

**ASEAN CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP (ACC) SHOPEE CUP™ 2025/26  
TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS**

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## DEFINITIONS

<b>ACCOMMODATION</b>	Any location approved by the AFF which provides accommodation to the AFF Delegation, Match Officials, Team Official Delegations, AFF Commercial Rights Partner, and Commercial Affiliates.
<b>ACCREDITATION CARD</b>	Any physical item which is issued by the AFF and/or Host Club which provides the recipient the right to access a Controlled Access Area (or part thereof) where the Controlled Access Area is under the control of the AFF or the Host Club.
<b>ADVERTISING RIGHTS</b>	The right to promote brands and/or corporate names and/or products and/or services at and/or in relation to the Competition by whatever means available, whether existing now or to be developed in the future, whether at the Stadiums or Facility Areas or within the Controlled Access Areas, by in-stadium/out-stadium perimeter signage and other advertising, digital signage and screens, closed circuit television, equipment usage or other methods and through printed matter (including digitally delivered printed matter) such as programmes, posters, letterheads, press releases, newsletters and Tickets, and subject to any AFF regulations, the right to display such advertising on the clothing or footwear worn, or on any equipment used, carried or transported by officials (including for the avoidance of doubt by Match Officials), medical and security staff, ball person, player escorts, flag bearers and/or photographers. The display of the name and/or logo of the bona fide supplier of clothing on the uniform strip of officials is also included. For the avoidance of doubt, advertising on the strip of Players is excluded, other than where it is the trademark of the bona fide manufacturer and is in accordance with any FIFA, AFC and/or AFF regulations. Similarly, branding on any equipment, goods and/or services used in connection with the Competition, save where supplied by a Commercial Affiliate, may only include customary branding of the bona fide manufacturer.
<b>AFC</b>	Asian Football Confederation
<b>AFF</b>	ASEAN Football Federation
<b>AFF COMMERCIAL RIGHTS PARTNER or SPORTFIVE</b>	This shall refer to the company SPORTFIVE Asia Pte. Ltd., which the AFF has granted an exclusive licence to utilise and exploit the Commercial Rights.
<b>AFF COMMITTEE</b>	Any Committee of the AFF as constituted in accordance with the AFF Statutes.
<b>AFF COMPETITIONS COMMITTEE</b>	An AFF Standing Committee tasked to (i) discuss and plan the different types of competitions for AFF and make suitable recommendations to the AFF Council; (ii) make site visits whenever necessary for the selection of suitable venues for the competitions; (iii) formulate the Rules and Regulations for each type of competition; (iv) supervise the organisation of the

competitions; and (v) undertake any other duties given by the AFF Council in the field of competitions.

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<i><b>AFF DELEGATION</b></i>	(i)      AFF staff members (ii)     Match officials (iii)    Other officials appointed by the AFF (iv)     AFF Committee members, and (v)      AFF guests
<i><b>AFF MARKS</b></i>	All design marks, slogans, designations, names, logos, insignia, emblems or devices (in any application) owned and/or controlled by the AFF (in any language) relating to the AFF itself but excluding the Competition Marks.
<i><b>AWAY CLUB</b></i>	A Participating Club playing a Match in the Competition away from their home Stadium.
<i><b>BROADCAST PARTNER</b></i>	Any entity, including the Host Broadcast, which has been granted the Media Rights (or any part thereof) to the Competition.
<i><b>CHAMPION</b></i>	The Participating Club that wins the Competition, at the end of all the Matches.
<i><b>CLEAN STADIUM</b></i>	A Stadium or Official Training Site, whether inside or in the airspace above or the outer perimeter, delivered to the AFF at a prescribed time, that is free from: (i)      any advertising and commercial signage of any kind, whether on any stadium infrastructure, staff uniforms, accreditations, fences, equipment or elsewhere, (ii)     third-party agreements relating to the use and operation of the Stadium (or part thereof), (iii)    encumbrances that may affect the use and exploitation of Commercial Rights, and/or (iv)      Stadium or venue naming rights.
<i><b>CLUB</b></i>	A professional club or an amateur club which participates in leagues or competitions under the auspices of a Football Association.
<i><b>COMMERCIAL AFFILIATE(S)</b></i>	Any entity which has been granted the right to exercise and exploit the Commercial Rights (or any part thereof) in respect to the Competition.
<i><b>COMMERCIAL RIGHTS</b></i>	Advertising Rights, Concession Rights, Hospitality Rights, Image Rights, Media Rights, Merchandise Rights, Promotional Rights, Sponsorship Rights, Travel and Tour Rights and any other rights of a commercial nature relating to the Competition.
<i><b>COMPETITION</b></i>	The ASEAN Club Championship (ACC) Shopee Cup™ 2025/26, which includes without limitation, all Matches as set out in the Match Schedule, all qualifying Matches, all activities on the Field of Play (other than Matches), opening ceremonies, prize presentation or closing ceremonies, press conferences or Official Functions connected therewith.

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<i>COMPETITION DATA</i>	Any and all information related to the Competition, including fixture lists, Image Rights, information and/or statistics about the Participating Clubs, information and/or statistics about the Participating Players' and/or Participating Officials' participation and/or performance in the Competition, Match analysis, Referee decisions and any other information in relation to the Competition.
<i>COMPETITION MARKS</i>	All designs marks, slogans, designations, names, logos, insignia, emblems, mascots or devices (in any application) owned and/or controlled by the AFF (in any language) relating to the Competition.
<i>COMPETITION WEBSITE</i>	The official website of the Competition (if any) with a dedicated URL including without limitation all other domains or official media accounts and channels of the Competition created and/or owned by the AFF (e.g., Instagram, Facebook, YouTube, X, etc.).
<i>COMPLIMENTARY TICKETS</i>	Tickets which are supplied without charge.
<i>CONCESSION RIGHTS</i>	Sampling, vending, display and other distribution methods and payment methods connected therewith for and of products or services, including pourage rights at the Stadiums and Facility Areas.
<i>CONTROLLED ACCESS AREA (CAA)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) any Stadium</li> <li>(ii) any Official Training Site</li> <li>(iii) any official hotel (public areas being excepted), subject to and to the extent agreed in any executed hotel agreement</li> <li>(iv) any official exclusion zone encircling a Stadium on a Match day</li> <li>(v) any official parking area, accreditation centre, international broadcast compound, and/or hospitality area</li> <li>(vi) the venue of any Official Function</li> <li>(vii) any official AFF fan park</li> <li>(viii) Facility Areas, and/or</li> <li>(ix) any other location and/or facility designated by the AFF as a CAA, associated to the Competition to which access is permitted only to those in possession of an Accreditation Card, Ticket, and/or other officially sanctioned entry permit.</li> </ul>
<i>EXTRA TIME</i>	Two (2) equal periods of additional time which shall be played in accordance with these Regulations should there be no winner at the conclusion of a Match.
<i>FACILITY AREA</i>	The location of Official Functions, ceremonies, press centres, Ticket offices, Competition hotels, media areas (including without limitation areas used for viewing of any public exhibition), sponsor village areas (including without limitation "AFF fan park" areas, and areas used for the activation of the Commercial Rights), official hospitality areas (including without

limitation areas used for the exploitation of the Hospitality Rights), and information centres controlled by or on behalf of the AFF and used in connection with the Competition whether at the Stadium or elsewhere at the Venues.

<b><i>FIELD OF PLAY</i></b>	The area described in Law 1 of the Laws of the Game issued by the International Football Association Board ("IFAB") and administered by FIFA.
<b><i>FIFA</i></b>	Fédération Internationale de Football Association
<b><i>FINALS</i></b>	The final two (2) Matches of the Competition which determine the Champion.
<b><i>FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION</i></b>	The controlling body for football within a country or territory recognised by the AFF.
<b><i>GROUP STAGE</i></b>	The second stage of the Competition held in accordance with these Regulations.
<b><i>HOSPITALITY RIGHTS</i></b>	The opportunity to offer and sell hospitality and entertainment services at the Venues or within the CAA in combination with the Tickets whether such facilities are in boxes, marquees or otherwise, but excluding those non-commercial functions and facilities reserved for the AFF and/or Host Club officials and its guests not forming part of the Commercial Rights.
<b><i>HOST BROADCASTER</i></b>	The party appointed to ensure and provide the production of broadcast signals of the Matches and other events of the Competition, and the provision of all related services in accordance with the Media Rights granted to it.
<b><i>HOST CITY</i></b>	Any city and/or identifiable metropolitan area in which any Match is staged.
<b><i>HOST CLUB</i></b>	A Participating Club which is approved by the AFF to organise, host, and stage Matches in the Competition in collaboration with the respective MA.
<b><i>HOST MEMBER ASSOCIATION (HOST MA)</i></b>	A Member Association which is approved by the AFF to organise, host and stage Matches in the Competition.
<b><i>IMAGE RIGHTS</i></b>	The right to use still and/or moving images and/or representations of Participating Clubs, Participating Players, Participating Officials, Match Officials and other officials and persons forming part of the Competition.
<b><i>INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION</i></b>	An international football competition organised by the AFF and/or the AFF in conjunction with other regional football associations or continental football confederations and/or by FIFA in conjunction with other regional football associations.
<b><i>KICKS FROM THE PENALTY MARK</i></b>	'Kicks from the Penalty Mark' as described in the Laws of the Game.
<b><i>LAWS OF THE GAME</i></b>	The laws of association football issued by the IFAB.

<b>LEAGUE</b>	A professional league and/or amateur league which consists of a combination of clubs within the territory of a Football Association, and which is subordinate to and under the authority of that Football Association.
<b>MATCH</b>	<p>A football match in its entirety (including a replayed and/or deferred football match, Extra Time and Kicks from the Penalty Mark) which takes place as part of the Competition in accordance with the Match Schedule. For the avoidance of doubt, a match formally commences when the Stadium is officially opened to spectators and formally concludes when the Stadium is officially closed to spectators, if spectators are allowed for such Matches.</p> <p>Should spectators not be allowed for any Match(es) then a Match formally commences when the Stadium would have otherwise been officially opened to the spectators and formally concludes when the Stadium would have otherwise been officially closed to spectators.</p>
<b>MATCH OFFICIAL</b>	Any individual appointed to officiate a Match in the Competition in the roles of the Referee, Assistant Referee, Fourth Official, Video Assistant Referee (VAR), Assistant Video Assistant Referee (AVAR), and any other Match Official stipulated in the Laws of the Game.
<b>MATCH SCHEDULE</b>	The official schedule which sets out, without limitation, the dates and times on which Matches will be played, the Stadiums at which the Matches will be played, and the names of the Participating Clubs.
<b>MEDIA</b>	Any individual granted a media Accreditation Card by the AFF.
<b>MEDIA RIGHTS</b>	The right and licence to produce, edit, and/or transmit, for intelligible reception throughout the world in any language and in any format, and on any platform including film, fixed media, digital media, games, internet, public exhibition, radio, mobile, and television, a visual, audio-visual, and/or audio signal and/or image or recording (including without limitation the basic feed, multi feeds, additional feeds, audio feeds, a feed incorporating Competition Data, world feed and unilateral feeds) of the Competition, and all interview activities and action during and forming part of the Competition including Official Functions and the Image Rights by any and all means of transmission distribution, exhibition and reception, now existing or hereinafter developed including but not limited to analogue, digital, satellite cable and interactive communication systems, on a live, delayed, and unlimited repeat basis, in full or in part (including without limitation by way of clips and/or highlights and/or support programmes and/or magazine shows and/or news access), and all rights to exploit any and all commercial opportunities (including for example broadcast sponsorship and commercial airtime opportunities) arising from and/or in connection with such rights.

<b>MEMBER ASSOCIATION (MA)</b>	A football association which is a member of the AFF.  The term “MA” is the abbreviation of this term and shall be construed accordingly.
<b>MERCHANDISE RIGHTS</b>	The right granted to the AFF Commercial Rights Partner, if any, for the use and exploitation of the Competition Marks and/or official designation in the manufacture, packaging, distribution in the manufacture, distribution and sale of goods and services of all kinds, including items of equipment (e.g. football balls), clothing, coins, medals, games (electronic or otherwise), other collectibles and Premiums related to the Competition.
<b>NEUTRAL VENUE</b>	Any Stadium utilised for a Match which is not the regular home Stadium or Venue utilised by the Participating Club designated as the Host Club, unless expressly authorised by the AFF. The designation of a Stadium as a Neutral Venue must be expressly authorised by the AFF in accordance with these Regulations.
<b>OFFICIAL FUNCTION</b>	Any event which is officially organised or sanctioned by the AFF in connection with the Competition. For the avoidance of doubt, this expressly includes, without limitation, all Matches and/or events held at Official Training Sites, the opening ceremony, the prize presentation ceremony, any AFF gala dinner, lunch or banquet, cultural events, official press conferences, official draws, workshops and launch events.
<b>OFFICIAL TRAINING SITE</b>	Any site designated by the Host Club and approved by the AFF for use by the Participating Clubs throughout the Competition for training purposes.
<b>PARTICIPATING CLUB</b>	A Club which is approved by the AFF to participate in the Competition.
<b>PARTICIPATING MEMBER ASSOCIATION (PMA)</b>	A Member Association whose representative team participates in the Competition.
<b>PARTICIPATING OFFICIAL</b>	Any official who is registered to participate in the Competition.
<b>PARTICIPATING PLAYER</b>	Any player who is registered to participate in the Competition.
<b>PLAY-OFF STAGE</b>	The first stage of the Competition in accordance with these Regulations.
<b>PREMIUMS</b>	Any promotional items (including packaging, labelling and/or containers thereof) which incorporate a mark and/or logo of the AFF and/or the Competition, and which may only be distributed free of charge or as prizes.
<b>PROMOTIONAL RIGHTS</b>	Any advertising and/or promotions which are carried out in connection with the Competition, Competition Marks, or other rights/opportunities granted by the AFF.
<b>PROPRIETARY INTERESTS</b>	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, which is in the name of and owned by the AFF.

<b>REGULATIONS</b>	These Competition Regulations.
<b>SPONSORSHIP RIGHTS</b>	<p>The right, in any and all media, throughout the world, and in all languages, to promote an association between the Competition and certain products, services, and/or brands, and shall include (by way of illustration only) the exclusive right to exercise rights of association with the Competition, including without limitation the right to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) use an official designation</li> <li>(ii) use the AFF Marks and/or applicable Competition Marks on branded products and/or product packaging (including Premiums, and in relation to the Competition Marks only on items for retail sale) and/or advertising</li> <li>(iii) receive commercial programme Tickets; and</li> <li>(iv) receive broadcast sponsorship opportunities in connection with broadcasts of a Match or Official Function.</li> </ul>
<b>STADIUM</b>	<p>Any Stadium at which a Match is played. For the avoidance of doubt, this includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) the entire premises (to the extent that a valid Accreditation Card or Ticket is required in order to gain access) of a Stadium facility inside the Stadium perimeter fence and (on Match days and any day on which any official training takes place within the Stadium), the aerial space above such Stadium premises</li> <li>(ii) parking facilities</li> <li>(iii) VIP and hospitality areas (including any hospitality village)</li> <li>(iv) concession areas</li> <li>(v) commercial display areas</li> <li>(vi) buildings</li> <li>(vii) the Field of Play</li> <li>(viii) the Media tribune</li> <li>(ix) any broadcast compound</li> <li>(x) the Stadium media centre</li> <li>(xi) the press conference room</li> <li>(xii) the mixed zone</li> <li>(xiii) any stands, and</li> <li>(xiv) any areas beneath the stands</li> </ul>
<b>TEAM</b>	Any representative team affiliated to a Member Association participating a Competition.
<b>TEAM OFFICIAL DELEGATION</b>	The final registered delegation of a Participating Club for the duration of the relevant stage of the Competition subject to the limits set out in these Regulations.
<b>TICKET</b>	A pass providing access to a venue for the purpose of attending a Match, official training, or Official Function.

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<i>TICKETING</i>	All operational measures to provide Tickets to all spectators or every Match and for Official Functions of the Competition allowing them to enter the Stadium or a Venue. Ticketing shall include the management of the operation necessary for the production, sale, distribution, delivery and payment of the Tickets of the Competition.
<i>TRAVEL AND TOUR RIGHTS</i>	The right to organise and/or sub-license official travel and tour activities in relation to the Competition, which travel and tour activities shall, for the avoidance of doubt, include the provision of Tickets to a Match and/or Official Function of the Competition.
<i>VENUE(S)</i>	The geographical city within the Host Club's jurisdiction including immediate surrounding area in which a Stadium is located.

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For purposes of these Regulations, and provided the context so permits:

- (i) the singular shall include the plural and vice-versa;
- (ii) the masculine gender shall include the feminine and vice-versa;
- (iii) references to natural persons shall include any legal person or corporation;
- (iv) references to the AFF shall include its successors and permitted assigns, and where the context requires, the AFF Committees;
- (v) references to the AFF Commercial Rights Partner or commercial affiliates shall include, where advised by the AFF, their successors and permitted assigns; and
- (vi) all defined terms, unless otherwise stated herein shall bear the same meaning as ascribed in the AFF Statutes, unless the context indicates otherwise.

## SECTION 1: GENERAL PROVISIONS

### 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. The ASEAN Club Championship (ACC) which is currently known as ASEAN Club Championship Shopee Cup™ 2025/26 (the “Competition”) is organised annually by the AFF for the Participating Clubs
- 1.2. These Regulations govern the rights, duties and responsibilities of the AFF, Host Clubs (as well as their MAs), Participating Clubs (as well as their MAs), Participating Players and Participating Officials taking part in the 2025/26 edition of the Competition.
- 1.3. These Regulations and all related directives, decisions, guidelines and circulars issued by the AFF shall be binding upon all parties participating and involved in the preparation, organisation and hosting of Matches in the Competition.
- 1.4. The Host Clubs under the aegis of the AFF Competitions Committee shall be responsible for organising the Matches in the Competition in accordance with these Regulations and the AFF Statutes.
- 1.5. Any rights and Propriety Interests associated with the Competition that are not granted by these Regulations and/or specific agreements to any Host Club or Participating Club, shall vest in the AFF.
- 1.6. Any reference to the AFF Statutes and to AFF, AFC and FIFA regulations refer to those valid at the time of application.
- 1.7. All capitalised terms used in these Regulations, not expressly defined herein, shall have the meaning ascribed to it in the relevant AFF/AFC/FIFA regulations and/or the AFF Statutes.

## SECTION 2: ADMINISTRATION

### 2. MANAGEMENT

- 2.1. The Competition shall be organised and managed by the relevant Host Club (and its MA), in collaboration with and under the aegis of the AFF.

### 3. COMMITTEES

#### 3.1. Tournament Committee

- 3.1.1. The Competition shall have a tournament committee named the ASEAN Club Championship 2025/26 Tournament Committee (the “Tournament Committee”), who shall ensure that the Competition is compliant with the Laws of the Game, these Regulations, and all other relevant rules and regulations of the AFF and/or FIFA/AFC, as applicable.
- 3.1.2. The Tournament Committee shall consist of a Chairperson and at least four (4) other Members to be nominated by the AFF Competitions Committee, as follows:
  - 3.1.2.1. AFF President
  - 3.1.2.2. Chairperson of the AFF Competitions Committee
  - 3.1.2.3. Deputy Chairperson of the AFF Competitions Committee
  - 3.1.2.4. two (2) selected AFF Council members.
- 3.1.3. It shall be a requirement that any member of this Tournament Committee who has an interest (personal and/or otherwise) and/or conflict in any way or form, in any matter under discussion, recuses him/herself from the discussion/decision forthwith by informing the other members of the Tournament Committee.
- 3.1.4. The Tournament Committee shall have overall authority over the Competition, the AFF Competitions Committee and/or the AFF Secretariat shall have responsibility for all major decisions required in connection with the staging of the Competition. This shall include:
  - 3.1.4.1. the Competition format
  - 3.1.4.2. Match scheduling, including dates, kick-off times and venues
  - 3.1.4.3. decisions in cases of Force Majeure
  - 3.1.4.4. the appointment of any further committee(s) (or sub-committees) which shall be responsible for any specific element of the Competition organisation including but not limited to the committees mentioned in paragraphs 3.2, 3.3 or 3.4 below, or the appointment of any member of any such Committee (or sub-committees).

3.1.5. For the avoidance of doubt:

- 3.1.5.1. decisions about the inclusion or exclusion from the Competition of any Participating Club, Participating Player or Participating Official, and
- 3.1.5.2. decisions about the possibility of a Participating Club or any related Participating Official(s) or Participating Player(s) being fined or suspended from the Competition or from any other AFF competition to be held in the future

shall be made by the AFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee.

3.1.6. For the avoidance of doubt, the Tournament Committee shall be entitled to make recommendations to the AFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee regarding the severity of any relevant misconduct, and the sanctions which might be appropriate.

3.1.7. Decisions taken by the Tournament Committee shall be final, binding and not appealable on all parties involved in the Competition.

### 3.2. Local Organising Committee

3.2.1. The Host Club is required to appoint a Local Organising Committee (the "LOC").

3.2.2. The LOC shall be responsible for ensuring that all logistical arrangements are made for the staging of the Matches and that the Matches are staged in compliance with the local laws and with all applicable protocols and regulations. This shall include making all appropriate arrangements for all Match participants, including Away Clubs and Match Officials, including all airport arrangements for arrival into and travel out of the country, and all arrangements for local transport, accommodation, training venues and Match venues.

3.2.3. All decisions of the LOC for matters under its jurisdiction shall be final and binding upon all participants.

### 3.3. Match Committee

3.3.1. A Match Committee will be appointed for each Match day.

3.3.2. Each Match Committee shall consist of the Match Commissioner for the relevant Match, Referee Assessor and one (1) member from the LOC.

3.3.3. The Match Committee shall be responsible for ensuring that the Match is played in compliance with the rules of the game.

3.3.4. All decisions of the Match Committee on matters under its jurisdiction shall be final, binding and not appealable upon all participants.

3.4. Security Committee

- 3.4.1. The Host Club shall form a Security Committee whose Chairperson shall be a security officer holding a high position in the police force of the relevant country.
- 3.4.2. The Away Club shall include a security officer to accompany the team, and s/he shall be a member of the Security Committee. Such provision shall be the responsibility of the Host Club.
- 3.4.3. The Security Committee shall follow all guidelines, rules and regulations and measures recommended by FIFA to ensure there is security both on and off the field of all times.
- 3.4.4. The Host Club shall be responsible for providing security arrangements to all participants, including but not limited to Participating Players, Participating Officials and Match Officials, to prevent violent incidents. Such security arrangements shall cover the Match Stadium and its vicinity, the training grounds, all participants' hotels, etc.

4. INTERPRETATION OF RULES AND MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR

- 4.1. The interpretation of these Regulations and all matters not provided for shall be dealt with by the Tournament Committee in consultation with the AFF, whose decision shall be final.
- 4.2. In the event of any disagreement in the interpretation of these Regulations, AFF will be the final authority on deciding any such disagreement.

5. GENERAL JURISDICTION

- 5.1. The AFF is authorised to deal with, in the manner it deems fit, any aspect of the Competition which does not come under the jurisdiction of and/or is not the responsibility of any other body.

6. AFC COMPETITION OPERATIONS MANUAL

- 6.1. In the event that these Regulations are silent on any matter relating to the Competition, including without limitation on Competition system, official countdowns, friendly matches, official trainings, warming up and cool down, drinking procedure during the matches, equipment, safety and security, medical provisions, taxes and duties, the AFF reserves its right to refer to the AFC Competition Operations Manual, which shall apply to all the Participating Clubs, Participating Players and Participating Officials of this Competition.
- 6.2. Only the AFF has the authority to refer the AFC Competition Operations Manual for any matter relating to the Competition, at its own discretion. All decisions made in this regard, i.e., on whether to refer to the AFC Competition Operations Manual or not, shall be final, binding and not appealable.

## 7. FORCE MAJEURE

- 7.1. The Articles 12.2.1 to 12.2.6 will not be applicable in cases of Force Majeure as defined in Article 7.3 below.
- 7.2. The AFF shall take whatever action it deems necessary in cases of Force Majeure.
- 7.3. Force Majeure shall be any event, or threatened event, affecting or which may affect the performance of any provision of these Regulations, arising from or attributable to acts, events, omissions or accidents which are beyond the reasonable control of a party, and shall include but not be limited to abnormally inclement weather, flood, lightning, storm, fire, explosion, earthquake, structural damage, epidemic, pandemic or other natural disaster(s), failure or shortage of power supplies, war, terrorist action, military operations, riot, crowd disorder, strike, lock-outs or other industrial action, or civil commotion, governmental directives, including those from the relevant sporting authorities.
- 7.4. The AFF Competitions Committee or Tournament Committee are the only bodies capable of declaring a Force Majeure event.

## SECTION 3: OBLIGATION

### 8. GENERAL OBLIGATIONS: THE AFF

- 8.1. The responsibilities of the AFF shall include, but are not limited to:
  - 8.1.1. supervising general preparations and deciding on the Competition format, the draws, and the entries to the Competition
  - 8.1.2. determining the Match Schedule (cf. Article 21)
  - 8.1.3. approving Stadiums for the Competition after consultation with the Host Club and/or MA (cf. Article 14.1)
  - 8.1.4. appointing Match Officials and AFF Delegation for each Match
  - 8.1.5. choosing and/or approving the official football and stipulated technical material
  - 8.1.6. approving the choice of WADA-accredited laboratories that will carry out the doping analysis
  - 8.1.7. reporting cases where appropriate to the AFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee
  - 8.1.8. replacing Teams that have withdrawn from the Competition (cf. Article 12)
  - 8.1.9. dealing with cases of cancelled or abandoned Matches (cf. Articles 22 and 23)
  - 8.1.10. dealing with cases of Force Majeure
  - 8.1.11. providing insurance coverage (or reimbursement thereof) for the AFF Delegation appointed to any Match from the time of their departure from their home MA to their departure from the Venue, and
  - 8.1.12. dealing with any other aspect of the Competition that is not the responsibility of any other body pursuant to these Regulations or the AFF Statutes (cf. Article 5).
- 8.2. All decisions made by the AFF Competitions Committee and/or AFF General Secretariat in relation to the Competition are final, binding and not appealable.
- 8.3. All decisions made by the AFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee in relation to the Competition are subject to the operation of the AFF Disciplinary and Ethics Code.

### 9. GENERAL OBLIGATIONS: HOST CLUBS AND MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

- 9.1. The principal obligations and responsibilities of the Host Club are stipulated in the AFF Hosting Obligations, if any, Hosting Club Agreement (the “HCA”), if any, these Regulations, the AFF Statutes, and all other AFF regulations, directives, guidelines and circulars, issued from time to time by the AFF.

9.2. The Host Club shall undertake, at their own cost, to:

- 9.2.1. observe all obligations set out in the AFF Hosting Obligations, if any, these Regulations, the AFF Statutes and all other AFF regulations, directives, guidelines and circular and all applicable national and supranational laws
- 9.2.2. perform each of its obligations and exercise each of the rights granted to it as host, in connection with the hosting, staging and organising of the Competition in accordance with professional standards
- 9.2.3. assist and coordinate with all necessary stakeholders on all arrangements relating to the Competition in agreement with the AFF
- 9.2.4. negotiate with and/or lobby the appropriate government bodies and/or local authorities to assist for the successful hosting, staging and organising of the Competition
- 9.2.5. obtain all applicable and relevant licence, permits, grants and authorisations as may be required to fulfil its obligation in relation to the hosting, staging and organising of the Competition
- 9.2.6. comply with the AFF's instructions on the provision of key services, facilities, equipment and infrastructure at each Stadium
- 9.2.7. provide the necessary assistance and support to the AFF, SPORTFIVE and its commercial affiliates, if any, in relation to the use and exploitation of the Commercial Rights and all Proprietary Interests of the AFF and the protection and enforcement of rights in relation thereto
- 9.2.8. procure all necessary insurance policies, which must provide an appropriate guaranteed sum for injury and damage to persons, objects, and property, and correspond with the specific circumstances of the Host Club. Such policies must cover all risks connected with the organising, hosting, and staging of Matches in the Competition, exempt AFF from all claims and liabilities, and name the AFF as a co-insured. The AFF must be notified of all insurance policies and may request copies of any and all policies at its discretion
- 9.2.9. make the appropriate arrangements for the staging of Matches in conjunction with the AFF General Secretariat in accordance with these Regulations, the Hosting Obligations, if any, and any instructions from the AFF
- 9.2.10. obtain all clearances and execute all required documentation to enable the free and unfettered exercise and exploitation of Commercial Rights and clearances of all products, equipment or materials relating to the exploitation of the Commercial Rights of the Competition, and
- 9.2.11. guarantee safety and security at the Stadium.

9.3. The Host Club shall indemnify, hold harmless and defend the AFF, SPORTFIVE or its commercial affiliates, if any, as well as their officers, members, agents, auxiliary persons, representatives, and employees from and against all liabilities, obligations,

damages, losses, claims, demands, recoveries, deficiencies, costs or expenses (including without limitation all costs and expenses for finding and contracting with another Host Club/MA able and willing to stage the Competition and/or all attorneys' fees and expenses) which such parties may suffer or incur in connection with, resulting from, or arising out of any breach by the Host Club (including its officers, directors, representatives, auxiliary persons, employees or agents) in connection with the performance of its obligations under these Regulations.

- 9.4. The Host Club is responsible for nominating a Local General Coordinator, a Local Media Officer and a Local Security Officer for each Match in the Competition and shall submit the nomination to the AFF for the AFF's approval (together with the Stadium information) in accordance with the deadline(s) notified by the AFF. Should a Match be played at a Neutral Venue, the Host Club shall still be held accountable for the relevant nomination, and this must be done in collaboration with the MA on whose territory the Match is played.

