



COMPETITION REGULATIONS

AFC WOMEN'S ASIAN CUP 2018



ONE ASIA  ONE GOAL

Competition Regulations

AFC Women's Asian Cup 2018

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DEFINITIONS

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

Accommodation	Any location approved by the AFC which provides accommodation to the AFC Delegation and Participating Teams.
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Accreditation Card	Any physical item which is issued by the AFC and/or Organising Association which provides the recipient the right to access a Controlled Access Area (or part thereof) where the Controlled Access Area is under the control of the AFC or the Organising Association.
AFC	The Asian Football Confederation.
AFCAS	The AFC Administration System, the AFC's online competition management and registration system.
AFC Women's Asian Cup	The Competition.
AFC Commercial Rights Partner	The entity appointed by the AFC as the sole and exclusive representative of the AFC with regard to the sale of the Commercial Rights (or any part thereof) and the provision of services in relation thereto.
AFC Committee	One (1) or more (as the context defines) of the Standing Committees of the AFC as promulgated within the AFC Statutes.
AFC Women's Football Committee	The AFC's internal organising committee for the Competition which has been appointed in accordance with the AFC Statutes, and which has ultimate authority over all matters relating to the organisation of the Competition.
AFC Delegation	(i) AFC staff; (ii) Match Officials; (iii) AFC Committee members; (iv) AFC guests; and (v) Referees.
AFC Marks	All design marks, slogans, designations, names, logos, insignia, emblems or devices (in any application) owned and/or controlled by the AFC (in any language) relating to the AFC itself, but excluding the Competition Marks.
AFC Official Merchandise	Official merchandise of the Competition to which the AFC Marks and the Competition Marks may be applied

	at the sole discretion of the AFC.
AFC Website	http://www.the-afc.com
Broadcaster	Any entity, including the Host Broadcaster, which has acquired from the AFC or the AFC Commercial Rights Partner, any rights in respect of the Media Rights of the Competition.
Champion	The Participating Team who is the Winner in the Final.
Commercial Rights	<p>Advertising Rights, Concession Rights, Hospitality Rights, Image Rights, Media Rights, Merchandise Rights, Promotional Rights, Sponsorship Rights, and Travel and Tour Rights.</p> <p>For the purposes of these Regulations, the definitions of Image Rights and Media Rights are replicated from the full list of definitions contained within private agreements between the AFC and the AFC Commercial Rights Partner, and the AFC and the Organising Association.</p>
Competition	The AFC Women's Asian Cup 2018, which includes without limitation, all Matches as set out in the Match Schedule, all qualifying Matches, all activities on the Field of Play (other than Matches), opening ceremonies, presentation or closing ceremonies, press conferences or Official Functions connected therewith.
Competition Data	Any and all information related to the Competition, including fixture lists, Image Rights, information and/or statistics about the Participating Teams and/or Participating Players, information and/or statistics about their participation and/or performance in the Competition, Match analysis, Referee decisions, and any other information in relation to the Competition.
Competition Marks	<p>Either cumulatively, or individually:</p> <p>(i) the competition logo officially adopted by the AFC as a visual design symbol of the Competition;</p> <p>(ii) any mascot officially adopted by the AFC for the Competition;</p> <p>(iii) any two-dimensional representation of the</p>

	<p>Competition trophy;</p> <p>(iv) the official name of the Competition (in any language); and/or</p> <p>(v) any and all current and future trademarks, and/or logos, and/or copyrights and/or designs whether or not registered or applied for and whether registered in part or in whole including any present and/or future names, designations, symbols, logos or identifying music or sounds of the AFC or the Competition, the AFC Fair Play name and device mark, and other artistic and autographic representations in one, two or three dimensional proportions used by or in association with the Competition.</p>
Complimentary Tickets	Tickets which are supplied without charge.
Controlled Access Area	<p>(i) any Stadium;</p> <p>(ii) any Official Training Site;</p> <p>(iii) any official hotel (public areas being excepted), subject to and to the extent agreed in any executed hotel agreement;</p> <p>(iv) any official exclusion zone encircling a Stadium on a Match day;</p> <p>(v) any official parking area, accreditation centre, International Broadcast Compound, and/or hospitality area;</p> <p>(vi) the venue of any Official Function;</p> <p>(vii) any official AFC fan park;</p> <p>(viii) Facility Areas; and/or</p> <p>(ix) any other location and/or facility designated by the AFC as a Controlled Access Area and to which access is permitted only to those in possession of an Accreditation Card, Ticket, and/or other officially-sanctioned entry permit.</p>
Extra Time	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.
Facility Areas	The location of Official Functions, ceremonies, press centres, ticket offices, competition hotels, media areas

	(including without limitation areas used for viewing of any public exhibition), sponsor village areas (including without limitation “AFC fan park” areas, and areas used for the activation of the Commercial Rights), official hospitality areas (including without limitation areas used for the exploitation of the Hospitality Rights), and information centres controlled by or on behalf of the AFC and used in connection with the Competition whether at the Stadium or elsewhere at the Venues.
Field of Play	The area described in Law 1 of the Laws of the Game issued by the IFAB and administered by FIFA.
FIFA	The Federation International de Football Association.
Final	The final Match of the Competition which determines the Champion.
Finals	The Final Stage of the Competition, split into the Group Stage and Knockout Stage.
Football Association	The controlling body for football within a country or territory recognised by the AFC.
Force Majeure	Any event affecting the performance or any provision of these Regulations arising from or attributable to acts, events, omissions or accidents which are beyond the reasonable control of a party, and shall include but not be limited to abnormally inclement weather, flood, lightning, storm, fire, explosion, earthquake, structural damage, epidemic or other natural disaster, failure or shortage of power supplies, war, terrorist action, military operations, riot, crowd disorder, strike, lock-outs or other industrial action, or civil commotion.
Group Stage	The first stage of the Finals held in accordance with these Regulations.
Host Broadcaster	The organisation appointed by the AFC to ensure and provide the production of the broadcast signals of the Matches and other events of the Competition, and the provision of all related services in accordance with the Media Rights.
Host City	Any city and/or identifiable metropolitan area in

	which any Match is staged.
Image Rights	The right to use still and/or moving images and/or representations of images of Participating Teams and Participating Players participating in the Competition, and including, for the avoidance of doubt, images of Participating Officials, Referees, and other officials forming part of the Competition.
Knockout Stage	The second stage of the Finals held in accordance with these Regulations.
Licensee	Any entity to which the AFC or the AFC Commercial Rights Partner has granted any aspect of the Commercial Rights in respect of the Competition, including but not limited to Official Sponsors, Official Supporters, Official Licensees and Official Media Partners.
Loser	The Participating Team at the conclusion of a Match who is not the Winner.
Match	A football match in its entirety (including a replayed and/or deferred football match, Extra Time and Penalty Kicks) which takes place as part of the Competition in accordance with the Match Schedule.
Match Officials	<p>Individually or collectively, any official appointed to one of the following roles in relation to any aspect of a Match in the Competition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Referees (separately defined below); (ii) Head of Delegation; (iii) AFC General Coordinator; (iv) AFC Match Commissioner; (v) Referee Assessor; (vi) Media Officer; (vii) Security Officer; (viii) Medical Officer; (ix) Technical Analyst; and,

