

# REGULATIONS

## AFC CHAMPIONS LEAGUE 2008

### Contents

	Page
Definition	6
 <b>SECTION 1: REPRESENTATION</b>	
1. Representation	17
 <b>SECTION 2: TECHNICAL REGULATION</b>	
2. Matches played in accordance with the Laws of the Game	19
3. Duration of Match	19
4. Clocks	19
5. Extra Time	19
6. Away Goals	20
7. Determining the Winner by Penalty Kicks	20
8. Abandonment of Matches	21
9. Cancellation of Matches	21
10. Competition System	22
11. Dates of the Competition	23
12. Stadiums (Stadia)	24
13. Floodlights	26
14. Field of Play	26
15. Field of Play Dimensions	26
16. Kick-off Times	27
17. Official Training Sessions at the Stadium	27
18. Alternative Stadiums	27
19. Official Training Sites	28
20. Footballs	28
21. Technical Regulations for the Competition: Group Stage	29
22. Technical Regulations for the Competition: Knockout Stage	30

	Page
SECTION 3: PARTICIPATING TEAMS	
23. Entries	32
24. Eligible Teams	32
25. Duties and Obligations	33
26. Withdrawal, penalty for failing to play and replacement	36
27. Size of Delegation Attending Matches	37
28. Eligibility of Players	38
29. Stages of Registration of Players	39
30. Preliminary Registration of Players for Group Stage	39
31. Preliminary Registration of Players for Knockout Stage	42
32. Final Registration of Players	45
33. Player Selection List	45
34. Match Starting List	46
35. Registration of Officials	47
36. Team Bench and Technical Area	49
37. Substitution of Players	50
38. Players cautioned or dismissed from the field of play	50
39. Violence by player and/or officials	51
40. Press Conferences	51
41. Briefing with Head Coach and Player(s)	52
42. Mixed Zone	52
43. Flash Interviews	52
44. Sleeve Patches	53
45. Arrival & Departure, Travel Arrangements and Accommodation	53
46. Insurance	54
47. Team colours and numbers on each team outfits	54
48. AFC Equipment Regulations	56
49. Advertising on equipment and other material/items	56
50. Sponsor Recognition Kit	57
51. Manufacturer identification on team shirts	58
52. Kit Approval Procedure	58
53. Sanctions	59
54. Responsibility	59
55. Commercial Rights of Participating Clubs	59
56. Footballs	60
57. Others	60

	<b>SECTION 4: AFC DELEGATION</b>	<b>Page</b>
58.	AFC Match Commissioner	61
59.	AFC Referee Instructor	61
60.	Referees, assistant referees, fourth officials	62
61.	AFC Venue Manager	63
62.	Other AFC Officials	64
63.	Insurance of AFC Match Officials	64
	<b>SECTION 5: ORGANISATION</b>	
64.	Organisation of AFC	65
	<b>SECTION 6: RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ORGANISING CLUB</b>	
65.	Organising Club Agreement	66
66.	Organising Club Contracts	66
67.	Insurance	66
68.	Responsibility	67
69.	Accommodation, Local Hospitalities, Meals and Refreshments	67
70.	Local Transportation	70
71.	Medical Facilities and Treatment	71
72.	Tournament Secretariat, Facilities for AFC Delegation	72
73.	Audio/Video Recording of Matches	74
74.	Media Arrangements	74
75.	Media Accreditation	76
76.	Controlled Access Areas	77
77.	Security and Safety	77
78.	Footballs	78
79.	Doping Control	78

	<b>SECTION 7: COMMERCIAL REGULATIONS</b>	<b>Page</b>
80.	Ownership of Commercial Rights	79
81.	Exploitation of Commercial Rights	79
82.	Exploitation of Broadcast Rights	82
83.	Usage of Marks	83
84.	Personal Recording Devices	84
85.	Press Conferences	84
86.	Printed Materials	84
87.	Accreditations	85
88.	Parking Spaces	86
89.	Branded Equipment	86
90.	Pitch Perimeter Advertising	86
91.	Infringement of the Commercial and Marketing Regulations	86
92.	New Requirements	87
	<b>SECTION 8: TICKETING</b>	
93.	Policy	88
94.	Terms and Conditions	88
95.	Complimentary Tickets	88
96.	Purchasable Tickets	89
	<b>SECTION 9: ADMINISTRATION</b>	
97.	Management	90
98.	Disciplinary measures and appeals	90
99.	Protest	90
100.	Arbitration	91
101.	Doping Control	91
102.	Financial Provisions	92
103.	Subsidy	93
104.	Awards	93
105.	Trophy and Medals	94
106.	Prize Money	95
107.	Prize Presentation Ceremony	95
108.	Protocol	95
109.	Special Provisions	96
110.	Intellectual Property Rights	96
111.	Copyright	96
112.	Matters not provided for	97
113.	Ratification	97

## Appendix 1: Calendar of Competitions 2008

Please download from: <http://images.the-afc.com/Documents/common/cms/afc/Comps2008-2009-Calendar.pdf>

## DEFINITION

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

<i>Advertising Rights</i>	The right to promote to the exclusion of all others save as qualified in this Agreement, brand and/or corporate names and/or products and/or services at and/or in relation to the Competitions by whatever means available, whether existing now or to be developed in the future, whether at the Stadia or within the Controlled Access Areas, by in-stadium/out-stadium perimeter signage and other advertising, concessions, displays, sampling, premiums, equipment usage or other methods and through printed matter such as programmes, posters, letterheads, press releases, newsletters and tickets, including, for the avoidance of doubt, subject always to the AFC Guidelines, the right to display such advertising on the clothing or footwear worn, or on any equipment used, carried or transported by officials, medical and security staff, ballboys and/or photographers. The display of the name and/or logo of the bona fide supplier of clothing on the strip of referees/linesmen and other officials are also included. For the avoidance of doubt, advertising on the strip of Participating Players is excluded, other than where it is in accordance with AFC rules and regulations.
<i>AFC</i>	The Asian Football Confederation.
<i>AFC Delegation</i>	Any officials appointed by AFC, including but not limited to the Head of Delegation, Head of Administration, Venue Manager, Match Commissioner, Referee Assessor, Referee, Assistant Referees, Fourth Official, Media Officer, Security Officer, Medical Officer and Technical Study Group Officer.
<i>AFC Headquarters</i>	AFC House, Jalan 1/155 B, Bukit Jalil, 57000 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
<i>AFC Logo(s)</i>	The official logo of AFC, and/or such other official logo, which shall be the only marks used by AFC, save where otherwise mutually agreed by the parties.

<i>AFC's Marketing Partner</i>	The marketing company, if any, that AFC has contracted the Commercial Rights for the Competition.
<i>AFC Official Merchandise</i>	The official merchandise of AFC, to which the AFC Logo and the Competition Marks may be applied, to those products at the sole discretion of AFC.
<i>AFC Website</i>	<a href="http://www.the-afc.com">www.the-afc.com</a>
<i>Archive Materials</i>	Any audio and/or audio-visual materials and/or photographs, Image Rights, Broadcast Rights, Film Rights, Video Rights, New Media Rights, created by or on behalf of WSG and/or all Competition Data created by or on behalf of WSG.
<i>Broadcast Affiliates</i>	Any entity, including the Host Broadcaster, which has acquired from AFC directly or indirectly any rights in respect of the Broadcast Rights of the Competition.
<i>Broadcast Rights</i>	The right to broadcast the Competition and the right of access to the Stadia to the exclusion of all others, for the purposes of producing a live television and/or radio signal and/or recordings of the Competition in any form of audio and/or audio-visual medium and the right to license the right to exhibit such live signal and/or recordings and/or part thereof by any and all forms of television and/or radio and/or any media now existing or as may be developed in the future, including, all forms of terrestrial, cable and satellite television, IPTV, broadband (fixed and/or wireless), Internet and Interactive Television on a world-wide basis.
<i>Clean Stadia</i>	The Stadia shall be free from commercial or promotional messages, advertising, displays or facilities of any kind except for those installed, erected or otherwise authorised by AFC from the period commencing 48 hours prior to each Match or other event comprising the Competitions until 24 hours thereafter so the Commercial Rights shall be fully available to AFC without hindrance.

<i>Clubs</i>	Clubs and leagues which exist within the geographical territory of a Member Association, and who shall be under the control and jurisdiction of the Member Association whilst participating in the Competition.
<i>Commercial Affiliates</i>	Any entity to which AFC directly or indirectly has granted or will grant any aspect of the Commercial Rights in respect of the Competition, including but not limited to Official Sponsors, Official Supporters, Official Licensees and Official Media Partners.
<i>Commercial Rights</i>	All rights of commercial exploitation of the Competition, including without limitation all rights of commercial exploitation of the Advertising Rights, Broadcast Rights, Concession Rights, Hospitality Rights, Image Rights, Merchandising Rights, Promotional Rights, Sponsorship Rights, and Travel and Tour Rights, by New Media Rights, Video Rights and/or commercial exploitation by any other means.
<i>Competition</i>	The AFC Champions League 2008 which shall include the Matches as set out in the Match Schedule, including any qualifying matches, opening, presentation or closing ceremonies, press conferences or official functions connected therewith.
<i>Competition Data</i>	Any and all information related to the Competition, including Fixture Lists, Image Rights, information and/or statistics about the Participating Teams and/or Participating Players, information and/or statistics about their participation and/or performance in the Competitions, match analysis, referee decisions, and any other information in relation to the Competition.
<i>Competition Marks</i>	The official logos and emblems to be used in connection with the Competition, to be designed and created by AFC.
<i>Competition Website</i>	An official website in relation to a Competition with a dedicated URL registered and maintained by AFC, at AFC's sole expense, for use exclusively by AFC.

<i>Complimentary Tickets</i>	Tickets which are normally charged but which are supplied without charge.
<i>Concession Rights</i>	Sampling, vending and other distribution methods for and of products or services, including pourage rights at the Stadia and Facility Areas.
<i>Controlled Access Areas</i>	The locations of the Matches and other events, such as (without limitation) Stadia and their fences and perimeters, the aerial space above the Stadia, and all other locations associated with the Competitions, including the Facility Areas, media centres, international broadcast centres, Official Training Sites, designated official hotels (including but not limited to the official hotels for the Participating Teams), hospitality and VIP areas and facilities, other areas to which admission is regulated by the Organising Association's accreditation system, and surrounding and adjacent areas to the locations described above.
<i>Facility Areas</i>	The location of Official Functions, press centres, ticket offices, official hotels, media areas, official hospitality areas and information centres controlled by or on behalf of AFC used in connection with the Competition whether at the Stadia or elsewhere at the Venues.
<i>FIFA</i>	The Federation International de Football Association.
<i>Film Rights</i>	The right to exploit visual images of the Competition, including images of the Participating Teams and/or Participating Players, whether produced for the purpose of the Broadcast Rights or separately, by means of cinematograph film throughout the Territory by any means of transmission and/or exhibition and/or reproduction now existing or hereinafter developed.

*Match Schedule*

The published schedule containing details of the Competition (which details shall include but not be limited to the names of the Participating Teams, Venues, Stadia, and details of the Match kick-off times)

*Force Majeure*

Any event affecting the performance or any provision of this Agreement arising from or attributable to acts, events, omissions or accidents which are beyond the reasonable control of a party, and shall include but not be limited to abnormally inclement weather, flood, lightning, storm, fire, explosion, earthquake, structural damage, epidemic or other natural disaster, failure or shortage of power supplies, war, terrorist action, military operations, riot, crowd disorder, strike, lock-outs or other industrial action, or civil commotion.

*Hospitality Rights*

The exclusive opportunity to sell all hospitality and entertainment facilities at the Venue or within the Controlled Access Areas in combination with the Complimentary Tickets, whether such facilities are in boxes, marquees or otherwise, but excluding those private facilities reserved for AFC officials and guests not forming part of any commercial programme.

*Host Broadcaster*

The organization appointed by AFC directly or indirectly to ensure and provide the production of the broadcast signals of the Matches and other events of the Competition, and the provision of all related services in accordance with the Broadcast Rights.

*Image Rights*

The right to use still and/or moving images and/or representations of images of Participating Teams and Participating Players participation in the Competitions, in accordance with the Commercial Regulations.

*Interactive  
Communications System*

Any interactive communication system that enables end users to engage in two-way interactive transmissions including the ability to access interactive programmes, services and media content, whether such programmes, services and media content are distributed by telephone or cable lines (whether fibreoptic, coaxial or otherwise) satellites, microwave or other wireless digital communication systems, cellular communication systems, WAP, UTMS, personal digital communications devices, pager services, online data services, broadband, the Internet or any combination or subset of the foregoing employing any current or future design or technology or any similar interactive communications systems whether now known or hereafter developed.

*Interactive Television*

Any distribution of television signals in conjunction with an Interactive Communications System in such a way as to allow recipients to engage in two-way interactive communications including the ability to access interactive programmes and services irrespective of the means of distribution of such television signals.

*Internet*

The world-wide network of TCP/IP based networks, including services running applications such as the World Wide Web, email, chat lines, FTP and Gopher. For the purposes of this Agreement, Internet also means any private or proprietary network that connects to the above World Wide network of TCP/IP based networks through bridges or gateways, including AOL, CompuServe, MSN, prodigy and minitel.

*Match(es)*

Each football match(es) in its entirety (including extra time and penalty kick) of the Competition, and including any delayed, deferred Matches and/or replays.

*Media*

All members of the written press, on-line editors, photographers, television news crews and the representatives of the Broadcast Rights Holders entitled to media accreditation as determined by AFC.

*Member(s) / Association(s)* / *Member* Those National Associations who are members of FIFA, and who have applied for and been granted Ordinary, Provisional, Associate or Exceptional membership of AFC. For the purpose of this definition “Ordinary”, “Provisional”, “Associate” and “Exceptional” membership shall have the same meaning as contained in AFC Statutes.

*Merchandising Rights* The right to design, in consultation with AFC, and the right to exploit the Competition Marks and/or Official Status in connection with the promotion, manufacture, packaging, distribution and sale of goods and services of all kinds, including items of clothing, coins, medals, other collectibles and premiums related to the Competition.

*New Media Rights* The right to develop, prepare, adapt, reformat, publish and sell, distribute, transmit, exhibit or otherwise transfer, and licence others to do so, the Broadcast Rights, Film Rights, Video Rights, Image Rights and any Competition Data relating to the Competitions, for exploitation in any manner (whether sequentially or non-sequentially or in combination with any third party works or derivative works, if any) by any means, method or device including the Internet, broadband, wireless, Interactive Communication Systems, Interactive Television, intranet, extranet, digital magnetic and or optical information storage and retrieval systems, GSM or other mobile phone technology and any other device or medium for electronic reproduction, publication, distribution or transmission, whether now known or hereafter known or developed. For the avoidance of doubt, the New Media Rights will include the right: (1) To develop an Internet web site in relation to the Competition; (2) To develop e-commerce opportunities; and (3) to publish the Competition Data, in print media (including, without limitation, magazines, books and other printed materials).

*National Association(s)* The controlling bodies for association football within each country or territory of Asia.

<i>Official Functions</i>	Any official event organised in connection with the Competitions, including but not limited to press conferences, official dinners or lunches and banquets.
<i>Official Licensee</i>	A sub-licensee of the Commercial Rights appointed by AFC and/or WSG.
<i>Official Training Sites</i>	Training sites designated by the Organising Association for use by the Participating Teams throughout the duration of the Competition.
<i>Organising Association(s)</i>	A Member Association(s) appointed by AFC to organize, stage and host the Competition.
<i>Promotional Rights</i>	Any rights to official publications, official suppliers, official products, sales promotion including but not limited to the right to organise promotional competitions and to make awards and give prizes, official music rights, the right to grant Official Status and all other rights of commercial value in regard to the Competition.
<i>Participating Players</i>	Those players registered and participating in the Competition and any other players under the authority of AFC during the Competition.
<i>Participating Team(s) Participating Club(s)</i>	/ Those teams participating in the Competitions, under the authority of the Member Associations and AFC during the Competition.
<i>Premiums</i>	A promotional item (including packaging, labelling and/or containers thereof) which incorporates a mark and/or logo of AFC and/or the Competitions, and which is distributed free of charge or via prize competitions.

*Proprietary Interests*

Without limitation, intellectual property, copyright and analogous rights, trademark rights, moral rights, performing rights, personality rights and all remedies available under the applicable laws of unfair competition comprised in the Commercial Rights. For the purpose of this definition “moral rights” shall mean a privilege, right or claim which is based on moral considerations or ethical principles and which should be recognised by law, but which may not be legally imposed or enforced as such.

*Sponsorship Rights*

An association with the Competition and/or AFC (subject to the special provisions regarding the development of AFC Logo as set out in this Agreement and/or the AFC Guidelines) by any combination of Commercial Rights, including title sponsor of the Competitions or any of them such as “2007 XYZ Competition sponsored / presented by Company A” (save in respect of the AFC Champions League and AFC Asian Cup) and/or such other designation as mutually agreed by the parties.

*Stadia*

The official stadia (or any stadium) and the airspace and surrounding areas for the Matches, whether under the control of the Organising Association or otherwise, used for the Matches, including without limitation parking facilities, VIP and hospitality areas, concourses, concession areas, fencing and entrances.