## 10. GENERAL OBLIGATIONS: PARTICIPATING CLUBS AND MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

- 10.1. The principal obligations and responsibilities of each Participating Club and its MA are stipulated in the Participating Team Obligation (the "PTO") as per Annexure A of these Regulations, these Regulations, the AFF Statutes, and all other AFF regulations, directives, guidelines and circulars, issued by the AFF from time to time.
- 10.2. Each Participating Club shall ensure as a condition of its participation in the Competition that every member of its Team Official Delegation for each Match is aware of and agrees to comply with the PTO.
  - 10.2.1. Each Participating Club must submit the signed PTO to AFF at least thirty (30) days before the commencement of the Competition, acknowledging that every member of its Team Official Delegation for each Match is aware of and agrees to comply with the PTO.
  - 10.2.2. Failure to submit signed PTO in Article 10.2.1 hereinabove, shall result in the non-participation of the relevant Participating Club.
- 10.3. Each Participating Club shall undertake that they shall:
  - 10.3.1. observe all obligations set out in the PTO, these Regulations, the AFF Statutes, and all other AFF regulations, directives, guidelines and circulars, and applicable national and supra-national laws
  - 10.3.2. comply with the Laws of the Game
  - 10.3.3. accept that all administrative, disciplinary and refereeing matters connected with the Competition shall be settled by the AFF in compliance with these Regulations and any other applicable Regulations, as defined in the PTO
  - 10.3.4. field its strongest team throughout the Competition
  - 10.3.5. observe the principles of fair play
  - 10.3.6. ensure that good conduct of its Team Official Delegation and of any person carrying out duties on its behalf throughout the Competition, which includes but is not limited to from their arrival on the territory of the Host Club until their departure

- 10.3.7. accept all arrangements made by the Host Club in agreement with the AFF
- 10.3.8. ensure that all its Participating Players and Participating Officials attend and participate in all official activities and events, including without limitation any team arrival meeting, match coordination meeting, press conference, and other media and marketing activities in accordance with the instructions issued by the AFF
  - 10.3.8.1. failure to attend and/or fully participate in any official activity or event shall result in the Participating Club being fined at least USD5,000 (United States Dollars Five Thousand), and
  - 10.3.8.2. the AFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee may issue further sanctions at its discretion.
- 10.3.9. provide to the AFF, free of charge, prior to the Competition, any photographs, audio/visual materials and/or information regarding the Participating Club, Participating Players and/or Participating Officials including without limitation statistics and historical information and any further information as requested by the AFF
- 10.3.10. link the official URL for the Competition, if any, on its official website and official digital and social media channels, and
- 10.3.11. not establish any digital, media or social media platform in connection with the Competition without the involvement and express written approval of the AFF.

10.4. Each Participating Club shall, at their own expense, be solely responsible throughout the Competition for:

- 10.4.1. the procurement of insurance coverage of its Team Official Delegation which shall include without limitation hospital and surgical insurance, travel insurance, and/or sports equipment insurance for all Matches
- 10.4.2. all other necessary insurance policies, which must provide an appropriate guaranteed sum for injury and damage to persons, objects, and property, and correspond with the specific circumstances of the Participating Club. Such policies must cover all risks connected with participation to the Matches in the Competition, exempt the AFF from all claims and liabilities, and name the AFF as co-insured. The AFF must be notified of all insurance policies and may request copies any and all policies at its discretion
- 10.4.3. payment of incidental expenses and for any costs incurred by its Team Official Delegation (cf. Appendix 7)
- 10.4.4. payment of any costs relating to early arrival or extension of the stay of any member of its Team Official Delegation in the Host Club
- 10.4.5. obtaining visas to enter the territory of any Host Club. This includes all costs related to the visa application process, and

- 10.4.6. payment of all taxes, fees, duties and other costs related to the importation and/or exportation of equipment, merchandise and/or goods to be used for the Competition.
- 10.5. Each Participating Club and/or its MA shall indemnify, defend, and hold the AFF and all its officers, directors, employees, representatives, agents, subsidiaries, Commercial Rights Partners or commercial affiliates, if any, and all other auxiliary persons free and harmless against any and all liabilities, obligations, losses, damages, penalties, claims, actions, fines, and expenses (including reasonable legal expenses) of whatsoever kind or nature resulting from, arising out of, or attributable to, any non-compliance with these Regulations by the Participating Club and/or its MA, its Team Official Delegation, its affiliates and any third-parties contracted to the Participating Club and/or its MA.
- 10.6. It is acknowledged that one or more Participating Clubs may qualify directly for one or more International Competitions as a result of their performance in the Competition. Where applicable, each such Club undertakes to participate in the relevant International Competition(s).
- 10.7. Participating Clubs are not authorised to represent the AFF or the Competition without the prior written approval of the AFF.
- 10.8. Each Participating Club and its MA shall ensure that any decision made by the AFF relating to its duties and responsibilities is enforced immediately.

## 11. ENTRY

- 11.1. Entry to the Competition is governed by the ASEAN Club Championship Entry Manual 2025/26 (the “Entry Manual”). To be eligible to participate in the Competition, Clubs must meet the requirements set out in the Entry Manual.
- 11.2. All decisions regarding entry to the Competition are subject to the provisions set out in the Entry Manual and the jurisdiction of the AFF. Further, the AFF retains its right to allow certain clubs to participate in the Competition, even if it fails to comply with certain requirements of the Entry Manual, upon having valid reasons, at the sole discretion of the AFF.
- 11.3. Eligible Clubs must complete a PTO and submit it to the AFF in accordance with Article 10.1 to confirm their entry into the Competition.
  - 11.3.1. Subject to Article 11.3.2, the name and logo of a Participating Club shall not refer to the name and/or logo of any third-party entity, regardless of whether that third-party entity is a commercial partner or sponsor of the Participating Club.
  - 11.3.2. The AFF General Secretariat may grant an exception to the restriction(s) in Article 11.3.1 in the following circumstances:
    - 11.3.2.1. the name/logo of any Participating Club that refers to any third-party entity is a pre-existing name/logo which has been utilised on a long-term basis by the Participating Club and either the third-party entity was directly involved in the creation of the Participating Club (by financial or other means), or the third-party entity holds a majority of the shareholders’ voting rights in the Participating Club; and/or

11.3.2.2. the Participating Club has previously competed in an AFF competition utilising the name/logo.

The burden of proof shall rest on the relevant Participating Club to prove its compliance with the provision(s) of Article 11.3.2 and the AFF shall be entitled, at its discretion, to request information from the relevant Participating Club in this regard. The AFF shall decide on any exceptions at its sole discretion, and any such decisions shall be final, binding and not appealable.

11.4. Participating Clubs are not permitted to change their name for the Competition after the first Match in the Competition has been played.

## 12. WITHDRAWAL PRIOR TO OR AFTER THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE COMPETITION

12.1. All Participating Clubs undertake that they shall play all their Matches in the Competition until elimination.

12.2. Without limitation, any Participating Club that (for any reason):

- 12.2.1. informs the AFF in writing that it does not intend to or is unable to report to a Venue and/or for a Match, or
- 12.2.2. fails to report to a Venue and/or for a Match, or
- 12.2.3. refuses or fails to continue a Match, or
- 12.2.4. leaves the Stadium prior to the completion of a Match, or
- 12.2.5. is excluded, suspended or banned by any competent body from participating in the Competition (or any stage of the Competition) at any time after the draw of the Competition (or stage, as appropriate), or
- 12.2.6. is excluded, suspended or banned by any competent body from participating in any Match in the Competition at any time after the relevant Match has been scheduled, shall be considered to have withdrawn from the Competition.

12.3. Subject to Articles 12.5 and 12.6, the AFF Competitions Committee shall be responsible for making the necessary decisions where a Participating Club withdraws from the Competition, whether prior to or after the commencement of the Competition (as applicable), and shall be entitled to take any action it considers appropriate in such circumstances, including without limitation regarding whether or not to change the technical regulations (*cf.* Section 5) and/or the competition system (*cf.* Article 15) and, where applicable, the means of effecting such change(s).

12.4. The AFF Competitions Committee shall be responsible for determining events of Force Majeure in connection with any withdrawal and shall, subject to Articles 12.5 and 12.6, be entitled to take any action it considers appropriate in such circumstances. Any Participating Club that wishes to put forward a case of Force Majeure for the consideration of the AFF Competitions Committee must do so in writing (with supporting evidence) no later than thirty (30) days after the date of its withdrawal. The AFF General Secretariat may put forward cases of Force Majeure for the consideration of the AFF Competitions Committee at any time at its discretion.

12.5. In the event that a Participating Club withdraws from the Competition, whether prior to or after commencement of the Competition (as applicable), the Competition shall continue with the remaining Participating Clubs and Matches without any replacement.

For the avoidance of doubt, this Article 12.5 shall apply in all instances and is applicable even in cases of Force Majeure determined by the AFF Competitions Committee. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the AFF General Secretariat may, at its discretion, put forward a request to replace the relevant Participating Club and, where applicable, the means of effecting such replacement, for the consideration of the AFF Competitions Committee, in which case the AFF Competitions Committee shall be entitled to take a decision on the matter.

12.6. Any Participating Club that withdraws (or shall be considered to have withdrawn) from the Competition other than with the recommendation and approval of the Tournament Committee, shall:

12.6.1. If done so prior to the commencement of the Competition:

12.6.1.1. in addition to a fine of up to maximum of USD500,000 (United States Five Hundred Thousand), be required to pay compensation for any and all damages or losses suffered by, where applicable, the other Participating Clubs, the AFF, the AFF Commercial Rights Partner and Official Licensees. The amount of compensation shall be determined by the AFF Council, and such decision shall be final, binding and not appealable,

12.6.1.2. return to the AFF any subsidies and grants that had been paid in support of its participation in the Competition (or, if not yet paid, to forfeit its right to that subsidy or grant),

12.6.1.3. become ineligible for future grants,

12.6.1.4. disqualified from participating in the next two (2) seasons of AFF club competitions,

12.6.1.5. where relevant, disqualified from participating in any tournament organised under Article 10.6, if qualification has been attained, and

12.6.1.6. be referred to the AFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee which may impose further sanctions in its discretion.

12.6.2. If done so during the Competition:

12.6.2.1. subject to the provisions Article 22 of these Regulations, have all its Matches cancelled and considered null and void and, for the avoidance of doubt, all points and goals in those Matches shall not be taken into consideration when determining the final rankings in the Group Stage pursuant to Article 17.2 of these Regulations

12.6.2.2. in addition to a fine of up to maximum USD1,000,000 (United States Dollars One Million), be required to pay compensation for any and all damages or losses suffered by, where applicable the other Participating Clubs, the AFF,

the AFF Commercial Rights Partner and Official Licensees. The amount of compensation shall be determined by the AFF Council, and such decision shall be final, binding and not appealable,

- 12.6.2.3. return to the AFF any subsidies and grants that had been paid in support of its participation in the Competition (or, if not yet paid, to forfeit its right to that subsidy or grant),
- 12.6.2.4. return to the AFF any subsidies that had been paid in support of their participation in the Competition or if not yet paid, forfeit their right to that subsidy and the yearly grant,
- 12.6.2.5. be referred to the AFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee which may impose further sanctions in its discretion including but not limited to disqualification from participating in next edition of the Competition and/or other AFF Competitions and ineligibility to receive all future grants from the AFF,
- 12.6.2.6. become ineligible for future grants,
- 12.6.2.7. disqualified from participating in the next two (2) seasons of AFF club competitions,
- 12.6.2.8. where relevant, disqualified from participating in any tournament organised under Article 10.6, if qualification has been attained, and
- 12.6.2.9. be referred to the AFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee which may impose further sanctions in its discretion.

- 12.7. If through the fault of any Team, a Match cannot take place or be played in its entirety, the Tournament Committee shall declare the Match to be forfeited, awarding victory and resultant three (3) points to the opposing team. The final score will be recorded as 3-0 in favour of the opposing team or higher, if applicable.
- 12.8. All cases related to withdrawals, walkovers and/or abandoned Matches will be dealt with by the Tournament Committee. The decisions of the Tournament Committee regarding these matters are final, binding and not appealable and include without limitation replacing the Team that has withdrawn or is deemed to have withdrawn.
- 12.9. All decisions made under Article 12.2 to 12.8 shall be final, binding and not appealable.

### 13. OFFICIAL REPORT

- 13.1. The Host Club through its MA shall submit the Match Report Form, Starting List Form, Match Summary and Referee's Report to AFC via AFCAS within forty-eight (48) hours after the completion of each Match.
- 13.2. The Participating Club shall send a report of the Competition to the General Secretary of AFF within fourteen (14) days of their elimination from or the completion of the Competition. The report may be brief but shall be as complete as possible and shall contain necessary items such as names of competing clubs, the difficulties met with, and the recommendations offered for the benefit of future Competitions

with supporting videos and photographs. The failure to submit the said report within fourteen (14) days of their elimination from or the completion of the Competition shall result in a fine of USD5,000 (United States Five Thousand Dollars) on such Participating Club. A format of such report of the Competition may be shared by the AFF in due course.

- 13.3. The AFF Referees Assessment Form and AFF VTO Post Match Report, if any, must be completed by the Referee Assessor and VAR Technology Officer, respectively, after each Match and sent to the AFF Secretariat within twenty-four (24) hours after the said Match.
- 13.4. The Match Commissioner's Report Form as well as the Match Summary Report including results and cases of cautions, expulsions and serious incidents (if any) shall be completed and transmitted to the AFF General Secretariat immediately after the Match.

#### 14. STADIUM OBLIGATION

- 14.1. The Participating Clubs shall ensure that their home Matches are played in Stadiums which meet the minimum requirements as specified by the AFF. The Stadium must also meet the minimum requirements of the AFC Stadium Regulations, the AFC Safety and Security Regulations and/or any other safety and security standards issued by or contained within relevant FIFA/AFC/AFF guidelines, directives or circulars.
- 14.2. The AFF General Secretariat makes the final decision to approve any Stadium to host Matches in the Competition and may carry out inspections at any time before and during the Competition to check whether the requirements are met. All costs related to the inspection shall be borne by the relevant Participating Club.
  - 14.2.1. Each Participating Club shall, by no later than the deadline set by the AFF General Secretariat, nominate the Stadium to be utilised for all its home Matches when entering the Competition. The Stadium nominated shall be the normal home stadium of the Participating Club for matches in its League. In case the normal home stadium of the Participating Club does not meet the requirements set out in Article 14.1, the Participating Club may exceptionally nominate a Neutral Venue located within the territory of its MA or another MA.
- 14.3. Unless an exception is granted by the AFF General Secretariat at its sole discretion, each Participating Club must play all its home Matches in the one and only Stadium approved by the AFF General Secretariat throughout the Competition. Any request for an exception shall be submitted to the AFF General Secretariat in writing at least thirty (30) days prior to the relevant Match.
- 14.4. The AFF General Secretariat may reject the nomination of any Stadium and take any decision under this Article 14.4 at its sole discretion. If the AFF General Secretariat deems, for whatever reason, that a Stadium is unfit to stage any Match(es), the relevant Participating Club shall propose an alternative Stadium. Should the Participating Club not propose an acceptable alternative Stadium by the deadline set by the AFF General Secretariat, the AFF General Secretariat may select a Neutral Venue to stage the Match(es).
  - 14.4.1. In all cases, the Participating Club concerned shall remain responsible as the Host Club for all arrangements for the staging of its home

Match(es), including but not limited to all costs as set out in these Regulations.

- 14.4.2. Should the Participating Club refuse to participate in the Match(es) at the Neutral Venue selected by the AFC General Secretariat, it shall be considered to have withdrawn from the Competition and be subject to Article 12 of these Regulations.
- 14.5. For any Match played at a Neutral Venue, the Host Club must organise and stage the Match in accordance with these Regulations and any instructions from the AFF, in cooperation with the Host Association and the local authorities.
- 14.6. Smoking is strictly prohibited within any section of any Stadium and in particular, in the technical area, the vicinity of the Field of Play, the spectator stands, or within competition areas which includes, without limitation, the Team dressing rooms.
- 14.7. The Participating Club shall ensure that no matches and /or any other events or activities are held at the Stadium during the period starting at least two (2) days prior to the first Match in the Stadium(s) until twenty-four (24) hours after the Match, unless prior written permission has been obtained from the AFF. The Stadium shall be delivered to the AFF for its exclusive use during this period.
- 14.8. Any Host Club that fails to comply with Articles 14.6 and 14.7 hereinabove, shall be:
  - 14.8.1. fined at least USD25,000 (United States Dollars Twenty-Five Thousand) for each breach, and
  - 14.8.2. the AFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee may impose further sanctions at its discretion.

## SECTION 4: COMPETITION SYSTEM AND MATCH SCHEDULE

### 15. COMPETITION SYSTEM

- 15.1. Subject to Articles 15.5 and 15.6 and to any directive issued by the Tournament Committee, the Competition shall consist of three (3) stages as follows:
  - 15.1.1. the Play-off Stage,
  - 15.1.2. the Group Stage, and
  - 15.1.3. the Knock-out Stage.
- 15.2. For this edition of the Competition, Participating Clubs shall belong to the ASEAN region, comprising of countries namely Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.
  - 15.2.1. The AFF Competitions Committee may decide to exceptionally depart from the system, taking into account sporting, geographic, and economic factors.
- 15.3. The number of slots allocated to the Clubs of eligible MAs for the Competition are as follows:
  - 15.3.1. Play-off Stage
    - 15.3.1.1. One (1) Participating Club each from the MAs securing bottom four rank in the immediately preceding AFC Men's Club Competitions Rankings, that has been published as on the date of the publication of the Tournament Regulations for the relevant Season.
    - 15.3.1.2. The Participating Clubs as mentioned hereinabove shall be the winners of the National League within the respective MA.
  - 15.3.2. Group Stage

This stage shall have a total of twelve (12) teams:

    - 15.3.2.1. Two (2) Participating Clubs each from the following MAs:
      - 15.3.2.1.1. Malaysia,
      - 15.3.2.1.2. Singapore
      - 15.3.2.1.3. Thailand, and
      - 15.3.2.1.4. Vietnam.
    - 15.3.2.2. One (1) Participating Club each from the AFF MA not included in Article 15.3.2.1 hereinabove and ranked at the top of the table at the end of the immediately preceding AFC Men's Club Competitions Rankings, that has been

concluded as on the date of publication of the Tournament Regulations for the relevant Season, and

- 15.3.2.3. Two (2) winners of the Play-off Stage will advance to the Group Stage as mentioned in Article 16.4.1 below.
- 15.3.2.4. The winner of the previous edition of the ASEAN Club Championship.
- 15.3.2.5. The Participating Clubs for AFF MAs mentioned in Article 15.3.2.1 shall be (i) the winners of the National League season, and (ii) the winners of the National Cup knock-out competition each.
- 15.3.2.6. The Participating Club for AFF MAs mentioned in Article 15.3.2.2 shall be the winners of the National League season.
- 15.3.2.7. Failure to send Participating Clubs as mentioned in Articles 15.3.1.2, 15.3.2.4 and 15.3.2.5 may result in reduced financial contributions as mentioned in Articles 96 and 97 of Section 12 of these Regulations.

15.4. Depending on the number of entries, or in the case of withdrawal or suspension of any Participating Clubs, the AFF Competitions Committee may change the competition system and/or technical rules. Such decisions are final, binding and not appealable.

15.5. The Tournament Committee has the right to reschedule the final Matches of any group/groups if such Matches are deemed to affect the result of the other Matches concerned. Such Matches may be rescheduled to be played simultaneously in two (2) different Venues.

15.6. The Tournament Committee has the right at any time to reschedule any Matches, including changing the format of the Competition in order to meet requirements imposed by national governments or other relevant authorities.

15.7. Any decision made pursuant to Articles 15.5 and 15.6 hereinabove shall be final, binding and not appealable.

## 16. PLAY-OFF STAGE

- 16.1. The Play-off Stage shall consist of one (1) Participating Club each from eligible MAs as mentioned in Article 15.3.1 hereinabove, in a knockout format.
- 16.2. Participating Clubs with a higher seed shall be given priority to be paired against Participating Clubs with the lowest possible seed.
- 16.3. Each Participating Club shall play its opponent twice, once at home and once away.
- 16.4. The Participating Club with the lower seed shall play the first leg of the Play-off Stage at home.
- 16.5. The Participating Club which scores the higher aggregate of goals over the two (2) legs shall be declared the winner.

- 16.6. If no decisive results obtained at the end of the second leg, there shall be an Extra Time.
- 16.7. If no decisive results obtained after the end of the Extra Time, the winner shall be determined by taking Kicks from the Penalty Mark in accordance with the procedures in the Laws of the Game.
- 16.8. At the conclusion of the Play-off Stage:
  - 16.8.1. the two (2) winners of the Play-off Stage will advance to the Group Stage; and
  - 16.8.2. the losers shall be eliminated from the Competition.

## 17. GROUP STAGE

- 17.1. The Group Stage shall consist of twelve (12) Participating Clubs, drawn into two (2) groups of six (6) teams each, with each group Match played in a Home or Away league, round-robin group format.
  - 17.1.1. Participating Clubs from the same MA shall not be drawn in the same group.
    - 17.1.1.1. In case the Participating Club mentioned in Article 15.3.2.4 wherein the winner of the previous edition of the ASEAN Club Championship belongs to an MA already entitled with two (2) direct slots per Article 15.3.2.1, one group will have two (2) participating clubs from the same MA in the same group.
  - 17.1.2. Play-off Stage winners shall not be drawn in the same group.
- 17.2. The ranking in each group shall be determined in descending order as follows:
  - 17.2.1. greater number of points obtained in the group Matches
  - 17.2.2. if two (2) or more Participating Clubs are equal on points, the following criteria are applied to determine the ranking (in descending order):
    - Head-to-Head criteria**
    - 17.2.3. higher number of points obtained in the group Matches played among the teams in question
    - 17.2.4. superior goal difference from the group Matches played among the teams in question
    - 17.2.5. higher number of goals scored in the group Matches played among the teams in question
  - Tiebreaker**
  - 17.2.6. if, after having applied the Head-to-Head criteria, two (2) or more teams still have an equal ranking, the Head-to-Head criteria shall be reapplied exclusively to the matches between the teams in question to determine their final rankings

17.2.7. if this procedure does not lead to a decision, the Group Results Criteria shall apply

Group Results Criteria

17.2.8. superior goal difference from all group Matches played

17.2.9. higher number of goals scored from group Matches played

17.2.10. kicks from the penalty mark if only two (2) teams still have an equal ranking and have played their last group Match against each other

17.2.11. the lower score calculated according to the number of yellow and red cards received in the group Matches per Appendix 1, or

17.2.12. the drawing of lots.

17.3. Should the competition system require the best-ranked Participating Clubs from among more than two (2) different groups to advance, the rankings shall be determined by the method set out in Appendix 12 of these Regulations.

17.4. At the conclusion of the Group Stage:

17.4.1. the first-placed and the second-placed Participating Clubs in each group shall qualify for the Knockout Stage; and

17.4.2. all other Participating Clubs shall be eliminated from the Competition.

## 18. KNOCK-OUT STAGE

18.1. The Knockout Stage shall consist of the Semi Finals and Finals, with each round played in a home and away knockout format. For each round of the Knockout Stage, Participating Clubs shall play one (1) home and one (1) away Match in accordance with the Match Schedule.

18.2. The top two (2) Participating Clubs of each group shall play in the Semi Final of the Competition in a two-legged home-and-away format, as follows:

SF 1 (Leg 1)              Runner-up Group A vs Winner Group B

SF 2 (Leg 1)              Runner-up Group B vs Winner Group A

SF 1 (Leg 2)              Winner Group B vs Runner-up Group A

SF 2 (Leg 2)              Winner Group A vs Runner-up Group B

For the avoidance of doubt, the above list does not necessarily represent the chronological order in which the matches will be played.

18.2.1. The Participating Club which scores the higher aggregate of goals over the two (2) legs shall be declared the winner.

18.2.2. If no decisive results obtained at the end of the second leg, there shall be an Extra Time.

18.2.3. If no decisive results obtained after the end of the Extra Time, the winner shall be determined by taking Kicks from the Penalty Mark in accordance with the procedures in the Laws of the Game.

18.3. The two (2) winners of the Semi Finals shall play in the Finals of the Competition in a two-legged home-and-away format, as follows:

Final (Leg 1)	Winner SF 1 vs Winner SF 2
Final (Leg 2)	Winner SF 2 vs Winner SF 1

For the avoidance of doubt, the above list does not necessarily represent the chronological order in which the matches will be played.

- 18.3.1. The Participating Club which scores the higher aggregate of goals over the two (2) legs shall be declared the winner.
- 18.3.2. If no decisive results obtained at the end of the second leg, there shall be an Extra Time.
- 18.3.3. If no decisive results obtained after the end of the Extra Time, the winner shall be determined by taking Kicks from the Penalty Mark in accordance with the procedures in the Laws of the Game.

## 19. MATCHES PLAYED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAWS OF THE GAME

- 19.1. All Matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game laid down by the IFAB and published by FIFA.
- 19.2. In case of any discrepancy in the interpretations of the Laws of the Game, the English version shall prevail and is authoritative.
- 19.3. Substitution
  - 19.3.1. As per Laws of the Game 3 – The Players, each Participating Club will be permitted to use a maximum of five (5) substitutes.
  - 19.3.2. To reduce disruption to the Match, each Participating Club will have a maximum of three (3) opportunities to make substitutions during the game, substitutions may also be made at halftime.
  - 19.3.3. If both Participating Clubs make a substitution at the same time, this will count as one of the three opportunities for each Participating Club.
  - 19.3.4. Unused substitutions and opportunities are carried forward into Extra Time.
  - 19.3.5. In the Knock-out Stage, Participating Clubs will be allowed to field one (1) additional substitute if the game goes into Extra Time. Participating Clubs will each have one (1) additional substitution opportunity. Substitutions may also be made before the start of Extra Time and at halftime in Extra Time.
  - 19.3.6. Each Participating Club will be permitted to use a maximum of one (1) concussion substitution in a Match. A concussion substitution may be made regardless of the number of substitutes or substitution opportunities already used. A concussion substitution may be made (i) immediately after a concussion occurs or is suspected; (ii) after an on-field assessment, and/or after an off-field assessment; or (iii) at any other time when a concussion occurs or is suspected, including when a player

has previously been assessed and has returned to the Field of Play. If a Team uses a concussion substitution, the opposing Team will receive an additional substitution.

## 20. EXTRA TIME AND KICKS FROM THE PENALTY MARK

- 20.1. If no winner is determined at the end of normal playing time in the second legs of the Play-off Matches, Semi Final Matches and Final Matches, Extra Time comprising of two (2) periods of fifteen (15) minutes each shall be played.
- 20.2. Extra Time shall be played after an interval of five (5) minutes at the end of normal playing time. A short drink break (which should not exceed one [1] minute) is permitted at the interval of half-time in Extra Time.
- 20.3. One (1) additional substitute and one (1) additional substitution opportunity may be used when a Match goes into Extra Time (regardless of whether the Participating Club has already utilised the full number of permitted substitutes and opportunities).
- 20.4. If no winner is determined at the end of Extra Time, Kicks from the Penalty Mark shall be taken in accordance with the Laws of the Game and the provisions of this Regulations.
- 20.5. If kicks from the penalty mark cannot be completed because of weather conditions or for any Force Majeure reason, the result shall be decided by the drawing of lots by the Referee in the presence of the Match Commissioner and the captains of the two (2) Participating Clubs.
- 20.6. If through the fault of a Participating Club, the kicks from the penalty mark cannot be completed, Article 12 of these Regulations shall apply.

## 21. MATCH SCHEDULE AND DELAY OF KICK-OFF

- 21.1. All Matches shall be played in accordance with the AFF Competitions Calendar. The dates are final, binding and not appealable.
- 21.2. The AFF shall propose the kick-off times to the Participating Clubs. Should a Participating Club wish to change the kick-off time, it must submit a valid reason in writing to the AFF for its approval.
- 21.3. Where necessary for sporting reasons and taking into consideration the time zones and/or Stadium availability, matches in the same group of the Group Stage may be played simultaneously.
- 21.4. All kick-off times shall be determined by the AFF General Secretariat, taking into consideration sporting, organisational (including safety and security), marketing and broadcasting matters.
- 21.5. The Match Schedule for the Play-off Stage and Group Stage shall be determined following the Official Draw of the Competition. The date and format of the Official Draw shall be determined by the AFF General Secretariat.
- 21.6. The AFF General Secretariat retains final discretion to amend the Match Schedule at any time and for any reason in accordance with the principles set by the AFF Competitions Committee.

- 21.7. Any Participating Club that causes a delay of any scheduled kick-off of a Match (as determined by the Official Countdown) may be sanctioned by the AFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee in its discretion.
- 21.8. For the avoidance of doubt, this includes the kick-off to commence the first period and second period of a Match, and if applicable, the kick-off to commence the first period and second period of Extra Time, and the time to commence kicks from the penalty mark.

## 22. CANCELLATION OF MATCHES

- 22.1. Where any Participating Club has withdrawn (or shall be considered to have withdrawn) from the Competition, all its future Matches in the Competition shall be cancelled and considered null and void and, for the avoidance of doubt, all points and goals in the Matches that have taken place shall not be taken into consideration when determining the final rankings in the Group Stage pursuant to Article 17.2 of these Regulations.
- 22.2. For any Match which is cancelled as a result of Force Majeure, the AFF Competitions Committee, in consultation with the Tournament Committee and the AFF General Secretariat shall decide on the matter at its sole discretion and take whatever action is deemed necessary.
- 22.3. Decisions pursuant to Article 22.2 hereinabove are final, binding and not appealable.
- 22.4. Any match which is cancelled, except in cases of Force Majeure recognised by the AFF, may lead to the imposition of sanctions by the AFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee against the relevant party that has caused the cancellation in accordance with the AFF Disciplinary and Ethics Code.
- 22.5. If not already cancelled prior to the Match day, the following procedure shall be followed if a Match cannot commence for any reason:
  - 22.5.1. The Match must be delayed for a minimum of thirty (30) minutes. During this delay, the Referee may decide that the Match can commence prior to the completion of the delay.
  - 22.5.2. Following the first delay, either:
    - 22.5.2.1. an additional delay of thirty (30) minutes shall occur if in the discretion of the Referee this second delay may allow the Match to commence, or
    - 22.5.2.2. the Match is declared cancelled by the Referee.
  - 22.5.3. Following the two (2) delays of thirty (30) minutes, the Referee must declare the Match cancelled.