	(x) any other official designation which the AFC deems to be required.
Match Schedule	The official schedule which sets out, without limitation, the dates and times on which Matches will be played, the Stadia at which the Matches will be played, and the names of the Participating Teams.
Media	Any individual entitled to a media Accreditation Card as determined by the AFC.
Media Rights	The right and licence to produce edit and transmit, for intelligible reception throughout the world in any language and in any format and on any platform including film, fixed media, 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 interviews activities and action during and forming part of the Competition including ceremonies, 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 communications system, 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.
Member Association	A Football Association which is a member of the AFC.
Official Function	Any event which is officially organised or sanctioned by the AFC in connection with the Competition. For the avoidance of doubt, this expressly includes, without limitation, all matches and/or events held at Official Training Sites, the Opening Ceremony, the Closing Ceremony, any AFC gala dinner, lunch, or banquet, cultural events, official press conferences, and launch events.
Official Training Site	Any site designated by the Organising Association and

	approved by the AFC for use by the Participating Teams throughout the duration of the Competition for training purposes.
Organising Association	A Member Association approved by the AFC to organise, stage, and host Matches in the Qualifiers or the Finals.
Participating Official	Any official who is registered as part of a Team Official Delegation in the Competition.
Participating Player	Any player who is registered as part of a Team Official Delegation in the Competition.
Participating Team	Any representative team affiliated to a Member Association who has qualified for, and participates in, the Competition.
Penalty Kicks	“Kicks from the Penalty Mark” as described in the Laws of the Game.
Proprietary Interests	Without limitation, intellectual property, copyright and analogous rights, trademark rights, moral rights, performing rights, personality rights, and all remedies available under the applicable laws of unfair competition comprised in the Commercial Rights. For the purpose of this definition, “moral rights” shall mean a privilege, right, or claim which is based on moral considerations or ethical principles and which should be recognised by law, but which may not be legally imposed or enforced as such.
Qualifiers	The Qualifying Stage of the Competition.
Referee	Any individual appointed to officiate a Match in the Competition in the role of referee, assistant referee, fourth official, or fifth official.
Regulations	These Competition Regulations.

Runner Up	The Participating Team who is the Loser in the Final.
Semi Final	The first round of Matches in the Knockout Stage.
Stadium	<p>Any stadium at which a Match is played. For the avoidance of doubt, this includes:</p> <p>(i) the entire premises (to the extent that a valid Accreditation Card or Ticket is required in order to gain access) of a stadium facility inside the outer stadium perimeter fence and (on Match days and any day on which any official Team practice session takes place within the stadium), the aerial space above such stadium premises;</p> <p>(ii) parking facilities;</p> <p>(iii) VIP and hospitality areas;</p> <p>(iv) the Media tribune;</p> <p>(v) concessions areas;</p> <p>(vi) commercial display areas;</p> <p>(vii) buildings;</p> <p>(viii) the Field of Play;</p> <p>(ix) any broadcast compound or stadium media centre;</p> <p>(x) any stands; and,</p> <p>(xi) any areas beneath the stands.</p>
Team Official Delegation	The final-registered delegation of a Participating Team for each Match of the Competition subject to the limits set out in these Regulations.
Third Place	The Participating Team who is the Winner of the 3/4 Playoff.
Ticket	A pass providing access to a venue for the purpose of attending either a Match or Official Training Site or Official Function.
Ticketing	All operational measures to provide Tickets to all spectators of every Match and for Official Functions

	of the Competition allowing them to enter the Stadium or a Venue. Ticketing shall include the management of the operation necessary for the production, sale, distribution, delivery and payment of the Tickets of the Competition.
Venue	The Host City and immediate surrounding area in which a Stadium is located.
Winner	The Participating Team who scores the higher number of goals in a Match, or where applicable, the higher number of Penalty Kicks.

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

- (a) the singular shall include the plural and vice-versa;
- (b) the feminine gender shall include the masculine and vice-versa;
- (c) reference to natural persons shall include any legal person or corporation;
- (d) references to the AFC shall include its successors and permitted assigns and, in relation to the availability of the Commercial Rights, its respective Member Associations and AFC Committees.

SECTION 1: AFC WOMEN'S ASIAN CUP 2018

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The AFC stages the AFC Women's Asian Cup comprising of a Qualifying Stage ("Qualifiers") and Final Stage ("Finals") once every four (4) years.
- 1.2. These Regulations set out the rights, duties, and responsibilities of the AFC and the Member Associations taking part in the Competition.
- 1.3. These Regulations and all directives, decisions, guidelines, and circulars issued by the AFC shall be binding upon all parties participating and involved in the preparation, organisation, and hosting of the Competition.
- 1.4. Any rights and Proprietary Interests associated with the Competition that are not granted by these Regulations and/or specific agreements to any Member Association belong to the AFC.
- 1.5. Any reference to the AFC Statutes and to AFC and FIFA regulations refer to those valid at the time of application.

SECTION 2: RESPONSIBILITIES

2. The Asian Football Confederation

- 2.1. The AFC Women's Football Committee shall be responsible for organising the Competition in accordance with the AFC Statutes. The AFC General Secretariat shall carry out the necessary administrative work in support of the AFC Women's Football Committee.
- 2.2. The responsibilities of the AFC shall include, but are not limited to:
 - 2.2.1. supervising general preparations and deciding on the Competition format, the draws, and the entries to the Competition;
 - 2.2.2. determining the Match Schedule (*cf*Article 8);
 - 2.2.3. selecting Stadia for the Competition (*cf*Article 19);
 - 2.2.4. appointing Match Officials for each Match;
 - 2.2.5. choosing the official football and stipulated technical material;
 - 2.2.6. approving the choice of the WADA-accredited laboratories that will carry out the doping analyses (*cf*Article 68);
 - 2.2.7. reporting cases where appropriate to the AFC Disciplinary Committee (*cf*Article 69);
 - 2.2.8. replacing Participating Teams that have withdrawn from the Competition (*cf*Articles 6 and 7);
 - 2.2.9. dealing with cases of abandoned Matches or cancelled Matches (*cf*Articles 18 and 17);
 - 2.2.10. dealing with cases of force majeure (*cf*Article 83);
 - 2.2.11. providing insurance coverage for any AFC staff and Match Officials appointed to any Match from the time of their departure from their home Member Association to their departure from the Venue (*cf*Article 74); and
 - 2.2.12. dealing with any other aspect of the Competition that is not the responsibility of any other body of the AFC pursuant to these Regulations or the AFC Statutes (*cf*Article 84).
- 2.3. All decisions made by the AFC Women's Football Committee and/or AFC General Secretariat are final and binding and not appealable.

- 2.4. All decisions made by the AFC Disciplinary Committee in relation to the Competition are subject to the operation of the AFC Disciplinary Code.

3. Member Associations

- 3.1. The principal obligations and responsibilities of each Member Association are stipulated in the Participating Team Agreement (“PTA”), these Regulations, the AFC Statutes, and all other AFC regulations, directives, guidelines and circulars.
- 3.1.1. Each Member Association that has entered the Competition must submit a PTA.
- 3.1.2. The PTA shall be completed and submitted to the AFC not later than the deadline provided by the AFC.
- 3.1.3. Failure to submit the PTA to the AFC by the deadline shall result in the non-participation of the relevant Member Association.
- 3.2. Each Member Association 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 PTA.
- 3.3. Each Member Association shall undertake to:
- 3.3.1. observe all obligations set out in the PTA, these Regulations, the AFC Statutes, and all other AFC regulations, directives, guidelines and circulars, and applicable national and supra-national laws;
- 3.3.2. comply with the Laws of the Game laid down by the IFAB and published by FIFA;
- 3.3.3. accept that all the administrative, disciplinary and refereeing matters connected with the Competition shall be settled by the AFC in compliance with these Regulations;
- 3.3.4. field their strongest team throughout the Competition;
- 3.3.5. observe the principles of Fair Play;
- 3.3.6. ensure the good conduct of its Team Official Delegation who have been provided with an Accreditation Card and of any person carrying out duties on its behalf throughout the Competition, which includes but is not limited to their arrival on the territory of any Organising Association until their departure;
- 3.3.7. accept all the arrangements made by any Organising Association in agreement with the AFC;

- 3.3.8. attend and participate in all official activities and events, including without limitation any team arrival meeting, match coordination meeting, press conferences, and other media and marketing activities in accordance with the instructions issued by the AFC;
 - 3.3.8.1. failure to attend any official activity or event shall result in a minimum fine of USD10,000.00. The AFC Disciplinary Committee may issue further sanctions in its own discretion;
- 3.3.9. provide to the AFC, prior to the Competition, statistics and photographs of its Participating Players and Participating Officials, historical information related to its Participating Team and national Stadium (including photographs), and any further data as requested and in accordance with instructions issued by the AFC; and
- 3.3.10. link the official URL for the Competition on its official website.
- 3.4. Each Member Association, at their own expense, is solely responsible throughout the Competition for:
 - 3.4.1. the insurance coverage of its Team Official Delegation (including without limitation hospitalisation and surgical operations, team equipment) for all Matches;
 - 3.4.2. all other necessary insurance policies, which must provide an appropriate guaranteed sum for injury and damage to persons, objects, and property, and correspond to the specific circumstances of the Member Association.

