pathway.
- 38.1.3 The pathway between the rows of seats shall ensure that there is easy access for spectators to move in and out of the rows even when they are full. To achieve reasonable leg-room, a minimum distance of eighty (80) centimetres from backrest to backrest is recommended.
- 38.2 Row identification shall be clearly exhibited in the passageways or aisles in an easy-to-find location on the outside of the end seat.
- 38.3 All seats shall be numbered in a way that makes them clearly, easily and immediately identifiable.

### 39 Food and Beverage

- 39.1 The Stadium shall be equipped with refreshment and catering facilities for spectators.



**40 Merchandise Stands**

- 40.1 Host Organisations provide details of any merchandise stands, including without limitation the type of merchandise being sold and the layout of the merchandise stands in the Stadium
- 40.2 Merchandise stands shall be placed in a way that will attract spectators without causing congestion in the Stadium concourses.
- 40.3 The AFC may decline the placement of merchandise stands in the Stadium.

**41 VVIP and VIP Seats**

- 41.1 A Stadium shall be equipped with the number of VVIP and VIP seats as instructed by the AFC.
- 41.2 The VVIP and VIP seats shall be situated in a covered grandstand and as close to the halfway line as possible.
- 41.3 The VVIP and VIP area shall be strictly controlled and protected from unauthorised persons or cross-over from other groups (e.g. spectators, Media).

**42 Entrances and Exits**

- 42.1 Entry gates and/or turnstiles shall be designed in such a way as to avoid congestion and ensure the smooth flow of spectators.
- 42.2 All public passageways and stairways in the spectator area shall be painted in a bright colour, as well as all gates, subject but not limited to the spectator areas, exit doors and gates leading out of a Stadium.
- 42.3 All exit doors and gates in a Stadium, and all gates in the spectator areas in the Stadium shall be:
- 42.3.1 fitted with a locking device which may be operated simply and quickly by anyone from the inside in the case of exit doors and gates or from either side in the case of gates leading into the Field of Play; and
- 42.3.2 designed to remain unlocked while spectators are in a Stadium.
- 42.4 Approaches to a Stadium shall be adequately signposted (e.g. by means of pictograms) to guide spectators to their sectors and all turnstiles. Entry, exit gates and doors shall be operational and similarly clearly indicated by signs which are universally understood.
- 42.4.1 Prominent, clearly visible signage that guides spectators to sanitary facilities, concessions, retail outlets, exits and other customer service shall be provided.

- 42.5 The circulation space available immediately outside the exit gates shall be sufficient to guarantee that spectators are not at risk of being crushed in the event of a stampede and/or in any other circumstances and that the spectators can leave the Stadium comfortably.

**43 Emergency Lighting System**

- 43.1 Each Stadium shall be equipped with an emergency lighting system approved by the competent local authorities. The emergency lighting system shall be utilised in the event of a general lighting failure in all parts of the Stadium to which the public has access, subject but not limited to all exit and evacuation routes.

**44 Spectator Capacity**

- 44.1 The minimum spectator capacity shall be five thousand (5,000) unless otherwise stated in the relevant Competitions Regulations.

**45 Public Address System**

- 45.1 A Stadium shall be equipped with a public-address system (PA) which ensures that messages can be delivered to the public inside and outside the Stadium.
- 45.2 The PA may only be used for announcements requested by the AFC, referees or local security authorities, as well as for announcements related to the Match (e.g. goal scorers, substitutions, attendance, minimum additional time decided by the referee).
- 45.2.1 The PA may not be used to disseminate commercial messages (apart from Official Licensee promotions) without the express authorisation of the AFC.
- 45.3 Host Organisations shall provide an emergency alternative power supply to ensure the PA remains operative without interruption in the event of a power failure for a minimum period of three (3) hours

**46 Giant Screen**

- 46.1 The Stadium must have a giant screen that provides optimal viewing for all spectators and in a location which provides no risk to the spectators.
- 46.2 The giant screen is part of the PA system and shall be used to deliver messages or public announcements in case of an emergency.

**47 Sanitary Facilities**

47.1 Sufficiently clean and hygienic sanitary facilities shall be distributed evenly throughout all sectors of a Stadium. Seated toilets for all spectators of both genders, as well as urinals, shall be made available in each sector, and shall be equipped with sinks and amenities such as toilet paper and soap.

47.1.1 Private toilet facilities consisting of a single toilet and sink shall be considered throughout the facility, for use by those requiring greater assistance, including disabled people and young children.

47.2 To avoid overcrowding of spectators entering and leaving sanitary facilities, there shall be a one-way access system, or at least doors which are sufficiently wide to permit the division of the passageway into and out of channels.

**48 First Aid Facilities**

48.1 Fully-equipped first-aid facilities approved by the competent local authorities shall be made available for spectators in each sector of the spectator areas.

48.2 The first aid facilities shall be clearly identified and access shall be clearly signposted.

**49 Facilities for Spectators with Disabilities**

49.1 A Stadium shall have dedicated access and seats for spectators with disabilities and their helpers.

49.2 A Stadium shall have dedicated sanitary facilities as well as refreshment and catering facilities in the vicinity for this dedicated sector.

49.3 The safety of the visually impaired, blind spectators and disabled people shall be given. In particular, easy access and exit ways, toilet facilities and support services shall be provided.

**50 Parking for Spectators**

50.1 All parking places shall be on-site, affording spectators direct entrance to the Stadium. The car parks around the stadium shall be brightly lit and clearly signposted, with numbered or lettered sectors. Parking places shall be guarded against illegal intrusion.

**51 VVIP and VIP Parking**

51.1 There shall be sufficient parking space in the Stadium compound for the cars used by VVIP and VIPs which shall be located near the VVIP and VIP entrance which is separated from the public car parks.

**Section 6: Facilities for Official Licensees****52 Promotional Areas**

52.1 On request, Host Organisations shall provide the Official Licensees with a designated area and certain facilities free of charge in conjunction with their exclusive event sponsorship and/or product supply rights.

52.2 The space provided (minimum eight (8) metres by five (5) metres) shall be in a suitable condition to enable Official Licensees to carry out their promotions.

52.3 If there is a permanent power supply within the designated areas, the Host Organisation shall provide access.

**53 Skyboxes**

53.1 The AFC has unfettered rights to select the skyboxes it requires to fulfill its contractual obligations.

## CHAPTER 3: ADMINISTRATION

### 54 Taxes and Duties

54.1 Host Organisations are responsible for the payment of all taxes, duties, and other charges payable in relation to the implementation of these Regulations.

### 55 Fees and Expenses

55.1 Host Organisations 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.

### 56 Indemnification

56.1 Host Organisations 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 Host Organisation (including its officers, directors, representatives, auxiliary persons, employees or agents) or any act or omission of the Host Organisation (including its officers, directors, representatives, auxiliary persons, employees or agents) in connection with the performance of its obligations pursuant to these Regulations.

### 57 Disciplinary Measures

57.1 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.

### 58 Decisions

58.1 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.

### 59 Amendments

59.1 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.

### 60 Force Majeure

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

### 61 Matters Not Provided For

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

### 62 Closing Provisions

62.1 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.

### 63 Enforcement

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

For the AFC Executive Committee:

**Shaikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa**  
President

**Dato' Windsor John**  
General Secretary









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