## 23. ABANDONMENT OF MATCHES

- 23.1. For any Match which is abandoned as a result of Force Majeure, the AFF Competitions Committee, in consultation with the Tournament Committee and the AFF General Secretariat shall decide on the matter at its sole discretion and take whatever action is deemed necessary.

- 23.2. Decisions made pursuant to Article 23.1 hereinabove are final, binding and not appealable.
- 23.3. Any Match which is abandoned, except in cases of Force Majeure recognised by the AFF, may lead to the imposition of sanctions by the AFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee against the relevant party that caused the abandonment in accordance with the AFF Disciplinary and Ethics Code.
- 23.4. If a Match is stopped by the Referee for any other reason except for those set out in Article 7 of these Regulations, the following procedure shall be followed:
  - 23.4.1. The Match is stopped for thirty (30) minutes. During this stoppage, the Referee may decide that the Match can commence prior to the completion of the stoppage.
  - 23.4.2. Subsequent to the first stoppage, either:
    - 23.4.2.1. an additional stoppage of thirty (30) minutes shall occur if in the discretion of the Referee this second stoppage may allow the Match to be resumed, or
    - 23.4.2.2. the Match is declared abandoned by the Referee.
  - 23.4.3. Following two (2) stoppages of thirty (30) minutes, the Referee must declare the Match abandoned.
- 23.5. Should it be determined that an abandoned Match should be rescheduled and completed, the following principles shall apply:
  - 23.5.1. the Match shall recommence with the same score at the minute at which play was interrupted rather than being replayed in full
  - 23.5.2. the Match shall recommence with the same Players on the Field of Play and same substitutes at the time it was initially abandoned
  - 23.5.3. no additional substitutes may be added to the Player Selection List or Match Start List
  - 23.5.4. the Participating Clubs may only make the number of substitution within the remaining substitution opportunities to which they were still entitled when the Match was abandoned
  - 23.5.5. any Participating Player sent off during the abandoned Match cannot be replaced
  - 23.5.6. any sanction imposed before the Match was abandoned remains valid for the remainder of the rescheduled Match
  - 23.5.7. the kick-off time, date and Stadium of the rescheduled Match shall be decided by the Tournament Committee in consultation with the Host Club, and
  - 23.5.8. any other matters not set out above shall be decided by the Tournament Committee in its sole discretion.

23.6. If a Match is stopped by the Referee before the end of normal playing time as a result of a Participating Club being able to only field fewer than seven (7) Players, the Match shall be declared abandoned and the Participating Club who is able to field more than seven (7) Players shall be declared the winner by the score 3-0, or the score at the time of abandonment, whichever is higher.

## 24. MATCH INTERRUPTION

24.1. The Referee can interrupt a Match if the Field of Play is not fit for play or for any other issues which are not in line with the Laws of the Game.

24.2. The Match Commissioner may, after consulting with the LOC responsible and/or Security Officer, advise the Referee to suspend the Match in the event that safety and security is not guaranteed in the Stadium and/or there exists potential danger to the Participating Clubs and/or spectators.

24.3. If a Match is suspended before the completion of normal playing time, it shall restart at the same minute when it was suspended, in the following manner, subject to the nature of incident:

24.3.1. Suspension for up to fifteen (15) minutes: the Participating Clubs should stay on the Field of Play subject to the nature of the suspension.

24.3.2. Suspension for fifteen to thirty (15-30) minutes: the Participating Clubs should go to the Team dressing rooms. They should be allowed to have ten (10) minutes warm-up before the restart of the Match. A ten (10) minute warning shall be given to all the parties involved (e.g., Participating Clubs, Match Officials, spectators, Broadcast Licensees, Media, etc.).

24.3.3. Suspension for more than thirty (30) minutes: the Participating Clubs should go to the Team dressing rooms. They should be allowed to have twenty (20) minutes warm-up before restart of the Match. A twenty (20) minute warning shall be given to all the parties involved (e.g., Participating Clubs, Match Officials, spectators, Broadcast Licensees, Media, etc.).

24.3.4. Suspension for more than sixty (60) minutes: the Match may be considered appropriate to be abandoned, subject to the situation. After the final decision is made, the Match Commissioner and General Coordinator should inform the Participating Clubs prior to any other parties.

## SECTION 5: TECHNICAL REGULATIONS

### 25. LAWS OF THE GAME

- 25.1. All Matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game. In the case of any discrepancy in the interpretation of the Laws of the Game, the English version shall prevail.
- 25.2. Each Match shall last ninety (90) minutes, comprising two (2) periods of forty-five (45) minutes each, with a halftime interval of fifteen (15) minutes.
- 25.3. At any stage of a Match, if a Participating Club is only able to field fewer than seven (7) Players, the Match shall be abandoned, and Article 23 of these Regulations shall apply.
- 25.4. The AFF may, at its discretion, decide to use football technologies in any Match or Matches in the Competition or in the Competition as a whole (including Goal-Line Technology [GLT], a Video Assistant Referee [VAR] system or Electronic Performance and Tracking Systems [EPTS]) in accordance with the Laws of the Game.
- 25.5. VAR may, at the sole discretion of the AFF, be implemented during the Competition to assist the Referee to make a decision using replay footage in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Laws of the Game in force at the time of the Competition.

### 26. REFEREEING

- 26.1. If the Referee is prevented from carrying out his/her duties, such Referee shall be replaced by the Fourth Official. The same applies for Assistant Referees if a Reserve Assistant Referee is not appointed.
- 26.2. A Video Assistant Referee (VAR) may assist the Referee to make a decision using a replay footage in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Laws of the Game in force at the time of the Competition.

### 27. FIELD OF PLAY

- 27.1. The Host Club shall ensure that the Field of Play is in playable condition. If a Host Club considers the Field of Play unfit for a Match, it shall immediately inform the AFF, the Away Club and the Match Officials before their departure to the Venue.
  - 27.1.1. A Participating Club that fails to comply with Article 27.1 shall be liable for all costs incurred for the travel, board and lodging expenses of the parties involved.
- 27.2. The AFF Match Commissioner and Match Officials will inspect the Stadium prior to the Match and ensure that all arrangements are in accordance with the Laws of the Game. If the conditions of the Field of Play including the dimension of the goal and field are not in accordance with the Laws of the Game, the AFF Match Commissioner shall issue instructions for the Host Club to ensure rectification.
- 27.3. All Matches shall be played on a Field of Play in accordance with the Laws of the Game.

27.4. If there is any doubt regarding the condition of the Field of Play prior to the Match, the Referee shall decide whether the Field of Play is playable. If, in the opinion of the Referee, the instructions issued pursuant to Article 27.2 are not complied with by the start of the Match, the Host Club shall forfeit the Match in accordance with the AFF Disciplinary and Ethics Code.

## 28. TEAM BENCH AND TECHNICAL AREA

28.1. Up to a maximum of eleven (11) registered Participating Officials and a maximum of twelve (12) Participating Players are allowed to sit on the team bench during the Match, provided they are in possession of the appropriate Accreditation Card.

28.2. The Head Coach, Team Manager and Team Doctor must form part of these eleven (11) designated Participating Officials who are sitting on the bench.

28.3. Any additional Participating Officials registered in accordance with Article 33.2.1 and non-playing Players are permitted to sit on the Team Technical Seats, provided they are in possession of the appropriate Accreditation Card. The Host Club shall ensure to secure a minimum of thirty-one (31) Team Technical Seats for each of the Participating Clubs' additional Participating Players and Participating Officials who will not be seated on the team bench. For the avoidance of doubt, only up to twelve (12) Participating Players and nineteen (19) Participating Officials from the Participating Clubs who are duly registered for the Competition are permitted to sit on the Team Technical Seats, and they must be in possession of the appropriate Accreditation Devices.

28.4. Participating Officials must always wear their Accreditation Card. Players should be able to show their Accreditation Card when they enter the Field of Play area, on the team bench and shall always be available for inspection whenever requested by Match Officials/AFF Officials. The Accreditation Cards shall also be available for inspection prior to the start of the Match.

28.5. All individuals on the team bench must wear a kit that contrasts with the kit of the Players and Match Officials present on the Field of Play. This kit must comply with the Equipment Regulations as mentioned in Appendix 9 of these Regulations.

28.6. Host Club shall occupy the team bench on the left when facing the Field of Play from the Fourth Official's bench.

28.7. Participating Players (including substitutes/substituted and sent off Players) are not permitted to wear or use any form of electronic or communication equipment (except where EPTS is allowed). The use of any form of electronic communication by Participating Officials is permitted where it directly relates to player welfare or safety or for tactical/coaching reasons but only small, mobile, hand-held equipment (e.g. microphone, headphone, earpiece, mobile phone/smartphone, smartwatch, tablet, laptop) may be used. A Participating Official who uses unauthorised equipment or who behaves in an inappropriate manner as a result of the use of electronic or communication equipment will be dismissed from the Technical Area. The use of EPTS must be in line with equipment regulations and bear the IMS (International Match Standard) mark.

28.8. Individuals serving suspension, non-selected Players and Participating Officials part of a Team Official Delegation but not listed in the 'Officials on the Bench List' are not permitted to enter the Field of Play and/or sit on the team bench. They may sit at the designated area in the stand for Team Official Delegations (e.g. Technical Seats, etc.).

28.9. Appendix 2 of these Regulations sets out the restrictions that apply inside the CAA for Participating Players and Participating Officials who have been expelled or are serving a Match suspension.

## 29. OFFICIAL TRAINING SITE

29.1. Each Participating Club shall nominate the Official Training Sites to be utilised for its home Matches when entering the Competition. The AFF General Secretariat makes the final decision to approve any Official Training Site and may carry out inspections at any time before and during the Competition to check whether the requirements are met. All costs related to the inspection shall be borne by the relevant Participating Club.

29.1.1. The AFF reserves the right to refuse the nomination of an Official Training Site and require a Participating Club to nominate an alternate Official Training Site.

29.1.2. Official Training Sites shall be situated no more than thirty (30) minutes or thirty (30) kilometres, whichever is lesser, away from the Accommodation of the Away Club, unless otherwise approved by the AFF.

29.2. Official Training Sites shall contain a fully equipped training pitch prepared to Match condition and in accordance with Appendix 3 of these Regulations.

29.2.1. The Host Club that fails to comply with Article 29.1 hereinabove shall be fined at least USD5,000 (United States Dollars Five Thousand).

29.2.2. The AFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee may impose further sanctions at its discretion.

29.3. Official Training Sites shall be made available at least two (2) days prior to each Match in the Venue until twenty-four (24) hours after the Match. They shall not be used for any other purpose during this period, unless written permission has been obtained from the AFF.

29.3.1. Any Host Club that fails to comply with Article 29.2 hereinabove, shall be fined at least USD5,000 (United States Dollars Five Thousand).

29.3.2. The AFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee may impose further sanctions at its discretion.

29.4. The Participating Clubs must solely utilise Official Training Sites for any official training from two (2) days prior to their first Match until their last Match of the Competition.

29.5. The Host Club and the Participating Clubs must comply with the provisions in Appendix 3 of these Regulations.

## 30. BALL PERSON

30.1. The use of a multiple football system is mandatory in all Matches to limit the time the ball is out of play.

30.2. Ten (10) to twelve (12) ball persons shall be appointed and be:

- 30.2.1. dressed in neutral clothing that are different in colours from the playing teams and Match Officials
- 30.2.2. of an age capable of performing their duties, and
- 30.2.3. instructed beforehand of their duties and capable of performing them to satisfaction.

30.3. Stools/low chairs shall be provided for ball persons during Matches.

30.4. Any sponsor advertising on kits (shirt, shorts and socks) worn by ball person is prohibited, unless approved in writing by the AFF.

## 31. FOOTBALLS

- 31.1. The footballs chosen for the Competition shall conform to the Laws of the Game and bear one of the following marks:
  - 31.1.1. FIFA Quality PRO, or
  - 31.1.2. FIFA Quality, or
  - 31.1.3. FIFA Basic (previously known as International Match Standard [IMS]).
- 31.2. The footballs shall be supplied by the Commercial Rights Partner – SPORTFIVE. Each Participating Club shall receive twenty (20) training footballs. Away Clubs are required to bring these footballs during their Away Matches.
- 31.3. Participating Clubs shall solely utilise the footballs provided by the AFF for training and warming-up purposes.
- 31.4. The Host Club shall receive footballs for each Match its hosts, and these Match balls must only be used for the Matches.
- 31.5. Each Participating Club is responsible for any taxes and/or fees pertaining to the customs clearance of footballs delivered to it by the AFF.

## 32. EQUIPMENT

- 32.1. The AFF has the sole authority to approve the equipment (including kit) in accordance with the Equipment Regulations as provided in Appendix 9 of these Regulations and/or the AFC Equipment Regulations.
- 32.2. Each Participating Club shall indemnify the AFF and hold the AFF harmless from any and all damages in the event that a conflict arises as a result of any endorsement deal existing between itself and its sponsor(s) which contravenes the Equipment Regulations provided in Appendix 9 and/or the AFC Equipment Regulations.
- 32.3. The application of AFC Equipment Regulations shall be at the sole discretion of the AFF, and such decision shall be final, binding and not appealable.

## SECTION 6: TEAM DELEGATION

### 33. TEAM OFFICIAL DELEGATION

- 33.1. Each Participating Club shall ensure that no person in its Team Official Delegation or otherwise affiliated to it enters into or is present in the Team dressing room, Field of Play, Team bus, or any other CAA without being in physical possession of the necessary Accreditation Card which has been validly issued to such person.
- 33.2. Subject to the conditions set out below, for each Match in the Competition, Participating Clubs shall register a Team Official Delegation comprising a minimum of eighteen (18) and a maximum of twenty-three (23) Participating Players and a minimum of three (3) and maximum of eleven (11) Participating Officials.
  - 33.2.1. Each Participating Club may nominate an additional nineteen (19) Participating Officials as part of its Team Official Delegation, who shall receive the same Accreditation Card as the eleven (11) Participating Officials referred to above.
  - 33.2.2. All costs related to the additional nineteen (19) Participating Officials shall be borne by the relevant Participating Club.
  - 33.2.3. Under no circumstances that a Participating Player registered in the Preliminary Registration can also be registered as a Team Official in the Competition. For the avoidance of doubt, previously registered Participating Player(s) in the Competition cannot be registered as additional or replacement Team Official(s).

### 34. REGISTRATION WINDOWS

- 34.1. There are three (3) registration windows for the Competition. The registration windows shall open on the dates communicated by the AFF. The applicability of each registration window and the relevant closing dates are as follows:
  - 34.1.1. Registration Window 1: This registration window applies to Participating Clubs in the Play-off Stage. It shall close fifteen (15) days prior to the relevant Participating Club's first Match in the Competition.
  - 34.1.2. Registration Window 2: This registration window applies to Participating Clubs in the Group Stage (having not participated in the Play-off Stage). It shall close thirty (30) days prior to the relevant Participating Club's first Match in the Competition.
  - 34.1.3. Registration Window 3: This registration window applies to all Participating Clubs in the Knockout Stage. It shall close fifteen (15) days prior to the first Semi Final Match of the Competition.
- 34.1.4. Participating Players and Participating Officials registered pursuant to the additional registration provisions contained in Articles 39.4, 40.4, 41.4 and/or 43.10 of these Regulations, are considered to have been registered during the same registration window covered by those additional registration provisions.

## 35. REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS

- 35.1. There are two (2) stages of registration for the players in the Competition:
  - 35.1.1. Registration Windows 1, 2 and 3 – each Participating Club shall register a Preliminary Registration List of a minimum of eighteen (18) and maximum of forty-five (45) players, which shall include a minimum of three (3) goalkeepers, with a copy of the registration documents as stated in Article 36 before the close of the relevant registration window.
  - 35.1.2. Player Selection List – each Participating Club shall submit a ‘Player Selection List’ prior to each Match which identifies the starting eleven (11) and up to twelve (12) substitutes comprising Players registered in the relevant registration window.
- 35.2. Jersey numbers 1 to 99 shall be allocated for the Competition. Jersey number 1 shall be reserved for a goalkeeper. Each Participating Player shall wear the same playing number allocated in his first registration during all Matches in the Competition. Player names must appear on the back of the shirt used as Playing Equipment in all Competitions as specified in Article 4.2 of Appendix 9 of these Regulations.
- 35.3. Should the AFF not receive all required documents by the stipulated deadline, the Participating Club concerned shall be considered to have withdrawn from the Competition prior to the commencement of the relevant stage and subject to Article 12 of these Regulations.

## 36. DOCUMENTS FOR REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS

- 36.1. Documentations for the registration of players include, but are not limited to, the following:
  - 36.1.1. Colour copy of valid passport of the country the Participating Player wishes to represent, containing full name, photograph, passport number, date of birth, place of birth, date of issue, date of expiry and nationality of the relevant individual. Group passports are not accepted
  - 36.1.2. Colour copy of national identification card (where applicable)
  - 36.1.3. Copy of birth certificate (where requested by AFF)
  - 36.1.4. Passport-size coloured photo (taken within three [3] months prior to the submission of the registration)
  - 36.1.5. A copy of the player’s valid contract with the club, which contains the contract period and shall be in accordance with the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players (“FIFA RSTP”); and
  - 36.1.6. (for players who transferred internationally) a copy of the International Transfer Certificate (ITC) or evidence to demonstrate that an ITC has been issued in accordance with the FIFA RSTP. An ITC may be submitted after the close of the relevant registration window and the Participating Player will only be considered eligible in accordance with the specific provisions set out in these Regulations.

- 36.2. Where original documents are not in English, the original and an accredited English translation shall be provided.
- 36.3. AFF reserves the right to request additional documents in all cases.

## 37. ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

- 37.1. Each Participating Player shall ensure that prior to registering as Players, such individuals:
  - 37.1.1. are duly registered with the AFF pursuant to these Regulations, and
  - 37.1.2. are duly registered by the Participating Club with its MA pursuant to its transfer rules and those set out in the FIFA RSTP.
- 37.2. Individuals who meet the criteria set out in Article 37.1 are eligible to participate in the Competition, subject to the provisions of the AFF Disciplinary and Ethics Code.
- 37.3. Each Participating Club shall ensure to submit authentic documents for registration of its Participating Players.
- 37.4. The approval of the registration of a Player by the AFF General Secretariat does not automatically provide for the eligibility of the Participating Player. Each Participating Club is responsible for fielding only eligible players in a Match. Failure to do so shall lead to the consequences stipulated in the AFF Disciplinary and Ethics Code.
- 37.5. A Participating Player shall be deemed ineligible, without limitation, if:
  - 37.5.1. there is a violation of Article 37.1, or
  - 37.5.2. he participates in a Match contrary to a decision of the AFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee, these Regulations, or the operation of the AFF Disciplinary and Ethics Code, or
  - 37.5.3. the AFF determines that any document submitted during the registration is falsified, forged or otherwise invalid.
- 37.6. In cases of registration of Players who is eligible to represent more than one (1) football association (cf. Article 7 of the FIFA Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes), the documents set out in Appendix 4 of these Regulations must also be submitted.
- 37.7. In cases of registration of Players who have acquired a new nationality (cf. Article 8 of the FIFA Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes), the documents set out in Appendix 5 of these Regulations must also be submitted.

## 38. PLAYER STATUS

- 38.1. A Participating Player shall only be registered with one (1) Participating Club per registration window.
- 38.2. A Participating Player shall not be eligible to play a Match for more than one (1) Participating Club per stage of the Competition (cf. Article 15.1 of these Regulations). A Participating Player that has been fielded by a Participating Club in a stage of the Competition cannot be registered for another Participating Club in that same stage.

For the avoidance of doubt, a player who has not been fielded by a Participating Club shall be entitled to play for another Participating Club in the same stage of a Competition, provided that he is registered in accordance with these Regulations.

- 38.3. If a violation of Article 38.1 or Article 38.2 occurs:
  - 38.3.1. the Participating Player may be sanctioned with a ban on participating in a minimum of one (1) future season of AFF club competitions, unless he can demonstrate that extenuating circumstances existed;
  - 38.3.2. the Participating Club shall forfeit any Match in which the Participating Player has been fielded in accordance with the AFF Disciplinary and Ethics Code;
  - 38.3.3. the AFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee may impose further sanctions at its discretion.
- 38.4. For the purposes of the employment contract of a Participating Player, his date of registration with a Participating Club shall be:
  - 38.4.1. the Participating Players who transferred internationally to the Participating Club: the date of confirmation of receipt of the ITC or the date of provisional registration with the Participating Club's MA pursuant to the FIFA RSTP, submitted in accordance with Article 36; and
  - 38.4.2. for Participating Players who transferred domestically to the Participating Club: the official date of the contract submitted in accordance with Article 36.
- 38.5. An ITC or proof of the provisional registration shall only be accepted after the close of a registration window where:
  - 38.5.1. the Participating Club entered a valid contract with the Participating Player prior to the close of the registration window and submitted this to the AFF; and
  - 38.5.2. Registration Window 1 or 2 or 3: a copy of the ITC or evidence to demonstrate that an ITC has been issued or proof of the provisional registration in accordance with the FIFA RSTP is submitted to the AFF no later than seven (7) days prior to its first Match in the relevant stage of the Competition.
- 38.6. There shall be no limit on the number of foreign Participating Players that each Participating Club may register during Registration Windows 1, 2 and 3, however, each Participating Club may only select up to seven (7) foreign Participating Players in the Player Selection List.
- 38.7. A stateless Participating Player registered by a Participating Club shall be treated as a foreign Participating Player not holding the nationality of an ASEAN MA unless it can be proven (to the AFF's satisfaction, at its sole discretion) that:
  - 38.7.1. such Participating Player has validly participated in a Match for a representative team of the ASEAN MA to which the relevant Participating Club is affiliated in an official competition of any category or any type of football, in which case he shall be treated as a local Participating Player; or

38.7.2. such Participating Player has validly participated in a Match for a representative team of another ASEAN MA which is not the local MA in an official competition of any category or any type of football, in which case he shall be treated as a Participating Player holding the nationality of an ASEAN MA.

38.8. Any Participating Player who has acquired a new nationality of an MA (e.g. through naturalisation) and wishes to participate in the Competition utilising that nationality must demonstrate, at least, one of the following:

- 38.8.1. that the nationality was acquired more than five (5) years before the date of the Participating Player's registration for the Competition; or
- 38.8.2. that he is eligible to participate for the representative team of the relevant MA in accordance with the FIFA Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes ("FIFA RGAS").

38.9. Any Participating Player who is eligible to represent more than one (1) Football Association on account of his nationality of one (1) country and wishes to participate in the Competition utilising the nationality of an MA must demonstrate one (1) of the following:

- 38.9.1. that he has participated in an official competition for a representative team of the relevant MA; or
- 38.9.2. that he is eligible to participate for a representative team of the relevant MA in accordance with the FIFA RGAS.

38.10. Any Participating Player who does not meet the relevant requirements stipulated above within the dates stipulated by AFF shall not be eligible to take part in the Competition utilising that nationality.

38.11. A Participating Player cannot change his nationality of registration for the duration of the Competition.

### 39. REGISTRATION WINDOW 1

39.1. Each Participating Club shall submit its registration of Participating Players and supporting documents in accordance with Article 36 of these Regulations by the deadline set by the AFF General Secretariat.

39.2. Each Participating Club shall submit a registration of a minimum of eighteen (18) and a maximum of forty-five (45) Participating Players in accordance with Article 35 of these Regulations:

- 39.2.1. Each Participating Club must register a minimum of three (3) goalkeepers in its registration.
- 39.2.2. Participating Players additionally registered in accordance with Article 39.4 may only be allocated a new number.

39.3. If a Participating Club fails to submit its list of Participating Players in accordance with these Regulations by the stipulated deadline, it shall be considered to have withdrawn from the Competition prior to its commencement and be subject to Article 12 of these Regulations.

39.4. Once the registration of Participating Players has been received by the AFF and after the stipulated deadline has passed, Participating Clubs may no later than five (5) days prior to their first Match in the Play-off Stage, replace or add up to eight (8) Participating Players for any reason, provided that the maximum number of registered players is not exceeded.

39.5. Notwithstanding the foregoing additional provision (cf. Articles 39.2), if at any time during the Play-off Stage, two (2) or more Participating Players who are registered as goalkeepers suffer long-term injuries or illness, the relevant Participating Club may request to replace one (1) or more of these goalkeeper(s) by registering one (1) or more new Participating Players as goalkeepers (as appropriate).

39.5.1. An injury or illness shall be considered long-term for the purposes of this Article if it will or can reasonably be expected to last for thirty (30) days or longer (as from the date of the request).

39.5.2. A medical report, in English, must be submitted to the AFF detailing the extent of the injury or illness by the relevant Participating Player(s) before any replacement(s) can be approved by the AFF.

39.5.3. Any replacement must be requested no later than twenty-four (24) hours before the kick-off time of the Participating Club's next Match.

39.5.4. The AFF shall decide on any replacement(s) at its sole discretion, and any such decisions shall be final, binding and not appealable.

39.5.5. Incidents involving the provision of false or misleading evidence or information to the AFF in connection with any replacement under this Article (as regards the provision of medical reports or otherwise) may be referred to the AFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee.

39.5.6. For the avoidance of doubt, once a Participating Player has been replaced, such player cannot be re-registered in the Competition (including as a replacement) until registration window 3 opens.

39.6. Participating Players registered pursuant to the replacement provisions set out in Article 39.4 shall only be eligible to participate in the Competition after receiving their Accreditation Cards.

#### 40. REGISTRATION WINDOW 2

40.1. Each Participating Club shall submit its registration of Participating Players and supporting documents in accordance with Article 36 of these Regulations by the deadline set by the AFF General Secretariat.

40.2. Each Participating Club shall submit a registration of a minimum of eighteen (18) and a maximum of forty-five (45) Participating Players in accordance with Article 35 of these Regulations:

40.2.1. Each Participating Club must register a minimum of three (3) goalkeepers in its registration.

40.3. If a Participating Club fails to submit its list of Participating Players in accordance with these Regulations by the stipulated deadline, it shall be considered to have withdrawn from the Competition prior to its commencement and be subject to Article 12 of these Regulations.

- 40.4. Once the registration of Participating Players has been received by the AFF and after the stipulated deadline has passed, Participating Clubs may:
  - 40.4.1. no later than five (5) days prior to their first Match in the Group Stage, replace or add up to five (5) Participating Players for any reason provided that the maximum number of registered players is not exceeded; and
  - 40.4.2. no later than seven (7) days prior to Match Day 4 of the Group Stage, replace or add up to three (3) Participating Players for any reason provided that the maximum number of registered players is not exceeded, and the newly registered Participating Player(s) have only been transferred into the Participating Club after the deadline stipulated in Article 40.4.1.
- 40.5. Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions for additional registration (cf. Articles 40.4.1 and 40.4.2), if at any stage during the Group Stage, two (2) or more Participating Players who are registered as goalkeepers suffer long-term injuries or illness, the relevant Participating Club may request to replace one (1) or more of these goalkeeper(s) by registering one (1) or more new Participating Players as goalkeepers (as appropriate). The provisions of Article 39.5.1 to 39.5.6 shall apply equally to registration window 2.
- 40.6. Participating Players registered pursuant to the replacement provisions set out in Article 40 shall only be eligible to participate in the Competition after receiving their Accreditation Cards.

## 41. REGISTRATION WINDOW 3

- 41.1. Each Participating Club shall submit its registration of Participating Players and supporting documents in accordance with Article 36 of these Regulations by the deadline set by the AFF General Secretariat.
- 41.2. Each Participating Club shall submit a registration of a minimum of eighteen (18) and a maximum of forty-five (45) Participating Players in accordance with Article 35 of these Regulations:
  - 41.2.1. Each Participating Club must register a minimum of three (3) goalkeepers in its registration.
- 41.3. If a Participating Club fails to submit its list of Participating Players in accordance with these Regulations by the stipulated deadline, it shall be considered to have withdrawn from the Competition prior to its commencement and be subject to Article 12 of these Regulations.
- 41.4. Once the registration of Participating Players has been received by the AFF and after the stipulated deadline has passed, Participating Clubs may:
  - 41.4.1. no later than five (5) days prior to their first Match in the Knock-out Stage, replace or add up to five (5) Participating Players for any reason provided that the maximum number of registered players is not exceeded.
- 41.5. For the avoidance of doubt, no further replacement or addition of Participating Players shall be permitted after the deadline stipulated in Article 41.4.1.

- 41.6. Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions for additional registration (cf. Article 41.4.1), if at any stage during the Knock-out Stage, two (2) or more Participating Players who are registered as goalkeepers suffer long-term injuries or illness, the relevant Participating Club may request to replace one (1) or more new Participating Players as goalkeeper(s) by registering one (1) or more new Participating Players as goalkeepers (as appropriate). The provisions of Articles 39.5.1 to 39.5.6 shall apply equally to registration window 3.
- 41.7. Participating Players registered pursuant to the provisions for additional registration set out in Article 41 of these Regulations shall only be eligible to participate in the Competition after receiving their Accreditation Cards.