Where a Member Association is also an Organising Association, such policies must cover all risks connected with the organising, hosting, and staging of the Competition, exempt the AFC from all claims and liabilities, and name the AFC as a co-insured.

The AFC must be notified of all insurance policies, and may request copies of any and all policies at its discretion;
 - 3.4.3. payment of incidental expenses and for any costs incurred by its Team Official Delegation (*cf* Article 43);
 - 3.4.4. payment of any costs of extending the stay of any member of its Team Official Delegation in any Organising Association (*cf* Article 43);
 - 3.4.5. obtaining visas to enter the territory of any Organising Association no later than one (1) month prior to its first Match at that Venue. This includes all costs related to the visa application process (*cf* Article 41);

- 3.4.6. payment of all taxes, fees, duties and any other costs related to the importation and/or exportation of equipment, merchandise and/or goods to be used for the Competition (*cf* Article 42); and
 - 3.4.7. where appointed as an Organising Association, guaranteeing security and safety at its Venue and Stadium (*cf* Articles 4 and 19).
- 3.5. Each Member Association shall indemnify, defend, and hold the AFC and all of its officers, directors, employees, representatives, agents, 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 other Member Associations, their Team Official Delegations, their affiliates and any third-parties contracted to the Member Associations.
- 3.6. Member Associations may qualify directly and shall undertake, if required, to take part in the following competitions:
 - 3.6.1. the FIFA Women's World Cup France 2019 (subject to the number of slots awarded to the AFC by FIFA); and
 - 3.6.2. any intercontinental competition(s) arranged by the AFC with other confederations.
- 3.7. Member Associations are not authorised to represent the AFC or the Competition without the prior written approval of the AFC.
- 3.8. All Participating Players and Participating Officials ensure their presence at the AFC Awards Night in the relevant calendar year if they are nominated for an annual AFC award.
- 3.9. Each Member Association shall ensure that any decision made by the AFC relating to its duties and responsibilities is enforced immediately.

4. Security and Safety

- 4.1. Each Organising Association 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 Controlled Access Areas within the Venue and other relevant locations to protect all relevant persons, including without limitation the AFC Delegation, Team Official Delegations, AFC Commercial Rights Partner, Licensees, Broadcasters, Media, and spectators.

- 4.2. Each Organising Association shall issue a detailed security plan in the form of a binding agreement with, without limitation, the management of the Stadium, Official Training Site(s), and the Accommodation of the AFC Delegation, Match Officials, and Team Official Delegations. This security plan shall be based upon the principles set out in the FIFA Stadium and Safety Regulations.
- 4.3. Each Organising Association shall discharge the AFC and hold it harmless from all responsibility and relinquish any claim against the AFC and the AFC Delegation for any damages resulting from any act or omission relating to the organisation of the Competition to the exclusion of damages caused by AFC or the AFC Delegation acting with intent or gross negligence.

SECTION 3: ENTRY, WITHDRAWAL, MATCH SCHEDULE, COMPETITION SYSTEM

5. Entry

Qualifiers

- 5.1. Member Associations must satisfy all of the following criteria to be eligible to participate in the Qualifiers for the Competition:
 - 5.1.1. the Member Association must have a Women's (Football) Committee;
 - 5.1.2. the Member Association must have a Women's league competition comprising of minimum four (4) teams and played over a minimum period of three (3) months;
 - 5.1.3. the Head Coach of the International "A" Women's team of the Member Association must hold a minimum AFC "A" Coaching License at the time of entry; and
 - 5.1.4. at least one (1) of the coaching staff of the International "A" Women's Team of the Member Association must be female and she must hold a minimum AFC "B" Coaching Licence at the time of entry. This may be the same individual registered as the Head Coach with the AFC "A" Coaching Licence.
 - 5.1.5. at least one (1) of the medical staff (doctor or physiotherapist) of the international "A" Women's Team of the Member Association must be female.
- 5.2. Eligible Member Associations must complete a PTA and submit it to the AFC in accordance with Article 3 to confirm their entry into the Qualifiers.
- 5.3. All decisions by the AFC Women's Football Committee regarding entry to the Qualifiers for the Competition are final and binding and not appealable.

Finals

- 5.4. Eight (8) Member Associations shall participate in the Finals of the Competition by virtue of:
 - 5.4.1. qualifying through the Qualifiers; and/or
 - 5.4.2. being the Organising Association; and/or
 - 5.4.3. being invited by the AFC to participate in the Finals.

- 5.5. Member Associations must satisfy all criteria set out in Article 5.1 to participate in the Finals.

6. Withdrawal Prior to Commencement of the Competition

- 6.1. All Member Associations undertake that their Participating Teams shall play all of their Matches in the Qualifiers and, if relevant, all of their Matches in the Finals until elimination.
- 6.2. In the case of a Member Association withdrawing or being excluded from the Competition, the AFC Women's Football Committee shall be responsible for making any decisions, including without limitation whether to:
- 6.2.1. replace the Member Association;
 - 6.2.2. change the competition system (*cf*Article 9); and/or
 - 6.2.3. change the technical rules (*cf*Section 4).
- 6.3. All decisions of the AFC Women's Football Committee in this regard are final and binding and not appealable.

Qualifiers

- 6.4. Any Member Association that withdraws up to thirty (30) days before its first Match of the Qualifiers shall be fined USD5,000.
- 6.5. Any Member Association that withdraws less than thirty (30) days before its first Match of the Qualifiers shall be fined USD7,500.
- 6.6. The AFC Disciplinary Committee may impose further sanctions in its discretion.

Finals

- 6.7. Any Member Association that withdraws up to thirty (30) days before its first Match of the Finals shall be fined USD10,000.
- 6.8. Any Member Association that withdraws less than thirty (30) days before its first Match of the Finals shall be fined USD15,000.
- 6.9. The AFC Disciplinary Committee may impose further sanctions in its discretion.

7. Withdrawal After Commencement of the Competition

- 7.1. Any Member Association that:

7.1.1. withdraws from the Competition after it has commenced; or

7.1.2. does not report for a Match; or

7.1.3. refuses to continue a Match; or

7.1.4. leaves the Stadium prior to the completion of a Match,

shall be considered to have withdrawn from the Competition after its commencement.