*Team’s Official Delegation*

For matches played in centralized competition, the Team’s Official Delegation will comprise of a maximum of 23 players and 7 officials who are named in the Final Registration for the Competition.

For matches played on a home and away format, the Team’s Official Delegation will comprise of a maximum of 18 players and 7 officials who are named in the Final Registration for the Competition.

*Technical Annex*

A document outlining the technical requirements of the broadcast media, to be provided to AFC by WSG for each Competition.

<i>Territory</i>	The World.
<i>Ticketing</i>	All operational measures to provide tickets to all spectators of every Match and for Official Functions of the Competition allowing them to enter the Stadia and for a Venue. Ticketing shall include the management of operation necessary for the production, sale, distribution, delivery and payment of the tickets of the Competition.
<i>Travel &amp; Tour Rights</i>	The exclusive right to organise and/or sub-license official travel and tour activities in relation to the Competitions, which travel and tour activities shall, for the avoidance of doubt, include tickets to the Competition. The tickets referred to may include a combination of Complimentary Tickets and/or such additional tickets as may be purchased from the Organising Association at no greater than face value.
<i>Tribune d'Honneur</i>	The highest category of seating in the Stadia that is reserved for VVIP Guests.
<i>Venues</i>	Each host city and the immediately surrounding area in which the Stadia are located.
<i>Video Rights</i>	The right to produce or license the production of video cassettes, video discs, digital video discs or other video material containing material created by means of the Broadcast Rights and/or Film Rights for the purpose of exploiting said video cassettes and/or discs and/or material by means of, including but not limited to, sale or rental and by all forms of non-theatrical distribution.

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

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

## SECTION 1: REPRESENTATION

### 1. Representation

- a) The AFC Executive Committee shall have the power to make decisions on all matters which do not fall within the legal or statutory jurisdiction of the Congress or another Organ.
- b) The Executive Committee shall manage AFC, except to the extent that it has delegated responsibility to the Administration, or unless such responsibility is delegated by the Statutes.
- c) The AFC stages the AFC Champions League Competition (hereafter the “Competition”) annually. The Competition is open to national league champions and national knock-out competition champions of the following AFC member national associations: Australia, China P.R., I.R. Iran, Iraq, Japan, Korea Republic, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Thailand, UAE, Uzbekistan, and Vietnam. In addition, the defending champion of the AFC Champions League is also invited to participate.
- d) Any rights associated with the Competition which has not been granted by these Regulations and/or specific agreements to a participating Member Association and its representative Club in the Competition belong to AFC.
- e) AFC stages the Competition with the Member Associations and participating Clubs (collectively hereinafter the Clubs unless the Member Association is stated independently).
- f) The current AFC Statutes and all current AFC Regulations shall apply. Any reference in these Regulations to the AFC Statutes refers to the Statutes valid at the time of entry and to all relevant AFC regulations.
- g) The Regulations of the Competition (the Regulations) regulate the rights, duties and responsibilities of all Clubs taking part in the Competition and the Organising Club by forming an integral part of the Organising Club Agreement (hereinafter the “OCA”). The Regulations and all guidelines and circulars issued by AFC are binding for all parties participating and involved in the preparation, Organisation and hosting of the Competition.

- h) The winner of the Competition shall qualify directly and undertake to take part in the following competitions:
  - i. FIFA Club World Cup 2008
  - ii. Intercontinental competitions arranged by AFC with other confederations
- i) **Clubs** are not authorised to represent AFC or the Competition without AFC's prior written approval.
- j) All Players and Officials registered for participation in this Competition shall undertake to ensure their presence at the AFC Awards Night of the AFC Competitions Calendar Year if they are nominated for an award. Any player or official failing to do so shall be declared ineligible to participate in all AFC Competitions in the next calendar year. This clause is only applicable to Asian players playing in leagues of AFC Member Associations.

## SECTION 2: TECHNICAL REGULATIONS

### 2. Matches played in accordance with the Laws of the Game

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

### 3. Duration of Match

- a) Each match shall last 90 minutes, comprising two periods of 45 minutes, with an interval of 15 minutes in between from the whistle ending the first period to the whistle starting the second period.

### 4. Clocks

- a) Clocks in the stadium showing playing time may run during the match, provided that they are stopped at the end of normal playing time in each half, i.e. after forty-five (45) and ninety (90) minutes respectively. This stipulation shall also apply if extra time is played (i.e. after fifteen (15) minutes of each half).

### 5. Extra Time

- a) If, in accordance with the provisions of these Regulations, extra time is played as a result of a draw at the end of normal playing time, it shall consist of two (2) periods of fifteen (15) minutes each, with an interval of five (5) minutes at the end of normal playing time, but not between the two periods of extra time.

## 6. Away Goals

- a) For matches played under the Knock-out format played on a home and away basis, if two Teams involved in a tie score the same number of goals over two legs, the Teams which scores more away goals (the away goal scored will be counted as double) qualifies for the next stage. If this procedure does not produce a result i.e. if the two teams score the same number of goals at home and away, extra time shall be played according to the provisions of these regulations. If during extra time, both Teams score the same number of goals, away goals count as double (i.e. the visiting Teams qualifies).

## 7. Determining the Winner by Penalty Kicks

- a) If the result is still a draw after the two periods of extra time, penalty kicks shall be taken to determine the winner, in accordance with the procedures described in the Laws of the Game.
- b) The referee decides which goal will be used for the kick from the penalty mark:
  - i. In particular, but without limitation, for reasons of safety/security, state of the field of play, lighting, etc. the referee may choose which goal will be used without tossing a coin. In this case, he is not required to justify his decision, which is final.
  - ii. If he considers that both goals can be used for the kicks, then, in the presence of the two (2) captains, he decides that the head side of the coin corresponds to one goal and the tail side to the other. He then tosses the coin to determine which goal to be used.
- c) To ensure that the procedure is strictly observed, the Referee shall be assisted by the Assistant Referees and the Fourth Official, who shall record the number of the player from each Team who are taking the kicks from the penalty mark. The Assistant Referees shall position themselves according to the Laws of the Game.
- d) If the taking of kicks from the penalty mark cannot be completed because of weather conditions or for other reasons beyond control, the results shall be decided by the drawing of lots by the Referee in the presence of the AFC Match Commissioner and the two (2) team captains.

- e) If, through the fault of a Team, the taking of kicks from the penalty mark cannot be completed, Articles 26 c) of these regulations shall apply.

## 8. Abandonment of Matches

- a) If the match is stopped by the Referee before the end of normal time or during any extra time because of any force majeure or any other incidents such as, but not limited to, the field is not fit for play, weather conditions, floodlight failure, etc. the following procedures must be followed:
- b) The match is automatically suspended for the duration of thirty (30) minutes, unless the referee decides that the match can be resumed earlier, to allow conditions to improve sufficiently to restart the match.
- c) At the discretion of the Referee, another suspension of a maximum of thirty (30) minutes shall be allowed if in his opinion this extra period of suspension will allow the match to be resumed. Otherwise, at the end of this second thirty (30) minute period, the Referee must declare the match to have been abandoned.
- d) In the case of an abandoned match, the AFC shall decide within two (2) hours of the Referee's decision to abandon the match whether the match result at the time of abandonment is valid or whether a replay shall be organised, taking sporting and organisational considerations into account.
- e) No appeals may be lodged against decisions stated in Art. 8 a) to Art. 8 d).

## 9. Cancellation of Matches

- a) If the match cannot commence on time due to force majeure or any other incidents such as, but not limited to, the field is not fit for play, weather conditions, floodlight failure, etc. the following procedures must be followed:
- b) The match must first be delayed for a minimum of thirty (30) minutes, unless the Referee decides that the match can commence earlier, before a decision to reschedule the match is taken.
- c) At the discretion of the Referee, another delay of a maximum of thirty (30) minutes shall be allowed if in his opinion this extra period of delay

will allow the match to commence. Otherwise, at the end of this second thirty (30) minute period, the Referee must declare the match to have been cancelled.

- d) In the case of a cancelled match, the AFC shall decide within two (2) hours of the Referee's decision to cancel the match whether the match can be rescheduled, taking sporting and organisational considerations into account, or whether any other action and decision is needed to continue with the competition. Any disciplinary sanctions resulting from the cancelled match shall remain in force.
- e) No appeals may be lodged against decisions stated in Art. 9 a) to Art. 9 d).

## 10. Competition System

- a) The Competition shall consist of two stages
  - i. Group Stage (League system)
  - ii. Knockout Stage consisting of the Quarterfinals, Semi-finals and Finals (Knockout system.)
- b) The champion of the last edition of the Competition automatically qualifies for the Quarter-final stage of the Competition together with the other seven (7) Group winners.
- c) The matches in the Competition shall be played in accordance with one of the following two formats:
  - i. In groups composed of several teams on a home and away basis, with three points awarded for a win, one point for a draw, no points for a defeat (league system);
  - ii. One home and one away match per team (knock-out system)
- d) The AFC Competitions Committee forms groups and/or sub-groups for the Competition by drawing lots whilst taking sports, geographic and economic factors into consideration, as far as possible.
- e) The AFC Competitions Committee decides on the playing system, playing format, the group formation and the duration of the Competition. Such decisions are final. In the case of withdrawals, the AFC Competitions Committee may change the groups in accordance with the provisions of Art. 10 d) above.

- f) When matches are played in accordance on a home and away basis with League system or knock-out system, home matches may not be played in another country without the express permission of the AFC Competitions Committee.
- g) In the league system the ranking in each group is determined in the following sequence:
  - i. Greater number of points obtained in all group matches;
  - ii. If two or more Teams are equal on the basis of the above criterion, their place shall be determined in the following sequence and order:
    - A) Greater number of points obtained in the group matches between the Teams concerned;
    - B) Goal difference resulting from the group matches between the Teams concerned; (Away Goals do not apply)
    - C) Greater number of goals scored in the group matches between the Teams concerned;
    - D) Goal difference in all the group matches;
    - E) Greater number of goals scored in all the group matches;
    - F) Kicks from the penalty mark if only two Teams are involved and they are both on the field of play;
    - G) Drawing of lots
- h) In the Knock-out system, both Teams shall play one home and one away match each, the sequence of which will be determined by lots drawn by the AFC Competitions Committee. The Team having scored most goals in both games will qualify for the next round. If both Teams score the same number of goals in both matches, the goals scored away will be counted as double. If the same number of goals is scored away or both matches end without any goals being scored, extra time shall be played after the second match (cf. Art. 5). If no goal is scored during these periods of extra time, penalty kicks shall be taken to determine the winner (cf. 7). If, during extra time, both Teams score the same number of goals, away goals count double (i.e. the visiting Team qualifies).

## 11. Dates of the Competition

- a) All matches are played according to the AFC Competition Calendar for 2008 as set by the AFC Competitions Committee. The dates are final and binding on all concerned. The AFC Competition Calendar for 2008 is appended to these Regulations.

- b) The AFC Competitions Committee shall ensure that matches in the same group are played simultaneously when the situation demands for sporting reasons, taking into consideration time zones.

## 12. Stadiums (Stadia)

- a) The Stadiums for the matches in the Competition shall be nominated upon entry, by the **Clubs** in compliance with Art. 12 b), 12 c) and Art. 12 d) and the AFC Marketing Regulations and subject to confirmation by the Organizing Committee of AFC for Club Competitions.
- b) The Club must submit to AFC using the Access Guarantee letter, the approval from the Stadium owner guaranteeing that the Stadium nominated can and will be made exclusively available on all AFC match dates, including the period prior to and after the match dates as indicated in the aforementioned form.
- c) Stadia located in cities that do not have an international airport within a radius of a hundred (100) kilometers and a journey time of no more than sixty (60) minutes, and for which no less than three (3) connecting flights exist from the nearest international airport to the Venue of the match will not be eligible and the **Host Club** must nominate an alternative stadium in the capital city, or nearest city with an international airport that would meet the distance and time criteria listed above. Nominated Stadia are subject to inspections by AFC before being deemed suitable for use in this Competition. Non-compliance with these regulations may result in a **Club** forfeiting its eligibility to participate in this Competition.
- d) Only Stadiums that have at least 1200 lux can be approved for use to host matches of this Competition.
- e) The **Clubs** shall ensure that the Stadium(s) and facilities in which the matches take place fulfill the requirements described in the FIFA Technical Recommendations and Requirement for the Construction or Modernisation of Football Stadia in compliance with the safety and security standards and other AFC guidelines and instructions for international matches. The field of play, accessories, equipment and facilities shall be in optimum condition and comply with the Laws of Game.
- f) The **Clubs** shall ensure that no matches and/or other activities are held at the Stadium(s) nominated for the matches at least two (2) days prior

to and during the Competition, unless written permission has been obtained from the AFC Competitions Committee.

- g) If the Organising Club considers the field of play unfit for play, the AFC Secretariat shall be informed immediately, as well as the visiting Club and the AFC Match Officials before their departure. If the Organising Club concerned fails to do this, it will be obliged to cover all of the expenses incurred for travel, board and lodging of the parties involved.
- h) If there is any doubt regarding the condition of the field of play once the visiting Club has already left to play the match, the referee shall decide whether the field of play is playable or not. If the referee declares that the match cannot commence because of force majeure, or any other incidents such as, but not limited to, the field is not fit for play, weather conditions, floodlight failures, etc. the procedure to be followed is described in Art. 9 above.
- i) Throughout the competition a Club must play all its home matches in the Competition at one and the same Stadium unless forced to do otherwise because of circumstances beyond its control. In this case, the Club must provide proof and evidence, including but not limited to photographs, visual evidence and letters from the appropriate authorities as to why the Stadium is no longer fit to host the Match.
- j) Only upon receipt of the necessary documents and an inspection visit, will AFC make a decision on condition of the Stadium and where necessary, grant the Club the permission to nominate another Stadium which must meet the conditions listed from Art. 12 a) to Art. 12 e).
- k) However, the newly nominated Stadium may only be approved subject to an inspection by AFC. The cost of this inspection visit will be borne by the Club and Member Association who requested for this change.
- l) Should such a Host Club not be able to propose an acceptable alternative Stadium within the deadline set by AFC, AFC will select an alternative Stadium in a neutral Venue and make all the necessary arrangements for the staging of the match with the Member Association on whose territory the match will take place and local authorities. In both cases, the costs of staging the match shall be borne by the Club considered the home Club. AFC shall take a final decision with respect to the match Venue and take any such decision in due time.
- m) All matches of the Competition may only be played in all-seater stadia. The use of temporary stands is not authorised. Benches, whether

concrete, metal, wooden or plastic topped or not with wooden slats, etc., are not acceptable. If only Stadia with both seating and standing areas are available, the standing space shall remain vacant unless approved by the AFC Competitions Committee on a case-by-case basis.

- n) The Host Association and the home Club will be subjected to disciplinary sanctions if matches in this Competition are played in Stadium not approved by AFC.
- o) The Clubs shall be entitled to warm up on the field of play before the match if the weather permits.

### 13. Floodlights

- a) The matches may be played in daylight or under floodlight. Matches played at night may be played only at Stadia where the floodlighting installations meet the minimum lighting requirements laid down by AFC in the relevant regulations and/or guidelines. The guidelines state that, in the case of matches played at night, the whole pitch shall be evenly lit to at least 1200 lux.
- b) An emergency power generator shall also be available which, in the event of a power failure, guarantees at least two-thirds of the aforementioned intensity of light for the whole stadium, including the pitch area and spectator area. The Organizing Committee for AFC Club Competitions is entitled to grant exceptions, which shall be final.

### 14. Field of Play

- a) All Competition matches may be played on natural turf or artificial turf that meets recognized FIFA standards and in accordance with the FIFA Quality Concept and declared on entry to the Competition.

### 15. Field of Play Dimensions

- a) All matches of the Competition may only be played on fields of play with the following minimum/maximum dimensions:
  - i. **Minimum:** Length: 100 meters (110 yards), Width: 64 meters (70 yards)
  - ii. **Maximum:** Length: 110 meters (120 yards), Width: 75 meters (80 yards)

## 16. Kick-off Times

- a) The Clubs shall inform AFC Secretariat of the kick-off times for all home matches upon entry to the Competition, which shall be subject to approval by the Organising Committee for AFC Club Competitions.
- b) In principle, the matches within a group on the last match day must be played simultaneously. The AFC Secretariat is authorised to fix the kick-off times taking into consideration time zones.

## 17. Official Training Sessions at the Stadium

- a) Depending on the weather and condition of the pitch, the visiting Team will be entitled to a one-hour official training session in the Stadium where they are due to play on the day before their first match at the same time as the match kick-off, unless otherwise requested in writing seven (7) days before the match, by the visiting Team concerned and communicated to the Host Club and the AFC Secretariat. The field of play must be prepared to match conditions for this session (i.e. the grass must be cut, the field of play must be lined and the goals (with nets) in place). If the field of play is not in good condition, the AFC Match Commissioner may direct the teams only to inspect the field of play wearing training shoes. If an artificial pitch is to be used for the matches, the visiting Club is entitled to have either a two (2) one-hour official training sessions or a two (2) hour official training sessions in the Stadium where they are due to play on the day before their match. Media Regulations may apply and will be communicated to the participating Clubs separately.