## 42. PLAYER SELECTION LIST

- 42.1. Each Participating Club must submit to the AFF Match Commissioner the 'Player Selection List' by selecting eleven (11) starting players, including the team captain, and up to twelve (12) substitutes. The 'Player Selection List' shall be submitted no later than ninety (90) minutes prior to the commencement of each Match.
  - 42.1.1. Each Participating Club shall register up to seven (7) foreign Participating Players on its 'Player Selection List'
  - 42.1.2. Each Participating Club shall identify at least two (2) players as goalkeepers on its 'Player Selection List'
  - 42.1.3. Each Participating Player who is selected on the 'Player Selection List' must be available at the 'Player and Equipment Check' undertaken by the AFF Match Commissioner on Match day.
- 42.2. Each Participating Club shall submit to the AFF Match Commissioner the 'Officials on the Bench List' by selecting up to eleven (11) Participating Officials who shall be entitled to sit on the bench, not less than ninety (90) minutes prior to the commencement of each Match.

## 43. REGISTRATION OF OFFICIALS

- 43.1. There shall only be one (1) registration period for Participating Officials.
- 43.2. Each Participating Club may nominate a minimum of three (3) and a maximum of eleven (11) Participating Officials. Each Participating Club may also nominate an additional nineteen (19) Participating Officials in accordance with Article 33.2.1 of these Regulations.
- 43.3. Each Participating Club must include the following three (3) Officials in the registration list:
  - 43.3.1. Head Coach
  - 43.3.2. Team Manager (who shall also act as the Team Media Officer in the event that there is no dedicated Team Media Officer), and
  - 43.3.3. an appropriately qualified person responsible for medical matters (e.g. team doctor or physiotherapist).

- 43.4. Each Participating Club shall submit the supporting documents in accordance with Article 44 of these Regulations to AFF via the stipulated deadline determined by AFF.
- 43.5. Up to eleven (11) Participating Officials may sit on the team bench for each Match. The following three (3) Participating Officials must be selected on the ‘Officials on the Bench List’:
  - 43.5.1. Head Coach
  - 43.5.2. Team Manager, and
  - 43.5.3. an appropriately qualified person responsible for medical matters (e.g. team doctor or physiotherapist).
- 43.6. Each Participating Club must designate a Team Safeguarding Officer responsible for handling all matters concerning the safety and well-being of the Team Official Delegation during the Competition. This officer must be familiar with the FIFA Guardians Safeguarding Essentials. This role does not have to be exclusive and can be assigned to the Team Doctor or any other official. The role of the Team Safeguarding Officer is to:
  - 43.6.1. act as the first point of contact and lead for all safeguarding matters within the Team Official Delegation during the Competition
  - 43.6.2. take all reasonable steps to ensure that the Participating Players’ mental and physical well-being is prioritised
  - 43.6.3. liaise with AFF and LOC should a concern or an allegation of harassment or abuse (be it psychological, physical or sexual, or neglect) arise
  - 43.6.4. know the specific safeguarding measures for the Competition and the avenues available for reporting concerns, and
  - 43.6.5. ensure the submission of the Safeguarding Declaration Form, within the deadline provided by the AFF.
- 43.7. Each Participating Club is entitled to register up to two (2) Video Analysts who shall be the only members of a Team Official Delegation entitled to record Matches in the relevant stage of the Competition using only one (1) lightweight amateur camera. This recording shall be strictly for technical purposes and should not interfere with Match operations or be utilised by any Broadcast Partner or otherwise distributed and/or used for any commercial purposes.
- 43.8. All Participating Officials will be issued with Accreditation Cards authorised by the AFF.
- 43.9. Should the AFF not receive all required documents by the stipulated deadline, the PMA concerned shall be considered to have withdrawn from the Competition prior to the commencement of the relevant stage and subjected to Article 12 of these Regulations.
- 43.10. Once the Final Registration has been received by the AFF, Participating Clubs may replace any of the Participating Officials at any stage with twenty-four (24) hours’ notice to the AFF General Secretariat by submitting the official documents, subject to the conditions below:

- 43.10.1. to replace a Participating Official, a Participating Club must provide his or her Accreditation Card to the AFF and shall receive the Accreditation Card of the replacement official in exchange, and
- 43.10.2. replacement Participating Official shall only be eligible to participate in the Competition after receiving their Accreditation Card.

#### 44. DOCUMENTS FOR REGISTRATION OF OFFICIALS

- 44.1. Documentations for the registration of Team Officials include, but are not limited to, the following:
  - 44.1.1. Colour copy of valid passport
  - 44.1.2. Colour copy of a national identification card (where applicable)
  - 44.1.3. Passport-size coloured photo (taken within three [3] months prior to the submission of the registration)
  - 44.1.4. Evidence of their qualification based upon their function:
    - 44.1.4.1. Head Coach, Assistant Coach, Fitness Coach and Goalkeeper Coach: minimum coaching requirements as set out for premier AFC club competition, by whatever name called, in Appendix 15 of the AFC Competition Operations Manual (Edition 2023), and
    - 44.1.4.2. Team Doctor and other medical personnel: relevant medical qualification.
- 44.2. Where original documents are not in English, the original and an accredited English translation shall be provided.
- 44.3. AFF reserves the right to request additional documents in all cases.

#### 45. FAILURE TO SUBMIT

- 45.1. Failure to submit the duly completed Team Registration Form (Players and Team Officials) by the stipulated deadline may be subjected to:
  - 45.1.1. sanction by the AFF with a fine of USD10,000 (United States Dollar Ten Thousand)
  - 45.1.2. disqualification from the Competition, and/or
  - 45.1.3. referral to the AFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee for further sanctions.

#### 46. ACCREDITATION CARD

- 46.1. Approved Participating Players and Participating Officials will be issued with Accreditation Cards bearing a photograph and personal details, authorised by AFF, to participate in the Competition.

- 46.2. Each Participating Club shall produce the Accreditation Cards for its Participating Players and Participating Officials, based on the approved list provided by the AFF. The AFF Match Commissioner shall sign the Accreditation Cards one day prior to the Participating Club's first Match in the Competition for verification.
- 46.3. The Accreditation Card remains the property of the AFF at all times. The AFF General Secretariat may revoke, cancel and/or confiscate an Accreditation Card at any time for any reason, including without limitation, misuse or abuse.
- 46.4. The Team Official Delegation shall be granted full access to all official Competition areas, including the Field of Play and other necessary CAA, as determined by the AFF.
- 46.5. Should a card be misplaced, the relevant Participating Club shall be required to pay USD1,000 (United States Dollars One Thousand) as a replacement production fee.

## SECTION 7: LOGISTICAL ARRANGEMENTS

### 47. ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE

- 47.1. Each Participating Club may arrive at the Venue no later than the evening of two (2) days (MD-2) before their first Match in the Competition and must depart from the Venue one (1) day after the Match.
  - 47.1.1. Should an Away Club wish to arrive at the Venue only one (1) day before the relevant Match, it shall submit a request via an official letter to the AFF with valid reasons and arrival flight itinerary details at least seven (7) days prior to the Match for the AFF's approval (to be accepted at its sole discretion).
  - 47.1.2. Should the AFF accept such a request, the late arrival of the relevant Club shall not interrupt the timing of Official Functions and/or the participation of the relevant Participating Club in Official Functions.
  - 47.1.3. The requirements and timings set out in Article 47.1 of these Regulations shall also apply to any Host Club which is hosting a home Match at a Neutral Venue.
  - 47.1.4. Participating Clubs shall not play in any non-official matches when traveling to and from the Venue of an away Match.
- 47.2. The official arrival date shall be determined by the AFF, which will be communicated to all the Participating Clubs appropriately.
- 47.3. Participating Clubs shall bear all costs as a result of arriving early or departing late from a Venue.
- 47.4. Where members of the Team Official Delegation arrive at the Venue of the Match by different flights, such Participating Club shall notify the AFF as well as the Host Club of the arrival of the main delegation as their official arrival time and all other arrivals (including airport pick-up and other arrangements) shall be at the cost of the team. The same shall apply to departure.

### 48. HOST CLUB'S RESPONSIBILITIES

- 48.1. The Host Club shall provide for the following arrangements in accordance with Appendix 7 of these Regulations:
  - 48.1.1. Local transportation for the AFF Delegation and Match Officials,
  - 48.1.2. Airport reception for the Participating Clubs, AFF Delegation and Match Officials,
  - 48.1.3. Visa requirements, and
  - 48.1.4. Other logistical arrangements.

#### 49. PARTICIPATING CLUBS' RESPONSIBILITIES

- 49.1. Each Participating Club shall be responsible for certain logistical arrangement as mentioned in Appendix 7 of these Regulations.

#### 50. FAILURE TO ADHERE

- 50.1. The failure to adhere to the provisions of this Section 7 and Appendix 7 of these Regulations may result in sanctions including fines at the discretion of the AFF.
- 50.2. The AFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee may impose further sanctions at its discretion.

## SECTION 8: MEDIA OBLIGATIONS

### 51. MEDIA

- 51.1. The AFF is the owner of all Media Rights emanating from the Competition as well as from any other related events coming under its jurisdiction, without any restrictions as to content, time, place and law. The AFF has granted to SPORTFIVE an exclusive licence to utilise and exploit the Media Rights as per the written agreement duly executed between SPORTFIVE and AFF.
- 51.2. Each Host Club shall ensure that the AFF, SPORTFIVE, the Host Broadcaster, if any, and all Broadcast Partners have free access to each Stadium from two (2) days prior to the Match until twenty-four (24) hours after the Match to allow for the resolution of any technical issues and for the assembly and/or disassembly of the relevant infrastructure required to execute the Media Rights.
- 51.3. The Host Club shall adhere to all instructions and circulars issued by the AFF in relation to the grant and exercise of all Media Rights relating to the Competition. Failure to do so may result in sanctions issued by the AFF on such Host Club, at the sole discretion of the AFF.

### 52. PRESS CONFERENCES AND INTERVIEWS

- 52.1. The AFF reserves all rights in respect to the coordination of all public relations and communication activities relating to the Competition including without limitation the coordination of all press conferences, interviews and release of press statements and the selection of designated media areas for the conducting of all press conference and interview sessions.
- 52.2. The Participating Clubs shall be responsible to ensure the provision of interpretation services where any of their Participating Players or Participating Officials attending press conferences and interviews in languages other than English. For the avoidance of doubt, the interpretation services provided shall be for translation of dialogues from all other languages to the English language. Interpretation and translation into the local language (if applicable) shall be the responsibility of the Host Club.
- 52.3. Participating Clubs shall assist the AFF and where applicable the AFF Commercial Rights Partner with the coordination of all press conference and/or interview sessions by ensuring that the members of their Team Official Delegation selected to conduct any such activities are available and brought to scheduled sessions in a timely manner. For the avoidance of any doubt, the Participating Club shall be responsible for ensuring that members of its Team Official Delegation that are selected to participate in any such media activity are explicitly requested to attend in accordance with the instructions of the AFF.
- 52.4. The Participating Clubs shall ensure that the selected members of their Team Official Delegation conducting any press conference or interview sessions refrain from making any statements or references which will or is likely to damage or bring into disrepute the good name, image and reputation of the AFF, the Competition or the sport of association football in general.
- 52.5. The Participating Clubs shall ensure, during any press conference or interview session, that:

- 52.5.1. the products or other identifiers of their affiliated MA, the Team Official Delegation, Participating Players, Participating Officials, or their commercial partners or any associated third parties do not appear or are not used in any manner, and/or
- 52.5.2. their Participating Players and Participating Officials do not make reference to any third-party products or entities.

52.6. Any individual who fails to attend an obligatory press conference shall be considered to have breached the media obligations and shall be fined in accordance with Article 63 of these Regulations. The relevant Participating Club shall also be held liable for any failure to attend a press conference. The AFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee may impose further sanctions at its discretion.

### 53. PRE-MATCH PRESS CONFERENCE

- 53.1. The Host Club is responsible for the organisation of a pre-Match Press Conference to be conducted under the supervision of SPORTFIVE.
- 53.2. The attendance of the Head Coach and a minimum of one (1) key Participating Player from each Participating Club in a Pre-Match Press Conference to be held one (1) day before their Match is compulsory.
- 53.3. The Team Media Officer must ensure the attendance of the Head Coach and Player.
- 53.4. Any individual who fails to attend the Pre-Match Press Conference shall be fined at least USD10,000 (United States Dollars Ten Thousand). The AFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee may impose further sanctions at its discretion.

### 54. POST-MATCH PRESS CONFERENCE

- 54.1. A post-Match press conference will be conducted at the Stadium and will commence no later than fifteen (15) minutes after the final whistle. Both Participating Clubs are obligated to make their Head Coach and the Player of the Match available for the post-Match press conference.
- 54.2. In the event the Head Coach is suspended for the Match, the Participating Club shall request the individual replacing the Head Coach on the team bench to attend any scheduled press conferences or interview sessions.
- 54.3. Any individual who fails to attend the Post-Match Press Conference shall be fined at least USD10,000 (United States Dollars Ten Thousand). The AFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee may impose further sanctions at its discretion.

### 55. PROMOTIONAL INTERVIEWS AND FLASH INTERVIEWS

- 55.1. In the event that any promotional and/or flash interviews are required, the following must be adhered to:
  - 55.1.1. if requested by the AFF, the Host Club and/or Host Broadcaster, if any, Participating Clubs should have their Head Coach and one (1) selected Player, as requested, to be made available for a recorded interview

- 55.1.2. for the flash interview, if requested by the Host Club and/or the Host Broadcaster, if any, the Head Coach and at least one (1) key Player from both Participating Clubs must be available. All Players and the Head Coach of each Participating Club must be briefed by their respective Team Media Officer prior to the Match, so they are aware of their responsibilities in this regard
- 55.1.3. any individual who fails to conduct an interview and/or flash interview when requested shall be fined at least USD10,000 (United States Dollars Ten Thousand) for each failure. The AFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee may impose further sanctions at its discretion.
- 55.2. In the final minutes of the game, the Host Broadcaster or other broadcaster representatives shall inform the AFF Media Officer and/or Local Media Officer of the Participating Players who are selected for the flash interview, who shall then inform the Team Media Officers.
- 55.3. It would be the duty of the respective Team Media Officer(s) to ensure that the selected Participating Player is made available for such flash interview(s). Any Team Media Officer who fails to ensure the availability of the selected Participating Player may be sanctioned by the AFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee.

## 56. TEAM DRESSING ROOM

- 56.1. Team dressing rooms are always strictly off-limits to any Media during the Competition. The Participating Clubs shall ensure that their respective media personnel observe and comply with these provisions.
- 56.2. Notwithstanding the above, the AFF reserves the right to grant the Host Broadcaster, official photographers, AFF digital crew and SPORTFIVE access to the Team dressing rooms prior to the arrival of a Team Official Delegation to record and film the Participating Clubs' playing kit and equipment.
- 56.3. Only the Host Broadcaster and official photographers as approved by the AFF may in certain instances be allowed to film the wining celebrations inside the Team dressing rooms.

## 57. FIELD OF PLAY

- 57.1. Media and/or any unauthorised third parties are strictly prohibited from entering the Field of Play or any prohibited areas in the Stadium including technical zones and the area between the boundaries of the Field of Play and spectator stands. The Host Club shall ensure that no such parties shall be allowed access or brought to the said areas unless otherwise expressly authorised by the AFF.
- 57.2. Notwithstanding the above, only accredited and authorised photographers, television crew and cameramen, the Host Broadcaster or any authorised broadcast licensee shall be allowed access to the Field of Play and the area between the boundaries of the Field of Play and spectator stand to enable the performance of obligations and exercise of rights relating to the Competition in accordance with the AFF's accreditation policy.
- 57.3. Any failure to adhere to the provisions of the Article 57 shall result in a fine of USD5,000 (United States Dollars Five Thousand) by the AFF, at its sole discretion.

## 58. DRONES

- 58.1. The use of drones or any flying object in the vicinity of the Stadium during Matches or Official Training is strictly prohibited.
- 58.2. The use of drones shall include drones being flown inside or even above the perimeter of a Stadium or an Official Training Site.
- 58.3. The Host Club shall be liable and sanctioned for drones being flown by spectators, media and broadcasting representatives and/or any other individual regardless of the question of culpable conduct or culpable oversight.

## 59. RECORDING OF MATCHES

- 59.1. A working download link of the Match Recordings will be provided by SPORTFIVE, with the following specifications, to the two (2) playing teams concerned, the Match Commissioner, the Referee Assessor and the AFF Secretariat, no later than two (2) hours after each Match:
  - 59.1.1. File format: MP4
  - 59.1.2. Video resolution: 1080p (1920x1080)
  - 59.1.3. Video bitrate: 4.5 – 6 Mbps
  - 59.1.4. Video codec: H264/H265
  - 59.1.5. Audio: international sound only (no commentary)
  - 59.1.6. Audio codec: AAC or MP3
  - 59.1.7. Audio bitrate: 128 Kbps

In case of internet capacity limitations, full match recording in USB/flash drives may alternatively be provided no later than two (2) hours after each Match.

- 59.2. The Participating Club shall ensure that no member of its Team Official Delegation or any third parties produce, exploit, and/or further distribute any film material relating to the Competition or the participation of a Participating Club in the Competition, for any commercial or non-commercial purposes without the prior written consent of the AFF.
- 59.3. Participating Club(s) shall be permitted to make their own recordings of Matches subject to the following:
  - 59.3.1. only members of the Team Official Delegation may make such recordings
  - 59.3.2. only one (1) camera per Participating Club may be used
  - 59.3.3. only lightweight, amateur equipment may be used, not the type of professional equipment used by professional broadcasters
  - 59.3.4. during filming, the Participating Officials making the recording must wear the technical bib. Only one (1) or two (2) such bibs will be distributed to each Participating Club depending on their registered video analysts (cf.

Article 43.7 hereinabove). It must be returned when the Participating Club is eliminated from the Competition or after the conclusion of the Competition, as applicable

- 59.3.5. the Participating Official must contact the AFF Media Officer and/or the Local Media Officer before the Match to locate a suitable position
- 59.3.6. no other recording is allowed, including without limitation, in the Team dressing rooms, at press conferences or any other location or for any reason other than those listed above
- 59.3.7. filming is permitted for technical football purposes only as opposed to any general documentation of the stay in the Host Club country and/or the Competition.

59.4. Under no circumstances shall recordings or images taken in the Stadium or other CAA be publicly distributed or otherwise used for any type of commercial or non-commercial exploitation, either during or after the Competition. Any abuse of video footage constitutes a serious violation of the Media Rights and will be sanctioned by the AFF, at its own discretion.

## 60. MIXED ZONE

- 60.1. The Host Club shall coordinate and correspond with the AFF in ensuring that a Mixed Zone, containing a sanctioned-off area reserved for the Broadcast Partners is set up and organised for the media after the Match and that the Mixed Zone is conducive and safe for the Participating Officials and Participating Players to pass through from the Team dressing room to the Team transport area.
- 60.2. The Participating Clubs shall ensure that all their Players pass through the Mixed Zone and are encouraged to conduct interviews with the Media giving priority to requests from Commercial Affiliates. The Head Coach shall only be required to pass through the Mixed Zone in the event that there is no post-Match press conference held after a Match.
- 60.3. Any individual who fails to pass through the Mixed Zone shall be fined at least USD2,500 (United States Dollars Two Thousand Five Hundred). The relevant Participating Club may be held liable for any failure to pass through the Mixed Zone in accordance with these Regulations. The AFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee may impose further sanctions at its discretion.
- 60.4. The Team Media Officer is responsible for briefing the Head Coach and all Participating Players prior to the Match, so they are aware of their responsibilities in this regard.

## 61. OFFICIAL TRAINING SESSION

- 61.1. Depending upon the weather and conditions of the Field of Play, each Participating Club is entitled to an official training of maximum sixty (60) minutes (one hundred and twenty [120] minutes if the Field of Play is an artificial pitch) duration in the Stadium in which they are due to play, either one (1) or two (2) days prior to their Match in the Stadium.
- 61.2. Each official training session shall be open to the Media and any other individuals as approved by AFF for at least the first fifteen (15) minutes. The fifteen (15) minutes

shall commence from the scheduled start time of the session or the actual start time (in case it is later than the scheduled start time), to be determined by the AFF Match Commissioner.

- 61.3. If the official training session is held at any Stadium, the areas accessible by Media, if any, shall be the same as the areas accessible for them during the Match, provided that they are in possession of valid accreditation. Such areas shall be strictly controlled by the Host Club. All Media, without exception, shall leave the venue at the end of the first fifteen (15) minutes or at a later time if decided by the relevant Participating Club.
- 61.4. Any official training session shall only commence at the time, run and place/venue/Stadium for the duration determined and approved in writing by the AFF. Players are prohibited from entering the Pitch prior to and/or at any other time other than the scheduled time for the official training.

## 62. MEDIA ACCESS AREA

- 62.1. The Host Club shall be responsible for the management and provision of support to all Media of the Competition through the implementation of:
  - 62.1.1. accreditation procedures
  - 62.1.2. procurement and setting up of media access area(s), and
  - 62.1.3. coordination of all media-related activities at any Stadium and Official Training Sites.
- 62.2. The Host Club shall provide the AFF with all media accreditation requests together with details relating to the specific request including:
  - 62.2.1. the name and designation of the requesting persons
  - 62.2.2. the media company they represent
  - 62.2.3. their nationality, and
  - 62.2.4. the type of media coverage they intend to cover for the Competition.
- 62.3. Upon receipt of approval by the AFF, the Host Club shall produce and issue Accreditation Cards to approved Media in a timely manner and shall be responsible for any delay resulting in the issuance or provision of such accreditation to the Media.
- 62.4. The Host Club shall ensure that designated media access area(s) may only be accessed by authorised Media with valid Accreditation Cards and that no media shall be allowed access to any parts of the Stadium or Official Training Sites other than as permitted under their respective accreditations.
- 62.5. The Host Club shall ensure that two to three (2-3) dedicated Media slots are allotted to the AFF Media Delegation, for all its home Matches in the Competition, without fail.
- 62.6. The Participating Clubs shall ensure that any officials or media persons or third parties accompanying them possess valid Accreditation Cards to gain access into the relevant areas at any Stadium and/or Official Training Sites and shall comply with all applicable terms and instructions as issued by the AFF and/or the Host Club.

- 62.7. The Participating Clubs shall ensure that no Media representatives accompany them in the Team bus to and from the Stadium or Official Training Sites.
- 62.8. All approved Media shall comply with the Photographer Operations Guidelines as set out in Appendix 8 and have access to and remain in the designated media access areas as follows:
  - 62.8.1. photographers shall adopt positions behind the advertising boards at the back of each goal post, or such other areas as advised by the AFF, subject to availability of space.

### 63. BREACH OF MEDIA OBLIGATIONS

- 63.1. Subject to the sanctions provided in this Section 8, failure to attend any obligatory press conference(s), failure to attend and/or fully participate in any official activities/events including failure to comply with any obligations mentioned in this Section 8 about Media Obligations of these Regulations shall result in the Participating Club being fined at least USD10,000 (United States Dollars Ten Thousand).
- 63.2. Any breach of the rules regarding media obligations may also be subject to additional sanctions by the AFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee.

## SECTION 9: EQUIPMENT REGULATIONS

### 64. SCOPE OF APPLICATION

- 64.1. Section 9 of these Regulations govern the authorisation of all equipment, sponsor advertising, and manufacturer identification used inside of any CAA by the:
  - 64.1.1. Team Official Delegations
  - 64.1.2. Match Officials, and
  - 64.1.3. ball persons, player escorts and flag bearers.
- 64.2. Where no provision of these Regulations is applicable, AFF Equipment Regulations as provided in Appendix 9 of these Regulations, the Laws of the Game, and the FIFA/AFC Equipment Regulations apply in descending order.
- 64.3. Participating Clubs are solely responsible and liable for the conduct of their Team Official Delegations relating to the correct implementation of these Regulations.
- 64.4. For the avoidance of doubt, football boots are expressly excluded from the provisions of these Regulations.

### 65. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

- 65.1. The authorisation of any Kit is subject to the following provisions:
  - 65.1.1. Each Participating Club is responsible for compliance with these Regulations and any further applicable laws, regulations, guidelines and decisions issued by the AFF in relation to any Equipment.
  - 65.1.2. The wearing of any Kit on the Field of Play remains subject foremost to the authority of the Referee as defined in the Laws of the Game.
  - 65.1.3. Any Kit that does not comply with these Regulations is strictly prohibited.
  - 65.1.4. The authorisation to wear Equipment for the Competition must be sought in writing from the AFF within the appropriate deadlines specified by the AFF from time to time.
- 65.2. Each Participating Club shall adhere to the provisions of the Equipment Regulations as detailed in Appendix 9 of these Regulations.

### 66. BREACH OF EQUIPMENT REGULATIONS

- 66.1. Any breach of the provisions relating to Equipment Regulations including those mentioned in Appendix 9 of these Regulations, will be subject to the following sanction by the AFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee:
  - 66.1.1. a fine amounting to USD5,000 (United States Dollars Five Thousand) – first infringement

- 66.1.2. a fine amounting to USD10,000 (United States Dollars Ten Thousand) – repeated infringement
- 66.1.3. further infringement will result in more severe sanctions.

## SECTION 10: COMMERCIAL MATTERS

### 67. OWNERSHIP OF COMMERCIAL RIGHTS

- 67.1. The AFF owns the Commercial Rights relating to the Competition and has granted SPORTFIVE an exclusive licence to utilise and exploit the Commercial Rights in accordance with the written agreement duly executed between the AFF and SPORTFIVE.
- 67.2. The Participating Clubs acknowledge and agree that SPORTFIVE has been duly licensed and manages the Commercial Rights relating to the Competition in accordance with the written agreement duly executed between the AFF and SPORTFIVE.
- 67.3. The Host Club shall use its best efforts/endeavours in seeking political and administrative support from all local, regional and national governmental authorities to ensure the effective exploitation and protection of the Commercial Rights (including through the implementation of government guarantees and tabling of supplementary legislation).
- 67.4. Participating Club shall ensure that their own sponsors and suppliers do not associate their names with the Competition or the Competition Marks. The Commercial Affiliates are the only companies and/or entities authorised to associate their names with the Competition or the Competition Marks.

### 68. IMAGE RIGHTS AND VIDEO RIGHTS

- 68.1. Each Participating Club agrees that AFF, SPORTFIVE and the Commercial Affiliates shall have the right to use the records, names, images and likenesses of the Participating Clubs (including its marks) and Participating Players, including still photographs and moving images which may be generated from the Participating Clubs' participation in the Competition.

### 69. EXPLOITATION OF COMMERCIAL RIGHTS

- 69.1. Further to the terms of the duly executed agreement between the AFF and SPORTFIVE, SPORTFIVE shall retain the exclusive right to utilise, exploit and promote the Commercial Rights by any means, for any and all products and services throughout the world.
- 69.2. The Participating Clubs acknowledge and agree that SPORTFIVE can freely sublincense any Commercial Rights to any entity throughout the world (including in the Host Country), and the Participating Clubs shall have no right to exploit directly and/or sublincense the exploitation of such Commercial Rights.
- 69.3. The Participating Clubs shall be fully responsible and liable for any breach of their obligations under these Regulations.
- 69.4. In its exploitation of the Commercial Rights, SPORTFIVE retains all Promotional Rights in connection with the Competition. The Participating Club shall assist AFF and SPORTFIVE in the exploitation of the Promotional Rights, and the rights and promotions of authorised third parties, under the directives of SPORTFIVE.

## 70. COMPETITION MARKS

- 70.1. **Ownership:** The Participating Clubs acknowledge that SPORTFIVE is the owner of the Competition Marks and that all rights and goodwill in and in relation to the Competition Marks are vested in SPORTFIVE. They further acknowledge that through the duly executed agreement between AFF and SPORTFIVE, SPORTFIVE has granted AFF the non-exclusive licence to use such Competition Marks to promote the Competition. The Participating Clubs will not grant, or purport to grant, any right or licence to use the Competition Marks to any third party.
- 70.2. **Usage:** The 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:
  - 70.2.1. ASEAN Club Championship Shopee Cup™ 2025/26,
  - 70.2.2. ASEAN Shopee Cup™ 2025/26, or
  - 70.2.3. Shopee Cup™ 2025/26.

(hereinafter the “Competition Title”).
- 70.3. The Participating Clubs and its Participating Players and Participating 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 AFF and SPORTFIVE.

## 71. CLEAN STADIUM

- 71.1. The Host Club shall deliver all Stadiums and Official Training Sites as Clean Stadium no less than two (2) days prior to each Match at each Stadium or official training at each Official Training Site, until twenty-four (24) hours following the completion of such Match.
- 71.2. Except where stipulated otherwise by the AFF, each Host Club and its Member Association shall ensure that all relevant approvals are secured and unrestricted access for the placement and publishing of advertising or branding of the Competition shall be available to the AFF two (2) days before each Match at the Stadium or official training at the Official Training Site.

## 72. AMBUSH MARKETING

- 72.1. The Participating Clubs, PMAs, Participating Players and Participating Officials shall provide all assistance and support to the AFF and SPORTFIVE, authorities and/or any appointed parties in ensuring that the Commercial Rights are successfully enforced and implemented and shall notify the AFF and SPORTFIVE of any infringement, suspected infringement and/or ambush marketing related activities upon it becoming aware of such matters.
- 72.2. The Participating Clubs, PMAs, Participating Players and Participating Officials ensure that their commercial partners and/or associated third parties do not partake in any matters which are likely to be considered as an ambush marketing related activity or infringement of the rights of the AFF, SPORTFIVE and/or the Competition.

### 73. OTHER PROVISIONS

- 73.1. All the provisions of this Section 10 shall be subject to the provisions of the AFF Hosting Obligations, if any, which shall have precedence.