7.2. A Member Association that withdraws from the Competition after it has commenced shall:

7.2.1. have all its Matches cancelled and considered null and void. 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 11.5;

7.2.2. be required to pay compensation for any and all damages or losses suffered by, where applicable, the other Participating Teams, the AFC, the AFC Commercial Rights Partner, Licensees, Broadcasters, and the Member Associations. The amount of compensation shall be determined by the AFC Executive Committee;

7.2.3. be disqualified from participating in the Finals, if qualification is attained;

7.2.4. be disqualified from participating in any tournaments listed in Article 3.6, if qualification has been attained;

7.2.5. be fined:

7.2.5.1. USD10,000 if it withdraws after the commencement of the Qualifiers; or

7.2.5.2. USD20,000 if it withdraws after the commencement of the Finals;

7.2.6. be referred to the AFC Disciplinary Committee which may impose further sanctions in its discretion; and

7.2.7. return to the AFC any subsidy that had been paid in support of their participation in the Competition or if not yet paid, forfeit their right to that subsidy.

- 7.3. The above Articles 7.1 and 7.2 are not applicable in cases of Force Majeure recognised by the AFC Women's Football Committee.
- 7.4. The AFC Women's Football Committee shall take whatever action it deems necessary in cases of Force Majeure.
- 7.5. Any Match in any stage of the Competition which is not played, except in cases of Force Majeure recognised by the AFC Women's Football Committee, may lead to the imposition of sanctions against the relevant Member Association(s) by the AFC Disciplinary Committee.

8. Match Schedule

- 8.1. All Matches shall be played in accordance with the relevant AFC Competitions Calendar 2016-2018. The dates are final and binding and not appealable.
- 8.2. The Match Schedule shall be determined following the official draws for the Qualifiers and Finals. The date and format of the official draws shall be determined by the AFC Women's Football Committee.
- 8.3. The AFC Women's Football Committee retains final discretion to amend the Match Schedule at any time.

9. Competition System

- 9.1. The Competition shall consist of three (3) stages:
 - 9.1.1. the Qualifiers;
 - 9.1.2. the Finals (Group Stage); and
 - 9.1.3. the Finals (Knockout Stage).
- 9.2. The AFC Women's Football Committee shall decide upon the format of the competition system. Such decisions are final and binding and not appealable.

10. Qualifiers

- 10.1. Each round of the Qualifiers shall be conducted in accordance with the Match Schedule and competition system set by the AFC Women's Football Committee.
- 10.2. The duration of Matches shall be played in accordance with Articles 14 to 16.
- 10.3. Should the competition system for the Qualifiers involve a group stage, at the conclusion of each Match:

- 10.3.1. three (3) points shall be awarded to the Winner;
- 10.3.2. one (1) point shall be awarded to each Participating Team for a draw;
- 10.3.3. zero (0) points shall be awarded to the Loser.
- 10.4. Should the competition system for the Qualifiers involve a group stage, the ranking in each group shall be determined in accordance with Article 11.5.
- 10.5. Should the competition system for the Qualifiers require the best-ranked Participating Teams from among different groups to advance to the Finals, the rankings shall be determined by the method set out at Appendix 2.

11. Finals (Group Stage)

- 11.1. The eight (8) Participating Teams shall be drawn into two (2) groups of four (4) teams each.
- 11.2. Each Member Association shall play against the other Member Associations within its group once in accordance with the Match Schedule.
- 11.3. The duration of Matches shall be played in accordance with Article 14.
- 11.4. At the conclusion of each Match:
 - 11.4.1. three (3) points shall be awarded to the Winner;
 - 11.4.2. one (1) point shall be awarded to each Participating Team for a draw;
 - 11.4.3. zero (0) points shall be awarded to the Loser.
- 11.5. The ranking in each group shall be determined in descending order as follows:
 - 11.5.1. greater number of points obtained in group Matches;
 - 11.5.2. if two (2) or more Participating Teams have obtained equal number of points in group Matches:
 - 11.5.2.1. higher number of points obtained in the group Matches played among the Participating Teams in question;
 - 11.5.2.2. superior goal difference from the group Matches played among the Participating Teams in question;
 - 11.5.2.3. higher number of goals scored in the group Matches played among the Participating Teams in question;

- 11.5.2.4. if, after having applied the above Articles, two (2) or more Participating Teams still have an equal ranking, they shall be reapplied exclusively to the Matches between those Participating Teams to determine their final rankings. If this procedure is unsuccessful, Articles 11.5.2.5 to 11.5.2.9 apply;
- 11.5.2.5. superior goal difference from all group Matches played;
- 11.5.2.6. higher number of goals scored from all group Matches played;
- 11.5.2.7. Penalty Kicks if only the two (2) Participating Teams are both on the Field of Play;
- 11.5.2.8. the lower score calculated according to the number of yellow and red cards received in group Matches (Appendix 1); or
- 11.5.2.9. the drawing of lots.

11.6. On the basis of Article 11.5, at the conclusion of the Group Stage:

- 11.6.1. the first-placed and second-placed Participating Team in each group shall qualify for the Knockout Stage;
- 11.6.2. subject to the number of slots for the FIFA Women's World Cup 2019 allocated to the AFC by FIFA, the third-placed Participating Team in each group may also qualify to the Knockout Stage; and
- 11.6.3. the third-placed (if Article 11.6.2 above does not apply) and fourth-placed Participating Team in each group shall be eliminated from the Competition, subject to Article 12.1.

12. Finals (Knockout Stage)

12.1. The Knockout Stage shall consist of the 5/6 Place Playoff, Semi Finals, 3/4 Place Playoff, and Finals.

12.1.1. Subject to the number of slots in the FIFA Women's World Cup 2019 allocated to the AFC by FIFA, it may be necessary to schedule a 5/6 Playoff contested by the third-placed Participating Teams in each group to determine the fifth-ranked Participating Team in the Competition.

12.1.2. The Winner of the 5/6 Playoff shall be declared the fifth-ranked Participating Team in the Competition.

- 12.2. Each round of the Knockout Stage shall be conducted in accordance with the Match Schedule.
- 12.3. The duration of Matches, including Extra Time and Penalty Kicks (if required), shall be played in accordance with Articles 14 to 16.
- 12.4. At the conclusion of each Match in the Semi Finals:
 - 12.4.1. the Winner shall qualify for the Final; and
 - 12.4.2. the Loser shall qualify for the 3/4 Place Playoff.
- 12.5. At the conclusion of the 3/4 Place Playoff:
 - 12.5.1. the Winner shall be declared Third-Place; and
 - 12.5.2. the Loser shall be declared Fourth-Place.
- 12.6. At the conclusion of the Final:
 - 12.6.1. the Winner shall be declared Champion; and
 - 12.6.2. the Loser shall be declared Runner-Up.

SECTION 4: TECHNICAL REGULATIONS

13. Matches Played in Accordance with the Laws of the Game

- 13.1. All Matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game laid down by the IFAB and published by FIFA.
- 13.2. In case of any discrepancy in the interpretation of the Laws of the Game, the English version shall prevail and is authoritative.
- 13.3. Only three (3) substitutes listed on a Match Starting List (*cf* Article 35) may take part in a Match. Any Participating Player who has been substituted may take no further part in that Match.
- 13.4. At any stage of a Match, if a Participating Team is only able to field fewer than seven (7) players, the Match shall be abandoned and Article 18.3 shall apply.

14. Duration of Matches

- 14.1. Each Match shall last ninety (90) minutes, comprising of two (2) periods of forty-five (45) minutes (normal playing time). Matches shall start at the time set out in the Match Schedule.
- 14.2. There shall be an interval of fifteen (15) minutes between the periods, commencing from the whistle ending the first period and ending upon the whistle starting the second period.

15. Extra Time

- 15.1. If no Winner is determined at the end of normal playing time during the Knockout Stage, Extra Time shall be played, except for the 3/4 Place Playoff.
- 15.2. Extra Time shall consist of two (2) periods of fifteen (15) minutes, with an interval of five (5) minutes at the end of normal playing time, but no interval between the periods of Extra Time.
- 15.3. If no Winner is determined at the end of the 3/4 Place Playoff, no extra time shall be played and taking of kicks from the penalty mark shall be taken to determine the winner.