## 18. Alternative Stadiums

- a) If, at any time during the Competition, AFC deems that, for whatever reason, the Stadium may not be fit for staging a match; the AFC may consult with the Organising Club/s and propose an alternative Stadium, in accordance with the standards required by AFC.
- b) Should such a Host Club not be able to propose an acceptable alternative Stadium within the deadline set by AFC, AFC will select an alternative Stadium in a neutral Venue and make all the necessary arrangements for the staging of the match with the Member Association on whose territory the match will take place and local authorities. In both cases, the costs of staging the match shall be borne by the Club

considered the home Club. AFC shall take a final decision with respect to the match Venue and take any such decision in due time.

## 19. Official Training Sites

- a) Official training sites, that conform to the AFC Marketing Regulations, in good condition and situated near the Visiting Team's headquarters in each venue shall be made available to the visiting Club at least two (2) full days prior to the match in the Competition and must be declared upon entry to the Competition.
- b) The Clubs participating in the Competition shall use only those training sites which have been officially designated for training by the Organising Committee for AFC Club Competitions and approved by the AFC.
- c) These official training sites are reserved for training and practice matches and shall not be used for other matches and events as from two (2) days prior to each Club's match in the competition.

## 20. Footballs

- a) The footballs chosen for the Competition shall conform to the Laws of the Game and bear one of the following three (3) quality standard designations licensed by FIFA:
  - i. "FIFA APPROVED";
  - ii. "FIFA INSPECTED";
  - iii. "INTERNATIONAL MATCH BALL STANDARD"
- b) Pursuant to the Laws of the Game, the manufacturer's authorized trademark (as a graphic logo or a name, or a graphic logo and name combined) may only be used, once provided the size of the trademark does not exceed fifty (50) cm<sup>2</sup>. The name of the football may be displayed and shall not exceed fifty (50) cm<sup>2</sup>
- c) The footballs for the Competition shall be selected and supplied by AFC as follows:
  - i. Each Club will be provided with 15 match balls for training.
  - ii. The Organising Club will be provided 13 match balls for each match
  - iii. Visiting Clubs are required to bring their AFC-provided training balls with them on away trips.

## 21. Technical Regulations for the Competition: Group Stage

- a) The 28 Clubs taking part in the Competition shall be divided into 7 groups of 4 Clubs each. The groups shall be divided into four groups containing Clubs from the West and Central & South Asian zones and three groups containing Clubs from ASEAN and East Asia zones.
- b) The AFC Competitions Committee shall divide the Clubs into groups by drawing lots in public, whilst taking sports, geographic and economic factors into consideration, as far as possible. Clubs from the same member association will not be drawn into the same group.
- c) The Clubs in the 7 groups shall be designated as follows:

### West and Central & South Asia

Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D
A1	B1	C1	D1
A2	B2	C2	D2
A3	B3	C3	D3
A4	B4	C4	D4

### ASEAN and East Asia

Group E	Group F	Group G
E1	F1	G1
E2	F2	G2
E3	F3	G3
E4	F4	G4

- d) The following match sequence applies (the number designates the position drawn in each group):

1<sup>st</sup> match day: 1 v 4, 3 v 2

2<sup>nd</sup> match day: 4 v 3, 2 v 1

3<sup>rd</sup> match day: 4 v 2, 1 v 3

4<sup>th</sup> match day: 2 v 4, 3 v 1

5<sup>th</sup> match day: 4 v 1, 2 v 3

6<sup>th</sup> match day: 1 v 2, 3 v 4

- e) Where required, to ensure fair play and for sporting reasons, the matches in the last match day in each group shall be scheduled to take place at the same time on the same day, taking into consideration time zones.

- f) The ranking of each team in each group shall be determined as the provisions in Art. 10 g).
- g) The Club coming first in each group and the three best runners-up qualify for the Quarter-finals stage.

## 22. Technical Regulations for the Competition: Knockout Stage

### Quarter-finals

- a) The Quarter-finals shall be played in accordance with the knock-out system (cf. Art. 10 h) on a home and away basis.
- b) The AFC Competitions Committee shall divide the qualified Clubs into pairing by drawing lots. Clubs from the same country cannot be drawn together in this stage.
- c) The Quarter-finals matches will be played on the fixed match dates as listed on the Match Schedule.
- d) The winners of the four matches in the Quarter-finals qualify for the Semi-finals.

### Semi-finals

- a) The Semi-finals shall all be played in accordance with the knock-out system (cf. Art. 10 h) on a home and away basis.
- b) The AFC Competitions Committee shall divide the qualified Clubs into pairings by drawing lots.
- c) The Semi-finals matches will be played on the fixed match dates as listed on the Match Schedule.
- d) The winners of the two matches in the Semi-finals will qualify for the Finals

### Finals

- a) The Finals shall be played in accordance with the Knock-out system (cf. Art. 10 h) on a home and away basis between the two (2) semi-finalist winners.

- b) The AFC Competitions Committee shall divide the qualified Clubs into a pairing by drawing lots, with the first drawn Club playing the first match at home
- c) The Finals will be played on the fixed match dates as listed on the appended AFC Competitions Calendar 2008.

## SECTION 3: PARTICIPATING TEAMS

### 23. Entries

- a) As a rule, **Clubs** from the following countries affiliated to AFC may participate in the Competition: Australia, China P.R., I.R. Iran, Iraq, Japan, Korea Republic, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Thailand, UAE, Uzbekistan and Vietnam.
- b) Each **Club** taking part in the Competition shall ensure, as a condition of its participation in the Competition that every member of its delegation(s) (players and officials) completes a Participation Agreement to be issued by AFC.
- c) The eligible **Clubs** from each Member Association shall complete an official entry form and the Participating Agreement in full and submit it through their respective Member Associations to the AFC Secretariat not later than the entry deadline communicated to the Member Association and participating Clubs. The name of the eligible **Club** must appear on the form.
- d) Only the official entry form and Participating Agreement submitted to the AFC Headquarters by fax and courier post will be valid and taken into consideration.
- e) All decisions by the AFC Competitions Committee regarding entries are final and not subject to appeal.

### 24. Eligible Teams

- a) The National League Champion and the Champion Club of the national knock-out competition for the football season declared by the Member Association and approved by the AFC Competitions Committee, and concluded in the year preceding the current Competition shall be eligible to participate in this Competition.
- b) Further to Art. 24 a), in case the National League Champion and the Champion Club of the national knock-out Competition are the same, the runner-up of the National League for the football season declared by the Member Association and approved by the AFC Competitions Committee, and concluded in the year preceding the current Competition shall be eligible to participate in this Competition.

- c) Further to Art. 24 a) and b), in case the reigning champion of the AFC Champions League are the same as the National League Champion and the Champion Club of the national knock-out Competition, the runner-up of the National League and the runner-up Club of the national knock-out competition for the football season declared by the Member Association and approved by the AFC Competitions Committee, and concluded in the year preceding the current Competition shall be eligible to participate in this Competition.
- d) Each Member Association shall be allowed to enter a maximum of two (2) Clubs, except for:
  - i. The Member Association of the reigning AFC Champions League champion which is allowed to enter three (3) Clubs as stipulated above.
- e) All nominated Clubs are subject to the approval of the AFC Competitions Committee.

## 25. Duties and Obligations

On entering the Competition, the Club shall automatically undertake:

- a) To observe the Regulations, decisions, guidelines and circulars issued by AFC as well as the applicable national and supra-national laws;
- b) To accept that all the administrative, disciplinary and refereeing matters connected with the Competition shall be settled by AFC in compliance with these Regulations or the decisions of relevant AFC Committee(s);
- c) In their capacity as the Organising Club, to make the appropriate arrangements for the staging of their matches, in conjunction with their Member Association and AFC Headquarters, and in accordance with the stipulations of Section 6 of these Regulations;
- d) To field their strongest teams;
- e) To accept all the arrangements made by the Organising Club in agreement with the AFC Secretariat;
- f) To observe the principles of Fair Play;
- g) To be responsible for the behavior of their players, officials, members, supporters and any person carrying out duties on their behalf

- h) To pay for incidental expenses incurred by delegation members during the course of their stay in the host countries and for any costs incurred by additional members of the delegation other than those mentioned in these Regulations;
- i) To pay for any costs of extending their stay (beyond the dates stipulated in Art. 45 below;
- j) To apply for visas in good time, either through embassies or consulates in their home country or through the Host Member Association, if necessary, and to pay all visa application costs (either through embassies or consulates in their home country or on arrival to the host country);
- k) To attend and participate in all official activities and events such as Team Manager's Meeting, media conferences, other media activities, etc. organized by AFC or the Organising Association in accordance with guidelines and/or instructions in circulars issued by AFC regarding, in particular, media access to Clubs;
- l) To hold and conduct pre-match and post-match press conferences when organizing Competition matches. Failure to do so will result in the organizing Club being fined and disciplinary action taken.
- m) To ensure its Head Coach and relevant players attend the pre-match and post-match press conferences of the Competition. Failure to do so will result in the organizing Club being fined and disciplinary action taken.
- n) To appoint a club media officer who coordinates cooperation between the club and the media in accordance with AFC's regulations, guidelines and/or instructions in circulars issued by AFC. The AFC Champions League club media officers will aim to assist all media relevant activities to help promote the competition and must undertake the responsibility:
  - i. To follow a dress-code advised by AFC
  - ii. To attend AFC Champions League seminars and/or workshops for club media officers of participating clubs
  - iii. To be able to provide any media services required by public and new media
  - iv. To conduct press conferences, in English and a first official language of the country which an organizing club is located

- in, on behalf of AFC while there is no AFC media officer designated by AFC at the venue.
- v. To provide AFC prior to each season with individual player and coach/manager statistics and photographs, historical information on its club, stadium and a photograph thereof, and further data as requested by AFC for media and promotional purposes
  - o) To link the official URL for the Competition to the Member Association's and participating Club's official website upon qualification for or entry to the Competition.
  - p) To respect and conform to the terms of the Participating Agreement
  - q) To comply with and implement the Ticketing Terms and Conditions and the Ticketing Policy as set forth by AFC.
  - r) To ensure that the Team Manager of the Club attend the pre-competition workshop. Failure to do so will result in the Club being fined US\$5,000.00 (Five Thousand Dollars only)
  - s) To accept (and to secure its player's and officials' written acceptance prior to the Competition) the use and/or sub-license by AFC of any of the records, names and images of the Member Association and Club (including its marks) its players and officials, including any still and moving representation thereof, which may appear or be generated in connection with the participation of the Member Association and Club and its players and officials in the Competition.
  - t) To recognize and accept AFC's right to use and/or sub-license such records, names and images of the Member Association and Club (including its marks) its players and officials shall be exclusive in respect of, or in connection with, the filming, recording, broadcasting and any other form of transmission of the records, names, images and Member Association and Club marks (including, but not limited to television, film images for broadcast or other transmission) in connection with the Competition.
  - u) To recognize and accept AFC's right to use and/or sub-license such records, names and images of the national association (including its marks), its players and officials, including any still and moving representation thereof which may appear or be generated in connection with the participation of the Member Association and Club and its

players and official in the Competition shall, other than as outlined above, be nonexclusive, and be limited to activities, which

- i. Are associated with the participation of the Member Association and Clubs, players and officials in the Competition;
  - ii. Do not directly promote, or directly cause the promotion of, any direct association between any Member Association and Club, its players or officials and any third party other than AFC.
- v) Such rights may be used and/or sub-licensed by AFC in perpetuity in any medium known or hereinafter devised for any purpose, whether commercial or non-commercial.
- w) All revenues generated by AFC from the specific exploitation of the rights to use and/or sub-license images of the Club's players, including any still and moving representation thereof, other than exploitation in connection with filming, recording, broadcasting and any other form of transmission, will be used by AFC for its humanitarian charitable activities and/or charitable football development activities (such as youth development programmes).
- x) For the avoidance of doubt, the participating Member Association and Club's players and officials shall remain free to exploit their own proprietary rights (including intellectual property rights), which are unconnected with the Competition.

## 26. Withdrawal, penalty for failing to play and replacement

- a) Clubs shall play in all Competition matches.
- b) Clubs that withdraw prior to, or is excluded from playing in, the Group Stage of the Competition, may be replaced by another Club. AFC's Competition Committee shall make the relevant decision, including a change in the Competition system (Art. 10) and the Technical Rules for the Competition (Art. 21) if necessary.
- c) If a Club withdraws after entering or does not report for a match at any Stage of the Competition, except in cases of force-majeure recognized by the AFC Competitions Committee, or if it refuses to continue to play or leaves the stadium before the end of the match, the Club shall:
  - i. Be considered to have withdrawn from the Competition.

- ii. Where Club withdraws after the Competition has started, be deemed to have lost the match and 3 points shall be awarded to its opponent with a score of 3-0 or more if, in the case of an abandoned match, the winning Club has already reached the higher score at the time the guilty team leaves the field.
  - iii. Where Club withdraws after the Competition has started, have all of its matches deemed a result as set forth above.
  - iv. Be required to pay compensation for any and all damages or losses suffered by the other Club, its Member Association, the AFC and AFC's Commercial and TV partner(s). The amount of compensation will be determined by the AFC Executive Committee.
  - v. Be disqualified from taking part in the next edition of the Competition (and its qualifying competitions, if any.).
  - vi. Be referred to the AFC Disciplinary Committee
  - vii. Return to the AFC any financial stipends that had been paid to them by AFC throughout the Competition or forfeit the right to the same.
  - viii. The AFC Executive Committee may impose additional sanctions and fines depending on the gravity of the situation
- d) The AFC Competitions Committee shall take whatever action it deems necessary in cases of force-majeure.

## 27. Size of Delegation Attending Matches

- a) Each participating Club is entitled to an Official Delegation of a maximum of 18 players and 7 officials. The team's Official Delegation will be hosted by the Organising Club (receiving full board, accommodation and transportation benefits as well as full access to the official Competition areas including the field of play and other Controlled Accessed areas)
- b) At their own cost, each Participating Club can nominate, an additional official who will receive full access to the official Competition areas including the field of play and other Controlled Accessed areas).
- c) At their own cost, each Participating Club can nominate, up to an additional four (4) officials, where all four (4) officials will receive access to team hotel, training sites and the Official Competition areas, except the field of play.

## 28. Eligibility of players

- a) A player is eligible to play in the Competition provided he fulfils all the following conditions:
  - i. He is duly registered by the Member Association concerned according to its own rules and those of FIFA Regulations for the Status and Transfer of Players;
  - ii. He is only eligible to play for a **Club** affiliated to the Member Association concerned;
  - iii. He is duly registered with the AFC by the Member Association and Club according to the provisions of these regulations.
- b) Each Club must submit to AFC the passports and national ID cards of all players who participate in this Competition in accordance to Art. 30. Group passports shall not be accepted.
- c) Each participating Club registering naturalised players must present proof of naturalisation by providing supporting documents issued by the competent authorities of their countries as proof of the Player's nationality in accordance with Art. 15 of the Regulations Governing the Application of the FIFA Statutes.
- d) The Supporting documents required are, but not limited to, passports, National Identification Cards, previous passports of more than two years and Birth Certificates. Where necessary, clubs may be required to provide further documentation.
- e) Each participating **Club** must present an official **Club** registration document for all players who will participate in this Competition to prove that they are genuinely registered to the **Club** they represent.
- f) All players both foreign and local must possess and submit the following documents to AFC in addition to their passports to be eligible to play in this Competition:
  - i. Certified copies of the Certificate of Registration to the **Club** bearing the signature of the General Secretary and the seal of the Member Association of the **Club**.
  - ii. Certified copies of FIFA International Transfer Registration Certificates for foreign players only approving the transfer together with two certified photocopies.

- iii. Certified copies of the letter from the Member Association of the home country for foreign players not registered to any Clubs permitting them to play for the present Club.
- g) AFC shall carry out a check of the documents listed in Art. 28 b) to Art. 28 f) above immediately after the closure of the registration window. Players with missing documents will not be eligible for registration. All eligible players will be issued with official eligibility cards authorized by the Organizing Committee for AFC Competitions Committee. Should the card have been misplaced, the Club shall be required to pay a US\$1,000 (One thousand US Dollars only) production fee for every card lost, to replace it.
  - h) Any Club found guilty of fielding an ineligible player shall forfeit the match. Victory and the resultant three (3) points will be awarded to the opposing team as well as the score of 3-0, or greater, depending on the score of the match. In such instances, the opposing team shall retain the goals scored in the match but will have the goals against nullified. The guilty team, its officials and players will have their medals stripped. The guilty Club, its officials, and team officials shall also be subject to further fines and sanctions as determined by the AFC Disciplinary Committee.
  - i) In the event there is a dispute pertaining to the status of a player, the case will be referred to FIFA

## 29. Stages of Registration of Players

- a) There are three (3) stages of player's registration:
  - i. Preliminary Registration to determine a squad of up to thirty (30) players.
  - ii. Final Registration to specify the eighteen (18) players from the squad declared in the Preliminary Registration for the Competition.
  - iii. Start List to identify the starting eleven (11) and seven (7) substitute players for each match during the Competition.