### SECTION 11: TICKETING

#### 74. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- 74.1. Tickets, electronic or hard copy, shall include seat numbering and serial numbering and only include AFF Marks, Competition Marks and/or marks of SPORTFIVE and/or commercial affiliates, as approved by AFF.
- 74.2. The AFF reserves the right as its sole discretion to substitute the seating area or the gate entrance identified on a Ticket with another, if deemed appropriate for security or technical purposes.
- 74.3. The Participating Club must ensure that access to the Stadium is granted to the AFF Delegation, Team Official Delegation, SPORTFIVE, commercial affiliates, if any, Media and traveling supporters without any discrimination.
- 74.4. The AFF General Secretariat shall determine the Ticketing policy including the requirement for third party vendors as may be required by the Commercial Rights Partner – SPORTFIVE, provided that such third-party vendors follow all the relevant stipulations of these Regulations. For the avoidance of any doubt, the revenue generated from ticket sales shall be solely for the benefit of the Host Club, in accordance with the Commercial Rights Agreement and/or the Hosting Obligations or such other similar agreement(s) signed between the AFF and such Host Club.
- 74.5. The Participating Club shall be responsible at its own cost for the design, production, distribution, and sales of all Tickets. Such matters are subject to the approval of the AFF.

#### 75. COMPLIMENTARY TICKETS

- 75.1. The Host Club shall provide complimentary Tickets, invitation (VVIP) and car park stickers to the AFF and SPORTFIVE for each Match in the Competition as follows:

##### 75.1.1. AFF

75.1.1.1. Ten (10) x VVIP (Corporate Box)

75.1.1.2. Fifty (50) x 1<sup>st</sup> best category tickets

75.1.1.3. Fifty (50) x 2<sup>nd</sup> best category tickets

75.1.1.4. Five (5) x VIP car park stickers

75.1.1.5. Ten (10) x car park stickers

##### 75.1.2. SPORTFIVE

75.1.2.1. Ten (10) x VVIP (Corporate Box)

- 75.1.2.2. One hundred (100) x 1<sup>st</sup> best category tickets
- 75.1.2.3. Five hundred (500) x 2<sup>nd</sup> best category tickets
- 75.1.2.4. Five (5) x VIP car park stickers
- 75.1.2.5. Ten (10) x car park stickers
- 75.1.3. For the avoidance of doubt, the above-mentioned numbers are the minimum guarantee that each Host Club provides to the AFF and its Commercial Rights Partner. The AFF shall enter into good faith discussions with each Host Club to decide on a mutually agreeable number of Complimentary Tickets beyond the above-mentioned guarantee. Should the discussion not result in a mutually agreeable number, the same shall be decided at the sole discretion of the AFF, keeping in mind the stadium capacity of each Host Club.
- 75.2. The Host Club shall also provide complimentary tickets to the Away Club for each of their Match as follows:
  - 75.2.1. Two (2) x VVIP (Corporate Box)
  - 75.2.2. Five (5) 1<sup>st</sup> best category tickets
  - 75.2.3. Twenty (20) x 2<sup>nd</sup> best category tickets
- 75.3. The Host Club shall provide the above-listed Complimentary Tickets for each Match to AFF/SPORTFIVE at least seven (7) days prior to the relevant Match.
- 75.4. All Complimentary Tickets shall be provided in a continuous block.
- 75.5. In the event that a Participating Club qualifies for any stage of the Competition and the time period between the confirmation of such qualification and the scheduled home Match in the relevant stage is less than the deadlines set out in Article 75.3, such Participating Club must provide the AFF and AFF Commercial Rights Partner with the relevant Complimentary Tickets for the home Match no later than two (2) days after the confirmation of its qualification.
- 75.6. In certain circumstances (including where the relevant Away Club has not been determined by the deadline set out in Article 75.3, the Host Club shall provide Complimentary Tickets to the AFF and AFF Commercial Rights Partner which contain generic information (e.g. referring to the Away Club as "Winner of Play-off Stage 2").
- 75.7. The AFF reserves all Ticketing rights relating to the Final Matches of the Competition. The AFF is entitled to request any additional Tickets, the number of which shall be communicated to the Host Club at the appropriate time.

## 76. PURCHASABLE TICKETS

- 76.1. The Host Club must make available at least five percent (5%) of the net saleable capacity of a Stadium available exclusively to the supporters of the Away Club, in a segregated, safe area to be determined by the AFF and the Host Club.
- 76.2. The number of Tickets to be purchased must be declared to the Host Club no later than two (2) weeks prior to the Match with full payment by the Away Club to the Host Club. The Away Club is responsible for all Tickets purchased, even if the Tickets are

not utilised. The price of the Tickets shall not exceed the price of comparable Tickets that are sold to the supporters of the Host Club.

- 76.3. Each Host Club shall provide the AFF Commercial Rights Partner with the opportunity to buy Tickets at face value for each Match as instructed by the AFF. The number of Tickets to be purchased must be declared at a time to be mutually agreed between the AFF Commercial Rights Partner and the Host Club.
- 76.4. The AFF shall be able to purchase Tickets at face value and on an individual Match basis from each Host Club for itself and its Commercial Affiliates.
- 76.5. The Host Club must make available at least 2,000 or at least 8% (best or second-best tickets) of the net saleable capacity of a Stadium available exclusively to SPORTFIVE in a segregated, safe area to be determined by the Tournament Committee and the Host Club.
- 76.6. Each Participating Club is responsible for all Tickets purchased, even if not utilised. The price of the Tickets shall not exceed the price of comparable Tickets that are sold to the general public in the Host Club.

## 77. TICKET TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- 77.1. Unless otherwise advised by the AFF in writing, each Host Club shall be responsible at its own cost for the production, distribution, and sales of all Tickets. Such matters are subject to the approval of the AFF. The AFF shall provide a Ticket template design to all Participating Clubs. The Ticket template must be used for Tickets, both electronic and/or printed.
- 77.2. The Ticket Terms and Conditions shall set forth the rules applicable to all holders of Tickets for Matches and Official Functions relating to the sale, purchase and use of the Tickets as well as access to the Stadiums and other CAAs. The Host Club shall provide to AFF any specific Stadium provisions that are to be included in the Ticket Terms and Conditions at least thirty (30) days prior to its first Match in the Competition.
- 77.3. The AFF shall, in collaboration with the Host Club, issue special ticketing terms and conditions which are applicable to all Ticket holders.
- 77.4. The AFF may change the term and conditions and shall advise the Host Club on any requirements relating to Ticket production, distribution and/or sales.
- 77.5. The Ticket Terms and Conditions shall, at a minimum contain statements that reflect the following:
  - 77.5.1. Tickets cannot be used for promotional and/or commercial purposes.
  - 77.5.2. The holder of the Ticket may not take any dangerous, commercial, political or religious item into the Stadiums.
  - 77.5.3. AFF and the Host Club reserve the right to refuse entry to the Stadiums or to eject from the Stadiums anyone attempting to breach or breaching any and all Ticket Terms and Conditions.
  - 77.5.4. The sales restrictions of the Ticket Policy.

- 77.6. AFF and the Host Club shall take all measures and ensure that the Ticket Terms and Conditions are brought to the attention of every holder of a Ticket prior to purchase and/or receipt of said Ticket.
- 77.7. AFF and the Host Club shall collaborate to enforce the Ticket Terms and Conditions on any Ticket holder. For avoidance of doubt, any measures with regard to Stadium access, especially refusal and access control, shall be the responsibility of the Host Club.

## SECTION 12: SAFETY AND SECURITY

### 78. SAFETY AND SECURITY

- 78.1. All matters relating to safety and security shall be undertaken in compliance with the AFC Stadium Regulations and AFC Safety and Security Regulations (as applicable).
- 78.2. The Host Club shall, in conjunction with the relevant government authorities and/or Stadium owners, devise, plan, and implement adequate security and safety measures for the Competition at all CAA within the Venue and other relevant locations to protect all relevant persons, including without limitation the AFF Delegation, Team Official Delegations, SPORTFIVE and its commercial affiliates, Media, spectators, and all goods brought in by the AFF Delegation, Team Official Delegations, SPORTFIVE and its commercial affiliates.
- 78.3. The Host Club/SPORTFIVE, as relevant, is also responsible for providing the following facilities/services to all participants, Match Officials and AFF Delegation to prevent incidents, subject to any measures as stipulated by the Tournament Committee or local authorities:
  - 78.3.1. accommodation shall be on a dedicated floor or level
  - 78.3.2. security shall be deployed at each dedicated floor and lobby area of the hotel
  - 78.3.3. security arrangements shall also cover the Stadiums and its vicinity, the training grounds as well as all other official areas identified, and
  - 78.3.4. security facilities to be provided shall also include police outriders on Match days.
- 78.4. The Host Club shall issue a detailed security plan in the form of a binding agreement with, without limitation, the management of Stadium, Official Training Sites, and the accommodation of the AFF Delegation and the Team Official Delegations. This security plan shall be based upon the principles set out in the AFC Stadium Regulations and AFC Safety and Security Regulations.
- 78.5. The Host Club shall discharge the AFF and hold it harmless from all responsibility and relinquish any claim against the AFF and the members of its delegation for any damages resulting from any act or omission relating to the organisation of the Competition to the exclusion of damages caused by the AFF or the members of its delegation acting with intent or gross negligence.
- 78.6. The Host Club shall ensure that the Stadium is not overcrowded at any point in time during the Matches in the Competition. The decision on whether a Stadium is overcrowded shall rest solely with the Match Commissioner whose Official Report shall be evidenced with photographic and videographic proof of such overcrowding.
  - 78.6.1. Failure to ensure the same shall result in the Host Club being sanctioned with:
    - 78.6.1.1. a fine of at least USD15,000 (United States Dollars Fifteen Thousand); and/or

78.6.1.2. playing their next Match in the Competition with either full or partial Stadium closure.

78.6.2. The AFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee may impose further sanctions at its discretion.

78.7. Public Address System

78.7.1. The Host Club shall ensure that to avoid any panic and injuries among the spectators, it is essential to provide vital information concerning the nature of any emergency, hazard or risk. In such an unlikely event, the Host Club shall ensure that the standard protocol recommended in the AFC Competition Operations Manual is followed.

## SECTION 13: AWARDS

### 79. TROPHY, MEDALS AND AWARDS

- 79.1. A trophy called the “ASEAN Club Championship (ACC) Shopee Cup™ 2025/26” shall be awarded to the Club winning the Competition.
- 79.2. The original trophy of the Competition shall be presented as a formality to the Champion during the prize presentation ceremony after the final Match. Following the conclusion of the ceremony, the original trophy shall be returned to the AFF and remain in the possession of the AFF at all times. The Champion shall subsequently be awarded a replica by the AFF for its permanent possession.
- 79.3. The replica trophy awarded to the Champion must remain within its control at all times and must not leave its region or territory of its MA without the prior written consent of the AFF. The Champion must not permit the replica trophy to be used in any context (including without limitation, the involvement of the Champion’s sponsors, commercial partners and/or any third parties) which grants visibility or in any other way which could lead to an association between any third party, the trophy and/or the Competition.
- 79.4. The AFF may issue additional trophy guidelines which the Champion must comply with, from time to time.
- 79.5. The AFF shall award the following medals:
  - 79.5.1. Fifty-six (56) medals will be presented to the Champion and Runner-up each at the prize presentation ceremony (forty-five [45] Players and eleven [11] Officials).
  - 79.5.2. Upon request of any of the Participating Clubs for additional medals, a minimum of five (5) medals must be ordered with corresponding payment, including but not limited to delivery charges.
  - 79.5.3. Commemorative medals for the Match Officials of the final Match.
- 79.6. The following awards of the Competition shall be presented:
  - 79.6.1. Most Valuable Player
  - 79.6.2. Top Goal Scorer, and
  - 79.6.3. Best Goalkeeper.
- 79.7. Goals scored in the Play-off Stage are not taken into account for determining the Top Goal Scorer Award.
- 79.8. The AFF Competitions Committee may decide to introduce further awards.

### 80. FAIR PLAY

- 80.1. In every Match of this Competition, Fair Play should be actively promoted.

## SECTION 14: MEDICAL AND ANTI-DOPING

### 81. PRE-COMPETITION MEDICAL ASSESSMENT

- 81.1. Each Participating Club shall ensure that each Participating Player undergoes a Pre-Competition Medical Assessment (the “PCMA”) at least thirty (30) days prior to their first Match of the Competition.
  - 81.1.1. Players that have undertaken a PCMA for a FIFA and/or AFC competition may provide the AFF with the Player and Examining Physician Declaration Form originally provided to FIFA/AFC, provided that the PCMA was conducted within one (1) year of the Competition.
  - 81.1.2. The AFF shall provide all Participating Clubs with the PCMA form setting out the necessary matters to be tested, which shall include testing to prevent Participating Players from experiencing sudden cardiac death during any Match.
  - 81.1.3. Each Participating Club must submit to the AFF by at least ten (10) days prior to their first Match in the Competition the following signed documents:
    - 81.1.3.1. Member Association Declaration of Agreement to the PCMA, and
    - 81.1.3.2. for each Player, the Player and Examining Physician Declaration Form.
- 81.2. Any Participating Player for whom the required documents are not provided is not eligible to be registered in the Final Registration for a Participating Club.
- 81.3. The AFF ad-hoc Medical Committee, if any, or any other relevant authority as deemed fit by the AFF, may, in its sole discretion, order any further medical evaluation of a Participating Player that it deems necessary. The cost of such further testing shall be borne by the AFF.

### 82. AMBULANCES AND MEDICAL SERVICES AT THE STADIUM

- 82.1. The Host Club is responsible in arranging two (2) ambulances to be stationed ninety (90) minutes before the commencement of each Match at the designated tunnel near the Medical Room and the Field of Play, and one (1) ambulance to be stationed for the care of Match Officials, VIPs and AFF Delegation.
- 82.2. The following logistical requirements for medical services are recommended for the spectators in the Stadium:

Medical Service	Spectators	Minimum Number Required
Ambulance with a minimum of 2 staff each	Up to 15,000	2 on site
	15,000 – 25,000	3 on site + 1 off site*

	25,000 or more	4 on site + 2 off site*
Fixed Medical Post with a minimum of 2 BLS staff each	Up to 15,000	2
	15,000 – 25,000	3
	25,000 – 50,000	4
	50,000 or more	6
Mobile Medical Teams** with a minimum of 2 BLS staff each	Up to 15,000	4
	15,000 – 25,000	8
	25,000 – 50,000	16
	50,000 or more	20
Advanced Life Support (EM doctor, EM nurse, paramedic)	Up to 15,000	1
	15,000 – 25,000	2
	25,000 – 50,000	3
	50,000 – 75,000	4

(BLS: Basic Life Support; EM: Emergency-Medicine trained)

\*Off site: the ambulance(s) must be designated before the event and should be in close proximity to the Stadium. They should report to the rendezvous point and the staff should be fully briefed on their role at the event, should they be called to assist.

\*\*Mobile Medical Teams: the number and designation of these teams will depend on the structure of the Stadium (number of levels, spectators, movement limitation measures, etc.) and the accreditation limitations of the event.

82.3. Ambulances are to leave the Stadium or Training Site only after the Participating Clubs have left the Stadium or Training Site.

### 83. MEDICAL ROOMS AT STADIUM

83.1. The Host Club shall provide two (2) fully equipped and fully operational medical rooms for medical care of the Team Official Delegations and AFF Delegation, at the Stadium.

83.1.1. The first medical room shall be located in the tunnel close to the Field of Play and Team dressing rooms for emergency treatment of seriously injured Participating Players.

83.1.2. A second medical room shall be located in the vicinity of the VVIP/VIP tribunes to provide emergency and related medical services. Alternatively, a mobile paramedic can be allocated to cover the VVIP/VIP tribunes.

83.2. Medics with AED (automated external defibrillator) and other life-saving equipment shall be positioned behind the Fourth Official's bench, or a suitable position as indicated by the Match Commissioner.

83.3. The Host Club must provide the fully operational emergency equipment listed under Medical and Anti-Doping of the AFC Competition Operations Manual Edition 2023.

#### 84. MEDICAL TREATMENT OF PLAYERS ON THE FIELD OF PLAY

84.1. The Referee may authorise one (1), at the most two (2) Team Medical Officers to enter the Field of Play to assess the injury and arrange the Player's safe and swift removal from the Field of Play.

84.2. Stretcher bearers should only enter the Field of Play with a stretcher following a signal from the Referee. The provision of stretcher bearers shall be the responsibility of the Host Club.

84.3. A Player is not allowed to receive treatment on the Field of Play. Except for the following:

- 84.3.1. a goalkeeper who is injured
- 84.3.2. a goalkeeper and outfield Player who have collided and need immediate attention
- 84.3.3. players from the same Team who have collided and need immediate attention
- 84.3.4. a severe injury has occurred, e.g. swallowed tongue, concussion, broken leg, etc., or
- 84.3.5. a player is injured as the result of a physical offence (reckless or serious foul play). However, the assessment/treatment needs to be completed quickly.

84.4. The following procedures shall be followed:

- 84.4.1. Two (2) teams of stretcher bearers will be seated on a bench close to the touch line on each side of the pitch.
- 84.4.2. If a Player needs medical treatment on the Field of Play during a Match, the following procedures must be observed:
  - 84.4.2.1. at a signal from the Referee, the Team Medical Officer(s) leave the bench and run towards the injured Player, and
  - 84.4.2.2. at the same time, the stretcher bearers closest to the injured Player move closer to the touchline on standby, to wait for the Referee's signal for the stretcher bearers to run onto the Field of Play to assist in taking off the injured Player. If the Player recovers and the Referee does not signal, the stretcher bearers return to their position.

#### 85. MEDICAL PROVISIONS FOR EXTREME ENVIRONMENT CONDITIONS: HEAT AND HAZE

85.1. The Host Club at its own cost, shall set-up the following provisions in case of extreme environmental conditions.

85.2. Hot Environment Equipment

85.2.1. Once the decision to introduce cooling breaks has been established, the Host Club shall provide the following:

85.2.1.1. two (2) cooler boxes (one [1] per Team) with adequate quantities of ice during each half of the Match for cooling breaks (i.e., 30<sup>th</sup> and 75<sup>th</sup> minute). Teams may use their own cooling items, if they so require

85.2.1.2. face towels soaked in ice cold water for Players and Match Officials (i.e., 11 x 2 = 22 + 4 = 26) for each cooling break

85.2.1.3. additional cold bottled water for Players and Match Officials for each cooling break

85.2.1.4. emergency medical services: heat stroke diagnostic equipment and treatment logistics (rectal temperature thermometer, medications for anti-convulsion, tub and tepid water spray, etc.)

85.2.1.5. a medical team conversant with treatment of heat-related injuries.

85.3. Haze and Air Pollution

85.3.1. The Host Club shall provide the following in the event there is haze and air pollution:

85.3.1.1. an emergency medical team trained in such emergencies, including, if possible, access to a respiratory physician

85.3.1.2. additional medical personnel, and

85.3.1.3. adequate medical supplies and equipment.

## 86. OFFICIAL TRAINING

86.1. The Host Club is responsible in ensuring that the Official Training Sites are equipped with basic emergency medical equipment, massage tables and adequate supply of ice, and are staffed with paramedic/medical personnel. An ambulance must be stationed at each Official Training Site equipped with advance life support equipment and trained emergency medical personnel.

## 87. ACCOMMODATION

87.1. The Host Club is responsible in ensuring medical services and facilities are set up at the hotels for the Away Club, Match Officials and AFF Delegation.

87.2. The Host Club should provide the contact details of the designated doctor(s) that will be on-call twenty-four (24) hours until the completion of the Match.

## 88. HOSPITAL

- 88.1. The Host Club shall identify one to two (1-2) hospitals which shall provide, as a minimum, twenty-four (24) hour accident and emergency department services, including without limitation the ability to manage major trauma.
- 88.2. All designated hospitals to be located within the proximity of the Stadium and accommodation so as to minimize any response time for emergency incidents and/or the transfer of a patient to the hospital.
- 88.3. The transfer by road of any officially escorted medical emergency vehicle should not exceed fifteen (15) minutes, and in the event that this cannot be guaranteed due to logistical, geographical or other challenges, helicopter evacuation and transfer should be comprehensively catered for.
- 88.4. The obligation as per these Articles 88 is that of the Host Club and failure to provide the same shall be appropriately sanctioned by the AFF.

## 89. OBLIGATIONS FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT

- 89.1. The respective Participating Clubs must conclude the necessary general insurance policies for their Team Official Delegation whilst the Host Club will provide insurance cover for the duration of the Match including repatriation.
- 89.2. The Host Club shall provide free medical treatment, including hospital facilities for injuries and emergencies incurred and sustained during the Match as follows:
  - 89.2.1. out-patient treatment (non-admission to hospital)
  - 89.2.2. minor surgeries (e.g. suturing)
  - 89.2.3. radiological investigations (e.g. x-rays), and
  - 89.2.4. emergency treatment.
- 89.3. However, the Participating Clubs shall be responsible for the cost of the following treatments:
  - 89.3.1. hospitalisation (admission to hospital)
  - 89.3.2. surgical operations not provided in Article 89.2, and
  - 89.3.3. specialised investigative procedures (e.g. MRI, CT-scan).
- 89.4. The Host Club shall be responsible for the costs of the medical treatments for all members of the AFF Delegation and Match Officials from their arrival until their departure.
- 89.5. Subject to the sanctions explicitly provided for in this Section 14, any failure to comply with the provisions herein shall be sanctioned by the AFF at its own discretion.

## 90. FACILITIES AND PERSONNEL

- 90.1. The Host Club shall provide a medical room, and a doping control room equipped with all items stipulated by the AFF and in accordance with AFC Anti-Doping Regulations and related manuals.
- 90.2. The Host Club shall be fined:
  - 90.2.1. at least USD20,000 (United States Dollars Twenty Thousand) for failing to fully equip the medical room, or
  - 90.2.2. at least USD10,000 (United States Dollars Ten Thousand) for failing to equip the doping control room, or
  - 90.2.3. at least USD40,000 (United States Dollars Forty Thousand) for failing to equip both rooms.
  - 90.2.4. The AFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee may impose further sanctions at its discretion.
- 90.3. The Host Club shall provide all medical and doping control personnel stipulated by the AFF and in accordance with the AFC Anti-Doping Regulations and related manuals.
- 90.4. The Host Club shall be fined:
  - 90.4.1. at least USD10,000 (United States Dollars Ten Thousand) for failing to provide all doping control personnel, or
  - 90.4.2. at least USD20,000 (United States Dollars Twenty Thousand) for failing to provide medical personnel.
  - 90.4.3. The AFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee may impose further sanctions at its discretion.

## 91. ANTI-DOPING

- 91.1. Doping is strictly prohibited. The AFC Anti-Doping Regulations, the AFF Disciplinary and Ethics Code, and all relevant AFC and/or AFF directives in relation to anti-doping are applicable to the Competition.
- 91.2. Each Participating Player may be subjected to in-competition testing and out-of-competition testing in accordance with the AFC Anti-Doping Regulations.
- 91.3. A Doping Control Officer is responsible for the implementation of doping control in all Matches. The Host Club shall appoint at least three (3) local doping control officers (must be duly certified Medical Doctors) to provide assistance in doping control matters.
- 91.4. The Host Club shall ensure that all Stadium have the required doping control facilities. It is recommended that the doping control room be within the vicinity of both Team dressing rooms. The waiting and sampling area must be air-conditioned, well-ventilated, brightly lit and with easy washable and non-slippery floors.

## 92. CONCUSSIONS

- 92.1. A Participating Player who experiences a suspected concussion during a Match must undergo an examination by the Team Doctor in accordance with the protocols established by the AFF ad-hoc Medical Committee and/or documented in the FIFA Football Emergency Medicine Manual. The Referee may temporarily suspend play up to three (3) minutes whenever an incident of suspected concussion occurs. The Referee may only allow the injured Player to continue playing with the authorisation of the Team Doctor, who will have the final decision.
- 92.2. The Team Doctor may call upon the Host Club's medical personnel on the pitch and/or the Local Medical Officer, if any, to assist on the assessment and management (if deemed necessary).
- 92.3. The AFF, in line with AFC, recommends that Participating Clubs follow the return to play protocol set out in the Sport Concussion Assessment Tool 5 (SCAT5) for any Player who has suffered a concussion. SCAT5 recognises that the time frame to return to play may vary, including based on the Player's age and history, and that doctors must use their clinical judgment in making decisions with respect to return to play.
- 92.4. Number of substitutes
  - 92.4.1. Each Participating Club may use a maximum of one (1) concussion substitute in a Match. Such concussion substitute may be made regardless of the number of substitutes already used.
  - 92.4.2. If any Participating Club uses a concussion substitute, the opposing team in the said Match then has the option to use an additional substitute for any reason.
- 92.5. The concussion substitution procedure would be in accordance with Law 3 of the Laws of the Game and subject to the protocol listed under 'Notes and modifications'.

## 93. SPECTATORS

- 93.1. The Host Club shall ensure that the mandatory emergency medical response(s) are readily available to cater to spectators in the Stadiums for all the Matches in the Competition.

## 94. ACCREDITATION OF FOREIGN MEDICAL PERSONNEL

- 94.1. The Host Club shall provide the AFF and all Away Clubs and/or MAs with the information on the guidelines and procedures issued by the local authorities regarding the accreditation of foreign medical personnel (e.g., temporary registration to practice medicine, approval of medicines, notification of scheduled substances and medical devices to be utilised, etc.)

## SECTION 15: FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

### 95. RESPONSIBILITIES

- 95.1. Any financial payments to be made by the AFF in accordance with these Regulations shall be subject to all applicable laws, regulations, orders, by-laws and international sanctions.
- 95.2. The Host Club is responsible for the payment of all taxes, duties and other charges payable in relation to the implementation of any matter set out in these Regulations and/or any further circulars, notices, rules or documents issued and circulated by the AFF relating to the Competition from time-to-time.

### 96. MATCH CONTRIBUTION

- 96.1. The Match Contribution for Participating Clubs shall be made up of one (1) or more of the following:
  - 96.1.1. Travel Contribution: For each Match of the relevant stage of the Competition, the Away Club(s) shall be provided with travel tickets or reimbursed (as applicable) by the AFF Commercial Rights Partner – SPORTFIVE;
  - 96.1.2. Participation Fee: For each Match, the following participation fee shall be paid:
    - 96.1.2.1. for each losing team in the Play-off Stage: USD25,000 (United States Dollars Twenty-Five Thousand) per match in the manner as prescribed by the AFF in due course;
    - 96.1.2.2. for each Participating Club in the Group Stage: USD130,000 (United States Dollars One Hundred Thirty Thousand) in the manner as prescribed by the AFF in due course;
    - 96.1.2.3. for each losing team in the Semi-Finals: USD55,000 (United States Dollars Fifty-five Thousand) per match in the manner as prescribed by the AFF in due course.
  - 96.1.3. Stadium Enhancement Fund: For each Participating Club which qualifies and participates in the Group Stage, a stadium enhancement fund of up to USD50,000 (United States Dollars Fifty Thousand) shall be paid in accordance with the Stadium Enhancement Fund Regulations.
- 96.2. Match contributions shall be sent directly to the respective Participating Club or MA, unless otherwise directed by the MA or decided by the AFF at its discretion.
- 96.3. All match contributions (including any prize money) shall be withheld should a Participating Club have any outstanding payment to be made to the AFF or another Participating Club (and/or its MA) and/or any unfulfilled financial obligations under the relevant Articles of these Regulations until such time as the payment is made in full.
- 96.4. For the avoidance of doubt, should any Participating Club withdraw from the Competition prior to the commencement of the Competition and/or any

Participating Club fail to field eligible club(s), then the match contribution(s) mentioned hereinabove may be appropriately adjusted for all Participating Clubs at the sole discretion of the AFF.

- 96.5. The decision made as per Article 96.4 hereinabove shall be final, binding and not appealable.

## 97. PRIZE MONEY

- 97.1. The AFF will pay the following prize monies to the Participating Clubs in the final Match of the Competition:
  - 97.1.1. Champion: USD425,000 (United States Dollars Four Hundred Twenty-five Thousand); and
  - 97.1.2. Runner-up: USD215,000 (United States Dollars Two Hundred Fifteen Thousand).
- 97.2. For the avoidance of doubt, should any Participating Club withdraw from the Competition prior to the commencement of the Competition and/or any MA fails to field eligible club(s), then the match contribution(s) mentioned hereinabove may be appropriately adjusted for all Participating Clubs at the sole discretion of the AFF.
- 97.3. The decision made as per Article 97.2 hereinabove shall be final, binding and not appealable.

## 98. DISCIPLINARY ACTION

- 98.1. Where a Host Club fails to comply with any of its obligations under Articles 48 and 49 of these Regulations with regard to a Match, the case shall be referred to the AFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee. In all such instances, the AFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee shall order the relevant Participating Club to return to the AFF any Match Contribution that has been paid to it in respect of the relevant Match (or, if not yet paid, to forfeit its right to any Match Contribution due to it in respect of the relevant Match) and to pay compensation for any and all damages or losses suffered by, where applicable, the other Participating Club, the AFF, the AFF Commercial Rights Partner and Commercial Affiliates. The amount of compensation shall be determined by the AFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee.
- 98.2. The AFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee may impose further sanctions at its discretion.

## SECTION 16: DISCIPLINARY

### 99. DISCIPLINARY MEASURES

- 99.1. All disciplinary measures in relation to the Competition shall be undertaken in accordance with the current AFF Statutes, AFF Disciplinary and Ethics Code, and any relevant AFF circulars.
- 99.2. The AFF may introduce new disciplinary rules and sanctions for the duration of the Competition. Such rules shall be communicated to the MAs at least fifteen (15) days before the first Match of the Competition.
- 99.3. Only Participating Players and Participating Officials may serve Match suspensions in the Competition. For the avoidance of doubt, this requires the registration of the relevant individual within a registration window in accordance with the deadlines set out in these Regulations.
- 99.4. All Participating Players and Participating Officials agree to:
  - 99.4.1. respect the spirit of fair play, non-violence, and the authority of the Match Officials
  - 99.4.2. behave accordingly, and
  - 99.4.3. refrain from doping.

### 100. GOOD CONDUCT

- 100.1. Participating Clubs are liable for the improper conduct of:
  - 100.1.1. any member of its Team Official Delegation, and/or
  - 100.1.2. any person carrying out duties on their behalf throughout the Competition.
- 100.2. For any violation of Article 100.1 hereinabove, the AFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee may issue any sanction listed in the AFF Disciplinary and Ethics Code.