16. Determining the Winner by Penalty Kicks

- 16.1. If a Match is level after Extra Time, Penalty Kicks shall be taken to determine the Winner, in accordance with the procedures described in the Laws of the Game.

- 16.2. If Penalty Kicks 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 AFC Match Commissioner and the two (2) captains of the Participating Teams.
- 16.3. If through the fault of a Participating Team the Penalty Kicks cannot be completed, Article 7 of these Regulations shall apply.

17. Cancellation of Matches

- 17.1. If a Match cannot commence on time due to Force Majeure, the pitch not being fit for play, weather conditions, floodlight failure or any other reason, the following procedure shall be followed:
- 17.1.1. 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;
- 17.1.2. following the first delay, either:
- 17.1.2.1. 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
- 17.1.2.2. the Match is declared cancelled by the Referee;
- 17.1.3. following two (2) delays of thirty (30) minutes, the Referee must declare the Match cancelled;
- 17.1.4. within two (2) hours of the decision to cancel the Match, the AFC must decide, taking all sporting and organisational considerations into account, whether the Match can be rescheduled, or whether any other action and decision is needed to continue with the Competition. Any disciplinary sanctions resulting from the cancelled Match shall remain in force.
- 17.2. Decisions made pursuant to Article 17.1.4 are final and binding and not appealable.

18. Abandonment of Matches

- 18.1. If a Match is stopped by the Referee before the end of normal playing time or during any Extra Time due to Force Majeure, the pitch not being fit for play, weather conditions, floodlight failure, or any other reason except for that set out in Article 13.4, the following procedure shall be followed:
- 18.1.1. 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;

- 18.1.2. subsequent to the first stoppage, either:
- 18.1.2.1. 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
 - 18.1.2.2. the Match is declared abandoned by the Referee;
- 18.1.3. following two (2) stoppages of thirty (30) minutes, the Referee must declare the Match abandoned;
- 18.1.4. within two (2) hours of the decision to abandon the Match, the AFC must decide, taking all sporting and organisational considerations into account, whether the Match result at the time of abandonment is valid, whether the Match can be rescheduled and completed, or whether any other action and decision is needed to continue with the Competition.
- 18.2. Should the AFC, pursuant to Article 18.1.4, determine that an abandoned Match should be rescheduled and completed, the following principles shall apply:
- 18.2.1. the Match shall recommence with the same score at the minute at which play was interrupted rather than being replayed in full;
 - 18.2.2. the Match shall recommence with the same Participating Players on the Field of Play and same substitutes at the time it was initially abandoned;
 - 18.2.3. no additional substitutes may be added to the Player Selection List or Match Starting List;
 - 18.2.4. the Participating Teams may only make the number of substitutions to which they were still entitled when the Match was abandoned;
 - 18.2.5. any Participating Player sent off during the abandoned Match cannot be replaced;
 - 18.2.6. any sanction imposed before the Match was abandoned remain valid for the remainder of the rescheduled Match;
 - 18.2.7. the kick-off time, date and Stadium of the re-scheduled Match shall be decided by the AFC; and
 - 18.2.8. any other matters not set out above shall be decided by the AFC in its sole discretion.

- 18.3. If a Match is stopped by the Referee before the end of normal playing time or during any Extra Time as a result of a Participating Team being able to only field fewer than seven (7) Participating Players, the Match shall be declared abandoned and the Participating Team who is able to field more than seven (7) Participating Players shall be declared the Winner by the score 3-0, or the score at the time of abandonment, whichever is higher.
- 18.4. Decisions made pursuant to Article 18.1.4 and Article 18.2.8 are final and binding and not appealable.

19. Stadium

- 19.1. Unless stipulated in these Regulations, Matches must be played in a Stadium which complies with:
- 19.1.1. the AFC Stadium Regulations;
 - 19.1.2. any AFC Marketing & Media Regulations; and
 - 19.1.3. any other safety and security standards issued by or contained within relevant AFC guidelines, directives, or circulars.
- 19.2. Stadia to be utilised shall be nominated by the bidding Organising Association(s) and are subject to inspection and confirmation by the AFC. All costs related to inspection shall be borne by the bidding Organising Association(s).
- 19.3. If at any time during the Competition the AFC General Secretariat deems that, for whatever reason, a Stadium is not fit to stage a Match, it shall consult with the relevant Member Association and propose an alternate Stadium.
- 19.4. The Organising Association(s) shall ensure that no Matches and/or other activities are held at any Stadia approved to host Matches in the Competition at least ten (10) days prior to the Competition, unless written permission has been obtained from the AFC.
- 19.5. Unless otherwise specified or directed by the AFC, the Stadia approved to host Matches in the Competition shall be made available to use for the Competition as of seven (7) days prior to the first Match of the Competition until one (1) day after the last Match of the Competition.

20. Field of Play

- 20.1. Each Organising Association shall ensure that the Field of Play is in playable condition.

- 20.2. The AFC General Coordinator and/or AFC Match Commissioner will inspect each 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 AFC Match Commissioner shall issue instructions for the Organising Association to ensure rectification.
- 20.3. All Matches shall be played on a Field of Play in accordance with the Laws of the Game
- 20.4. 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 the Referee declares that the Match cannot commence on time, Article 17 shall apply.

21. Team Bench and Technical Area

- 21.1. A maximum of eight (8) Participating Officials and a maximum of twelve (12) Participating Players are permitted to sit on the team bench during a Match, provided they are in possession of the appropriate Accreditation Card.
- 21.2. Participating Officials and Participating Players on the team bench must wear their Accreditation Card at all times.
- 21.3. All individuals on the team bench must wear kit that contrasts with the kit of the Participating Players and Referees present on the Field of Play. This kit must comply with the AFC Equipment Regulations (*cf* Article 58).
- 21.4. 'Team A' shall occupy the team bench on the left when facing the Field of Play from the Fourth Official bench.

22. Warming up

- 22.1. Each Participating Team shall be entitled to warm-up on the Field of Play before a Match if the weather permits.
- 22.2. During a Match, a maximum of six (6) Participating Players from each Participating Team may warm-up simultaneously without a ball (except for the goalkeeper), behind the goal closest to their team bench. These Participating Players may be assisted by two (2) Participating Officials from the team bench.
 - 22.2.1. If there is no space to warm-up behind the goal, a maximum of three (3) Participating Players from each Participating Team may warm up simultaneously without a ball (except goalkeepers) behind Assistant Referee 1, to the right of the 'Team B' team bench. These Participating Players may be assisted by one (1) Participating Official.

23. Official Training Sessions at the Stadium

- 23.1. Depending on the weather and condition of the Field of Play, each Participating Team is entitled to an official training session of sixty (60) minutes duration in the Stadium in which they are due to play either one (1) or two (2) days prior to their Match at the same time as the kick-off of the Match.
- 23.1.1. If the Field of Play is an artificial pitch, each Participating Team is entitled to either two (2) official training sessions of sixty (60) minutes duration or one (1) official training session of sixty (60) minutes duration one (1) and/or (2) days prior to their Match.
- 23.2. The Field of Play must be prepared to Match-condition for official training sessions. If the Field of Play is not in Match-condition, the AFC General Coordinator and/or AFC Match Commissioner may shorten or cancel the official training session and direct the Participating Teams to inspect the Field of Play wearing training shoes only.
- 23.3. If a Participating Team chooses not to train at a Stadium, they must provide the AFC General Coordinator and/or AFC Match Commissioner with the time and location of their official training session at another designated Official Training Site approved by the AFC. This shall be treated as their official training session and they shall forfeit the right to train at that particular Stadium.
- 23.4. The Organising Association is required to provide at least one (1) ambulance during the official training session at the Stadium.