## 30. Preliminary Registration of Players for Group Stage

- a) For all Match Days in the Group Stage, each Club entering the Competition shall send to the AFC Headquarters, via fax and courier, the AFC official registration form containing no more than thirty (30) players for the Competition with sequential shirt numbers from 1 to 30 by 11 February 2008.

- b) In sending the AFC Official Registration Form for Players and all other documents mentioned in these Regulations as part of the Registration process, it is the responsibility of the Club to ensure that these documents are sent in good time so that the AFC Headquarters in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia will receive these documents, via fax and courier, by 11 February 2008.
- c) Jersey number 1 must be reserved for the Goalkeeper.
- d) The AFC Official Registration Form list shall show each players' name (as in passport), first name, last name, popular name, date of birth, nationality, national ID number, passport number, height, weight, position, jersey name, jersey number, AFC ID number (if available) and declare whether a player is being registered as a naturalized player, as well as the officials' last name, first name, date of birth and nationality.
- e) Once the AFC Official Registration Form has been received by AFC and three (3) days prior to the first match day of the Competition, up to three (3) players may be replaced in the event they are medically unfit to play (certified by doctor). The AFC must receive a detailed medical assessment to be reviewed by any member of the AFC Medical Panel which confirms whether the injury is sufficiently serious to prevent the player from taking part in the Competition. The Club shall then immediately nominate in writing, as well as submit all the relevant documents as listed in Art. 30 d), a replacement player in compliance with Art. 30 m) of these Regulations. Until the replacement player has been registered in accordance to Art. 28 and Art. 30 of these Regulations and until the replacement player has received his AFC Eligibility card, he will not be considered to have been registered for the Competition.
- f) Clubs are permitted to register three (3) non-citizens or foreign players in their AFC Official Registration Form (i.e. 27 local players and 3 foreign players). These players must possess valid FIFA International Registration Transfer Certificates issued by the Member Association concerned, certified copies of which must be presented to the AFC Secretariat in accordance with the Preliminary Registration of Players Art. 30 k) and Art. 30 m) to enable the players to be eligible to play. In the case of non-citizens, foreign players who have not been registered to play for any other Club (home country, clubs, foreign clubs or local clubs) and, as such will not be in possession of International Registration Transfer Certificates, they are required to obtain written permission from the Member Association of their home country to represent their present club in this Competition.

- g) The Clubs must provide official documents to prove that the player(s) have entered into a contract for the club for a period of not less than six (6) months.
- h) A player is eligible to play for any Club as long as he is registered by the Club with AFC in accordance to the stipulated registration windows and in compliance with the provisions of these Regulations.
- i) A player can only be contracted, registered and / or playing with one club at any point of the time. The player cannot sign or play with any other club regardless of where the club is based. It is the Club's responsibility to ensure that their player is not contracted or registered to any other club.
- j) Should a player be found to be registered or played for two (2) clubs during the same period of registration windows, the Club will lose the match in which the player has played and the provisions of Art. 28 h) will apply.
- k) Further, both clubs to which the player is registered with will be referred to the Disciplinary Committee and subject to fines and sanctions, including being suspended from participating in future AFC Competition and the player concerned will also be suspended from participating in future AFC Competitions.
- l) For international transfers, the official date of FIFA International Registration Transfer Certificate (IRTC) on the player's contract shall be taken as proof of the date of registration to the present Club. For internal transfers, the official date on the player's contract shall be taken as proof of the date of registration to the present Club.
- m) Clubs must register three (3) goalkeepers in their squad list of 30 players. Registration of fewer goalkeepers will not entitle clubs to register more outfield players i.e. their squad list will be reduced proportionately.
- n) Players are registered by means of submission of the original copy of the AFC Official Registration Form which is to be signed by the Club and its Member Association, and completed as follows:
  - i. The Club submits its original AFC Official Registration Form along with the passport copies, national identification cards, official Club registration for each player, passport-size photograph of each player, the International Registration

- Transfer Certificates and contracts for all the players, duly completed and signed, to its Member Association for validation;
- ii. The Member Association forwards the original squad lists and all required documents in good time to ensure that they arrive at the AFC Headquarters, via fax and courier, by 11 February 2008;
  - iii. All registrations forms and its supporting documents as per Art. 28 and Art. 30 must be received, via fax and courier, by the AFC at its Headquarters in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia by 11 February 2008. Proof of submission is not proof of receipt.
- o) Should the AFC Headquarters not receive the original copy of the AFC Official Registration form with all required information provided (cf. Art. 30 d), and all the documents required for registration (cf. Art. 30) by 11 February 2008, the Club shall be automatically disqualified from the Competition. In this situation, the team will be considered to have withdrawn in accordance with Art. 26.
- p) Throughout the Competition and for each match to which he is registered, each player shall wear the number allocated to him on the squad list from 1-30 submitted to AFC during the preliminary registration. The same player may not use different shirt numbers in different matches.

### 31. Preliminary Registration of Players for Knock-out Stage

- a) For all Match Days in the Knock-out Stage, each Club entering the Competition shall send to the AFC Headquarters, via fax and courier, the AFC Official Registration Form containing no more than thirty (30) players for the Competition with sequential shirt numbers from 1 to 30 by 17 August 2008.
- b) In sending the AFC Official Registration Form and all other documents mentioned in these Regulations as part of the Registration process, it is the responsibility of the Club to ensure that the AFC Headquarters in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia will receive these documents, via fax and courier, by 17 August 2008.
- c) Jersey number 1 must be reserved for the Goalkeeper.
- d) The AFC Official Registration Form list shall show each players' name (as in passport), first name, last name, popular name, date of birth,

nationality, national ID number, passport number, height, weight, position, jersey name, jersey number, AFC ID number (if available) and declare whether a player is being registered as a naturalized player, as well as the officials' last name, first name, date of birth and nationality.

- e) Once the AFC Official Registration Form has been received by AFC and three (3) days prior to the first match day of the Knock-out Stage, up to three (3) players may be replaced in the event they are medically unfit to play (certified by doctor). The AFC must receive a detailed medical assessment to be reviewed by any member of the AFC Medical Panel which confirms whether the injury is sufficiently serious to prevent the player from taking part in the Competition. The Club shall then immediately nominate in writing, as well as submit all the relevant documents as listed in Art. 31 d), a replacement player in compliance with Art. 31 m) of these Regulations. Until the replacement player has been registered in accordance to Art. 28 and Art. 31 of these Regulations and until the replacement player has received his AFC Eligibility card, he will not be considered to have been registered for the Competition.
- f) Clubs are permitted to register three (3) non-citizens or foreign players in their AFC Official Registration Form (i.e. 27 local players and 3 foreign players). These players must possess valid FIFA International Registration Transfer Certificates issued by the Member Association concerned, certified copies of which must be presented to the AFC Secretariat in accordance with the Preliminary Registration of Players Art. 31 k) and Art. 31 m) to enable the players to be eligible to play. In the case of non-citizens, foreign players who have not been registered to play for any other Club (home country, clubs, foreign clubs or local clubs) and, as such will not be in possession of International Registration Transfer Certificates, they are required to obtain written permission from the Member Association of their home country to represent their present club in this Competition.
- g) The Clubs must provide official documents to prove that the player(s) have entered into a contract for the club for a period of not less than six (6) months.
- h) A player is eligible to play for any Club as long as he is registered by the Club with AFC in accordance to the stipulated registration windows and in compliance with the provisions of these Regulations.
- i) A player can only be contracted, registered and / or playing with one club at any point of the time. The player cannot sign or play with any other club regardless of where the club is based. It is the Club's

responsibility to ensure that their player is not contracted or registered to any other club.

- j) Should a player be found to be registered or played for two (2) clubs during the same period of registration windows, the Club will lose the match in which the player has played and the provisions of Art. 28 h) will apply.
- k) Further, both clubs to which the player is registered with will be referred to the Disciplinary Committee and subject to fines and sanctions, including being suspended from participating in future AFC Competition and the player concerned will also be suspended from participating in future AFC Competitions.
- l) For international transfers, the official date of FIFA International Registration Transfer Certificate (IRTC) on the player's contract shall be taken as proof of the date of registration to the present Club. For internal transfers, the official date on the player's contract shall be taken as proof of the date of registration to the present Club.
- m) Clubs must register three (3) goalkeepers in their squad list of 30 players. Registration of fewer goalkeepers will not entitle clubs to register more outfield players i.e. their squad list will be reduced proportionately.
- n) Players are registered by means of submission of the original copy of the AFC Official Registration Form which is to be signed by the Club and its Member Association, and completed as follows:
  - i. The Club submits its original AFC Official Registration Form along with the passport copies, national identification cards, official Club registration for each player, passport-size photograph of each player, the International Registration Transfer Certificates and contracts for the relevant players, duly completed and signed, to its Member Association for validation;
  - ii. The Member Association forwards the original squad lists and all required documents in good time to ensure that they arrive at the AFC Headquarters, via fax and courier, by 17 August 2008;
  - iii. All registrations forms and its supporting documents as per Art. 30 must be received, via fax and courier, by the AFC at its Headquarters in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia by 17 August 2008. Proof of submission is not proof of receipt.

- o) Should the AFC Headquarters not receive the original copy of the AFC Official Registration form with all required information provided (cf. Art. 31 d), and all the documents required for registration (cf. Art. 31) by 17 August 2008, the Club shall be automatically disqualified from the Competition. In this situation, the team will be considered to have withdrawn in accordance with Art. 26.
- p) If the AFC Headquarters does not receive the original copy of the AFC Official Registration form with all required information provided (cf. Art. 31 d), and all the documents required for registration (cf. Art. 31) by 17 August 2008, the Club will be considered to have registered the same squad list as for the Group Stage.
- q) Throughout the Competition and for each match to which he is registered, each player shall wear the number allocated to him on the squad list from 1-30 submitted to AFC during the preliminary registration. The same player may not use different shirt numbers in different matches. New players registered for the knock-out stage of the Competition can only be allocated vacant shirt numbers, or numbers made vacant by the non-registration of players bearing these numbers in the group stage.

### 32. Final Registration of Players

- a) Participating Clubs are required to submit a final registration of a maximum of eighteen (18) players from the squad list of thirty (30) players. The submission of the final registration must be done at least ninety (90) minutes before kick-off of the match, using the Player Selection List. Only those players bearing an official eligibility card are eligible for registration. Of the eighteen players (18) players, only three (3) foreign players are eligible to be registered and fielded.
- b) No replacement of players is allowed once the final registration is completed.

### 33. Player Selection List

- a) Thirty (30) players shall be included in the Player Selection List for each match. Up to a maximum of three (3) of the substitutes may take the place of the selected players at any time during the match.
- b) Each match in the Competition, each Club will receive a "Player Selection List" on which the numbers and full names (last name, first

name) of the thirty (30) players in the squad is listed prior to their arrival at the stadium.

- c) The Club must indicate on the “Player Selection List” the eleven (11) players who will start the match and the other seven (7) players who are designated as either substitutes, suspended or not playing. The Club Captain must be identified on the “Player Selection List”
- d) Both Clubs must hand their “Player Selection List” to the AFC Match Commissioner at least ninety (90) minutes before the kick-off of their match.
- e) If the “Player Selection List” is not completed and returned on time, the matter will be submitted to the AFC Disciplinary Committee.

### 34. Match Starting List

- a) Upon receipt of the “Player Selection List”, the AFC Match Commissioner will produce, through AFCAS, the Match Starting List no later than seventy-five (75) minutes before the kick-off of the match.
- b) The Match Starting List must be signed by the Head Coaches and Team Managers of both Teams and returned to the AFC Match Commissioner whose signature will make the Match Starting List an official document. This process will take place between seventy-five (75) to sixty-five (65) minutes before the kick-off of the match.
- c) The AFC Match Commissioner will ask to see the official eligibility cards of the players whose names are listed on the Match Starting List sixty-five (65) minutes before kick-off. Each player participating in the Match must be in possession of their eligibility card issued by the AFC Secretariat. Only those players who are in possession of an official eligibility card are entitled to play in the matches.
- d) After the Match Starting List has been completed and signed by both Teams and returned to the AFC Match Commissioner, and if the match has not yet kicked-off, the following instructions apply:
  - i. If any of the eleven (11) players listed on the Match Starting List selected to start the match are not able to start the match for any reason, they may be replaced by any of the seven (7) substitutes. Such replacements will reduce the quota of substitute players accordingly. During the match, three (3) players may still be replaced.

- ii. If any of the seven (7) substitutes listed on the Match Starting List are not able to be fielded for any reason, they may not be replaced, which means that the quota of substitute players will be reduced accordingly.

### 35. Registration of Officials

- a) For all Match Days in the Group Stage, each Club entering the Competition shall nominate and send to the AFC Headquarters, via fax and courier, the AFC official registration form for Officials by 26 February 2008.
- b) The AFC official registration form for Officials should contain two sections:
  - i. Nomination of eight (8) officials who will be entitled for access onto the Field of Play and Team Bench. However, only seven (7) officials will be considered part of the Official Team Delegation and therefore, hosted by the Organising Club.  
Officials nominated here must be approved by AFC pending submission of the necessary documentations as listed in Art. 35 c) below.
  - ii. Nomination of four (4) officials who will receive access to the team's hotel, training grounds, official areas (except the Field of Play and Team Bench) and whose cost will be entirely borne by the Club.
- c) The eight (8) officials, as per Art. 35 b) i. must consist of the following:
  - i. Team Manager
  - ii. Head Coach
  - iii. Assistant Coach
  - iv. Assistant Coach
  - v. Team Media Officer
  - vi. Interpreter
  - vii. Physiotherapist
  - viii. Doctor
- d) For positions stated in Art. 35 c) ii to Art. 35 c) viii. as above, the Club must submit to AFC further documentations to prove that those officials nominated by the Club are qualified for the said position.

- e) If the Club does not appoint any of the designated persons or if AFC do not approve of the persons nominated, the number of officials on the bench for the Club will reduce proportionately.
- f) As a rule, for the Head Coach position and the positions of the Assistant Coaches, the Club must submit copies of the individual's coaching certificate or coaching licence.
- g) As a rule, for the position of the Team Media Officer, the Club must either submit to AFC the individual's educational qualification in the field of media or show proof that the individual is engaged professionally in the field of media.
- h) As a rule, for the Interpreter position, the Club must submit copies of the individual's educational qualification as an interpreter or show proof that this individual has been and is engaged professionally in this field.
- i) If a Club does not have an Interpreter, his position on the "Official's list" can be replaced ONLY by a technical official (i.e. a coach, trainer or a medical personnel).
- j) As a rule, for the positions of Physiotherapist and Doctor, the Club must submit copies of the individual's medical qualification.
- k) Officials are registered by means of submission of the original copy of the AFC Official Registration Form for Officials which is to be signed by the Club and its Member Association, and completed as follows:
  - i. The Club submits its original AFC Official Registration Form for Officials along with the passport copies, national identification cards, passport-size photograph of each official and the additional documents as required in Art. 35 f) to Art. 35 j) duly completed and signed, to its Member Association for validation;
  - ii. The AFC Official Registration Form for Officials shall show each official's name (as in passport), first name, last name, date of birth, nationality, national identification card, passport number, a passport photo and AFC ID number (if available).
  - iii. The Member Association forwards the original forms and all required documents in good time to ensure that they arrive at the AFC Headquarters, via fax and courier, by 26 February 2008;

- iv. All registrations forms and its supporting documents as per Art. 35 must be received, via fax and courier, by the AFC at its Headquarters in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia by 26 February 2008. Proof of submission is not proof of receipt.
  - v. Upon receipt of the above documents, AFC will conduct a check of all the documents and approve the nominations of the eight (8) officials to be listed as per Art. 35 c)
- l) In sending the AFC Official Registration Form for Officials and all other documents mentioned in these Regulations as part of the Registration process, it is the responsibility of the Club to ensure that these documents are sent in good time so that the AFC Headquarters in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia will receive these documents, via fax and courier, by 26 February 2008.
- m) Once the AFC Official Registration Form has been received by AFC, except in cases of force majeure, for example the replacements of a coach or due to medical reasons, no replacements or new registration of officials are allowed.
- n) In the case of force majeure, Clubs may replace any of its officials provided all the documents have been submitted as per Art. 35. However, the new official is not considered part of the team's Official Delegation until he receives his AFC Eligibility Card.
- o) For all Match Days in the Knock-Out Stage, the process for registration of Officials is as stated above, with the exception that the official registration forms and all documents requested for in Art. XX must be sent and submitted to the AFC Headquarters, via fax and courier, by 2 September 2008.
- p) If the AFC Headquarters does not receive the original copy of the AFC Official Registration form for Officials with all required information provided (cf. Art. 35), and all the documents required for registration (cf. Art. 35) by 2 September 2008, the Club will be considered to have registered the same Officials as for the Group Stage.

### 36. Team Bench and Technical Area

- a) Up to a maximum of eight (8) Team officials and seven (7) substitutes are allowed to sit on the substitutes' bench.
- b) All officials on the team bench must wear their eligibility card at all times.

- c) All persons on the bench must wear kits that are contrasting with the kit of the players and referees on the pitch. If there is a clash in colours, those persons on the bench must wear bib of contrasting colours.
- d) Team 'A' shall occupy the left hand side bench as viewed from the VIP tribune.
- e) Only one person, at a time, is allowed to issue instructions from the technical area to the players.