### 101. ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

- 101.1. Subject to the AFF Disciplinary and Ethics Code, for any offence set out in these Regulations with a listed minimum fine, where it is the first such offence committed by a party:
  - 101.1.1. The AFF, after completing its investigation but prior to opening disciplinary proceedings, may write to the party and make an offer to compound the offence and reduce the listed fine by twenty percent (20%) should the party admit to the offence.
  - 101.1.2. If the offence is admitted, the AFF shall submit the compounded offence to the Chairperson of the AFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee for approval.

- 101.1.2.1. Should the party deny the offence, the AFF shall open disciplinary proceedings.
- 101.1.3. Upon approval of the Chairperson of the AFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee, the sanction shall be notified and applied administratively by the AFF
  - 101.1.3.1. Should the Chairperson of the AFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee not approve the compounded offence, the AFF shall open disciplinary proceedings.
  - 101.1.4. By agreeing to compound the offence, the party waives its right to request a motivated decision or appeal the sanction issued.
- 101.2. Any sanction issued administratively comes into force immediately upon notification in accordance with the AFF Disciplinary and Ethics Code.

## 102. CAUTIONS AND EXPULSIONS

- 102.1. All matters relating to cautions and/or expulsions, including the carrying forward of cautions between stages of the Competition, shall be undertaken in accordance with the AFF Disciplinary and Ethics Code except where expressly set out below and pursuant to any disciplinary circulars issued therein.
- 102.2. The rules pertaining to cautions (yellow cards) and expulsions (red cards) imposed during the Competition shall be as follows:
  - 102.2.1. Any Participating Player or Participating Official who receives three (3) cautions during any stage in the Competition shall automatically be suspended from the Match following the Match in which s/he received the third caution.
  - 102.2.2. If a Participating Player or Participating Official receives a third caution during their Team's final Match in the Group Stage of the Competition, the automatic suspension shall be carried forward to the Semi Final Stage of the Competition.
  - 102.2.3. Any Participating Player or Participating Official who completes the Play-off Stage having only received one (1) or two (2) cautions in separate matches shall not carry-over the caution(s) to the Group Stage of the Competition.
  - 102.2.4. Any Participating Player or Participating Official who completes the Group Stage having only received one (1) or two (2) caution(s) in separate matches shall not carry-over the caution(s) to the Semi Final Stage of the Competition.
  - 102.2.5. Any Participating Player or Participating Official who completes the Semi Final Matches having only received one (1) or two (2) caution(s) in separate matches shall not carry-over the caution(s) to the Finals.
  - 102.2.6. A Participating Player or Participating Official who is expelled during a Match in the Competition shall automatically be suspended from the Match following the Match in which they were expelled. If the Participating Player or Participating Official was expelled in their Team's

final Match in the Competition, the suspension shall be carried forward as provided in the AFF Disciplinary and Ethics Code.

102.2.7. Each Participating Club shall bear the responsibility of monitoring the cautions and/or suspensions received by its Player(s) and Official(s) and ensuring that all its Players and Officials registered and fielded during the Competition are eligible to play.

103. PROTEST

103.1. For the purpose of these Regulations, a protest is an objection of any kind related to any event and/or matter that has a direct effect on a Match.

103.2. Unless otherwise stipulated in these Regulations, to be considered valid, a protest shall be:

103.2.1. submitted in writing (using the appropriate Protest Form issued by the AFF General Secretariat) to the AFF Match Commissioner for the relevant Match within two (2) hours of the final whistle, or if the relevant Match was cancelled or abandoned, within two (2) hours of the decision to cancel or abandon the Match (the “Protest Deadline”),

103.2.2. followed up with a full written report (including a copy of the original Protest Form) which must be sent to the AFF General Secretariat within twenty-four (24) hours of the Protest Deadline, and

103.2.3. accompanied by a non-refundable fee of USD500 (United States Dollars Five Hundred) (non-inclusive of any bank charges) which must be transmitted to the bank account nominated by the AFF General Secretariat within twenty-four (24) hours of the Protest Deadline.

103.3. No protest shall be lodged relating to the Referee’s decisions regarding facts connected to play. Such decisions are final, binding and not appealable, unless expressly otherwise stipulated in the AFF Disciplinary and Ethics Code. The same applies to any potential issue concerning the use and/or operation of any GLT and/or VAR system.

103.4. Any protest which related to the eligibility of a Player to participate in the Competition must be submitted to the AFF General Secretariat with a copy to [aff.legal@aseanfootball.org](mailto:aff.legal@aseanfootball.org) no later than five (5) days before the first Match of the Competition. To be considered valid, such a protest must be:

103.4.1. submitted in writing (in the form of a full written report), and

103.4.2. accompanied by a non-refundable fee of USD500 (United States Dollars Five Hundred) (non-inclusive of any bank charges) which must be transmitted to the bank account nominated by the AFF General Secretariat before the expiry of the aforementioned deadline.

103.5. If any of the formal requirements set out in Articles 103.2 and/or 103.4 are not met, the relevant protest shall be disregarded. The AFF General Secretariat decides whether or not such formal requirements have been met. Such decisions are final, binding and not appealable.

- 103.6. Subject to any exceptions set out in these Regulations, the AFF Disciplinary and Ethics Code, the AFF Statutes and/or any other applicable AFF regulations, the AFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee shall make decisions on protests.
- 103.7. Should the AFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee determine that a protest is unfounded or irresponsible, it may impose a fine.
- 103.8. The AFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee shall make decisions on protests. The AFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee may transfer a protest to the AFF Competitions Committee for its decision if it is deemed to be purely operational in nature.

#### 104. ANTI-MATCH FIXING

- 104.1. Match fixing is forbidden and is a punishable offence.
- 104.2. In case of a violation of Article 104.1 hereinabove, the AFF shall initiate disciplinary proceedings, and may impose provisional measures, in accordance with the AFF Disciplinary and Ethics Code.
- 104.3. Participating Clubs are responsible for ensuring that all Participating Players and Participating Officials have received robust anti-match fixing education prior to their first Match of the Competition. The provision and receipt of such anti-Match fixing education to its Team Official Delegation must be confirmed by the respective PMA in writing to the AFF General Secretariat, along with necessary evidences, if any, to [registration@aseanfootball.org](mailto:registration@aseanfootball.org) at least two (2) days prior to their first Match in the Competition.
- 104.4. Failure to provide the confirmation as stipulated in Article 104.3 hereinabove, may result in sanctions to the tune of USD1,000 (United States Dollars One Thousand) and any other sanctions as deemed fit at the discretion of the AFF.

#### 105. REPORTING CONCERNS

- 105.1. During the Competition, all individuals including, but not limited to the Participating Players, Participating Officials and/or other staff from each Participating Club (the “Individuals”), AFF Delegation and members of the LOC have the mandatory obligation to report all concerns relating to any:
  - 105.1.1. integrity matters including without limitation Match Fixing, Doping, Betting, Gambling, Bribing, etc.,
  - 105.1.2. safeguarding matters including without limitation abuse, assault, harassment (physical, mental, sexual, emotional), neglect, and
  - 105.1.3. any other similar matters gravely affecting the Individuals, the game of Football, the Competition and/or the AFF.
- 105.2. It is mandatory for the Individuals to report any integrity matter to the designated Integrity Officer of their respective Participating Club with relevant information and documents.
  - 105.2.1. It is mandatory for the Participating Club Integrity Officer to report the concerns to the AFF Integrity Officer/ Point of Contact, with at least the following:

- 105.2.1.1. a copy of the report received by the Participating Club Integrity Officer,
- 105.2.1.2. the preliminary investigation conducted by the Participating Club Integrity Officer including, without limitation (a) a copy of the reporting done to the relevant authorities, if done so already, (b) the subsequent actions taken by said local authorities, if any, and (c) the relevant rules, regulations and policies of the respective PMA in relation to the alleged violation and the applicable sanctions for the same, and
- 105.2.1.3. the next steps/plan of action of the relevant Participating Club relating to the concern(s) raised.

105.2.2. The relevant Participating Club and its MA may be required to carry out further investigation and/or report to the local authorities by the AFF, AFC and/or FIFA.

105.3. It is mandatory for the Individuals to report a safeguarding concern to the designated Participating Club Safeguarding Officer with relevant information and documents.

- 105.3.1. It is mandatory for the Participating Club Safeguarding Officer to report the concern(s) to the AFF Safeguarding Officer/Point of Contact for the Competition with at least the following:
  - 105.3.1.1. a copy of the report received by the Participating Club Safeguarding Officer,
  - 105.3.1.2. the preliminary investigation conducted by the Participating Club Safeguarding Officer including, without limitation (a) a copy of the reporting done to the relevant authorities, if done so already, (b) the subsequent actions taken by said local authorities, if any, and (c) the relevant rules, regulations and policies of the respective Participating Club in relation to the alleged violation and the applicable sanctions for the same, and
  - 105.3.1.3. the next steps/plan of action of the relevant Participating Club relating to the concern(s) raised.
- 105.3.2. The relevant Participating Club and its MA may be required to carry out further investigation and/or report to the local authorities by the AFF, AFC and/or FIFA.

105.4. It is mandatory to report any other similar matters gravely affecting the Individuals and/or the game of Football, the Competition and/or the AFF to their Head of Team Official Delegation.

- 105.4.1. It is mandatory for the Participating Club Head of Team Official Delegation to report the concern(s) to the AFF Competitions Officer/Secretariat with at least the following:
  - 105.4.1.1. a copy of the report received by the Participating Club Head of Team Official Delegation,

105.4.1.2. the preliminary investigation conducted by the Participating Club Head of Team Official Delegation including without limitation (a) a copy of the reporting done to the relevant authorities, if done so already, (b) the subsequent actions taken by said local authorities, if any, and (c) the relevant rules, regulations and policies of the respective Participating Club in relation to the alleged violation and the applicable sanctions for the same, and

105.4.1.3. the next steps/plan of action of the Participating Club relating to the concern(s) raised.

105.4.2. The relevant Participating Club as well as its MA may be required to carry out further investigation and/or report to the local authorities by the AFF, AFC and/or FIFA.

105.5. In case where any Individual has an integrity/safeguarding or any other similar matters as provided in Article 105.1 related to another Participating Club (other than their own) to report, then such reporting must be mandatorily done to the relevant AFF authority i.e., AFF Integrity Officer/Point of Contact, AFF Safeguarding Officer/Point of Contact, AFF Competitions Officer/Secretariat directly with the relevant information as provided in Articles 105.2.1.1 to 105.2.1.3, 105.3.1.1 to 105.3.1.3, and/or 105.4.1.1 to 105.4.1.3 as relevant.

105.6. The AFF may conduct its own investigation into the concerns raised, including without limitation, informing AFC and/or FIFA regarding such concern.

105.7. The AFF may further initiate a disciplinary proceeding in accordance with the AFF Disciplinary and Ethics Code.

## 106. ARBITRATION

106.1. Any dispute in connection with the Competition shall be promptly settled by negotiation.

106.2. In compliance with the AFF Statutes, Participating Clubs, Participating Players and Participating Officials are prohibited from initiating disputes in an ordinary court of law and must submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the AFF.

106.3. Participating Clubs, Participating Players and Participating Officials acknowledge and accept that, once all internal channels have been exhausted at the AFF, their sole recourse shall be to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS). The Code of Sports-related Arbitration shall be applicable. The language of arbitration shall be English. Any hearing, if required, shall take place at the CAS Alternate Hearing Centre in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

## SECTION 17: MATCH ORGANISATION

### 107. OFFICIAL COUNTDOWN

- 107.1. The official countdown established for each Match is informed to all Participating Clubs and persons responsible for organising the Match. Its purpose is to ensure consistency in all pre-Match operations. It shall be distributed one (1) day before each Match of the Competition.
- 107.2. The Participating Clubs shall observe the official countdown, and all other Match-related protocol notified by the AFF, from time to time.
- 107.3. A Participating Club that causes a delay in any scheduled kick-off of a Match (as determined by the official countdown) may be sanctioned by the AFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee at its discretion.
- 107.4. These instructions are intended to act as a guideline to facilitate and coordinate the work of all the persons involved in organising Matches at the different Stadiums.
- 107.5. AFF attaches particular importance to the following points:
  - 107.5.1. preparation of the Field of Play and the enclosure,
  - 107.5.2. care of the Participating Clubs at the Stadium,
  - 107.5.3. loudspeakers, scoreboard and floodlights,
  - 107.5.4. safety and security services,
  - 107.5.5. first-aid and other relevant medical services,
  - 107.5.6. protocol (VVIP/VIP tribune, flags, anthems),
  - 107.5.7. media facilities and services,
  - 107.5.8. doping control, if any, and
  - 107.5.9. official reports.

### 108. CONTROLLED ACCESS AREA (CAA)

- 108.1. In order to ensure orderly Match procedure, only persons with special accreditation and entrusted with specific responsibilities will be permitted access to the CAA.
- 108.2. The Host Club shall be responsible for the operation and management of all CAA in cooperation with venue operators and, where appropriate, the relevant local and national government authorities.
- 108.3. The Host Club shall produce, install and remove all the look and feel elements in the CAA in accordance with the specific directions of the AFF and shall only use the look and feel artwork provided by the AFF and/or SPORTFIVE.
- 108.4. The Host Club shall bear all costs associated to the provision and use of the CAA.

108.5. The Host Club shall ensure the immediate concealment or removal of any or all unauthorised or third-party advertising, marketing or promotion from the Stadiums or Official Training Sites and that the Stadiums including the CAA and Official Training Sites shall be free from any third-party agreements relating to the use of and operation of the Stadiums or any part thereof.

109. ORDERS IN THE ENCLOSURE AND SURROUNDINGS

109.1. Apart from the Participating Players and Participating Officials in each Participating Club, the refereeing group (Match Officials and Video Match Officials), the ball persons and the flag bearers, only the following people will be given access to the inner enclosure:

AFF Officials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• AFF Head of Delegation</li><li>• AFF Representatives</li><li>• AFF Match Commissioners</li><li>• AFF Referee Assessors</li><li>• AFF VAR Technology Officers</li><li>• AFF Safety and Security Officers</li><li>• AFF Media Officers</li><li>• AFF General Coordinators</li><li>• AFF Competitions Officers/Secretariat</li></ul>
Venue Officials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Host MA General Secretary</li><li>• Stadium/Venue Manager</li><li>• Chief of Police and/or Security Officer</li><li>• limited number of service staff (janitors, cleaners, etc.)</li></ul>
VAR STP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• STP Technical Crew</li></ul>
Media Representatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Official Photographers</li><li>• Camera operators (no commentators) for Host Broadcaster</li><li>• Auxiliary personnel or runners for AFF and the Host Broadcaster</li></ul>
AFF Commercial Partner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• SPORTFIVE representatives</li></ul>
Sponsors, if any	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• limited personnel</li></ul>

110. MATCH CEREMONIES

110.1. Opening Ceremony

- 110.1.1. Any opening ceremony shall not affect any pre-Match operations, including without limitation Participating Clubs' warm-up and the pre-Match ceremony.
- 110.1.2. The Field of Play shall be strictly protected from damage caused by any activity related to the opening ceremony.
- 110.1.3. The Host Club shall submit a comprehensive event plan outlining the number of workers, a flow plan, the run-down and other related information for AFF review and approval.

110.2. Pre-Match Ceremony

110.2.1. The pre-Match countdown shall follow Appendix 10 of these Regulations.

110.3. Prize Presentation Ceremony

110.3.1. A prize presentation ceremony, managed and controlled by AFF and coordinated with SPORTFIVE and the Host Club, shall be held immediately after the final Match to present the awards, medals and trophy.

110.3.2. The Participating Players and Participating Officials that qualify to receive the awards, medals and trophy are required to attend the relevant prize presentation ceremony. Participating Clubs shall be represented by their respective Team Official Delegation. No other officials, players, or staff may participate. Participating Players and Participating Officials who have been expelled or are serving a Match suspension are allowed to take part in the prize presentation ceremony as set out in Appendix 2.

110.3.3. The order of the awards presentation is as follows:

110.3.3.1. Match Officials' commemorative medals/awards,

110.3.3.2. Tournament Best Goalkeeper Award,

110.3.3.3. Tournament Top Goal Scorer Award,

110.3.3.4. Tournament Most Valuable Player Award,

110.3.3.5. Runner-up medals,

110.3.3.6. Champion medals, and

110.3.3.7. Champion trophy.

110.3.4. The ceremony shall take place on a stage which (a) the design and structure of which should be produced according to the requirements of AFF, and (b) positioned on the Field of Play shortly after the final whistle of the Match.

110.3.5. The AFF President shall lead the walk of the VIPs/prize presenters to the stage.

110.3.6. The AFF President shall present the Champion trophy to the captain of the Champion team.

110.3.7. AFF, in coordination with SPORTFIVE, will designate the VIPs/prize presenters to distribute the medals and awards.

110.3.8. The Host Club may be requested to nominate ushers who will escort the VIPs/prize presenters onto the stage, staff who will carry the medals and awards, and assist the VIPs/prize presenters in distributing the medals and awards, to be approved by AFF in coordination with SPORTFIVE.

110.3.9. SPORTFIVE shall submit a stage mock-up and comprehensive event plan outlining the number of workers, a flow plan, the run-down and other

related information for AFF's review and approval at least ten (10) days prior to the prize presentation ceremony.

110.3.10. A prize presentation ceremony rehearsal would be held at least one (1) day prior to the actual presentation. This rehearsal shall include all the individuals involved in the presentation like the stage preparation individuals, the emcee and the ushers. The LOC and the Host Club shall ensure that the individuals involved in the actual prize presentation ceremony, as indicated by the AFF, are present for this rehearsal. Any failure to have the individuals present shall be sanctioned by the AFF at its own discretion.

#### 111. AFF FLAGS

- 111.1. The Host Club shall ensure that the AFF flags, as prescribed by the AFF, shall be used throughout the Competition.
- 111.2. The AFF flags shall be used in the following manner:
  - 111.2.1. marching-in ceremony, and
  - 111.2.2. flying or hoisting.

## SECTION 18: CLOSING PROVISIONS

### 112. FINALS

- 112.1. The final Match shall be organised and managed by the AFF in collaboration with its Commercial Rights Partner and the Host Club including without limitation:
  - 112.1.1. tickets and ticketing in accordance with Section 11,
  - 112.1.2. protocol,
  - 112.1.3. Match organisation,
  - 112.1.4. commercial operations, and
  - 112.1.5. media operations.
- 112.2. Any additional events planned before, during and after the final Match by the Host Club shall be communicated at least seven (7) days prior to the final Match and must be approved by the AFF in writing.

### 113. SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

- 113.1. The AFF and/or the AFF Competitions Committee (as appropriate) shall, in conjunction with the Host Club, issue any special instructions necessitated by special circumstance which might arise in the organisation of Matches.
- 113.2. These instructions form an integral part of these Regulations.

### 114. AFC COMPETITION OPERATIONS MANUAL

- 114.1. In the event that these Regulations are silent on any matter relating to the Competition, including without limitation on Competition system, official countdowns, friendly matches, official trainings, warming-up and cool down, drinking procedures during the Matches, equipment, safety and security, medical provisions, taxes and duties, the AFF reserves its right to refer to the AFC Competitions Operations Manual, which shall apply to all the PMAs, Participating Players and Participating Officials of this Competition.
- 114.2. Only the AFF has the authority to refer to the AFC Competition Operations Manual for any matter relating to the Competition, at its own discretion. All decisions made in this regard, i.e., on whether to refer to the AFC Competition Operations Manual or not, shall be final, binding and not appealable.

### 115. DECISIONS

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

116. AMENDMENTS

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

117. IMPLEMENTING PROVISIONS

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

118. ENFORCEMENT

118.1. These Regulations were ratified by the AFF Competitions Committee on 28 June 2025 and came into force immediately.

For the AFF Competitions Committee

**Dr Tran Quoc Tuan**  
AFF Competitions Committee Chairperson

**Winston Lee**  
AFF General Secretary

#### APPENDIX 1: DETERMINING THE RANKING IN A GROUP USING FAIR PLAY CRITERIA

1. Each Team shall be awarded points for receiving yellow and red cards as indicated below:
  - 1.1 per yellow card: one (1) point
  - 1.2 per red card (as a consequence of two [2] yellow cards): three (3) points
  - 1.3 per red card (direct): three (3) points, and
  - 1.4 per yellow card followed by a red card (direct): four (4) points.
  - 1.5 For the avoidance of doubt, only one of the above points shall be applied a Participating Player/Participating Official in each Match.
2. The Team receiving the least number of points shall be ranked highest. The remaining Teams shall be ranked in descending order.

APPENDIX 2: EXPULSIONS AND SUSPENSIONS AT COMPETITIONS

VENUE	PLAYER		OFFICIAL	
	Expulsion	Suspension	Expulsion	Suspension
FIELD OF PLAY (FOP)	Ordered to leave the FOP and its surroundings	Banned from the FOP and its surroundings	Ordered to leave the FOP and its surroundings	Banned from the FOP and its surroundings
TEAM BENCH	Ordered to leave the team bench	Banned from the team bench	Ordered to leave the team bench	Banned from the team bench
TECHNICAL AREA	Cannot sit in the Technical Area	Banned from the Technical Area	Cannot sit in the Technical Area	Banned from the Technical Area
TEAM DRESSING ROOM	Can stay in the dressing room accompanied by a chaperon	Banned from the dressing room at any time before and during the Match	Banned from entering the dressing room at halftime, if sent off during the first half of the Match	Banned from the dressing room at any time before and during the Match
STANDS	Allowed to sit in the stands, provided his integrity and security are assured and should no longer be wearing his football equipment	Allowed to sit in the stands but not in the immediate vicinity of the FOP, provided his integrity and security are assured	Allowed to sit in the stands but not in the immediate vicinity of the FOP, provided his integrity and security are assured	Allowed to sit in the stands but not in the immediate vicinity of the FOP, provided his integrity and security are assured
TEAM BUS	Allowed to take the Team bus	Allowed to take the Team bus but not allowed to talk to the Media upon arrival or departure	Allowed to take the Team bus	Allowed to take the Team bus but not allowed to talk to the Media upon arrival or departure
PRIZE PRESENTATION CEREMONY	Allowed to take part in the ceremony	Allowed to take part in the ceremony	Allowed to take part in the ceremony	Allowed to take part in the ceremony
MIXED ZONE	Banned from the mixed zone	Banned from the mixed zone	Banned from the mixed zone	Banned from the mixed zone
PRESS CONFERENCE	Not allowed to attend or participate in any Match-related press conference	Not allowed to attend or participate in any Match-related press conference	Not allowed to attend or participate in any Match-related press conference	Not allowed to attend or participate in any Match-related press conference (except for the pre-Match press conference on MD-1)
OFFICIAL TRAINING	N/A	Allowed to attend and participate in Official Training	N/A	Allowed to attend and participate in Official Training
MEDIA ACTIVITIES	Not allowed to undertake any media activities in the Stadium	Not allowed to undertake any media activities in the Stadium	Not allowed to undertake any media activities in the Stadium	Not allowed to undertake any media activities in the Stadium
DOPING CONTROL ROOM	Eligible for doping control	N/A	N/A	N/A

CONTACT AND COMMUNICATION	Not allowed in the VVIP/VIP tribune	Allowed to sit in the stands but not in the immediate vicinity of the FOP, provided his integrity and security are assured	Not allowed to communicate with or contact anyone involved in the Match by any means whatsoever	Not allowed to communicate with or contact anyone involved in the Match by any means whatsoever
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## APPENDIX 3: TECHNICAL ASPECTS

### 1. Warming-up

#### 1.1. Before a Match

- 1.1.1. Each Participating Club shall be entitled to warm-up on the FOP before a Match if the weather and/or pitch condition permits. Such warm-up should not affect the condition of the FOP during the Match. The AFF Match Commissioner may shorten or cancel the warm-up session, if it may severely affect playing conditions of the FOP during the Match.
- 1.1.2. The warm-up shall be conducted in accordance with the official countdown, unless otherwise instructed by the AFF Match Commissioner.

#### 1.2. During a Match

- 1.2.1. The warm-up area shall be located behind the goal on the side closest to the team benches, if there is adequate space.
- 1.2.2. Maximum six (6) Participating Players from each Team may warm-up simultaneously, assisted by maximum of two (2) Participating Officials per Team.
- 1.2.3. If there is insufficient space behind the goals, both Teams shall warm-up behind/beside their respective team bench or within the area as identified by the AFF Match Commissioner.
- 1.2.4. Setting up of equipment by Teams shall not be permitted in such cases.
- 1.2.5. Participating Players must wear assigned bibs.
- 1.2.6. Only goalkeepers are allowed to warm up with the ball.
- 1.2.7. Participating Officials assisting in the warm-up shall not give instructions to the goalkeeper or any other outfield Player who are playing in the Match.

### 2. Post-Match Cool Down

- 2.1. Post-Match cool down shall not be allowed during the whole Competition to protect the integrity of the FOP.

### 3. Cooling Break

- 3.1. Depending on weather conditions, a cooling break may be implemented on a match-by-match basis.
- 3.2. For purposes of distinction, official and mandatory cooling breaks will not be pre-established. However, the climatic conditions prior to a Match will be evaluated by the AFF Match Commissioner.
- 3.3. The Wet Bulb Globe Temperature (WBGT) is a composite temperature used to estimate the effect of the temperature, humidity, wind speed (wind chill) and visible

and infrared radiation on players. WBGT will be the official measure to determine whether cooling breaks shall be implemented.

- 3.4. Should the WBGT exceed thirty-two degrees Celsius (32°C), and/or taking into account additional factors such as the time of the day, the amount of cloud cover, Stadium location, etc., the local Medical Officer will recommend cooling breaks to the AFF Match Commissioner. The responsibility for the implementation and control of the cooling break resides with the Referee.
- 3.5. Cooling breaks of a minimum three (3) minutes duration shall be implemented by the Referee at approximately thirty (30) minutes into the run-of-play in both halves (i.e., around the 30<sup>th</sup> and 75<sup>th</sup> minute, respectively).
- 3.6. The following rules shall apply to any cooling break:
  - 3.6.1. The ball must be out of play for the break to commence.
  - 3.6.2. The Referee will signal the start of the break (informing both Teams and the Match Officials).
  - 3.6.3. All Players will go to their respective team bench or technical area and use ice and cold towels to cool down.
  - 3.6.4. The Stadium clock will continue to run.
  - 3.6.5. After a maximum of three (3) minutes (from whistle to whistle), the Referee will give a ten (10) second warning to mark the end of the break following which the Match will restart.
  - 3.6.6. The time allowed for the cooling break shall be added as stoppage time.

#### 4. Drinking Procedure during Matches

- 4.1. Water bottles are allowed around the FOP, at least one (1) metre outside the touchline and goal line (respecting marketing and advertising obligations around the FOP).
- 4.2. Water bottles shall be placed very carefully so they do not interfere with the Assistant Referees running on the touchline. It is suggested that water bottlers are not placed on each of the half part of the touchline behind the Assistant Referees.
- 4.3. No water bottles are allowed in the goal area. Water bottles must be outside the goal, not touching the post or the goal net.
- 4.4. Players can drink at any time during a Match. If drinking in front of the Technical Area, Players shall remain on the FOP whereas substitutes and Participating Officials must remain outside the FOP.
- 4.5. If medical staff enters the FOP, they shall solely treat injured Players and not give instructions or distribute water bottles.
- 4.6. Water bottles, water bags or ice cubes shall not be thrown into the FOP.

#### 5. Official Training at the Stadium

- 5.1. Depending on the weather and condition of the FOP, each Team is entitled to an Official Training of maximum sixty (60) minutes duration in the Stadium in which they

are due to play either one or two (1 or 2) days prior to their first Match in the Stadium in the Competition.

- 5.2. If the FOP is an artificial turf, each Team is entitled to have either two (2) Official Trainings of sixty (60) minutes duration or one (1) Official Training of one hundred and twenty (120) minutes to be held one or two (1 or 2) days prior to their first Match in the Stadium in the Competition.
- 5.3. Use of footballs shall only be permitted within the confirmed timeframes of the Official Training.
- 5.4. The FOP must be prepared to Match-condition for Official Training. If the FOP is not in Match-condition, the AFF Match Commissioner may shorten or cancel the Official Training and direct the Teams to inspect the FOP wearing training shoes only.
- 5.5. If a Team chooses not to train at the Stadium, they must provide the AFF Match Commissioner with the time and location of their Official Training at another designated Official Training Site approved by the AFF. This shall be treated as their Official Training and shall forfeit the right to train at the Stadium prior to the Match for the duration of the Competition.
- 5.6. The Host Club is required to provide at least one (1) ambulance equipped with advanced life support equipment and an adequate number of security personnel during the Official Training at the Stadium.

## 6. Training Sites

- 6.1. A minimum of four (4) standard Training Sites approved by the AFF needs to be available. Each Training Site shall have the following during the Team's training:
  - 6.1.1. at least one (1) movable goal with net,
  - 6.1.2. dressing room with toilet and washing facilities,
  - 6.1.3. medical room equipped with basic medical amenities or one (1) ambulance with paramedics and AED, and
  - 6.1.4. fencing around the facility secured from access by general public and with controlled entrances to prevent unauthorised access to guarantee the implementation of a closed training session, if any.
- 6.2. With the exception of official training sessions at the Stadium, any Official Training must be undertaken in an Official Training Site approved by the AFF.
- 6.3. All Training Sites must comply with all relevant FIFA/AFC/AFF regulations, and any other safety and security standards issued by or contained within relevant FIFA/AFC/AFF guidelines, directives or circulars.
- 6.4. All Training Sites shall be nominated by the Host Club and are subject to inspection and confirmation by AFF.
- 6.5. AFF reserves the right to refuse the nomination of Training Sites and require the Host Club to nominate an alternate Training Site.
- 6.6. If at any time during the Competition, the AFF Match Commissioner or AFF General Secretariat deems that, for whatever reason, the Training Sites are not fit to stage training, it shall consult with the Host Club and propose an alternate Training Site.