24. Official Training Sessions and Official Training Sites

- 24.1. Subject to Article 23, official training sessions must be undertaken in an Official Training Site approved by the AFC.
- 24.2. All Official Training Sites must comply with:
- 24.2.1. the relevant AFC Marketing & Media Regulations; and
- 24.2.2. any other safety and security standards issued by or contained within relevant AFC guidelines, directives, or circulars.
- 24.3. Official Training Sites to be utilised shall be nominated by the bidding Organising Association(s) and are subject to inspection and confirmation by the AFC. All costs related to inspection shall be borne by the bidding Organising Association(s).
- 24.4. If at any time during the Competition the AFC General Secretariat deems that, for whatever reason, an Official Training Site is not fit to stage a Match,

it shall consult with the relevant Member Association and propose an alternate Official Training Site.

- 24.5. All Official Training Sites are subject to inspection and approval by the AFC.
- 24.6. The Organising Association(s) shall ensure that no Matches and/or other activities are held at any Official Training Site at least five (5) days prior to the Competition, unless written permission has been obtained from the AFC.

25. Footballs

Qualifiers

- 25.1. The footballs for the Qualifiers shall be selected and supplied by each Organising Association. The Organising Associations shall:
 - 25.1.1. provide ten (10) new footballs for each Match of the Competition;
 - 25.1.2. provide ten (10) new training footballs to each Member Association participating in Qualifiers on the territory of the Organising Association prior to the Competition.
- 25.2. Participating Teams are only permitted to use the training footballs provided by the Organising Association for training and warming-up purposes.
- 25.3. Only footballs that bear one (1) of the FIFA quality marks or the “IMS – International Matchball Standard” mark are permitted to be utilised for the Qualifiers.

Finals

- 25.4. The footballs for the Finals shall be selected and supplied by the AFC.
- 25.5. Each Member Association shall receive twenty (20) training footballs prior to the Competition.
- 25.6. Participating Teams are only permitted to use the training footballs provided by the AFC for training and warming-up purposes.
- 25.7. Each Member Association is responsible for any taxes and/or fees pertaining to the customs clearance of footballs delivered to it by the AFC.

SECTION 5: TEAM OFFICIAL DELEGATION

26. Team Official Delegation

Qualifiers

- 26.1. Each Member Association shall register a Team Official Delegation, subject to the conditions set out below, comprising of minimum eighteen (18) and maximum twenty three (23) Participating Players and minimum two (2) and maximum eight (8) Participating Officials.
 - 26.1.1. Each Member Association may nominate an additional four (4) officials who shall receive the same Accreditation as the eight (8) Participating Officials included in the Team Official Delegation.
 - 26.1.2. All costs related to the additional four (4) officials shall be borne by the relevant Member Association.
- 26.2. The Team Official Delegation shall be granted full access to all official Competition areas, including the Field of Play and other necessary Controlled Accessed Areas, as determined by the AFC.
- 26.3. The AFC shall pay the costs of the accommodation and transportation of each Team Official Delegation, except where stated otherwise in these Regulations.
- 26.4. Each Team Manager and Team Media Officer shall be responsible for coordinating all Participating Team and media-related matters with the AFC. They shall participate in all Official Functions related to Matches in the Competition, including without limitation the Match Coordination Meeting and all press conferences.
- 26.5. Each Participating Team may nominate maximum eight (8) officials to sit on the team bench, which must include the Head Coach and Team Manager. Their identity must be confirmed on the 'Officials on the Team Bench List' to be submitted prior to the commencement of each Match.
- 26.6. Participating Teams shall ensure that no unauthorised persons are permitted entry into the team dressing room, Field of Play, or any other Controlled Access Area requiring an Accreditation Card.

Finals

- 26.7. Each Member Association shall register a Team Official Delegation, subject to the conditions set out below, comprising of between eighteen (18) and twenty three (23) Participating Players and two (2) and eight (8) Participating Officials.
- 26.7.1. Each Member Association may nominate an additional four (4) officials who shall receive the same Accreditation as the eight (8) Participating Officials included in the Team Official Delegation.
- 26.7.2. All costs related to the additional four (4) officials shall be borne by the relevant Member Association.
- 26.8. The individuals nominated for the Team Official Delegation for the Finals may differ from the Qualifiers.
- 26.9. The provisions of Article 26.2 to 26.6 shall apply equally to the Finals.

27. Eligibility of Players

- 27.1. Each Member Association shall ensure that all players:
- 27.1.1. are duly registered with the AFC pursuant to these Regulations;
- 27.1.2. hold the nationality of its country and are subject to its jurisdiction;
and
- 27.1.3. are eligible to participate for the representative team of the Member Association in accordance with Article 5-8 of the Regulations Governing the Application of the FIFA Statutes.
- 27.2. Individuals who meet the criteria set out in Article 27.1 are eligible to participate in the Competition, subject to the provisions of the AFC Disciplinary Code.
- 27.3. The approval of the registration of a Participating Player by the AFC General Secretariat does not automatically provide for the eligibility of the Participating Player. Each Member Association is responsible for fielding only eligible Participating Players. Failure to do so shall lead to the consequences stipulated in the AFC Disciplinary Code.
- 27.4. A Participating Player shall be deemed ineligible, without limitation, if:
- 27.4.1. there is a violation of Article 27.1; or
- 27.4.2. she participates in a Match contrary to a decision of the AFC Disciplinary Committee, these Regulations, or the operation of the AFC Disciplinary Code; or

27.4.3. the AFC determines that any document submitted during registration is false.

28. Stages of Registration of Players

28.1. There are three (3) stages of player registration for the Qualifiers and the Finals:

28.1.1. Preliminary Registration: each Participating Team must submit a squad of minimum eighteen (18) and maximum fifty (50) Participating Players;

28.1.2. Final Registration: each Participating Team must submit a squad of minimum eighteen (18) and maximum twenty three (23) Participating Players from the Preliminary Registration squad;

28.1.3. Player Selection List: each Participating Team must submit a Player Selection List prior to each Match which identifies the starting eleven (11) and the (up to) twelve (12) substitutes.

28.2. Each column in the registration page on AFCAS must be completed with the correct information.

28.3. Any individual with missing documentation shall not be eligible for registration as a Participating Player.

28.4. All Participating Players will be issued with Accreditation Cards authorised by the AFC Women's Football Committee. Should a card be misplaced, the relevant Participating Team shall be required to pay USD1,000 as a replacement production fee.

28.5. Should the AFC not receive all required documents by the stipulated deadline, the Member Association concerned shall be considered to have withdrawn from the Competition prior to its commencement and subject to Article 6.

29. Documents for Registration of Players

29.1. Participating Players must be registered via the AFCAS online registration with the supporting documents set out below (unless already previously submitted and available in AFCAS):

29.1.1. a colour copy of a validly-issued passport, containing the full name, passport number, place of birth, date of birth, date of issue, date of expiry and nationality of the relevant individual. Group passports are not permitted;

29.1.2. a colour copy of a national identification card (where applicable); and

- 29.1.3. one (1) passport-size colour photo (taken within three (3) months).
- 29.2. Where original documents are not in English, the Member Associations shall provide an accredited translation.
- 29.3. In cases of registration of players who have acquired a new nationality (*cf* Article 7, FIFA Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes), the Member Association must provide the documents set out in Appendix 3.
- 29.4. In cases of registration of players who hold a passport entitling them to represent more than one (1) Member Association (*cf* Art. 6 FIFA Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes), the Member Association must provide the documents set out in Appendix 4.
- 29.5. The AFC reserves the right to request additional documents in all cases.