### 37. Substitution of Players

- a) Not more than three (3) players may be substituted during a match from the remaining seven (7) substitute players who must be declared before the start of each match.
- b) Any player substituted out cannot re-enter the match.
- c) During actual play, a maximum of six (6) players from each team may warm up at the same time assisted by one (1) official, but without a ball (except for the goalkeeper), behind the goal closest to their substitutes' bench. If space is too restricted, the AFC Match Commissioner shall advise the teams of alternative arrangements during the Team Managers Meeting held at least one day before the Competition.

### 38. Players cautioned or dismissed from the field of play

- a) A player who receives two (2) cautions (yellow cards) during a stage of the Competition shall automatically be suspended from the match following the match in which he received the second caution. If the player receives the second caution during the Team's last match in the stage, the suspension will be carried forward as indicated in the AFC Disciplinary Code.
- b) Single (1) yellow cards received in a single (1) stage of the Competition will not be carried forward to the next stage of the Competition.
- c) A player who receives a red card during the Competition shall automatically be suspended from the match following the match in which he received the red card. If the player receives the red card in his Club's last match in the Competition, the suspension for the red card the suspension will be carried forward as indicated in the AFC Disciplinary Code.

- d) Any player or official who receives a red card during the Competition shall remain suspended from further play until his/her case has been decided by the AFC Disciplinary Committee.
- e) A suspended player and official shall not be allowed on the substitution bench and technical area.

#### 39. Violence by players and/or officials

- a) Any player or official reported for indiscipline or violent conduct anywhere in the stadium including but not limited to the field of play, the changing rooms, at the training sites and in the hotels by the referee or the Match Commissioner shall be dealt with by the relevant AFC Committees in accordance with these Regulations and the AFC Statues.

#### 40. Press Conferences

- a) The Head Coaches of participating Clubs and one (1) starting player from each Club are obliged to attend and participate in a pre-match press conference to be held at least one day before the match. The participating Team Media Officer (TMO) must ensure the attendance of the Head Coach and one starting player.
- b) It is obligatory that Head Coaches of all Clubs must attend and participate in a post-match press conference which will be held no later than fifteen (15) minutes after the Match.
- c) Any Club Head Coach not cooperating to Art. 40 a) and b) will be subject to disciplinary action including a ban from the dressing room and/or the substitutes' bench as per Art. 21 of the AFC Disciplinary Code.
- d) Whenever the Abdullal Al Dabal MVP (of the Match) Award is given to a player, the winner of the Abdullah Al Dabal MVP (of the Match) Award (cf. Art. 104) must also make himself present at the post-match press conference as this award will be presented at the post-match press conference. Attendance of the winner of the Abdullah Al Dabal MPV (of the Match) at the post-match press conference is mandatory.
- e) Please refer also to "Media Guidelines for Participating Clubs"

#### 41. Briefing with Head Coach and Player(s)

- a) Except on Match days, every Participating Club must make available either the Head Coach or Team Manager or Player(s) for a ten-minute briefing with a reporter from the Official Competition website. This should take place at no later than 1730 hours. Ideally, this should be conducted at the Participating Team Hotel.
- b) If this cannot be conducted face-to-face, Team Media Officer must prepare suitable information and quotes from the Participating Team staff and provide this to the designated official website reporter.

#### 42. Mixed Zone

- a) The entire Participating Team and coaching staff shall be required to enter the Mixed Zone on their way from the changing room to the Participating Team bus at the end of the match. Speaking to the media in the Mixed Zone is not compulsory, but it is strongly advised that players and coaches give brief interviews to the media, who will be separated from the coaches and players by barriers. Players and Officials who do not fulfill this Article will be subject to disciplinary action including fines. Please also refer to Art. 74 h).
- b) The Mixed Zone will be in operation fifteen (15) minutes after the end of a game.

#### 43. Flash Interviews

- a) Players of participating Clubs are not permitted to give interviews during the match on the field of play or in its immediate vicinity. However, the AFC Media Officer may designate an area between the substitutes' benches and dressing-rooms in which "flash" interviews for the host television broadcaster only, including the visiting TV rights-holding broadcaster if there is, can take place at the end of the match. Players violating this Article will be subject to disciplinary measures.
- b) Players may be required to give a short (90 seconds) interview immediately after the game. All players must be briefed by the Team Media Officer prior to the match so they are aware of their responsibilities in this regard.

- c) In the final minutes of the game, the Host Broadcaster or other broadcast representatives shall inform the Team Media Officer that those players selected are available for the Flash Interview.

#### 44. Sleeve Patches

- a) Each participating Club shall, for each Competition match in which it participates, allow space on the sleeves of the players' uniforms available (or such other part of the player uniforms as AFC may determine) to affix to the relevant match identifier in a form, manner and position to be determined by AFC as below:
  - i. AFC Champions League sleeve patch on the right
  - ii. AFC Fair Play Logo sleeve patch on the left

#### 45. Arrival & Departure, Travel Arrangements and Accommodation

- a) Each Club taking part in the Competition shall arrive in the team hotel reserved for it in the Host Club's country at least two (2) days before their match in the Competition and leave the day after completion of its match. As an example:
  - i. arrival on 22<sup>nd</sup>
  - ii. training on 23<sup>rd</sup>
  - iii. match day 24<sup>th</sup>
  - iv. departure 25<sup>th</sup>
- b) All Clubs shall pay for their own airfares from the Club's home venue to the venue of the match and vice-versa.
- c) Participating Clubs are required to purchase published-fare air tickets (full fare air tickets) for its delegation to and from the Host Country to allow for potential changes in the departure dates.
- d) Tickets must be endorsable and date changes must be allowed with or without any penalties. AFC will not be responsible for any penalties incurred for date changes.
- e) Any costs relating to non-compliance to Art. 45 d) above shall be borne by the participating team concerned.
- f) Only official Club hotels shall be used for accommodation.

- g) Participating Clubs shall undertake not to play in any other commercially driven matches when traveling to and from the venue of the Competition.
- h) For more information, please refer to Organising Club section of these Regulations.

#### 46. Insurance

- a) Clubs are responsible for the insurance coverage (Including hospitalization and surgical operations) of their delegation, including players and officials, at their own expense, for all matches played in the competition. Claims for damages against AFC are expressly excluded, and the participating Clubs shall hold AFC harmless against any such claims.

#### 47. Team colours and numbers on each team outfits

- a) Each Club shall wear their official colours according to the entry forms sent to the AFC Headquarters. These outfits shall be taken to every match of the Competition.
- b) In addition to the official outfit, each Club shall have a reserve outfit (reserve colours), which shall also be declared on the entry forms. The colours of the reserve outfit (shirt, shorts and socks) shall be noticeably different from and contrast with the colours of the official outfit (shirts, shorts and socks). The reserve outfit shall also be taken to every match.
- c) If, in the opinion of the Referee or the AFC Match Commissioner, the colours worn by two opposing teams might cause confusion or prove unsuitable for television broadcasts, they shall be modified, using either the entire official or reserve outfit or a combination of both.
- d) All Goalkeepers shall wear colours contrasting with those outfield players of the two Clubs and the Referee. All Goalkeepers registered for a Club must wear the same jersey colours declared to AFC upon entry. Goalkeepers are not entitled to personal colours.
- e) No item of kit worn by a field player (shirt, shorts and socks) may consist of more than three (3) colours. This provision does not apply to the colours used for letters and numbers (players' name and number). If three (3) colours are used, one shall be clearly predominant on the shirt, shorts and socks and the other two colours shall clearly be minor colours. The predominant colour shall be visible to the same extent on the back and front of the shirt and shorts.

- f) Exceptionally, a fourth colour may be used but only provided that this is the same as that used for the lettering or features permanently in the national emblem of the country concerned and covers only a very small area of the shirt as a purely decorative element; this restriction does not apply to the area for the lettering. The fourth colour is defined as a “decorative colour.”
- g) If thermal shorts are used, they shall be the same colour as the main colour of the shorts.
- h) If the teams’ colours might cause confusion, Team A on the official match schedule shall be entitled to wear its official outfit and Team B on the official match schedule shall use its reserve outfit or, if necessary, a combination of the official and the reserve outfit.
- i) The colour of the numbers must contrast clearly with the outfits (light on dark or vice versa) and be legible from a distance for spectators in the stadium and television viewers. This applies especially in the case of striped shirts. A plain coloured background (either entirely light or dark, depending on the colour of the numbers) affords better legibility. These numbers shall be between 25cm and 35cm in height in the centre of the back of the shirt, between 10cm and 15cm in height on the front of the shirt in any position at chest level, and between 10cm and 15cm in height in any position on the front of either leg of the shorts. None of the numbers may contain advertising, design features or other elements.
- j) The last name or popular name of the players (or abbreviation), not exceeding 7.5cm in height, shall be affixed above the number on the back of the shirt and shall be clearly legible. The lettering shall be in capitals and contain no advertising, design features or other elements. The colour of the players’ names shall contrast clearly with the outfits (light on dark or vice versa) and be legible from a distance for spectators in the stadium and television viewers. A plain coloured background (either entirely light or dark, depending on the colour of the letters) is mandatory for striped shirts.
- k) The AFC Equipment Regulations governing the sports equipment and the colours to be used by players, goalkeepers and Club officials at the Competition shall apply to any article worn or equipment used by the Clubs.

#### 48. AFC Equipment Regulations

- a) The Participating Clubs must comply with the AFC Equipment Regulations governing the AFC Competitions (available for download from [www.the-afc.com](http://www.the-afc.com)). In addition to the AFC Equipment Regulations and in keeping with the ‘clean site’ principles at all AFC Competitions, the following Requirements apply to clothing, apparel and equipment within the Controlled Access Areas during the Competition Period:
- i. **Clothing, Apparel and Equipment:** All references in the AFC Equipment Regulations to clothing and apparel shall be deemed to apply to all clothing, apparel and equipment worn underneath, or in replacement of, official team kit and “celebratory” apparel worn and/or displayed by any Team Delegation Members following the conclusion of any match. In particular, the regulations relating to the size and frequency of the appearance of the kit manufacturer’s logo apply equally to t-shirts as to playing shirts.
  - ii. **Formal Attire:** All formal attire (e.g. ties, suits, shirts) worn by the Team Delegation Members within the Controlled Access Areas must be completely free of third party branding (whether sewn-in or separately attached) other than the emblem of their Club.
  - iii. **Technical equipment, Bags, Luggage, bibs, etc.:** With the exception of the Manufacturer’s Trademark, all technical equipments, bags, luggage, bibs, etc. of Team Delegation Members which are brought into any Controlled Access Areas specifically the Competition Stadia must be free of all branding other than the emblem of their Member Association. It is the responsibility of the Participating Clubs to cover all manufacturers’ logos and sponsor logos before entering the Stadia.
- b) The AFC Equipment Regulations and the provisions of Art. 47 to 52 are in force from the time the Team’s Official Delegation arrive at a Controlled Access Area until the time the Team’s Official Delegation depart from such areas.

#### 49. Advertising on equipment and other material/items

- a) No Commercial Advertising is allowed on Equipment. With the exception of the manufacturer’s trademark, and other than as expressly permitted

under the AFC Equipment Regulations, Team's Official Delegation are prohibited from displaying any:

- commercial messages and/or branding
- sponsors identification
- slogans of a political, religious or racist nature; or
- any other slogans

on their playing kit or other team uniforms, formal attire or kit, equipment (including, without limitation, kit bags, ball bags, goalkeeping gloves, beverage containers and medical bags) or their person, for the duration of their time in Controlled Access Areas. This provision includes all personal items (including bags and luggage) in the possession of, or worn by, the Team's Official Delegation.

#### 50. Sponsor recognition on Kit

- a) The advertising of tobacco or strong alcoholic beverages, as well as slogans of political, religious or racist in nature, or for other causes that offend common decency, are prohibited. Any bans emanating from national legislation of the host country also apply and must be notified to the AFC upon entry to the Competition.
- b) Clubs may choose one of the two following sponsorship options for the whole season for advertising on players' shirts, announcing their choice to AFC upon entry to the Competition:
  - i. Advertising for the same sponsor;
  - ii. More than one sponsor may be registered at entry to the Competition but only one sponsor per match
- c) The form of sponsor or product advertising is unrestricted, but is allowed only on the front of the shirt, in either of the following two positions and in compliance with Art. 48, 49 and 51:
  - i. horizontally in the center across the chest, or
  - ii. vertically on the right or left side of the torso
- d) The surface area used to advertise a sponsor or product shall not exceed 200 cm<sup>2</sup> (two hundred square centimeters). Any lettering used shall not exceed 10cm (ten centimeters) in height. Lettering can be in any colour but shall be free of advertising, design features or other elements.

## 51. Manufacturer identification on team shirts

- a) The manufacturer's authorised trademark may be used only once as a graphic logo or name, or graphic logo and name combined (in accordance with the AFC Equipment Regulations), and shall not exceed the following measurements:
- i. Shirt: 20cm<sup>2</sup> (on the chest)
  - ii. Shorts: 12cm<sup>2</sup> (on either leg)
  - iii. Socks: 12cm<sup>2</sup> (between the ankle and the top edge)
  - iv. Thermal shorts: 12cm<sup>2</sup>
  - v. Goalkeeper's gloves: 20cm<sup>2</sup> (a "design mark" or a "word mark", or a "design mark" and a "word mark" combined, measuring a maximum of 20cm<sup>2</sup> on each of the goalkeeper's gloves)
  - vi. Wristbands: 12cm<sup>2</sup>
  - vii. Track suit jacket: 20cm<sup>2</sup>
  - viii. Track suit shorts/trousers: 20cm<sup>2</sup>
  - ix. Warm-up bibs: 100 cm<sup>2</sup>
  - x. Caps: 20 cm<sup>2</sup>
- b) The Club's emblem may also be worn as a badge on the shirt, shorts and each sock but may not exceed 100cm<sup>2</sup> on the shirt, 50cm<sup>2</sup> on the shorts and 25cm<sup>2</sup> on each sock or feature any advertising or other element.
- c) The emblem or name (or abbreviation) of the Club may also be displayed on the shirt and/or shorts in jacquard weave provided that the colour is similar to that of the shirt or shorts into which it is woven and that it does not prevent the kit from being easily distinguished from the opposing team's kit. It is not compulsory for the emblem or name (or abbreviation) on the shirt to appear in jacquard weave but it may also be printed or affixed in a similar manner provided that it does not predominate and prevent the kit from being easily distinguished from the opposing team's kit.
- d) The official designation and/or the logo of the Competition shall be printed or affixed to the equipment in accordance with AFC's instructions and the applicable graphic standards.

## 52. Kit Approval Procedure

- a) The Equipment Regulations require the participating Clubs to submit to AFC, for AFC's approval, one sample of all kit which the AFC Equipment Regulations cover. At the same time, Clubs shall submit also to AFC, for

AFC's approval, one sample of all other apparel to be worn by their Team's Official Delegation within the Controlled Access Areas during the Competition Period, namely all clothing, apparel and equipment worn underneath, or in replacement of, official team kit, including any "celebratory" apparel.

- b) The Participating Clubs shall submit to the AFC Headquarters the above-mentioned equipment by 25 January 2008. If any equipment submitted infringes any of the AFC Equipment Regulations and/or event Regulations, AFC will require the Participating Teams to take corrective action and resubmit to AFC the corrected equipment. In addition, Participating Clubs are required to present samples at the Club workshop.
- c) All items to be used by a Participating Club within the Controlled Access Areas during the Competition period shall be subjected to AFC's approval in accordance with the procedure set forth by AFC.
- d) The AFC Match Commissioner, the AFC Venue Manager, and/or the AFC Marketing Manager has/have the right and duty to check kit items at the match Venue and are entitled to send such items to the AFC Headquarters for further control after the match.

### 53. Sanctions

- a) If any Club and/or its players and officials fail to comply with the present Regulations and/or the AFC Equipment Regulations, they shall be liable to sanctions by the AFC Disciplinary Committee.

### 54. Responsibility

- a) AFC takes final decisions regarding the approval of kits and other items mentioned in the AFC Equipment Regulations. AFC declines all responsibility and authority in the event of conflicts arising from contracts between a club and its sponsor(s) on account of the advertising provisions of the AFC Equipment Regulations. The Clubs agree to hold AFC harmless from any and all damages which may arise from decisions regarding kit.

### 55. Commercial Rights of Participating Clubs

- a) Participating Clubs, players and/or officials have no Commercial Rights, Promotional and/or Marketing rights of any nature in connection with

their participation in the Competition unless expressly licensed by AFC under section 7 of these Regulations.

- b) All Clubs participating in the Competition shall take all legal and other measures AFC deems appropriate to ensure and protect the ownership of the Commercial Rights as well as the rights themselves.