- 6.7. No training equipment of any kind (e.g., free kick walls, mannequins, speed ladders, marker cones, slalom poles, etc.) will be provided by the AFF and/or the Host Club. If the Away Club wishes to use any training equipment during the training sessions, they must provide it themselves.

APPENDIX 4: REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS WHO HAVE NATIONALITY ENTITLING THEM TO REPRESENT MORE THAN ONE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

No.	Documents	Attached (Please tick)
1.	The Player must provide one of the following categories of documents (A1 and A2 or B):	
A1	Letter from the MA of the Player's previous nationality or country of birth declaring that the Player has never participated (either in full or in part) for its representative Teams in an official competition of any category of any type of football.	
A2	Letter from the Player declaring that he has never participated for any representative Teams of any MA (either in full or in part) in an official competition of any category of any type of football.	
B	Decision of the FIFA allowing the Player to change association.	
2.	Clear copy of player's passport of the country the player wishes to represent.	
3.	If the player seeks to rely on A1 and A2 as opposed to B, they must provide one of the following categories of documents:	
C1	Evidence that their father or mother was born on the territory of the relevant Association; and Evidence that such person is their biological parent.	
C2	Evidence that their grandfather or grandmother was born on the territory of the relevant Association; and Evidence that such person is their biological grandparent.	
C3	Evidence that the Player has lived on the territory of the relevant Association for at least five (5) years in accordance with the FIFA Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes; and Any further evidence as required in the FIFA Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes.	

APPENDIX 5: REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS WHO HAVE ACQUIRED A NEW NATIONALITY

No.	Documents	Attached (Please tick)
1.	The Player must provide one of the following categories of documents (A1 and A2 or B):	
1A	Letter from the MA of the Player's previous nationality or country of birth declaring that the Player has never participated (either in full or in part) for its representative Teams in an official competition of any category of any type of football	
2A	Letter from the Player declaring that he has never participated in a match (either in full or in part) for any representative Teams of any MA in an official competition of any category of any type of football.	
B	Decision of the FIFA allowing the Player to change association.	
2.	Clear copy of Player's passport of the country the Player wishes to represent.	
3.	If the Player seeks to rely on A1 and A2 as opposed to B, they must provide one of the following categories of documents:	
C1	i) Evidence that their father or mother was born on the territory of the relevant Association; and ii) Evidence that such person is their biological parent.	
C2	i) Evidence that their grandfather or grandmother was born on the territory of the relevant Association; and ii) Evidence that such person is their biological grandparent.	
C3	Evidence that the Player has lived on the territory of the relevant Association: i) for players that began living on the territory before the age of ten (10): at least three (3) years; ii) for players that began living on the territory between the age of ten (10) and eighteen (18): at least five (5) years; iii) for players that began living on the territory from the age of eighteen (18): at least five (5) years.	

## APPENDIX 6: PLAYER SELECTION LIST AND OFFICIALS ON THE SUBSTITUTION BENCH FORM

1. For all Matches, each Participating Club will receive prior to their arrival at the Stadium a 'Player Selection List' on which the jersey numbers and names of the Participating Players are listed. The jersey numbers on the Players' kits shall correspond with the numbers indicated on the Player Selection List.
2. Each Participating Club must mark on the Player Selection List the starting eleven (11), including the team captain and up to the maximum number of substitutes specified in these Regulations.
3. Each Player who is marked on the Player Selection List must be available at the 'Player and Equipment Check' undertaken by the AFF Match Commissioner on Match day.
4. Each Team must submit to the AFF Match Commissioner their Player Selection List signed by the Head Coach and/or Team Manager, together with the 'Officials on the Bench' form with the names of the Participating Officials who shall be entitled to sit on the team bench in accordance with these Regulations. The forms may be submitted electronically (soft copy via WhatsApp) when the Team departs from their accommodation to the Stadium. A physical/hard copy shall be submitted to the AFF Match Commissioner upon arrival at the Stadium or latest by ninety (90) minutes prior to kick-off.
5. Match Start List
  - 5.1. Upon receipt of the Player Selection List, the AFF Match Commissioner will issue the Match Start List.
  - 5.2. The Match Start List shall be signed by the AFF Match Commissioner, whose signature will make it an official document.
  - 5.3. The AFF Match Commissioner, together with the Fourth Official, will check the Accreditation Cards and playing kits of the Players listed on the Match Start List at least seventy-five (75) minutes before the kick-off. Each Player must be prepared, available and in physical possession of their Accreditation Card and playing kits to avoid any delays. Only those Players possessing an Accreditation Card are entitled to participate in the Match, unless otherwise authorised by the AFF in exceptional circumstances.
  - 5.4. Following the production of the Match Start List but prior to the commencement of the Match:
    - 5.4.1. If any of the eleven (11) starting Players are unable to start for any reason, they may be replaced by any of the substitutes listed on the Match Start List.
    - 5.4.2. The Team Manager shall immediately submit an updated Player Selection List to the AFF Match Commissioner who shall update the Match Start List.
    - 5.4.3. There is no limit to the number of replacements.
    - 5.4.4. The replaced Player(s) shall no longer be eligible to participate in the Match. The Team may still utilise the maximum number of substitutions during the Match as specified in these Regulations. The Team shall not be entitled to add any further substitutes, and the number of substitutes shall be reduced accordingly.

- 5.4.5. The replaced Player(s) may still sit on the team bench during the Match. If so seated, they may be subject to doping control.
- 5.4.6. Only Players who are identified as the starting eleven (11) on the Match Start List produced and signed by the Match Commissioner may start the Match.

## APPENDIX 7: LOGISTICAL ARRANGEMENTS

1. This Appendix details the logistical arrangements to be made by AFF, SPORTFIVE and Host Club as well as the Participating Clubs for the duration of the Competition, in accordance with Section 7 of these Regulations.
2. SPORTFIVE shall provide the following for the Away Club (maximum of thirty-four [34] members – twenty-three [23] Participating Players and eleven [11] Participating Officials) from two (2) days before their Match until one (1) day after their last Match in the Competition, including but not limited to:
  - 2.1. Accommodation, Meals and Laundry
    - 2.1.1. Single or twin-sharing rooms for each member of the Away Club.
    - 2.1.2. One (1) empty room in the same floor assigned to the Away Club to be used as equipment/medical room.
    - 2.1.3. One (1) dedicated room to be used for meals and meetings, or a designated area in the hotel restaurant for meals.
    - 2.1.4. Daily laundry of six (6) pieces per person per day (non-cumulative).
    - 2.1.5. Three (3) meals daily of sufficient quantity and variety.
    - 2.1.6. Light meals on Match days.
    - 2.1.7. Halal food, pork-free or specific dietary requirements should be catered for.
  - 2.2. Local Transportation
    - 2.2.1. One (1) suitable air-conditioned dedicated bus with a dedicated driver to accommodate a minimum of fifty (50) people for the duration of the Competition.
    - 2.2.2. One (1) suitable air-conditioned dedicated multi-purpose vehicle with a dedicated driver to accommodate maximum of seven (7) people for the duration of the Competition.
    - 2.2.3. One (1) roofed luggage truck (preferably with a 4-ton capacity) for airport transfers, any hotel transfers, and if required, Match days.
    - 2.2.4. If the Match Venue is not serviced by an international airport, SPORTFIVE shall be responsible for the transportation of the Away Club from the closest international airport to the Match Venue.
    - 2.2.5. SPORTFIVE shall ensure all assigned vehicles are always on time for official use of the Away Club.
  3. The Host Club shall provide the following for the Away Club (maximum of thirty-four [34] members – twenty-three [23] Participating Players and eleven [11] Participating Officials) from two (2) days before their Match until one (1) day after their last Match in the Competition, including but not limited to:

### 3.1. Other Logistical Arrangements

- 3.1.1. Six (6) litres of drinking water per person per day.
- 3.1.2. Sufficient ice for training and Match days.
- 3.1.3. Should a Participating Club need to extend their stay at the Venue due to flight unavailability, the Host Club will assist in providing alternative hotel options and other local accommodations. However, any additional costs incurred by the Participating Club for the extended stay will be the Participating Club's responsibility.

### 3.2. Airport Reception

- 3.2.1. The Host Club shall ensure that the LOC representatives are present at the immigration/custom checkpoints to assist the Away Club upon arrival and departure.

### 3.3. Visas

- 3.3.1. The Host Club shall ensure that visa requirements and/or entry requirements to the relevant territory are provided to all members of the Away Club in a timely manner.
- 3.3.2. The Host Club shall ensure that visa processes shall be handled by their local authorities without any discrimination on the basis of, without limitation, gender, race or nationality.

### 3.4. Other Logistical Arrangements

- 3.4.1. The Host Club shall provide each Away Club with an English-speaking Liaison Officer for the duration of the Competition. The Liaison Officers shall be with the Away Club at all times.
- 3.4.2. One (1) security officer/personnel at the lobby of the Away Club's hotel and if required by AFF, one (1) security officer/personnel on each floor being occupied by the Away Club in the hotel. A dedicated security officer per Participating Club may also be requested on a case-to-case basis.
- 3.4.3. Subject to the relevant national laws and policies, where requested by the AFF or the AFF Match Commissioner, a police escort shall be provided to the Away Club for its travel to and from training, Match, Official Function(s) and airport transfers.

## 4. SPORTFIVE shall provide the following for the AFF Match Officials and AFF Delegation for the duration of the Competition as indicated by AFF, including but not limited to:

### 4.1. Accommodation, Meals and Laundry

- 4.1.1. Single rooms for each member of the AFF Match Officials and AFF Delegation at a five-star hotel or first-class hotel as approved by AFF. AFF Match Officials and AFF Delegation must be accommodated at a separate hotel from the Participating Clubs.
- 4.1.2. Daily laundry of six (6) pieces per person per day (non-cumulative), and an additional two (2) pieces of dry-cleaning service every alternate day.

- 4.1.3. Three (3) meals daily of sufficient quantity and variety.
- 4.1.4. Light meals on Match days.
- 4.1.5. Halal food, pork-free or specific dietary requirements should be catered for.

5.1. Allowances and International Travel

- 5.1.1. daily allowance,
- 5.1.2. subsistence allowance, and
- 5.1.3. reimbursement of air tickets (economy class only) from their capital city to Match Venue and return.

6. The Host Club shall provide the following for the AFF Match Officials and AFF Delegation for the duration of the Competition as indicated by AFF, including but not limited to:

- 6.1. Other Logistical Arrangements
  - 6.1.1. Six (6) litres of drinking water per person per day.
  - 6.1.2. SIM card with nominal value, inclusive of international calls and internet for each member of the AFF Delegation and Match Officials (except Referees and Assistant Referees) upon their arrival to the accommodation or Match Venue.
- 6.2. Airport Reception and Local Transportation
  - 6.2.1. One (1) suitable air-conditioned dedicated sedan with a dedicated driver for the AFF Match Commissioner.
  - 6.2.2. Suitable air-conditioned dedicated multi-purpose vehicle(s) with dedicated driver(s) to accommodate maximum of seven (7) people for the Referee Group (Referee Assessor and Referees).
  - 6.2.3. One (1) suitable air-conditioned dedicated sedan with a dedicated driver for the AFF Competitions Officer/Secretariat.
  - 6.2.4. Additional vehicle(s) upon request of the AFF for the AFF Delegation and/or other officials appointed by the AFF.
  - 6.2.5. The Host Club shall ensure that the LOC representatives are present at the immigration/custom checkpoints to assist the AFF Match Officials and AFF Delegation upon arrival and departure.
  - 6.2.6. The Host Club shall ensure all assigned vehicles are always on time for official use of the AFF Match Officials and AFF Delegation.
- 6.3. Visas
  - 6.3.1. The Host Club shall ensure that visa requirements and/or entry requirements to the relevant territory are provided to all members of the AFF Match Officials and AFF Delegation in a timely manner.

6.3.2. The Host Club shall ensure that visa processes shall be handled by their local authorities without any discrimination on the basis of, without limitation, gender, race or nationality.

#### 6.4. Other Logistical Arrangements

6.4.1. The Host Club shall provide each member of the AFF Match Officials and AFF Delegation with an English-speaking Liaison Officer for the duration of the Competition. The Liaison Officers shall be with their respective AFF Match Official/Delegate at all times.

6.4.2. Subject to the relevant national laws and policies, where requested by the AFF or the AFF Match Commissioner, a police escort shall be provided to Match Officials for its travel to and from training, Match and Official Function(s).

### 7. Participating Clubs' Obligations

7.1. Each Participating Club, at their own expense, is solely responsible throughout the Competition for:

7.1.1. additional requirements on rooms, meals and other logistical arrangements outside the arrangements provided by SPORTFIVE as listed above

7.1.2. any incidental expenses incurred for the duration of their stay

7.1.3. the insurance coverage of its Team Official Delegation (including without limitation travel, hospitalisation and surgical operations, repatriates, insurance for team equipment, etc.) for all its Matches

7.1.4. payment of all duties and taxes and any other costs related to the importation and/or exportation of team equipment and/or goods to be sued for the Competition

#### 7.2. Visa

7.2.1. Each Participating Club must apply for all necessary visas for their Team Official Delegation prior to their arrival. Visa application costs shall be borne by each Participating Club.

7.2.2. Any Participating Club unable to fulfil a fixture as a result of failing to secure visas shall be referred to the AFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee.

## APPENDIX 8: PHOTOGRAPHER OPERATIONS GUIDELINES

1. Failure to adhere to this Appendix may result in the eviction of a photographer from a Stadium and refusal of accreditation for future AFF Competitions and/or sanctions from the AFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee, at its own discretion.
2. All photographers requiring access to the Competition must contact the Host Club and complete the necessary application procedures to clear their request.
3. All photographers requiring field area access must wear a Media Bib. The Host Club shall make the bibs available at the entrance to a Stadium upon showing the approved media accreditation.
4. Match Start Lists will be made available in the media centre no later than sixty (60) minutes before kick-off.
5. Access to the Field of Play is not permitted at any time, including before and after the Match.
6. Before the start of each Match, photographers may shoot the line-ups of the Teams from the touchline but must not enter the Field of Play.
7. Once the Match starts, photographers must stay behind the advertising boards behind the goals and are not permitted to change sides until half-time or the end of normal playing time and the start of Extra Time, if any. When changing ends on half time, photographers should pass along the opposite side of the Team Benches from behind the advertising boards. Under no circumstances will photographers be allowed to shoot from either touchline during the Match, except when seats have been allocated in any particular Match.
8. The Head Coaches of the Teams shall attend a press conference that will commence immediately after the Match. At the press conference, all photographers must stand at the rear of the room and allow journalists to be seated towards the front.
9. The official photographers may work from any position, including touchlines, but should not move during the Match. The instructions provided by the AFF, AFF Match Commissioner, AFF Media Officer and General Coordinator at a Stadium must be followed.
10. Photographers are required to obtain the prior authorisation of the AFF before setting up any remote camera in designated areas. Remote cameras shall not exceed the height of 25 centimetres and shall only be serviced during half-time.

### **Photographer Rope Procedure**

11. The Host Club shall ensure that two (2) ropes (20 meters each) are available for smooth conduct of the photographer's rope procedure during team's march-in.
12. The Host Club shall be also responsible for providing a minimum of six (6) volunteers [three (3) on each side] to hold the ropes in an L shape when the teams march-in and close the ropes forming one (1) straight line after the last players from each team enters the Field of Play.
13. The rope should remain in the straight-line position until the team captains finish their group photos with the Match Officials.
14. After being escorted by photo marshals to the centre, the photographers may change sides before the national flags are brought inside the Field of Play.

15. The official photographers shall not occupy any position in the middle of the team's match-in or together with the HB camera, instead of the top end corners of the ropes.

## APPENDIX 9: EQUIPMENT REGULATIONS

### 1. PLAYING EQUIPMENT

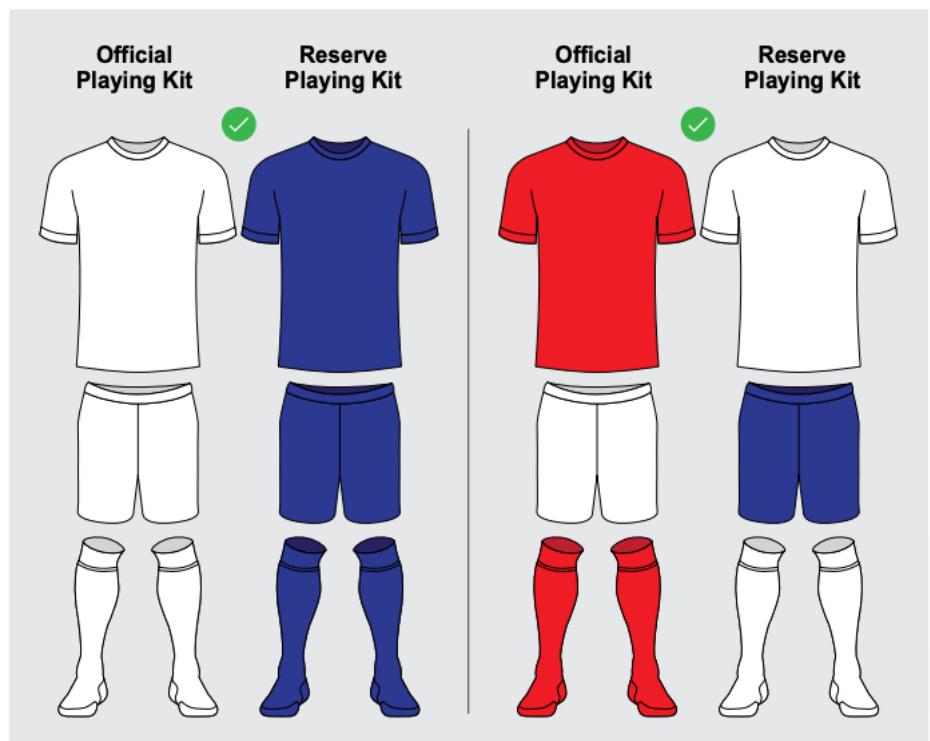
- 1.1. All outfield Participating Players in a Team must wear the same Playing Kit as each other, and all goalkeepers in a Team must wear the same Playing Kit as each other. All items of a Team's Playing Kit must be produced by the same Manufacturer or remain unbranded in whole or in part.
- 1.2. In accordance with Law 4 of the Laws of the Game, the inside of all Playing Equipment(s) must comply with the Laws of the Game and may be freely used by the Participating Club provided that under any prevailing conditions, such as weather and light, no detrimental effect is caused to the identical visible appearance and clear distinction of the Participating Players.
- 1.3. Subject to the approval of the AFF, Playing Equipment may contain special performance or comparable tools to support the performance of Participating Players. Any such tool integrated into the Playing Equipment must not affect the identical visible appearance of the Playing Equipment of all Participating Players of the same Team, including:
  - 1.3.1. being transparent or the identical colour as the respective part of the Playing Equipment associated with the performance tool;
  - 1.3.2. not being designed or used in a manner limiting the ability of all Participating Players, Match Officials, spectators and media to clearly distinguish the opposing Teams irrespective of the prevailing conditions, such as weather and light;
  - 1.3.3. not bearing any identifications associated with any Participating Club or Manufacturer; and
  - 1.3.4. not being used as a Decorative Element.
- 1.4. Playing Equipment shall be composed of structural sections which are combined in order to make up a full shirt, pair of shorts or socks, such as sleeves, shirt collar, leg of shorts or top edges of a sock. Any such structural section may be determined by a change of fabric (e.g., cotton or polyester) and/or technique (e.g. woven).
- 1.5. No structural section of the Playing Equipment of material used for numbers, player names, badges or to identify the Participating Club, the manufacturer or any third party, may be made of reflective material or change colour or appearance due to any external influence, including pressure, light or water.

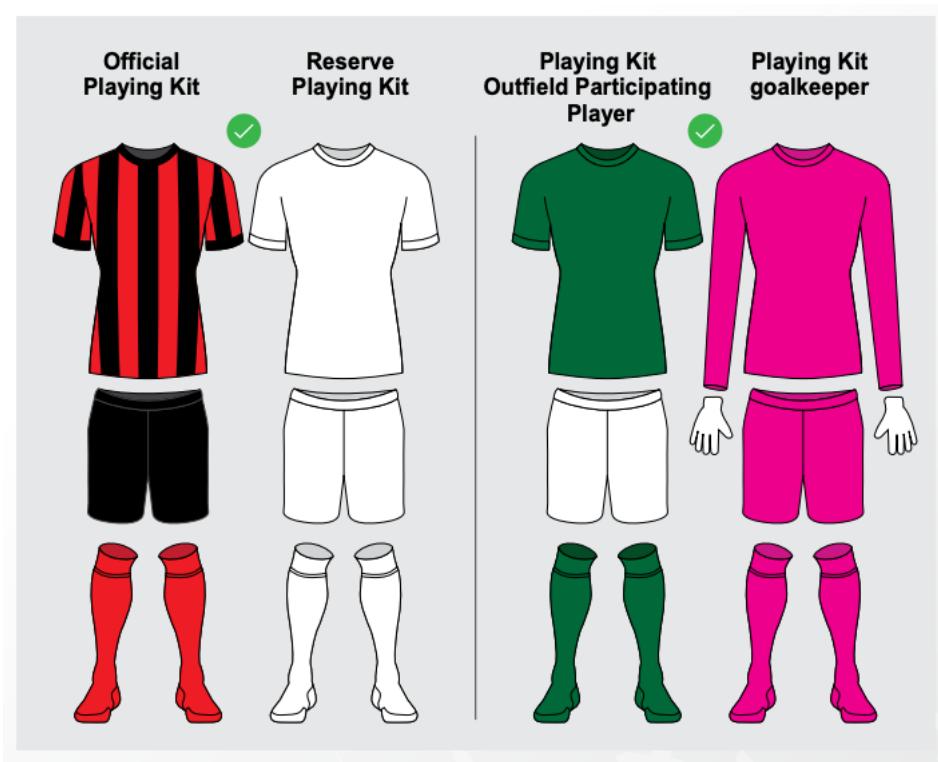
### 2. COLOURS

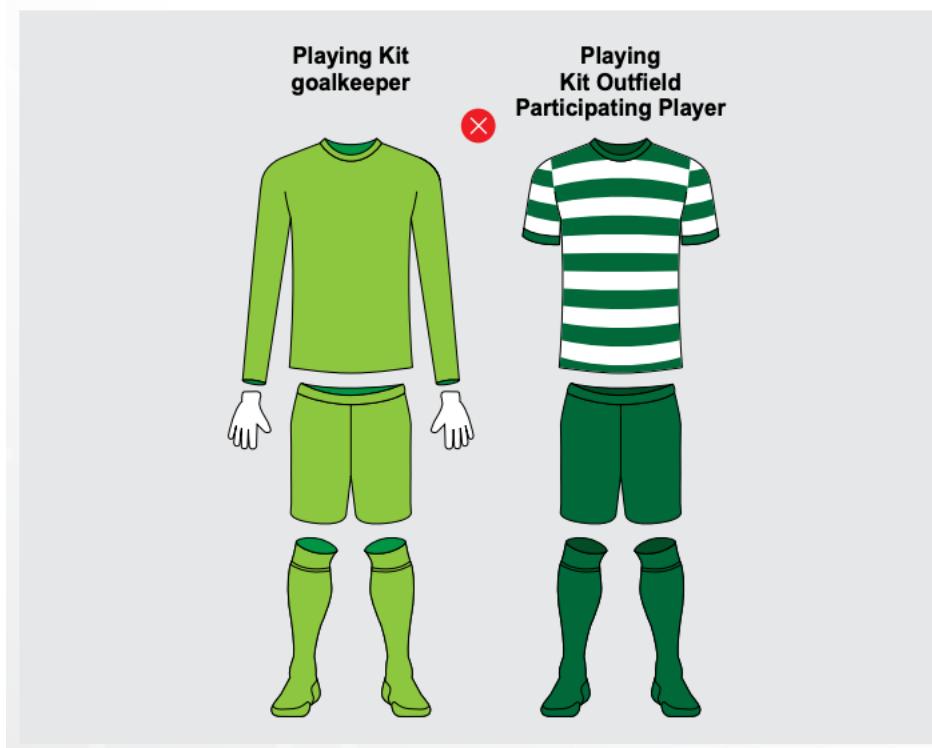
- 2.1. Save where these Regulations require otherwise, there is no limit on the number of colours that may appear on a Team's Playing Kit. Furthermore, unless stated otherwise, the restrictions in these Regulations on the use of colours of Playing Kit items do not apply to colours appearing in Team Identifiers, Manufacturer Identifiers, and/or Decorative Elements displayed on Playing Kits.
- 2.2. The colours used on the respective Playing Kits worn by the two (2) Teams contesting a particular match must contrast sufficiently to allow the Match Officials, Participating Players, Participating Officials, Media and spectators (including, whenever reasonably practicable, those with a colour vision deficiency) to

distinguish clearly between the Participating Players and the Match Officials, between the different Teams, and between the goalkeepers and the outfield Participating Players on each Team, even in difficult weather conditions. For these purposes:

- 2.2.1. each item of Playing Kit worn by one (1) Team must contrast sufficiently with the equivalent item of Playing Kit worn by the other Team to allow a clear distinction;
- 2.2.2. each Team must have an Official Playing Kit and at least one (1) Reserve Playing Kit in clearly differing colours or colour combinations, for use where necessary to ensure a clear distinction;
- 2.2.3. the colour(s) of the Official Playing Kit must contrast clearly with the colour(s) of each Reserve Playing Kit;
- 2.2.4. to that end, where an Official Playing Kit item is predominantly light in colour, at least one (1) equivalent Reserve Playing Kit item should be predominantly dark in colour, and vice versa;
- 2.2.5. each Team is encouraged to have a second Reserve Playing Kit in a colour or colours differing from both its Official Playing Kit and its first Reserve Playing Kit; and
- 2.2.6. the colour(s) of any item(s) worn underneath the Playing Kit must not be visible through the Playing Kit and must in no way affect the colour of, or the visual impression given by the Playing Kit.







2.3. Subject to Article 2.4, if a Playing Kit item features more than one (1) colour, one (1) of the colours must be clearly predominant (the “Dominant Colour”) over the other colour(s) and must be predominate to the same extent on the front and back of the Playing Kit item.



2.4. The Shirts of the outfield Participating Players (but not the shirt of a goalkeeper) may feature a basic geometric repeated pattern (such as stripes, hoops or checks) with two (2) equally prominent colours. In such cases, the Shirt of at least one (1) of the

Team's Reserve Playing Kits must not have either of those two (2) colours as its Dominant Colour.

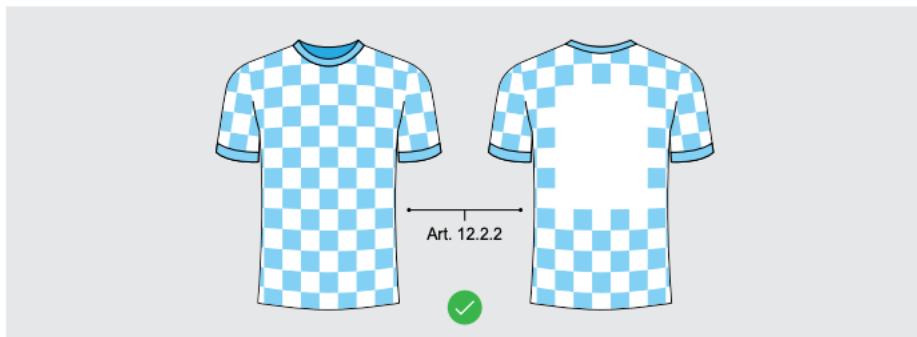


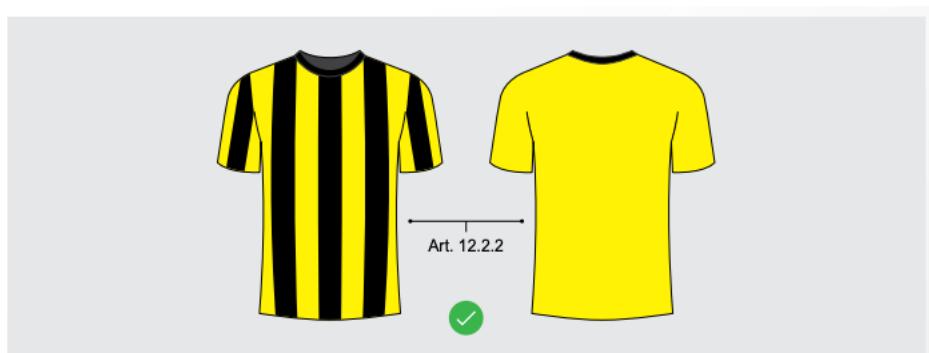
2.5. The front area and the back area of the shirt must feature the same single Dominant Colour. The sleeves must be the same colour(s) as each other, which must not undermine the predominant visual impression of the single Dominant Colour on the front area and the back area of the shirt.



2.6. As the sole exception to the single Dominant Colour rule, the front area of the shirt of an outfield Participating Player (but not a goalkeeper) may feature a basic geometric pattern (such as stripes, hoops, or check) feather two (2) equally prominent colours. In such a case:

- 2.6.1. the back area of the shirt must:
  - 2.6.1.1. feature the same pattern and colours;
  - 2.6.1.2. feature the same two (2) colours, giving them equal prominence; or
  - 2.6.1.3. feature the lighter colour of the two (2) as its Dominant Colour; and
  - 2.6.1.4. the sleeves must feature predominantly the same two (2) colours as the front area of the shirt, but the sleeves do not need to be identical to each other.