30. Preliminary Registration

Qualifiers

- 30.1. Each Participating Team shall submit via AFCAS online registration the supporting documents in accordance with Article 28 by the deadline provided by the AFC.
- 30.2. Jersey numbers 1-50 shall be allocated for the Qualifiers. Jersey number 1 shall be reserved for a goalkeeper.
- 30.3. Each Participating Team shall register minimum eighteen (18) players and maximum fifty (50) Participating Players in the Preliminary Registration squad.
- 30.4. If a Participating Team fails to register minimum eighteen (18) Participating Players, its Member Association shall be deemed to withdrawn from the Competition prior to its commencement and subject to Article 6.
- 30.5. Each Participating Team must register a minimum of three (3) goalkeepers in their Preliminary Registration squad.
- 30.6. Once the Preliminary Registration squad has been received by the AFC and after the deadline has passed, under no circumstances shall Member Associations be permitted to submit additional names or replace any registered individual, even if their quota of fifty (50) has not been filled.

Finals

- 30.7. Each Participating Team shall submit via AFCAS online registration the supporting documents in accordance with Article 28 by the deadline provided by the AFC.
- 30.8. There is no allocation of jersey numbers during the Preliminary Registration for the Finals.
- 30.9. The provisions of Article 30.3 to 30.6 shall apply equally to the Finals.
- 30.10. The Preliminary Registration Squad for the Finals may differ from that registered for the Qualifiers.

31. Final Registration

Qualifiers

- 31.1. Each Participating Team shall submit a Final Registration squad of minimum eighteen (18) players and maximum twenty three (23) Participating Players.
 - 31.1.1. The Final Registration squad may only be comprised from those Participating Players selected in the Preliminary Registration squad.
 - 31.1.2. Each Participating Player shall wear the same number allocated in the Preliminary Registration during all Matches in the Qualifiers.
 - 31.1.3. Each Member Association shall submit their Final Registration squad at the Match Coordination Meeting of their first Match in the Qualifiers.
- 31.2. Each Participating Team must register a minimum of three (3) goalkeepers in their Final Registration squad.
- 31.3. Once the Final Registration squad has been received by the AFC, Participating Teams may replace any of the registered Participating Players up to six (6) hours prior to their first Match in the Competition, subject to the below conditions:
 - 31.3.1. Any replacement must have been registered in the Preliminary Registration squad.
 - 31.3.2. Replacements shall only be allocated the vacated shirt numbers.
 - 31.3.3. To replace a Participating Player, a Participating Team must provide her Accreditation Card to the AFC General Coordinator or AFC Match Commissioner and shall receive the Accreditation Card of the replacement in exchange.

31.3.4. Only when a replacement has received her Accreditation Card will she be eligible to participate in the Competition.

Finals

31.4. Each Participating Team shall submit a Final Registration squad of minimum eighteen (18) players and maximum twenty three (23) Participating Players.

31.4.1. The Final Registration squad may only be comprised from those Participating Players selected in the Preliminary Registration squad for the Finals.

31.4.2. Jersey numbers 1-23 shall be allocated for the Finals. Jersey number 1 shall be reserved for a goalkeeper. Each Participating Player shall wear the same number allocated in the Final Registration during all Matches in the Finals.

31.4.3. Each Member Association shall submit their Final Registration squad to the AFC by latest ten (10) days prior to the first Match of the Finals.

31.5. The provisions of Article 31.2 to 31.3 shall apply equally to the Finals.

32. Player Selection List

32.1. For each Match, each Participating Team will receive a 'Player Selection List' on which the numbers and full names (last name, first name) of the Participating Players are listed prior to their arrival at the Stadium.

32.2. Each Participating Team must indicate on the Player Selection List the starting eleven (11), including the team captain, and the (up to) twelve (12) substitutes.

32.3. Each Participating Team must hand their Player Selection List together with the 'Officials on the Team Bench' List with the names of the Participating Officials who shall be entitled to sit on the team bench to the AFC Match Commissioner by latest ninety (90) minutes prior to the commencement of each Match.

33. Match Starting List

33.1. Upon receipt of the Player Selection List, the AFC Match Commissioner will produce, through AFCAS, the 'Match Starting List'.

33.2. The Match Starting List must be signed by the Head Coach and Team Manager of each Participating Team and returned to the AFC Match Commissioner, whose signature will make it an official document.

- 33.3. The AFC Match Commissioner will ask to see the Accreditation Cards and playing kits of the Participating Players listed on the Match Starting List seventy five (75) minutes before the Match. Each Participating Player must be in possession of their Accreditation Card. Only those Participating Players possessing an Accreditation Card are entitled to participate in Matches.
- 33.4. Following the production of the Match Starting List but prior to the commencement of the Match:
- 33.4.1. If any of the eleven (11) Participating Players selected to start the Match are unable to start for any reason, they may be replaced by any of the substitutes listed on the Match Starting List.
- 33.4.2. The Team Manager for the Participating Team shall immediately notify the Referees and the AFC Match Commissioner of the change to the Match Starting List.
- 33.4.3. There is no limit to the number of replacements.
- 33.4.4. The replaced Participating Player(s) shall no longer be eligible to participate in the Match. The Participating Team may still undertake three (3) substitutions during the Match.

34. Registration of Officials

- 34.1. There shall only be one (1) registration period for Participating Officials for each of the Qualifiers and Finals.
- 34.2. Each Participating Team shall submit via AFCAS online registration the supporting documents in accordance with Article 28 by the deadline provided by the AFC.
- 34.3. Each Participating Team shall nominate minimum (2) and maximum eight (8) Participating Officials. Each Participating Team may also nominate an additional four (4) officials in accordance with Article 26.
- 34.4. Up to eight (8) officials may be registered for each Match. The following two (2) Participating Officials must be registered in the "Participating Officials on the Substitution Bench" Form by the AFC Match Commissioner:
- 34.4.1. Team Manager; and
- 34.4.2. Head Coach.
- 34.5. Each Participating Team is entitled to register a 'Video Analyst' who shall be the only member of a Team Official Delegation entitled to record Matches in the Competition. This recording shall be strictly for technical purposes, and should not interfere with Match operations or be utilised by any Broadcasters.

- 34.6. Each column in the registration page on AFCAS must be completed with correct information.
- 34.7. Any individual with missing documentation shall not be eligible for registration as a Participating Official.
- 34.8. All Participating Officials (and additional officials will be issued with official eligibility cards authorised by the AFC Women's Football Committee. Should a card be misplaced, the relevant Member Association shall be required to pay USD1,000 as a replacement production fee.
- 34.9. Should the AFC not receive all required documents by the stipulated deadline, the Member Association concerned shall be considered to have withdrawn from the Competition prior to its commencement and subject to Article 6.
- 34.10. Once the registration of Participating Officials has been received by the AFC, Member Associations may replace any of the listed Participating Officials up to seven (7) days before their first Match in the Competition to the AFC, subject to the below conditions:
 - 34.10.1. To replace a Participating Official, a Participating Team must provide her Accreditation Card to the AFC General Coordinator or AFC Match Commissioner and shall receive the Accreditation Card of the replacement in exchange.
 - 34.10.2. Only when a replacement has received their Accreditation Card will she be eligible to participate in the Competition.

35. Documents for Registration of Officials

- 35.1. Participating Officials must be registered via the AFCAS online registration with the supporting documents set out below (unless already previously submitted and available in AFCAS):
 - 35.1.1. a colour copy of a validly-issued passport, containing the full name, passport number, place of birth, date of birth, date of issue, date of expiry and nationality of the relevant individual. Group passports are not permitted;
 - 35.1.2. a colour copy of a national identification card (where applicable);
 - 35.1.3. one (1) passport-size colour photo (taken within three (3) months);
 - 35.1.4. evidence of their qualification based upon their function:

- 35.1.4.1. Head Coach: AFC “A” Coaching License or equivalent;
- 35.1.4.2. Assistant Coach: AFC “B” Coaching License or equivalent;
- 35.1.4.3. Goalkeeping Coach: AFC Goalkeeping Level 1 Coaching Certificate
- 35.1.4.4. Fitness Coach: AFC ‘B’ coaching certificate with sports science background. and
- 35.1.4.5. Team Doctor: relevant medical qualification.