## 56. Footballs

For more information, please refer to the Technical Regulations section of these Regulations

## 57. Others

- a) For more information on any of the below, please refer to the Administration section of these Regulations:
  - i. Disciplinary measures and appeals
  - ii. Protest
  - iii. Arbitration
  - iv. Matches played in accordance with the Laws of the Game
  - v. Doping Control
  - vi. Trophy, Medals and Certificates
  - vii. Prize Money
  - viii. Prize Presentation Ceremony
  - ix. Match Subsidies

## SECTION 4: AFC DELEGATION

### 58. AFC Match Commissioners

- a) An AFC Match Commissioner shall be appointed for each match of the Competition who will be solely responsible for all aspects of the match organization.
- b) The AFC Match Commissioner chosen for the matches of the Competition shall neither come from a Member Association whose Club is included in the same group as the matches in question nor from Member Associations of the appointed referee, assistant referees, fourth official and AFC Referee Instructor.
- c) The AFC Match Commissioner officiating at the match shall be appointed by the AFC.
- d) The AFC Match Commissioner must complete the Confidential Report of the Match Commissioner with the AFC Match Data Sheet including the results and cases of cautions, expulsions and serious incidents (if any) and transmit them, via AFCAS, with a copy of the Player's Start List to the AFC Headquarters immediately after each match. The AFC Match Commissioner is required to use the AFC Administration System (AFCAS) for filing these reports within twenty-four (24) hours of the match.
- e) The AFC Match Commissioner must collect from the Organising Association/Club a copy of the DVD of the match which must be provided by the Organising Association/Club as stipulated in Art. 73.
- f) The Match Commissioner shall arrive at the venue of the Competition three (3) days before the (first match at the Venue/Match) and depart one (1) day after the final match at the Venue.

### 59. AFC Referee Instructor

- a) An AFC Referee Instructor shall be appointed for matches of the Competition by the AFC Referees Committee.
- b) The AFC Referee Instructor chosen for the matches of the Competition shall neither come from a national association whose Club is included in the same group as the matches in question nor from the national associations of the appointed referee, assistant referees, fourth official and AFC Match Commissioner.

- c) The AFC Referee Instructor must complete the Referee Assessment Form by using the AFC Administration System (AFCAS) within twenty-four (24) hours upon completion of the match.
- d) The AFC Referee Instructor must assist the Referee and Fourth Official to complete their Official Reports into AFCAS.
- e) The AFC Referee Instructor shall arrive at the venue of the Competition two (2) days before the (first match at the Venue/Match) and depart one (1) day after the final match at the Venue.

#### 60. Referees, assistant referees, fourth officials

- a) A referee, two assistant referees and a fourth official will be appointed for each match of the Competition by AFC.
- b) The referees, assistant referees and fourth officials chosen for the matches of the Competition shall come from a national association whose Club is not included in the same group as the matches in question. They shall be selected from the current AFC Elite Panel of Referees.
- c) Referees and assistant referees must arrive at the venue two (2) days prior to the Competition and depart the day after the conclusion of the match.
- d) If the referee and/or assistant referees do not arrive at the match venue by the time stipulated under Art. 60 c), AFC must be informed immediately. The AFC Referees Committee will take the appropriate decisions. If the Referees Committee decides to replace the referee and/or assistant referees and/or fourth official, such a decision shall be final, and no protests against the person or nationality of the referee and/or assistant referees and/or fourth official are allowed.
- e) If the referee or one of his assistants is prevented from carrying out his duties before or during a match as a result of injury, indisposition etc., he shall be replaced by the fourth official.
- f) After each match, the referee shall duly complete an official AFC Referee's Report Form and the fourth official shall duly complete an AFC Fourth Official Report Form.
- g) Immediately after the match, the referee and the fourth official shall:
  - i. Send their reports to the AFC Headquarters by fax, and

- ii. Hand them over to the Match Commissioner or the AFC Venue Manager. Where there is no Referee's Instructor, the Match Commissioner must enter all the data of the Referee's Report form and Fourth Official's report into AFCAS.
- h) On the AFC Referees Report Form, the referee shall note all occurrences before, during, and after the match in as much detail as possible, such as:
- i. Misconduct of players, leading to caution or expulsion;
  - ii. Unsporting behaviour of officials, supporters and any person acting on behalf of a team at a match;
  - iii. Any other incidents.
- i) The referees, assistant referees and fourth officials shall receive their official refereeing outfits and equipment from AFC. They shall wear only these outfits and equipment on match days.
- j) At the end of the two periods of normal playing time (45 and 90 minutes), the referee shall indicate to the fourth official, either orally or by gesturing with his hands, the number of minutes that he has decided to allow for time lost. This applies also to the two periods of 15 minutes of extra time. Each allowance for lost time shall be shown on the panels or electronic display of the fourth official.
- k) Panels or electronic display boards, numbered on both sides for clarity, shall be used to indicate
- i. The substitution of players;
  - ii. The number of minutes to be allowed for lost time in accordance Art. 60 i) above
- l) If there are fewer than seven players on the field on either team, the match shall be abandoned and be treated as per Art. 8. In this case, the AFC Competitions Committee shall take appropriate action.

## 61. AFC Venue Manager

- a) Where required, AFC will appoint an AFC Venue Manager who shall be responsible for match organization and overall preparation of the Competition venue.

## 62. Other AFC Officials

- a) AFC may appoint other officials to any match in the Competition all of whom, when appointed, in conjunction with the Match Commissioner, Referee Instructor, Referee, Assistant Referees and Fourth Official form the AFC Match Officials (AFC Delegation)

## 63. Insurance of Match Officials

- a) The AFC shall provide the match commissioner, referees Instructor, referees, assistant referees and other AFC Match Officials insurance coverage from the time of their departure from home to the time of arrival.

## SECTION 5: ORGANISATION

### 64. Organisation of AFC

- a) In accordance with the AFC Statutes:
- i. The Executive Committee is AFC's executive body;
  - ii. The AFC Competitions Committee has the responsibilities set forth in its list of duties;
  - iii. The Organising Committee of the AFC Club Competitions is responsible for the Organisation of the Competition in accordance with all AFC regulations;
  - iv. The AFC Secretariat is, in conjunction with the Organising Association/s, responsible for the operation and Organisation of the Competition in accordance with the guidelines of the AFC Competitions Committee;
  - v. The AFC Disciplinary Committee has the responsibility to enforce disciplinary measures, which may be in the form of caution, censure, fine and/or suspension.
  - vi. The AFC Media Committee has the responsibilities set forth in its list of duties.
  - vii. The AFC Referees Committee has the responsibilities set forth in its list of duties.

## SECTION 6: RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ORGANISING CLUB

### 65. Organising Club Agreement

- a) The obligations and responsibilities of the host Club/s and their National Association are stipulated in the Organising Club Agreement (OCA), its annexes and amendments, the AFC List of Requirements and in these Regulations and other AFC regulations, guidelines and circulars and any other agreements reached between AFC and the National Association of the Host Club/s.

### 66. Organising Club Contracts

- a) The Organising Club and/or its National Association shall conclude the contracts required for organising matches and which reflect and are in accordance with the terms of the OCA in its own name and for its own account. The same provision shall apply to agreements concluded with government authorities.

### 67. Insurance

- a) The Organising Club must conclude the necessary insurance policies with a reputable insurance company, including but not limited to third-party liability. Such insurance must involve an appropriate guaranteed sum for injury and damage to persons, objects and property, and correspond to the specific circumstances of the associations concerned. Likewise, the policies must fully cover all risks connected with the staging of the Competition and exempt AFC from all claims and liabilities, and further name AFC as a co-insured in all policies.
- b) For the Competition, the Organising Club/s should conclude the following insurance coverage on the basis of a general agreement:
  - i. Third-party liability insurance
  - ii. Insurance against liability for pecuniary loss
  - iii. Accident insurance
  - iv. Legal expenses insurance
  - v. Travel luggage insurance
  - vi. Spectator insurance
  - vii. Electronic equipment insurance
  - viii. Robbery insurance
  - ix. Fidelity insurance
  - x. Cup insurance

- xi. Event cancellation insurance
  - xii. Medical Insurance
- c) The remaining risks of the Organising Club and its National Association must be covered by, at their own risk, by means of additional insurance contracts. AFC must be notified of such additional insurance coverage, and may request copies of the policies concerned.
- d) The Organising Club and its National Association are solely responsible for the insurance coverage of the Stadiums and must release AFC of any liability whatsoever in this respect. A release of liability must be signed and returned to AFC at least one month before the start of the Competition. If such an exemption from liability is not presented in due time, the Organising Club/s agree that the necessary insurance coverage may be concluded by AFC at their expense.

#### 68. Responsibility

- a) The Organising Club and its National Association shall discharge AFC and hold it harmless from all responsibility and relinquish any claim against AFC and the members of its delegation for any damages resulting from any act or omission relating to the organisation and course of the Competition to the exclusion of damages caused by AFC or the members of its delegation acting with intent or gross negligence.
- b) The Organising Club and its National Association shall exempt (indemnify and hold harmless) AFC from all third party claims for damages relating to match organisation, regardless of whether individual matches in question take place or not.

#### 69. Accommodation, Local Hospitality, Meals and Refreshments

- a) The Organising Club must provide, at its own cost, the following to the visiting Clubs two (2) days before, on, and the day after the match:
  - i. Accommodations in a five star hotel (A Four star hotel is acceptable if a five star hotel is not available in the venue.) approved by AFC, for the Team's Official Delegation as per Art. 27., not exceeding twenty-five (25) persons. [Nine (9) double rooms, seven (7) single rooms and one (1) room for equipment and medical facilities].

- ii. One (1) briefing room shall be set aside for each Team at the Team's hotel equipped with whiteboard, DVD player and TV.
  - iii. Suitable meals three times a day in buffet style of sufficient quantity and an additional light meal on match days in a dedicated dining area for players and officials not exceeding twenty-five (25) persons. A specific time must be set for all meals by the participating teams and communicated to the Organising Association and the AFC at least two weeks before the start of the Competition.
  - iv. A minimum of three (3) litres of water per person per day for eighteen (18) players and seven (7) officials, ice and refreshments for the teams at the hotel.
  - v. A minimum of three (3) litres of water per person per day for eighteen (18) players and seven (7) officials, ice and refreshments for the teams per training session
  - vi. A minimum of three (3) litres of water per person per day for eighteen (18) players and seven (7) officials, ice and refreshments for the teams per match
  - vii. Laundry but no dry cleaning or pressing for playing and training outfits (one (1) Jersey, one (1) short, and one (1) pair of socks.) plus a shirt and a pair of trousers daily for eighteen (18) players and seven (7) officials per participating Club.
  - viii. Ensure that the participating Clubs are accompanied by officials of the Host Association during arrival and departure to facilitate transport, immigration, customs and checking-in matters.
  - ix. Liaison Officers proficient in English and the language of the participating Clubs.
  - x. Payment of all airport taxes (inbound and outbound)
- b) The Organising Club must provide, at its own cost, the following to the referees, assistant referees, fourth official, the AFC Match Commissioner, the Referees Instructor and any other AFC Match Officials appointed for

the Competition, from the moment they arrive at the Competition Venue until one (1) day after the Competition:

- i. Accommodation in a five star hotel (a four star hotel, if a five star hotel is not available in the venue) (different from the teams, unless otherwise approved by AFC)
  - ii. Suitable meals three times a day in buffet style of sufficient quantity and an additional light meal on match days
  - iii. A minimum of three (3) litres of water per person per day, ice and refreshments at the hotel and at the Stadium during the match.
  - iv. A minimum of three (3) litres of water per person per day, ice and refreshments during each of the training sessions of the referees.
  - v. Laundry, but no dry cleaning, or pressing, for one training outfit (one jersey, one shorts and one socks) plus a shirt and a pair of trousers daily for the Referee Instructors, Referee Instructors, Referees, Assistant Referees, Fourth Official
  - vi. Reasonable laundry (including pressing) for not more than five (5) pieces of clothing daily and dry cleaning (including pressing) for one (1) jacket and one (1) pair of trousers/skirt once every two (2) days for all other AFC Match Officials
  - vii. Ensure that the AFC Match Commissioner, Referee Instructor, the referees group and any other AFC Officials are accompanied by officials of the Organising Club during arrival and departure to facilitate transport, immigration, customs and checking-in matters.
  - viii. Liaison Officers proficient in English
  - ix. An official training field, with a 400m running track around the field, to be provided for the training of the AFC referees from five (5) days prior to the Competition.
  - x. Payment of all airport taxes (inbound and outbound)
- c) The Organising Association shall assist AFC's Commercial Affiliates to secure accommodation, on the same terms and conditions as are

available to AFC, on reasonably sufficient quantity of hotel accommodation in first class hotels in the Venues, transportation services from the hotel accommodation and the centre of each Venue and, if applicable, air transportation to and between Venues.

- d) Failure to provide any of these provisions of Art. 69 a), b) and c) will result in the forfeiture of the Match Subsidies (If any) due to the Organising Club and any further action that the AFC Disciplinary Committee may deem necessary.

## 70. Local Transportation

- a) The Organising Association must provide, at its own cost, the following to the visiting Clubs two (2) days before, on, and the day after the match:
  - i. Internal transportation (1 bus and 1 sedan car) for training, matches, transfers to and from the airport of the Venue and official functions per participating Club from two days prior to the Match, the day of the match, and the day of their departure. In addition, one (1) luggage truck must be provided for the participating Clubs during airport transfers and on match days.
- b) The Organising Association must provide, at its own cost, the following to the referees, assistant referees, fourth official, the AFC Match Commissioner, the Referees Instructor and any other AFC Match Officials appointed for the Competition, from the moment they arrive at the Competition Venue until one (1) day after the Competition
  - i. One (1) sedan car each for the AFC Match Commissioner, one (1) sedan car for the Venue Manager and two (2) vans for the Referee Instructors/Instructors, Referee, Assistant Referees and Fourth Official for training, matches, airport transfers and official functions at the disposal of and under the full authority of these officials from their arrival in the host country to their departure. Additional internal transportation must be provided if there are other AFC appointed Match Officials.
- c) Failure to provide any of these provisions of Art. 70 a) and b) will result in the forfeiture of the Match Subsidies (If any) due to the Organising Club and any further action that the AFC Disciplinary Committee may deem necessary.

## 71. Medical Facilities and Treatment

- a) The Organising Association must provide, at its own cost, the following to the visiting Clubs from two (2) days before the match day until one (1) day after the Match and to the AFC Delegation from the moment they arrive to the Venue until one (1) day after the Match:
- i. Free medical treatment, including hospital facilities for injuries and emergencies related to the match, sustained/occurring during their stay in the host country. The treatment must cover basic/primary medical care as listed below:
    - Outpatient treatment
    - Minor surgeries (suturing, etc.)
    - Radiological Investigation
    - Emergency Treatment
  - ii. A fully-staffed medical room at the Stadium for emergency treatment accessible for transportation to a medical facility. It must include the following:
    - Oxygen with appropriate masks/oral airway
    - Splints (Spinal injuries)
    - Stretchers and at least eight (8) stretcher bearers
    - Suction machine
    - I/V drip sets with emergency injections and medication
    - Minor surgery supplies and equipment
    - A certified medical officer
    - A team of support Para-medical staff trained in emergency medical care (CPR/ATLS)
    - Two ambulances with designated drivers equipped with oxygen, masks, defibrillator, I/V drip sets, emergency medicaments and trained medical staff.
  - iii. A doping control room is to be made available at all times at the Stadium, equipped with facilities listed below:
    - One (1) table with four (4) chairs
    - One cabinet with a lock
    - Attached bathroom and toilet equipped with washbasin, mirror, shower
    - Sofa for eight (8) persons

- A refrigerator equipped with non-alcoholic drinks in cans or bottles
  - A television
- b) Failure to provide any of these provisions of Art. 71 a) will result in the forfeiture of the Match Subsidies (If any) due to the Organising Club and any further action that the AFC Disciplinary Committee may deem necessary.

## 72. Tournament Secretariat, Facilities for AFC Delegation

- a) The Organising Association must ensure that the following are provided, at its own cost, to the AFC Delegation upon their arrival to the Venue, until one (1) day after last match of the Competition
- i. An office at the officials' hotel equipped with facilities as follows:
    - A) One (1) central telephone unit with internal and external lines allowing calls to be transferred between offices
    - B) IDD lines for telephone and fax machines and its consumables such as but not limited to paper, toner and cartridges
    - C) One (1) desktop with the following specifications (minimum): Pentium 4, 512 MB RAM, connected to the Internet via ADSL/Cable, 15-inch monitor, Window 2000/XP Pro, Microsoft Office 2000 and above, Adobe Reader version 7.0. Operating languages for the software must be in English. One (1) networked laser jet printer and its consumables such as but not limited to paper, toner and cartridges
    - D) One (1) heavy duty and one (1) medium-sized photocopy machines with sorting facilities and its consumables such as but not limited to paper, toner and cartridges
    - E) One (1) fax machine and its consumables such as but not limited to paper, toner and cartridges
    - F) One (1) televisions with DVD recorder
    - G) One (1) staff proficient in English and use of computers

- H) Broadband internet connections (ADSL/Cable) for the office
- ii. An office at the stadium equipped with the following:
  - A) IDD lines for telephone and fax machines and its consumables such as but not limited to paper, toner and cartridges
  - B) Two (2) desktops with the following specifications (minimum): Pentium 4, 512 MB RAM, connected to the Internet via ADSL/Cable, 15-inch monitor, Window 2000/XP Pro, Microsoft Office 2000 and above, Adobe Reader version 7.0. Operating languages for the software must be in English.
  - C) One (1) networked laser jet printer and its consumables such as but not limited to paper, toner and cartridges
  - D) One (1) heavy duty photocopier machine with sorting facilities and its consumables such as but not limited to paper, toner and cartridges
  - E) One (1) medium-sized photocopier machine with sorting facilities and its consumables such as but not limited to paper, toner and cartridges
  - F) One (1) telephone and one (1) fax machine and its consumables such as but not limited to paper, toner and cartridges
  - G) Broadband internet connections (ADSL/Cable) for the office
- iii. One (1) meeting room, equipped with whiteboard and a LCD projector, to accommodate at least thirty (30) persons, one day prior to the Match for purposes of the Team Manager's Meeting.
- iv. No less than three (3) activated mobile phone sim cards/lines, with value

v. One (1) secure storage room at all times at the Stadium for Competition equipment and supplies

b) Failure to provide any of the provisions of Articles 72 a) will result in the forfeiture of the match subsidies (If any) due to the Organising Club and any further action that the AFC Disciplinary Committee may deem necessary.