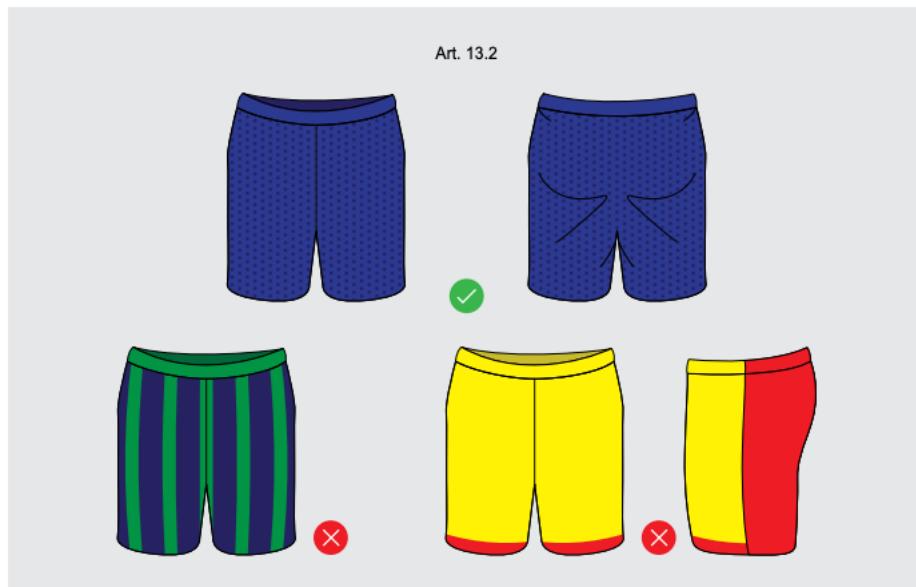


2.6.2. Any prominent additional colour(s) on the shirt (in particular, on a sash, bar, or a colour appearing prominently around the Participating Player's shoulders) must not undermine the predominant visual impression of the Dominant Colour (or that two [2] equally prominent colours, as applicable) or the Shirt.

2.6.3. If the prominent additional colour on the shirt is different from the Dominant Colour of the shirt, the AFF may require that the shirt of at least one (1) of the Team's Reserve Playing Kits features neither that prominent colour nor that Dominant Colour.



2.7. The shorts must feature the same single Dominant Colour when viewed from either the front or the back.



2.8. The Participating Player's Number must appear on the front of the Participating Player's shorts, on either the left leg or the right leg. The number must be:

2.8.1. ten to fifteen centimetres (10-15cm) high and one to three centimetre (1-3cm) in stroke width (each digit);

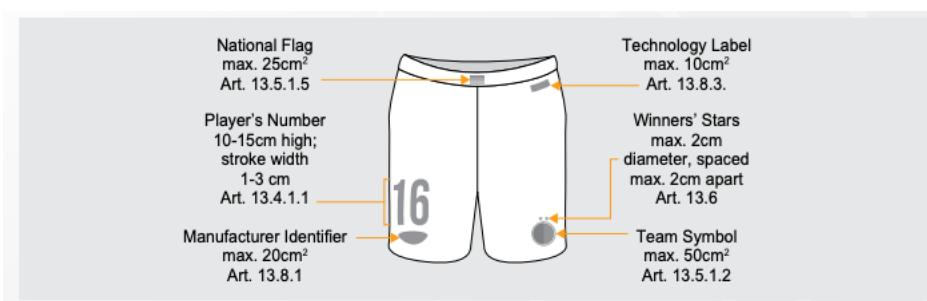
2.8.2. (where necessary to ensure legibility) positioned within a Number Zone that:

2.8.2.1. is proportionate in size to the size of the number, and provides sufficient space around the number to ensure legibility of the number whatever the weather conditions;

2.8.2.2. is the same Dominant Colour as the shorts (unless that would mean the number is illegible, in which case the Number Zone must be a colour that ensures the Number is legible); and

2.8.2.3. does not include any Team Identifier or Manufacturer Identifier; and

2.8.3. entirely visible when the shirt is untucked and hanging loose over the waist edge.



- 2.9. Where the AFF or the Match Officials consider that there is an insufficient contrast between the colours used on the Playing Kits of two (2) Teams contesting a particular Match to distinguish clearly between the Participating Players and the Match Officials, between the different Teams, and/or between the goalkeepers and the outfield Participating Players on a Team, they may require one (1) Team (even after the Match has started, if necessary) to switch to, or to combine, different items from its different Playing Kits as necessary in order to achieve such a clear distinction.
- 2.10. Any temporary material (such as tape or similar material) applied to a Playing Kit item during a Match must match the Dominant Colour of the Playing Kit item (or one [1] of the two [2] equally prominent colours of the Playing Kit item, where applicable).
- 2.11. To change its registered colours, a Team and/or its MA shall submit a request to the AFF at least seven (7) days before the respective Match.

### 3. NUMBERS

- 3.1. A Participating Player's Number must appear on the back of the Participating Player's Shirt and on the Participating Player's Shorts in all Matches in the Competition.
- 3.2. The Participating Player's Number on the back of the shirt must be:
  - 3.2.1. twenty-five to thirty-five centimetres (25-35cm) high and two to five centimetres (2-5cm) in stroke width (each digit);
  - 3.2.2. positioned in the centre of the back area;
  - 3.2.3. (where necessary to ensure the number is legible) located within a Number Zone that:
    - 3.2.3.1. has one (1) horizontal boundary two centimetres (2cm) above the highest point of the Number and the other horizontal boundary three centimetres (3cm) below the lowest point of the Number;
    - 3.2.3.2. has one (1) vertical boundary three centimetres (3cm) from the left edge of the left-hand digit, and the other vertical boundary three centimetres (3cm) from the right edge of the right-hand digit (or of the same digit, if there is only one [1]);
    - 3.2.3.3. is the same Dominant Colour as the Shirt (unless that would mean the number is illegible, in which case the Number Zone must be a colour that ensures the Number is legible);
    - 3.2.3.4. does not include any Team Identifier, other than as permitted;
    - 3.2.3.5. does not include any Manufacturer Identifier; and
  - 3.2.4. entirely visible when the shirt is tucked into the shorts.



3.3. Where the Participating Player's Number is included on the front of the shirt, it must be:

- 3.3.1. ten to fifteen centimetres (10-15cm) high and one to three centimetres (1-3cm) in stroke width (each digit);
- 3.3.2. positioned in the chest area (in the centre or at or towards one [1] side); and
- 3.3.3. (where necessary to ensure the number is legible) within a Number Zone that:
  - 3.3.3.1. is proportionate in size to the size of the number, and big enough to ensure the number is legible whatever the conditions;
  - 3.3.3.2. is the same Dominant Colour as the shirt (unless that would mean the number is illegible, in which case the Number Zone must be a colour that ensures the Number is legible); and
  - 3.3.3.3. does not include any Team Identifier or Manufacturer Identifier.





3.4. All Numbers must:

- 3.4.1. correspond to the Number of the Participating Player as registered to AFF in accordance with these Regulations;
- 3.4.2. be of one (1) single colour, which must contrast sufficiently with the surrounding colour(s) of the Playing Kit item (or of the Number Zone, where used) to be clearly legible, so that other Participating Players, Match Officials, Participating Officials, Media, and spectators are able to identify the Participating Player in question;
- 3.4.3. be consistent in terms of style, font, size, position and colour for all Participating Players in the same Team, save that:
  - 3.4.3.1. the colour of the number of the shirt may be different from the colour of the number of the shorts; and
  - 3.4.3.2. the colour of the goalkeeper's numbers may differ from the colour of the numbers of the outfield Participating Players;
- 3.4.4. not include any Team Identifiers, save that a Team Emblem or Team Symbol no bigger than five square centimetres ( $5\text{cm}^2$ ) may be included on the bottom of each digit of a number displayed on the back of the shirt'
- 3.4.5. not include any Decorative Elements; and
- 3.4.6. not function as a trademark or include anything that gives the visual impression of a Manufacturer Identifier or Sponsor Advertising, or that creates an association with a Manufacturer, a sponsor, or other third-party, or that constitutes a promotion or other message of any kind.

3.5. Numbers may:

- 3.5.1. incorporate a border or shadow outline in a different colour to improve the legibility of the number, provided this does not impair the predominance of the Dominant Colour of the Playing Kit item in question;
- 3.5.2. contain breathing holes that are not more than two millimetres (2mm).
- 3.6. Each digit of a number may be divided into no more than four (4) segments, each segment being no more than two millimetres (2mm) apart.



- 3.7. Numbers should range from 1 to 99 in figures universally used, with the number 1 reserved for a goalkeeper.

#### 4. PLAYER NAMES

- 4.1. Participating Players must be identified by their surname or popular name on the back of the shirt. The name must correspond to the Name of the Participating Player as registered to AFF in accordance with these Regulations.
- 4.2. Participating Players' registered name must appear on the back of the shirt used as Playing Equipment in all Matches of the Competition, at least four centimetres (4cm) above the Participating Player's Number. The letters of the name must be between five centimetres (5cm) and seven and a half centimetres (7.5cm) high.
- 4.3. The Participating Player's Name may not appear on the Participating Player's shorts.
- 4.4. All Names must:
  - 4.4.1. be of one (1) single colour, which must contrast sufficiently with the surrounding colour(s) of the Playing Kit item to be clearly legible, so that other Participating Players, Match Officials, Participating Officials, Media, and spectators are able to identify the Participating Player in question;
  - 4.4.2. comprise letters of Latin characters only, in upper or lower case (phonological diaereses, such as accents or umlauts, are also permitted);
  - 4.4.3. be consistent in terms of style, font, size, position and colour for all Participating Players in the same Team, save that:

- 4.4.3.1. the colour of the goalkeeper's name may differ from the colour of the names of the outfield Participating Players;
- 4.4.4. not include any Team Identifiers;
- 4.4.5. not include any Decorative Elements; and
- 4.4.6. not function as a trademark or include anything that gives the visual impression of a Manufacturer Identifier or Sponsor Advertising, or that creates an association with a Manufacturer, a sponsor, or other third-party, or that constitutes a promotion or other message of any kind.

4.5. Names may:

- 4.5.1. incorporate a border or shadow outline in a different colour to improve the legibility of the name, provided this does not impair the predominance of the Dominant Colour of the Playing Kit item in question;
- 4.5.2. contain breathing holes that are not more than two millimetres (2mm).

## 5. DECORATIVE ELEMENTS

5.1. Decorative Elements may be displayed on, or incorporated into, Playing Kit items and other clothing and equipment in accordance with these Regulations, provided they are approved by the AFF in writing.



5.2. A Decorative Element must not:

- 5.2.1. limit the ability of Match Officials, Participating Players, Participating Officials, Media, and spectators (including, whenever reasonably practicable, those with a colour vision deficiency) to distinguish clearly between the Participating Players and the Match Officials, between the different Teams, and between the goalkeepers and the outfield

Participating Players on each Team, even in difficult weather conditions;

- 5.2.2. undermine the contrast between a Team's Official Playing Kit and any Reserve Playing Kit;
- 5.2.3. dominate a Playing Kit item or impair the predominance of a Dominant Colour on a Playing Kit item;
- 5.2.4. impair the legibility of a Name or Number on a Playing Kit item;
- 5.2.5. function as a trademark or include anything that gives the visual impression of a Manufacturer Identifier or Sponsor Advertising, or that creates an association with a Manufacturer, a sponsor, or other third party, or that constitutes as a promotion;
- 5.2.6. contain any words, images, statements or messages that are political, religious, controversial, derogatory or insulting in nature or other commercial messages of any kind; or
- 5.2.7. portray, or give the impression of, a person's face or identity, or the shape of a country or territory.

5.3. A Decorative Element may incorporate elements of a Team Identifier. In particular, it may incorporate elements of a National Flag (e.g. its colours) even if they do not maintain the official geometric form and usual proportions of the National Flag.

5.4. Unless otherwise stated in these Regulations in respect of a particular item, there is no limit on the number, the size, or the positioning of the Decorative Element(s) on the Playing Kit items or other clothing or equipment.

## 6. SLEEVE FREE ZONE

- 6.1. The Sleeve Free Zone is exclusively reserved for specified AFF badges. No other elements shall be positioned immediately adjacent to these AFF badges.
- 6.2. The Sleeve Free Zone must be on the RIGHT SIDE which is at least twelve centimetres (12cm) high and eight centimetres (8cm) wide and be centred between the shoulder point and the elbow point.

## 7. CAPTAIN'S ARMBANDS

- 7.1. The Captain of each Team must wear the captain's armband provided by the AFF, if available. If the AFF provides a choice of captain's armbands, the captain should wear the one (1) that contrasts most clearly with the sleeve on which it is worn.
- 7.2. Otherwise, any captain's armband worn by the captain of a Team:
  - 7.2.1. must be of a colour or colour(s) so as to ensure a clear contrast with the sleeve on which it is worn;
  - 7.2.2. may not be incorporated into but rather must be separate from the shirt itself;
  - 7.2.3. must not include any Manufacturer Identifiers, Sponsor Advertising or Decorative Elements

7.2.4. may display the word “captain” (or an abbreviation or translation thereof) in a legible font and with lettering no higher than five centimetres (5cm).

## 8. ADVERTISING ON EQUIPMENT

- 8.1. Participating Clubs may wear the same kit/jersey as used in their respective National Leagues. However, the kit/jersey must be pre-registered with the AFF and cannot be changed for any Match during the Competition. A competition logo patch shall be provided to Participating Clubs and must be affixed to the jersey in the position as stipulated by the AFF.
- 8.2. Notwithstanding the above, the Participating Clubs may display Sponsor Advertising only on the front area of the shirt forming part of their playing kit.
  - 8.2.1. This Sponsor Advertising may be displayed only once.
  - 8.2.2. No Sponsor Advertising is allowed on the shorts or on the socks.
- 8.3. The total area used must not exceed two hundred square centimetres (200cm<sup>2</sup>).
- 8.4. The form of Sponsor Advertising is unrestricted.
- 8.5. The advertising surface may be placed on the front of the shirt and be positioned at the intersection of the base of the chest area and the top of the torso area.
- 8.6. The height of the letters must not exceed ten centimetres (10cm). Participating Clubs may choose, at their own discretion, the script and colour of the lettering. No Manufacturer Identifier, Decorative Element, or other elements may be incorporated into any Sponsor Advertising.
- 8.7. Further restrictions may be imposed in these Regulations.
- 8.8. Clubs may display different Sponsor Advertising on their Official Playing Kit and Reserve Playing Kit respectively, provided that such Sponsor Advertising is from the same sponsor and within the same product category. In the event that more than one Reserve Playing Kit is produced, such additional Reserve Playing Kit(s) shall incorporate either one of the Sponsor Advertising used for the Official Playing Kit or first Reserve Playing Kit. Depending on the Playing Kit colour allocation for each Match, all Participating Players in a Team shall have the same Sponsor Advertising.
- 8.9. Clubs commencing their AFF sporting season in the Play-off Stage may change their sponsor no more than once during the same AFF sporting season. Clubs commencing their AFF sporting season in the Group Stage may change their sponsor no more than once during the same AFF sporting season. The AFF may grant an exception, at its own discretion, only in exceptional circumstances.
- 8.10. Unless permitted under Article 8.7, a change in the content of any Sponsor Advertising is considered to be a change of sponsor.
- 8.11. To change its sponsor, a Participating Club must submit a written request to the AFF at least seven (7) days before the respective Match together with:
  - 8.11.1. a copy of the approval of its MA;
  - 8.11.2. measurements of Sponsor Advertising; and

- 8.11.3. actual samples for physical checks if requested by the AFF, at the Participating Club's own cost and expense.
- 8.12. The AFF may ask to see sponsor contracts to verify the nature of the sponsorship agreement. Failure to comply may result in the relevant request being denied.

## 9. MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR

- 9.1. In the event that these Regulations are silent on any matter relating to the Playing Equipment, including without limitation on Manufacturing Considerations, Badges and Commemorative Symbols, Manufacturer Identifiers, Optional Playing Items, Non-Playing Items, and Match Officials and Match Support Personnel, the AFF reserves its right to refer to the AFC Equipment Regulations, which shall apply to all the Participating Clubs, Participating Players and Participating Officials of this Competition.
- 9.2. Only the AFF has the authority to refer to the AFC Equipment Regulations for any matter relating to the Playing Equipment, at its own discretion. All decisions made in this regard, i.e., on whether to refer to the AFC Equipment Regulations or not, shall be final and binding and not appealable.

## APPENDIX 10: OFFICIAL COUNTDOWN

Subject to any further measures as stipulated by the Tournament Committee or local authorities, the following must be adhered to:

Countdown	Activity
-04h	Arrival of AFF Match Commissioner, General Coordinator, Venue Coordinator and other AFF officials
-04h 45'	Final Stadium inspection
-04h 30'	AFF/Host Club Venue Meeting
-04h	Final rehearsal for pre-match ceremony & infotainment
-03h	All Security must be at designated positions and briefing with Head of Security
-02h	Enforcement of Supplementary Access Devices (SAD)
-02h	Arrival of Referees
-02h	Opening of Stadium to spectators
-01h 30'	Latest Teams arrival
-01h 20'	Match Start List produced and distributed to Teams, Media, Broadcaster, Announcer, Match Officials, VIPs, LOC, etc.
-01h 15'	Team A – AD Card and Equipment check by Match Commissioner and Match Official
-01h 10'	Team B – AD Card and Equipment check by Match Commissioner and Match Official
-50'	Warm-up of Goalkeepers and Outfield Players
-30'	Announcements of Team list and Match Officials by Announcer
-20'	Warm-up session ends. Teams return to respective dressing rooms
-20'	All flagbearers and flags are ready in the tunnel
-15'	Media Officer and Photo Marshal to secure photographers at the Technical Area
-10'	Substitute Players and Officials to be on the Bench
-10'	All Starting Players and Match Officials to be in the tunnel
-9'	Referees check on starting players list and player's equipment in the tunnel;
-9'	Flagbearers enter with national flag of Team A and followed by national flag of Team B
-8'	Flagbearers enter with the AFF and campaign flags, Match Officials and teams
-7'	Start of ceremony including team lining up in front of the VIP Tribune, VIP handshake (if applicable), National Anthem, handshake, teams' photo, coin toss and exchange of pennants
<b>-0'</b>	<b>Kick-off</b>

\*If there is any VIP handshake, countdown shall be adjusted accordingly

\*\*The official countdown for each Match shall be produced by the AFF Match Commissioner

## APPENDIX 11: STANDARD MATCH ANNOUNCEMENT SCRIPT

The actual announcement script used for the Matches shall be prepared by the Host Club with any instructions from the AFF.

Time	Items	Announcement	Remarks
T-30	Introduction of match	Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to <i>(Stadium name, City name)</i> for today's match of the <i>(Competition Name)</i> between <i>(Team A Name)</i> and <i>(Team B Name)</i>	Giant Screen must coordinate with announcer and display the match information.
	Introduction of Team A	<p>Here are the Team line-ups, for <i>(Team A Name)</i>. Number <i>(Players number)</i>, <i>(popular name)</i></p> <p>The substitutes are, number <i>(Players number)</i>, <i>(popular name)</i></p> <p>The Head Coach is <i>(Head Coach name)</i>, from <i>(country of origin)</i></p>	Giant Screen must coordinate with announcer and display the Team A Players' and Head Coach Photos and name (if applicable)
	Introduction of Team B	<p>Here are the Team line-ups, for <i>(Team B Name)</i>. Number <i>(Players number)</i>, <i>(popular name)</i></p> <p>The substitutes are, number <i>(Players number)</i>, <i>(popular name)</i></p> <p>The Head Coach is <i>(Head Coach name)</i>, from <i>(country of origin)</i></p>	Giant Screen must coordinate with announcer and display the Team B Players' and Head Coach Photos and name (if applicable)
	Introduction of Match Officials	<p>The referee for this match is <i>(name of referee)</i> from <i>(country of origin)</i></p> <p>The assistant referees are <i>(name of assistant referee 1)</i> from <i>(country of origin)</i> and <i>(name of assistant referee 2)</i> from <i>(country of origin)</i></p> <p>The fourth official is <i>(name of Fourth Official)</i> from <i>(country of origin)</i></p> <p><i>(if applicable) The Video Assistant Referee is <i>(name of VAR)</i> from <i>(country of origin)</i></i></p> <p><i>(if applicable) The Assistant Video Assistant Referee is <i>(name of AVAR)</i> from <i>(country of origin)</i></i></p>	<p>Giant Screen must coordinate with announcer. Giant Screen shall display the Match Officials' name</p> <p>Only the names of the Match Officials as defined in this Regulations shall be announced and displayed. For the avoidance of doubt, the names of any other official (e.g., Match Commissioner, Referee Assessor, etc.) shall not be announced</p>
			Giant Screen shall go on LIVE by T-12'
-9*	Teams' Flag March-in		LIVE - March in of Teams' flag

-7* (MC/GC to Q)	Teams' March-in	Ladies and gentlemen, let's welcome the Teams of _____(Team A Name) and _____(Team B Name)	After Teams' flags are in position. MC/GC to give the Q
	FIFA Anthem		Anthem to be tuned down slowly at the signal of MC/GC
	Introduction of VVIP (only when instructed by MC/GC)	Ladies and Gentlemen, we have the pleasure to invite the AFF President, His Excellency Maj Gen Khiev Sameth and the dignitaries onto the pitch to be introduced to the Players and match officials.	AFF Protocol will escort the VVIPs to the FOP
After tuning down FIFA Anthem	Team *A National Anthem	<i>Ladies and Gentlemen, please stand up for the national anthem of _____(Team A Name)</i>	Team A national anthem is played immediately after the announcement
After end of 1 <sup>st</sup> anthem	Team *B National Anthem	and now the national anthem of _____(Team B Name)	Team B national anthem is played immediately after the announcement

## APPENDIX 12: DETERMINING THE OVERALL BEST SECOND-PLACED TEAM FROM DIFFERENT GROUPS

### SCENARIO 1

1. Should all groups consist of the same number of Teams, the overall best second-placed Team from among different groups shall be determined in descending order as follows:
  - 1.1. higher number of points obtained in all group Matches
  - 1.2. superior goal difference from all group Matches
  - 1.3. higher number of goals scored from all group Matches
  - 1.4. the lower score calculated according to the number of yellow and red cards received in the group Matches in accordance with Appendix 1, or
  - 1.5. drawing of lots.

GROUP A	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
Team A	3	2	1	0	3	0	3	7
Team B	3	2	0	1	6	3	3	6
Team C	3	0	2	1	0	3	-3	2
Team D	3	0	1	2	2	5	-3	1

GROUP B	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
Team E	3	3	0	0	4	0	4	9
Team F	3	2	0	1	5	3	2	6
Team G	3	1	0	2	4	4	0	3
Team H	3	0	0	3	1	7	-6	0

- Team B and Team F are the second-placed Teams from each group.
- Both Teams have six (6) points, therefore, criteria 1.1 does not determine the overall best second-placed Team. Team B has a goal difference of +3 whereas Team F has a goal difference of +2. Applying criteria 1.2, Team B is ranked as the best second-placed Team.

### SCENARIO 2

2. Should the groups consist of different number of Teams, the Teams in each group will have played a different number of Matches in total. In order to ensure equality, all Teams shall be compared across the same number of Matches, the number of which shall be decided by the AFF General Secretariat. In principle, the results between the relevant Teams and the bottom-placed Team in the relevant group shall be considered null and void. In such case, the best-ranked Team from among different groups shall be determined in descending order as follows:
  - 2.1. higher number of points obtained in Matches identified by the AFF
  - 2.2. superior goal difference from the Matches identified by the AFF
  - 2.3. higher number of goals scored from the Matches identified by the AFF
  - 2.4. the lower score calculated according to the number of yellow and red cards received in the group Matches in accordance with Appendix 1, or

2.5. drawing of lots.

GROUP A	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
Team A	3	2	1	0	3	0	3	7
Team B	3	2	0	1	6	3	3	6
Team C	3	0	2	1	0	3	-3	2
Team D	3	0	1	2	2	5	-3	1

GROUP B	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
Team E	4	3	1	0	14	1	13	10
Team F	4	3	0	1	5	2	3	9
Team G	4	1	2	1	5	5	0	5
Team H	4	0	2	2	2	9	-7	2
Team I	4	0	1	3	2	11	-9	1

- Team B and Team F are the second-placed Teams from each group.
- Groups A and B have played a different number of Matches. In order to identify the overall best second-placed Team, the number of matches shall be equalized.
- The number of Matches to be identified shall be equal to that played in Group A (i.e., the group with the lower number of Matches per Team). Accordingly, the number of Matches played in Group B shall be reduced to three (3) Matches per Team. In principle, the Match between Team F and Team I, who is the bottom-placed Team in the group, will be considered null and void.
- Assuming Team F won the Match against Team I, 3-0, we will have a new calculation for Team F:

GROUP B	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
Team F	3	2	0	1	2	2	0	6

- After applying criteria 2.1, both Team B and Team F are equal, having accrued six (6) points. Team B has a goal difference of +3 and Team F has a goal difference of 0, and after applying criteria 2.2, Team B is identified as the overall best second-placed Team.

In operating the procedure set out in Scenario 2, the points or rankings of the other Teams in the same group shall not be affected. Any new calculation is solely for the purpose of determining the overall best second-placed Team among the groups.

## ANNEXURE A: PARTICIPATING TEAM OBLIGATIONS

### ASEAN CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP (ACC) SHOPEE CUP™ 2025/26 PARTICIPATING TEAM OBLIGATIONS

In these Participating Team Obligations (the "PTO"), the following terms shall have the following meanings:

"AFF Partners" means the AFF Commercial Right Partner, commercial affiliates and any third parties which are authorised by the AFF.

"AFF Rights" means any and all Commercial Right, Proprietary Interests and Data.

"Applicable Regulations" means the ASEAN Club Championship (ACC) Shopee Cup™ 2025/26 Tournament Regulations, the AFC Stadium Regulations, the AFF and AFC Equipment Regulations, the AFF Disciplinary and Ethics Code, the AFC Safety and Security Regulations, the AFC Anti-Doping Regulations, all other relevant regulations of the AFF, all directives, guidelines, circulars and instructions issued by the AFF, all applicable FIFA regulations and the Laws of the Game.

"Attributes" means any and all: (i) personal and biographical data, information and statistics of the Participating Players and Participating Officials (including, without limitation, name(s), nickname(s) and age, as well as country, city and date of birth); and (ii) images (including, without limitation, head shots), voices, representations and likenesses of the Players and Participating Officials.

"Data" means any and all data, information and statistics relating to: (i) the Competition and past editions of the ASEAN Club Championship competition, as well as other AFF competitions; and (ii) the participation of the Players and Participating Officials in the Competition as well as other AFF competitions.

"MA" means the respective AFF Member Associations.

"MA Indicia" means any and all indicia and branding of the MA (including, without limitation, all MA name(s), nickname(s), crest(s), logo(s), trade name(s), trademark(s), emblem(s) and stadium images).

"PT" means the respective Participating Teams.

"PT Indicia" means any and all indicia and branding of the PT (including, without limitation, all team name(s), nickname(s), crest(s), logo(s), trade name(s), trademark(s), emblem(s), team kit designs (both with and without sponsor and manufacturer branding) and stadium images).

All other capitalised terms appearing in this PTO shall, unless the context specifically indicates otherwise, have the meanings given to them in these Regulations.

#### THE MA AND THE PT ACKNOWLEDGE AND AGREE TO BE BOUND BY THE FOLLOWING:

1. The AFF owns all AFF Rights, and the MAs and PTs shall have no claim or right to the ownership of any AFF Rights. To the extent that any AFF Rights (or any part thereof) have vested or may vest in the MAs and/or PTs for any reason (whether by operation of law or otherwise), the MAs and/or PTs (as appropriate) hereby irrevocably agrees to assign all rights, title and interest in and to such AFF Rights to the AFF on a royalty-free basis and to take all steps necessary to implement the assignment.
2. The PTs, by virtue of participating in the Competition, hereby grants the AFF and the AFF Partners an unconditional and irrevocable licence and right to use, exploit and sub-

license the respective PT Indicia and the Attributes on a royalty-free worldwide basis by any means and for any purposes relating to the AFF and/or the AFF's competitions (including, without limitation, promotional, commercial and non-commercial purposes) in perpetuity. For the avoidance of doubt, the foregoing shall include, without limitation, the right to record, reproduce, edit and/or simulate the PT Indicia and/or Attributes in any medium (including, without limitation, visual, audio and audio-visual) and to use and exploit the same.

3. The MAs, hereby grants the AFF and the AFF Partners an unconditional and irrevocable licence to use, exploit and sub-license the MA Indicia and, where applicable, the Attributes on a royalty-free worldwide basis by any means and for any purposes relating to the AFF and/or the AFF's competitions (including, without limitation, promotional, commercial and non-commercial purposes) in perpetuity. For the avoidance of doubt, the foregoing shall include, without limitation, the right to record, reproduce, edit and/or stimulate the MA Indicia and/or Attributes in any medium (including, without limitation, visual, audio and audio-visual) and to use and exploit the same.
4. The MAs and PTs are aware of all applicable laws and regulations and have executed and have in their possession all written agreements and/or waivers (including, where applicable, from Players and Participating Officials) necessary to grant the licences and rights provided for as per this Annexure A of these Regulations.
5. Notwithstanding any provision of this PTO, the MA Indicia, PT Indicia and/or Attributes shall not (without the prior written consent of the relevant Player and/or Participating Official) be used in any manner which may reasonably be considered to constitute a personal endorsement by the Player and/or Participating Official of any commercial product or service.
6. The MAs and PTs are fully aware of and shall comply with the Applicable Regulations at all times.
7. The PT hereby confirms that it is not in breach of any of the provisions set out in these Regulations, including this Annexure A and nor is it aware of any facts or circumstances that may lead to it breaching any of these provisions at any time during the Competition.

Signed by:

Participating Club: \_\_\_\_\_

Member Association: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature & Stamp: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_