### 73. Audio/Video Recording of Matches

a) The Organising Club shall provide, at its own cost, Digital Video Disc/s (DVD) of each match of the Competition played in its territory to the AFC Match Commissioner immediately after the Match.

b) Failure to provide any of the provisions of Articles 73 a) will result in the forfeiture of the match subsidies (if any) due to the Organising Club and any further action that the AFC Disciplinary Committee may deem necessary.

### 74. Media Arrangements

a) At least seventy-five (75) seats for the Group Stage, a hundred (100) seats for the Quarter-Final Stage, a hundred-fifty (150) seats for the Semi-Final Stage and two hundred-fifty (250) seats for the Final Stage, or as dictated in the Media Regulations – covered, if available, and internet access all equipped with telephone points and modem plugs – must be set aside for the exclusive use of local and foreign media forming the media tribune. Seats should have adequate work space.

b) No representatives of the written press or radio journalists are allowed on the field of play or the area between the boundaries of the field and the spectators. Only a limited number of accredited photographers, TV cameramen of the host broadcaster and the main visiting broadcaster and the personnel required to operate the electronic television cameras of the host broadcaster are allowed in the area between the boundaries of the field of play and the spectators, where they will carry out their work in the specific locations assigned to them.

c) A pre-match press conference must be conducted within twenty-four (24) hours prior to the kick-off of the match. Each pre-match press conference shall be attended by the Team's Head Coach and at least one starting player as per Art. 40 of these Regulations. A qualified interpreter at the pre-match press conference shall be provided by the Organising

Club. The Organising Club is responsible for the necessary infrastructure (as described in the Media Regulations).

- d) A post-match press conference must be conducted at the stadium and must start no later than 15 minutes after the final whistle. The Organising Club is responsible for providing the necessary infrastructure (as described in the Media Regulations). Both Clubs are obliged to make their Head Coach available as per Art. 40 of these regulations and an interpreter for the visiting Club must be provided by the organising Club.
- e) The Organising Association is responsible to ensure all media requirement and facilities, as listed in these Regulations, the Organising Association Agreement and the List of Requirement are met, at its own cost.
- f) During the two (2) days preceding the match, the organising Club must make one training session open to the media (photographer and TV Camera crew only.) for at least fifteen (15) minutes.
- g) If requested by AFC and/or WSG, both Clubs should have their Head Coach and one (1) player available for the day before each match and/or the match day for an interview of up to thirty (30) minutes, to be recorded by the main TV rights-holding broadcaster (Or local TV rights-holding broadcaster) in the territory of the relevant Club, for the purpose of continental news-exchange distribution to all Competition rights holders. Interviews are not allowed during the match on the field of play itself or in its immediate vicinity. However, “flash” interviews can be conducted after the match in a designated pitch-side area located between the pitch and the players’ tunnel. For post-match interviews, both teams must make their Head Coach and one (1) key player available for at least the host broadcaster and the visiting TV rights-holding broadcaster. All interview locations should be assigned by the AFC Media Officer and/or the organising Club.
- h) After the match, a mixed zone must be set up by the organizing Club for the media, ideally on the way to and from the dressing rooms and the team transport area. This area must be accessible only to coaches, players and representatives of the media in order to offer reporters opportunities to conduct interviews. It must be divided into three areas: one for broadcaster crews, one for radio reporters and one for print journalists. However, if the AFC media officer in conjunction with the organizing club trusts that it is applicable to have a mixed zone interview, due to a limited number of media, in the press conference room, specifically in

- i) Each club must have a Club Media Officer working in full-time exclusive capacity forty-eight (48) hours prior to match day, on match day, and forty-eight (48) hours after match day.
- j) The team dressing-rooms are strictly off limits to representatives of the media before, during and after the match.
- k) The Organising Association shall ensure that AFC, the Host Broadcaster and all Broadcast Affiliates have free access to the Stadia at any time prior to the Competition to assess the technical issues of each and to assemble and construct the relevant infrastructure required for the execution of the Broadcast Rights.
- l) The Organising Association is responsible for ensuring that AFC's Broadcast Rights are protected and that no broadcaster and/or video or ENG camera crews are allowed access to the stadium without the prior written permission of AFC.
- m) The participating teams must link the Competition site to club's website upon qualification for or entry to the Competition.

#### 75. Media Accreditation

- a) The Organising Club must implement a media accreditation programme as instructed by AFC to control and manage access to the Stadiums. All applications must be approved by AFC.
- b) Entry to the Stadium and/or facility is subject to compliance with the Media Regulations that will be issued upon application.
- c) Where required, the AFC will be responsible for the production of media bibs for photographers, TV and ENG crews. The Club will be responsible for their distribution and collection after the match.
- d) The Organising Club has certain obligations towards the host broadcaster for all matches. This includes the provision of certain space and facilities in the stadium for the host and unilateral broadcasters as per Media Regulations. All reasonable security measures to protect the commentary area and camera positions are the responsibility of the Organizing Clubs.

## 76. Controlled Access Areas

- a) The Organising Club shall ensure that the Controlled Access Areas shall be free and clear from all advertising no less than **ten (10) working days** prior to the first match of the Competition, and up until **forty-eight (48) hours** after the completion of the last match or final of the Competition.
- b) AFC shall have unrestricted access to the Controlled Access Area for the placement of advertising material or any materials relating thereto.

## 77. Security and Safety

- a) The Member Association, Organising Club, and the relevant government authorities are responsible for devising, planning and implementing adequate security and safety for the Competition at every relevant location (covering all Controlled Access Areas) which shall cover for all relevant persons at all times, including but not limited to the following:
  - i. All participating Club's players and officials
  - ii. AFC Match Officials
  - iii. Media
  - iv. Commercial Partners
  - v. Fans and spectators
- b) A detailed and highly relevant security plan shall be issued in the form of a binding declaration on all parties involved and shall include but not be limited to the Stadium and its vicinity, the training grounds and also hotels of visiting Club and AFC Match Officials. This security plan shall be based on the principles outlined in the FIFA Safety Guidelines.
- c) In the interests of the safety of players and match officials, Organising Club must provide access to the field of play that guarantees the safe entry and exit of these persons.
- d) The Host Member Association and Organising Club shall be subject to disciplinary measures if appropriate security arrangements are not provided. Sanctions may include fines and suspensions.
- e) No spectators are allowed in the area between the stands and the touch-line or goalline.

## 78. Footballs

For more information, please refer to the Technical Regulations section of these Regulations.

## 79. Doping Control

For more information, please refer to the Administration section (Section 9, Art. 101) of these regulations.

## SECTION 7: COMMERCIAL REGULATIONS

### 80. Ownership of Commercial Rights

- a) The Host Organising Association and Organising Club acknowledge and agree that AFC owns and manages exclusively all Commercial Rights and Broadcast Rights relating to the Competition within the Territory.
- b) The Host Organising Association and Organising Club are required to ensure that their Commercial Affiliates do not use or become connected with the Competition emblem or the Competition name in any way which might give rise to an association between those Commercial Affiliates and the Competition.
- c) AFC has granted an exclusive licence for all Commercial Rights to World Sport Group Ltd. (hereinafter referred to as “WSG”) for the Competition.

### 81. Exploitation of Commercial Rights

#### 81.1 Overview

- a) WSG, as the exclusive licensee of all Commercial Rights, shall directly utilise and exploit the Commercial Rights for the Competition by any means, for any and all products and services within the Territory.
- b) The Member Associations, particularly Clubs, players and officials acknowledge and agree that WGS can freely subcontract or sublicense any Commercial Rights to any entity throughout the world (including in the host country), and the Clubs shall have no right to exploit directly and/or sublicense the exploitation of such Commercial Rights by granting any such rights to any other person and/or entity.
- c) The Member Associations, particularly Clubs, players and officials shall fully cooperate with WSG in the exploitation of the Commercial Rights, in particular with respect to the activation of the Commercial Rights at the Controlled Access Areas.

#### 81.2 Clearance and Fees

- d) All necessary clearances required under the laws of the Host Country(s) shall be obtained by the Organising Club at its own cost to ensure that the matches and any official functions are cleared for full exploitation of the Commercial Rights worldwide.

- e) The Host Organising Association and Organising Club agree to ensure the rapid clearance, free of charge, through the Host Country(s) customs, of all equipment, goods and materials with the deliverance of the necessary visas and work permits and other appropriate local assistance, which AFC, WSG and/or any of the Commercial Affiliates may require in relation to the exploitation of the Commercial Rights.
- f) The Organising Association represents, warrants and undertakes to ensure that there shall be no access, origination or other fees, or costs imposed on AFC, WSG or any of the Commercial Affiliates, by any local authority or other entity, in connection with the exercise and/or exploitation of the Commercial Rights, including but not limited to ensuring that no Stadium taxes or taxes of any kind are imposed on AFC or any of its Commercial Affiliates.

### 81.3 Ambush Marketing

- g) No third parties, including the Team Sponsors of Participating Clubs, may do anything which gives rise to any association between such third party and the Competition.
- h) The Host Organising Association and Organising Club shall ensure the protection of AFC and the Commercial Affiliates from any ambush marketing activities, i.e. advertising and/or promotions by third parties not officially associated with the AFC and/or the Competition. The Host Organising Association and Organising Club shall be responsible for immediately removing all unauthorised or unofficial advertising, publications, promotional materials and/or merchandise from the Stadia. Where the Host Organising Association and Organising Club fails to remove and/or conceal any such unauthorised materials, AFC shall be entitled to immediately remove and/or conceal such materials.
- i) The Participating Clubs shall immediately notify their Team Sponsors of the content of these Requirements and shall require their Team Sponsors to comply with the terms of these Requirements.

#### Requirements

##### Anti-Ambush Requirements

In accordance with current practice, AFC will notify a Club if any of its team sponsors are conducting any activity which AFC reasonably believes that it constitutes any of the following violations of these requirements:

An Infringement of its Intellectual Property Rights including:

- Any activity that the Competition Marks are used in any manner prohibited by these requirements;
- The Use or Registration of any marks which are confusingly similar to the Competition Marks or which relate, in anyway, to the competition;

Or

An Unauthorised Competition, Sweepstake or other Advertising or Promotional Activity involving the use of Competition Tickets;

Or

Any other Act of Ambush Marketing (being any Unauthorised Commercial Association with the Competition).

In such cases, the Club will ensure, and take all measures required by AFC to ensure, that such team sponsor immediately desists from such activity.

#### 81.4 Merchandising and Franchising

- j) The Organising Association shall provide AFC and WSG with sufficient space at the Controlled Access Areas in order for AFC's Commercial Affiliates to fully exercise their exclusive rights of franchise, display, sampling, demonstration and sale of their products and services at the Controlled Access Areas. The necessary space to exercise such on-Controlled Access Site rights shall be made available to the Commercial Affiliates, without any payment by AFC, WSG or the Commercial Affiliates.

#### 81.5 Storage Facilities

- k) The Organising Association shall be responsible for providing free storage facilities at the Controlled Access Areas, to be made available to AFC, WSG and its Commercial Affiliates, suitable for the exercise of the commercial rights in the Controlled Access Areas.

#### 81.6 Utilities

- l) The Organising Association shall ensure the provision of the utilities (such as electricity, water and the like) at cost price to the Commercial Affiliates in order for them to be able to exercise their rights in the Controlled Access Site.

## 82. Exploitation of Broadcast Rights

### 82.1 Overview

- a) AFC is the sole owner of all of the Broadcast Rights (including but not limited to television and/or radio signals and/or recordings in any form of audio and/or audio-visual medium; film and video rights) and Interactive and Electronic Media Rights (including but not limited to the internet, telephony rights) to the Competition, and has granted WSG an exclusive license to exploit, and/or sub-license the broadcast affiliates the right to exploit, all Broadcast Rights in relation to the Competition. WSG is entitled to retain all revenues generated from the exploitation of the Broadcast Rights.
- b) The Organising Club shall refrain from any action, and shall in particular refrain from entering into any agreement or executing any document, which might result in an infringement of the Broadcast Rights owned by AFC, WSG and/or granted to any of the Broadcast Affiliates.
- c) The Organising Club shall take all steps AFC may deem necessary to preserve and protect the Broadcast Rights and the rights owned by AFC, WSG and/or granted to any of the Broadcast Affiliates.
- d) The Organising Club shall ensure that all ticket holders, staff members, participating teams and players, and all others whose images may appear in connection with the exploitation of the Broadcast Rights, permit and/or authorise AFC, WSG and/or the Broadcast Affiliates (whether through the ticket terms and conditions or by written agreement or deemed waiver & release) to use, record and broadcast their images worldwide in any media in connection with the Competition.

### 82.2 Broadcast Facilities

- e) To facilitate the transmission of an international broadcast signal, the Organising Club is responsible for providing the facilities reasonably required by the contractual broadcast partner (Host Broadcaster) appointed by AFC and WSG to ensure an international broadcast quality production of the signal for every match of the Competition.

### 82.3 Back up Power

- f) The Organising Club shall provide back up power supply at the venue. The level for this emergency power supply shall be sufficient to provide

lighting and power for the live or delayed media broadcast of the matches.

### 83. Usage of Marks

- a) Ownership: Host Organising Association, Organising Club and Participating Clubs acknowledge that AFC is the owner of the Competition Marks and that all rights and goodwill in and in relation to the Competition Marks are vested in AFC. Member Associations and Clubs will not grant, or purport to grant, any right or license to use the Competition Marks to any third party.
- b) Host Organising Association, Organising Club and Participating Clubs must use the following term ONLY when referring to their participation in the Competition, and each such use must be in an editorial context only:
  - i. AFC Champions League 2008

(hereinafter, the “Competition Title”)

The Host Organising Association, Organising Club and Participating Clubs, players and officials shall not use the Competition Title in a commercial context, or in any way which suggests or implies a commercial relationship and/or endorsement with any third party. Any translations must be authorised by AFC.

- c) Permitted Composite Logo: Participating Clubs are permitted to create a composite logo incorporating both the official emblem of the Competition and the Team Name with permitted reference of “Participating Team” or “National Team”. The reproduction materials to form a Permitted Composite Logo may be obtained from AFC Marketing Department.

No other mark may be included without AFC’s written permission. No other mark may be placed next to a Permitted Composite Logo in such a way that it causes confusion as to whether or not such mark is part of the Permitted Composite Logo.

- d) The Official Brand Identity Guidelines for the Competition Title and the event Official Marks for use by the Host Organising Association, Organising Club and Participating Clubs are available for download from the AFC’s official website ([www.the-AFC.com](http://www.the-AFC.com)).

- e) Commercial and Broadcast Affiliates may also use a variation of the Competition Title and the Official Marks as per the Official Brand Identity Guidelines.
- f) All proposed uses of the Official Marks of the Competition must be submitted for AFC's prior written approval to the contact details at the end of the document.

#### **84. Personal Recording Devices**

- a) The Host Organising Association, Organising Club and Participating Clubs are required to ensure that their officials, players and representatives do not use, license or consent to the use by third parties of any moving images recorded by the personal recording devices of such officials, players or representatives in the Controlled Access Area for broadcast and/or transmission over any form of media. This prohibition extends to any recording devices used by or with the knowledge of the Organising Club and/or participating Clubs in the controlled Access Area.

#### **85. Press Conferences**

- a) Neither the products nor other identifiers of the participating Clubs' Commercial Affiliates may appear in any manner at any Official AFC or Organising Club press conferences or interviews or other AFC or Organising Club media events.
- b) No player or official of the participating Clubs may make any verbal references to any commercial entity during any official AFC press conference or interview.
- c) All press conferences and interviews held at a Controlled Access Area shall be deemed to be an Official AFC press conference and/or interview.

#### **86. Printed Materials**

- a) The Organising Club shall be responsible for producing, at the Organising Association's cost, official Competition materials including but not limited to the Competition official programme, match tickets and accreditation cards, to editorial content, designs and specifications supplied by AFC and/or WSG and in quantities advised by AFC and/or WSG.

- b) The Organising Club shall not permit any other commercial entities other than the AFC's Commercial Affiliates to be represented on the tickets or on the accreditations.
- c) The Organising Club shall print the Competition official programme and provide the necessary translation in the local language for this publication.
- d) The Organising Club shall not accept any advertisement in the Competition official programme from any entity other than AFC's Commercial Affiliates.
- e) The Host Member Association, Organising Club and participating Clubs undertake not to publish any competition-related publication without prior written approval of AFC.
- f) The Organising Club acknowledges that all rights (publications and advertising) in and to all Competition-related publications including, but not limited to, the Competition official programme, the game day programme, the official magazine, location guidebooks, official posters, etc are exclusively reserved to AFC's Commercial Affiliates.
- g) The Organising Club must seek AFC's approval prior to the production of any printed material. AFC's approval must be final and any artwork should not be altered.

## 87. Accreditations

- a) **AFC and/or WSG will provide the design for the accreditation cards/passes to the Club.** The number of accreditation categories required will follow the guidelines set out by AFC. All accreditation cards/passes shall incorporate only those logos and marks of the Competition and of the Commercial Affiliates as submitted by WSG.
- b) **The Clubs will provide AFC and WSG with the necessary number of accreditations to the Controlled Access Areas in order for WSG and the Commercial Affiliates to be able to fully exercise the rights which will have been granted to them and to fulfil their products/services supply obligations at the Controlled Access Areas.** Such accreditations shall provide access to all general service areas as well as to particular departments, such as the Media Centres, press and television centre, VIP areas and the playing field.

## 88. Parking Spaces

- a) The Organising Association shall provide AFC with fifty (50) parking spaces at the Controlled Access Area for the AFC's Commercial Affiliates.

## 89. Branded Equipment

- a) WSG is responsible for the supply of all branded equipment including, but not limited to: press conference backdrops, indoor display stands, outdoor display stands, MVP backdrops and flash interview backdrops. The Organising Association will not erect any branded equipment or signage at or in relation to the Competition without prior consultation and approval from AFC and/or WSG.

## 90. Pitch Perimeter Advertising

- a) AFC and/or WSG is responsible for the supply of the pitch perimeter signage at the stadium (and official training ground, where applicable).
- b) The Organising Association should note that the perimeter advertising will be installed two days before the first match of the Competition, and the Organising Association shall be required to assist WSG in sourcing labour to procure the installation of such perimeter and other advertising.
- c) The Organising Association shall grant WSG free access to the playing field during any match of the Competition in order for AFC to be able to fully deliver the rights (in particular with respect to the advertising boards and other signage for the Commercial Affiliates at the Stadia).

## 91. Infringement of the Commercial and Marketing Regulations

- a) If any Organising Club infringes any provisions contained in these Marketing Regulations, AFC will decide on any appropriate action and disciplinary sanctions via the AFC Disciplinary Committee and/or AFC Executive Committee.
- b) Any items used at a Controlled Access Area by a Organising Club or its players, officials or representatives which do not comply with these Marketing Regulations and/or the Equipment Regulations will be removed, confiscated or covered up at the discretion of the appropriate AFC officials, and the relevant Organising Club may also face sanctions.

- c) AFC will take all legal and any other appropriate steps to prevent and prohibit unauthorised companies, including Commercial Affiliates of the Organising Club(s), from commercially identifying with, or otherwise exploiting the Competition. Organising Club(s) are required to assist AFC in resolving any intellectual property infringements or ambush activities involving the Commercial Affiliates of the Organising Club.
- d) Neither AFC nor AFC shall be liable to any Organising Club for any losses, fees, damages, or any costs whatsoever, which may arise as a result of the need for an Organising Club to amend or renegotiate its agreements with its Commercial Affiliates as a result of the requirements contained in these Marketing Regulations.
- e) The Organising Club will be held fully responsible for compliance of their players, coaches, managers, officials, representatives and Commercial Affiliates during the Competition.

## 92. New Requirements

- a) The above constitutes AFC's minimum requirements in connection with the delivery of the Marketing Rights. AFC will inform the Organising Association of the developments in the exploitation of the Marketing Rights which may result in AFC imposing additional marketing requirements on the Organizing Association.

## SECTION 8: TICKETING

### 93. Policy

- a) Ticketing, including production, distribution and sales, shall be the responsibility of the Club. AFC and/or WSG will provide a ticket design to the Club. The Club shall ensure that printed tickets include, where available, seat numbering and/or serial numbering. All tickets shall incorporate only those logos and marks of the Competition and the official Commercial Affiliates and Broadcast Affiliates as submitted to the Club as part of the ticket design.

### 94. Terms and Conditions

- a) The AFC Secretariat and the AFC Competitions Committee will, in collaboration with the Organising Association, issue special ticketing terms and conditions which will apply to all ticket holders, including but not limited to national associations, and which must be communicated to all relevant parties.

### 95. Complimentary Tickets

- a) The Organising Club shall set aside ten (10) complimentary tickets for the visiting Club.
- b) The Organising Club will provide AFC with the following complimentary ticket allocation at least two weeks prior to the Competition:
  - i. 50% of the Tribune d'Honneur for each match
  - ii. 60 VIP for each match or match day
  - iii. 490 1<sup>st</sup> Best Category Non-VIP tickets for each match or match day
  - iv. 500 2<sup>nd</sup> Best Category Non-VIP tickets for each match or match day
  - v. Up to 250 Complimentary Tickets to any official functions and special hospitality facilities at the Stadia subject to the capacity of each respective function.

#### Note:

- "Best Category" means the best tickets available in the best category seats entitling the ticket holder to sit in the sector immediately adjacent to the VIP area whether in or directly opposite Area to the main stand.
- All tickets shall be provided in a continuous blocks of tickets.

- The Organising Club shall ensure that AFC can purchase tickets at face value and on an individual Match-by-Match basis, for itself and for the Commercial Affiliates.
- c) For the final matches of the Competition, AFC is entitled to request for additional tickets and will be communicated to the Organising Club when required.

#### 96. Purchasable Tickets

- a) Organising Club must make at least 8% of the net saleable capacity of their Stadium available exclusively to supporters of the participating Clubs, for the matches they feature in, in a segregated, safe area to be determined by the Organising Club. The participating Clubs must declare the number of seats required (up to 8% of the net saleable capacity) by an agreed date. The participating Club is responsible for the cost of all seats declared.
- b) Participating Clubs shall be entitled to purchase an agreed number of tickets, i.e. up to 200 top or second-category tickets, or a combination thereof, for their VIPs, supporters, sponsors, etc. The price of tickets for supporters of the Participating Clubs may not exceed the price of tickets of a comparable quality that are sold to supporters of the home Club.
- c) The Club will provide WSG the opportunity to buy tickets at face value and on an individual Match-by-Match basis, for itself and for the Commercial Affiliates.

## SECTION 9: ADMINISTRATION

### 97. Management

- a) AFC will create the best possible conditions for staging the Competition with respect to matters, including, among others, coordination and administration of the Competition, the entry procedure and authorization to take part, the match system, the draw, the Laws of the Game, refereeing, control and disciplinary, and the exploitation of commercial rights.

### 98. Disciplinary measures and appeals

- a) Disciplinary measures and appeals are dealt with in compliance with the current AFC Statutes, AFC Disciplinary Code, AFC Code of Ethics and the relevant AFC circular(s).

### 99. Protest

- a) Subject to the following provisions, protests are objections of any kind to occurrences that have a direct effect on matches organized in the Competition (state and marking of the pitch, accessory, match equipment, eligibility of players, stadium installations, footballs, etc.)
- b) Unless otherwise stipulated in this article, protests shall first be submitted in writing to the AFC Match Commissioner within two (2) hours of the match and followed up immediately with a full written report, including a copy of the original protest, to be sent in writing to the AFC Headquarters accompanied by a fee of US\$ 500 (US dollars five hundred only). The plaintiff Club, through its Member Association shall confirm the protest by registered letter, to be sent to the AFC Headquarters no later than two (2) days after the match in question.
- c) Protests against any incidents that occur during the course of a match shall be made to the referee by the team captain immediately after the disputed incident and before play has been resumed. The protests shall be confirmed in writing to the AFC Match Commissioner by the head of the team delegation no later than two (2) hours after the match.
- d) No protests may be made against the referee's decisions regarding facts connected with play, such decisions being final.

- e) If an unfounded or irresponsible protest is lodged, the Disciplinary Committee may impose a fine and the protest fee of US\$ 500 (US dollars five hundred only) will be forfeited.
- f) Once the final match of the Competition has ended, any protests described in this article shall be disregarded.

#### **100. Arbitration**

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

#### **101. Doping Control**

- a) Doping is prohibited.
- b) Doping is any attempt by a player himself, or at the instigation of another person, to enhance his mental and/or physical performance unphysiologically or to treat ailments or injury (when this is medically unjustified), for the sole purpose of taking part in a competition
- c) The use of a substance or a procedure intended to destroy or tamper with samples of urine or other substances being examined in doping tests also constitutes an act of doping.
- d) Every Club participating in the Competition shall pledge to comply with the Doping Control Regulations for the Competition by signing the Declaration of Agreement sent to the Clubs with the entry form.

- e) The AFC Competitions Committee reserves the right to carry out:
  - i. Random doping tests during the Competition;
  - ii. Doping tests at all matches and training sessions and at any time prior to and during the entire Competition;
  - iii. Urine tests or urine and blood tests
- f) Only the AFC Competitions Committee may decide at which laboratories (among those accredited by the International Olympic Committee) and by whom the analyses shall be carried out.
- g) Every player in a team, including substitutes and injured players sitting on the bench, is liable to undergo doping tests. Any player or team that refuses or avoids undergoing a doping tests or falsifies the results of a test or attempts to do so or is found guilty of having taken prohibited substances, whether intentionally or not, shall be referred to the AFC Competitions Committee and sanctioned by the AFC Disciplinary Committee in accordance with the AFC Disciplinary Code.
- h) Any official who encourages or incites a player, either intentionally or through negligence, to commit such an infringement as described in Art. 101 g) above shall be referred to the AFC Competitions Committee for sanctions to be imposed.
- i) The current version of the Doping Control Regulations for AFC Competitions and out of Competition, and the AFC Disciplinary Code apply to this Competition.

## 102. Financial Provisions

- a) The participating Clubs shall settle costs among themselves. If no agreement is reached, the following provisions shall apply:
  - i. The visiting Club shall pay for its delegation's own travel costs to the Venue of the Match
  - ii. The Organising Club shall pay for expenses incurred under Section 6 of these regulations, Articles 65 to 79.
  - iii. AFC shall pay for the following:
    - A) International travel costs (by air: domestic and continental in economy class; rail/sleeper in first class) and the daily allowances, as fixed by FC, for referees, assistant referees and fourth officials;

- B) International travel costs (by air: domestic and continental in economy class; rail/sleeper in first class) and the daily allowances, as fixed by AFC, for the match commissioner, the referee inspector and the AFC Delegation;
- C) doping control expenses;
- D) the costs of insurance taken out by AFC to cover its own risks, which may include any of the following:
  - Third-party liability insurance
  - Insurance against liability for pecuniary loss
  - Accident insurance
  - Legal expenses insurance
  - Travel luggage insurance
  - Spectator insurance
  - Electronic equipment insurance
  - Robbery insurance
  - Fidelity insurance
  - Cup insurance
  - Event cancellation insurance
  - Medical Insurance

- b) Any expenses and costs incurred by a Club and/or its National Association other than those mentioned in these Regulations shall be borne by the Club and/or its Member Association concerned
- c) Each Club retains its receipts from the sale of match tickets.

### 103. Subsidy

- a) Each Club will receive US\$ 20,000.00 (US Dollars Twenty Thousand Only) for each away match played. The subsidies are paid in three (3) installments after match days 2, 4, and 6, provided the club has met its obligations under the relevant articles of these regulations.

### 104. Awards

- a) For the Competition, the following Player Awards and Team Award will be presented:
  - i. The Abdullah Al Dabal MVP (of the Competition) Award
  - ii. Leading Goal Scorer
  - iii. AFC Fair Play Award for AFC Champions League 2008

- b) The Abdullah Al Dabal award is given to a player who has a major influence on the individual matches, and the Competition overall. The winner of the Abdullah Al Dabal award must be present at the Post-Match Press Conference.
- c) The Leading Goal Scorer award is given to a player who has successfully led his team with the most goals. This is calculated based on the number of goals scored by an individual player from the group stage to the final. In the event that there is a tie in the number of goals scored, the number of assists will be taken into account.
- d) The AFC Fair Play Award is calculated is awarded to the team who has collected the most Fair Play points from the group stage to the final.
- e) There are no official awards other than those listed above, unless otherwise decided by the AFC Competitions Committee.

#### 105. Trophy and Medals

- a) A challenge trophy donated by AFC is presented to the winner of the Competition for six (6) months. The trophy is presented at the venue of the 2<sup>nd</sup> leg of the finals. AFC is responsible for engraving the trophy with the name of the winning Club. The trophy will remain the property of AFC. The champion Club will be awarded a scaled-down replica of the trophy by AFC as its permanent possession.
- b) The champion Club shall be responsible for the loss, or any damage to the trophy and shall return it in perfect condition when requested to do so by AFC. The AFC will retain a proportion of the prize money which may be forfeited, in whole or in part, to cover the cost of reparation work required when the trophy is returned.
- c) The champion Club may have a copy of the trophy made, provided the copy is clearly marked as a replica and does not exceed 4/5 (four fifths) of the size of the original).
- d) If for any reason, the competition should cease to be held, the trophy shall be returned to the AFC Headquarters.
- e) AFC will also be responsible for awarding the following medals:
  - i. Thirty-seven (37) gold medals to the champion Club;
  - ii. Thirty-seven (37) silver medals to the runner-up Club;

- iii. Four (4) special commemorative medals to the referees of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Leg final match;
- iv. Commemorative medals;

f) Additional medals may not be produced.

#### 106. Prize Money

- a) AFC will pay the following in prize money:
  - i. Champion: US\$ 600,000.00 (US Dollars Six Hundred Thousand Only)
  - ii. Runner-up: US\$ 400,000.00 (US Dollars Four Hundred Thousand Only)
- b) The prize money for the Clubs will be sent directly to their respective National Associations unless otherwise directed by the National Associations concerned.

#### 107. Prize Presentation Ceremony

- a) A prize presentation ceremony will be held immediately after the 2<sup>nd</sup> leg of the Finals of the Competition to award the Awards, Trophy and Medals as stipulated in Art. 104 and 105.
- b) The teams and individuals that qualify to receive the Awards, Trophy and Medals (cf. Art. 104 and 105) are required to attend the prize presentation ceremony. Clubs may be represented by all their registered members (18 players and 7 officials) for the final match awarding ceremony. Other Club Members, Officials, Players, or Staff cannot participate in the prize presentation.

#### 108. Protocol

- a) During the Competition, the AFC flag, the AFC Fair Play flag, and any other flag at AFC's discretion shall be flown at every match inside the Stadium. Please refer to the AFC Protocol Regulations for further details.
- b) Where it exists, the official music of the Competition shall be provided by AFC to the Organising Club and shall be played when the teams enter the field. Alternatively, the FIFA anthem may be used.
- c) At all matches in the Competition, the players must shake hands with their opponents and referees after the end of the line-up procedure as a gesture of fair play. The players are also obliged to assemble in the

center circle and wave to the spectators and shake hands with their opponents after the match.

- d) At least one (1) representative each from the visiting Club and its National Association shall be seated in the highest category of seating (Royal box, VVIP, etc.).
- e) The official AFC representative(s) shall be seated in the highest category of seating (Royal box, VVIP, etc.).
- f) The AFC Protocol Regulations will apply for the Final (1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> leg) matches. These will be communicated to the relevant Organising Club.

#### **109. Special Provisions**

- a) Member Associations and Clubs taking part in the Competition shall undertake to comply fully with all AFC regulations and decisions taken by the AFC Standing Committees.
- b) Any disputes arising from the application of these Regulations shall be settled by the jurisdiction of AFC and, if subsequently necessary and AFC's decision is not final, by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS, Avenue de L'Elysse 28, 1006 Lausanne) in Switzerland.
- c) The AFC Competitions Committee shall, in conjunction with the Organising Association, issue any instructions necessitated by special circumstances which might arise in the country hosting matches of the Competition. These instructions shall form an integral part of these Regulations.

#### **110. Intellectual Property Rights**

- a) AFC is the exclusive owner of all intellectual property rights of the Competition, including any current or future rights of AFC's name, logos, brands, medals and trophies. Any use of the aforementioned rights requires the prior written consent of AFC, and must always conform to AFC's instructions and guidelines on correct usage.

#### **111. Copyright**

- a) Any data created in conjunction with the Competition, including but not limited to fixture lists, team lists and team or player data, is a part of the Commercial Rights, and is the sole property of AFC.

**112. Matters not provided for**

- a) Matters not provided for in these Regulations and cases of force majeure shall be decided by the AFC Competitions Committee, whose decisions are final.

**113. Ratification**

- a) These regulations were ratified by the AFC Executive Committee in November 2007 and came into force immediately.

For the AFC Executive Committee

President:  
Mohamed Bin Hammam  
Kuala Lumpur, December 2007

General Secretary:  
Dato' Paul Mony Samuel

## APPENDIX 1: AFC CALENDAR OF MEN'S FOOTBALL

Please download from: <http://images.the-afc.com/Documents/common/cms/afc/Comps2008-2009-Calendar.pdf>