35.2. The AFC reserves the right to request additional documents in all cases.

SECTION 6: LOGISTICAL ARRANGEMENTS

36. General Requirements

- 36.1. This Section 6 shall apply equally to the Qualifiers and Finals except where expressly stated.

37. Arrival and Departure

- 37.1. Each Participating Team shall arrive at the official hotel at the Venue of their Matches by the official arrival date to be determined by the AFC.
- 37.2. Each Participating Team shall depart the Venue of their final Match one (1) day after the Match.
- 37.3. Should a Participating Team arrive at a Venue prior to the official arrival date to be determined by the AFC or depart the Venue of its final Match more than one (1) day after the Match, its Member Association shall bear all costs relating to those additional days in the Venue.

38. Airfares

- 38.1. Each Member Association is responsible for payment of all airfares (international and domestic) for their Team Official Delegation from their departure from the territory of the Member Association (or any other location) to the Venue of its Matches and its departure from the Venue of their final Match.
- 38.2. Each Member Association is required to purchase published-fare air tickets which are endorsable and allow for date changes for travel to and from the Organising Association(s).
- 38.3. Any costs relating to non-compliance with Article 38.1 and/or 38.2 shall be borne by the relevant Member Association.

39. Visas

- 39.1. Each Member Association must apply for all necessary visas for their Team Official Delegation no later than one (1) month prior to its first Match of the Qualifiers and/or Finals. Visa application costs shall be borne by the Member Associations.
- 39.1.1. Any Member Association unable to fulfill a fixture as a result of failing to secure visas shall be considered to have withdrawn prior to the commencement of the Competition in accordance with Article 6.

- 39.2. Organising Associations must guarantee and ensure that visas are granted to the AFC Delegation, all Team Official Delegations, the AFC Commercial Rights Partner, Licensees, Broadcasters, Media, and travelling supporters, without any discrimination on the basis of gender, race, or nationality.

40. Taxes

- 40.1. The Organising Associations are responsible for all taxes, fees, duties and any other costs related to the importation and/or exportation of equipment, merchandise and/or goods to be used for the Competition.
- 40.2. The Organising Associations are responsible for any other taxes, fees, duties, and any other costs as set out in the AFC Marketing and Media Regulations.

41. Accommodation, Meals and Refreshments for Member Associations

- 41.1. Only official hotels approved by the AFC shall be used as Accommodation.
- 41.2. The AFC shall provide the Team Official Delegation of each Member Association the following from the date of their official arrival at the Venue until one (1) day after their final Match:
- 41.2.1. accommodation in an international five-star hotel for the Team Official Delegation (or an international four-star hotel if there exists no international five-star hotels in the Venue), not exceeding thirty one (31) persons, which shall comprise of eleven (11) double rooms and nine (9) single rooms. All rooms, where possible, shall be on the same floor;
 - 41.2.2. one (1) additional empty room in said hotel for the purposes of medical treatment and storage;
 - 41.2.3. one (1) meeting room in said hotel (shared between two (2) Participating Teams) for the duration of the Competition equipped with a whiteboard, DVD player or LCD projector, and television. The meeting room shall accommodate at least thirty one (31) persons in a classroom layout setting;
 - 41.2.4. three (3) meals per day (international buffet style) and one (1) additional light meal on Match-day in a dedicated dining area for the Team Official Delegation;
 - 41.2.5. minimum six (6) litres of water per person per day for the Team Official Delegation, as well as ice and refreshments;

- 41.2.6. daily laundry services (but no dry cleaning or pressing) for playing and training outfits (eight (8) pieces per day per person) for the Team Official Delegation; and
- 41.2.7. at least one (1) liaison officer proficient in English and the language of the Member Association.
- 41.3. Each Member Association shall pay for incidental expenses incurred by its Team Official Delegation during the course of their stay in the Organising Association.
- 41.4. Each Member Association shall pay for any costs incurred by additional members of their delegation not part of their Team Official Delegation.
- 41.5. Each Member Association shall pay for any extension of stay in the Organising Association of any member of their Team Official Delegation, other than where expressly permitted in these Regulations.

42. Arrangements for Licensees

- 42.1. Each Organising Association must assist any Licensees, upon request, to secure Accommodation of sufficient quality on the same terms as available to the AFC, in first-class hotels in a Venue, as well as reasonable transportations service from the Accommodation and centre of each Venue to a Stadium, and if applicable, air transportation to and between Venues.

43. Local Land Transportation

- 43.1. The AFC shall provide the Team Official Delegation of each Member Association the following from the date of their official arrival at the Venue until one (1) day after their final Match:
 - 43.1.1. one (1) bus with minimum forty-five (45) seats; and
 - 43.1.2. one (1) multipurpose vehicle,
for transportation of the Team Official Delegation to training, Matches, Official Functions, and airport transfers; and
 - 43.1.3. one (1) luggage truck for airport transfers, hotel transfers (if applicable), and Match day.

SECTION 7: MEDIA

44. General Requirements

- 44.1. This Section 7 shall apply equally to the Qualifiers and Finals except where expressly stated.
- 44.2. Each Organising Association is responsible, at their own cost, to ensure that all requirements for Media set out in the AFC Stadium Regulations and AFC Marketing and Media Regulations are met.
- 44.3. The Organising Association of the Finals is additionally responsible to ensure that all requirements for Media set out in the Organising Association Agreement are met.
- 44.4. Where there are any discrepancies between the same matters set out in these Regulations and the Marketing and Media Regulations, these Regulations shall prevail to the extent of any inconsistency.

45. Media Accreditation

- 45.1. Each Organising Association must implement an accreditation programme for Media as instructed by the AFC to control and manage access to the Stadium.
- 45.2. Where instructed, each Organising Association shall produce media identity bibs for photographers, and television and ENG crews, under the supervision of the AFC. Each Organising Association shall be responsible for their distribution and collection after each Match.
- 45.3. Each Organising Association, at its own cost, must put in place all reasonable security measures to protect the commentary area, camera positions, and equipment of the Broadcasters.

46. Media Access

- 46.1. Representatives of the written press and radio journalists are not permitted on the Field of Play or the area between the boundaries of the Field of Play and the spectators, with the exception of accredited Media who shall carry out their duties in the specific locations assigned to them.
- 46.2. Only photographers, cameramen of the Host Broadcaster and the main visiting Broadcaster and the personnel required to operate the electronic television cameras of the Host Broadcaster are allowed in the area between the boundaries of the Field of Play and the spectators, where they will carry out their work in the specific locations assigned to them.

- 46.3. No Media representatives are permitted to enter any team dressing room at any stage of any Match.
- 46.4. Each Organising Association shall ensure that the AFC, the Host Broadcaster, and all Broadcasters have free access to the Stadium from three (3) days prior to the first Match in the Stadium until one (1) day after the final Match in the Stadium to allow for the resolution of any technical issues and for the assembly of the relevant infrastructure required to execute the Media Rights.
- 46.5. Each Organising Association is responsible for ensuring that the Media Rights are protected and that no unofficial or unauthorised broadcaster and/or video or ENG camera crews are permitted access to any Stadium without the prior written permission of the AFC.

47. Training Sessions

- 47.1. All training sessions are open to the Media.
- 47.2. Should a Participating Team wish to close its training session to the Media, it shall, as a minimum, open the session for the first fifteen (15) minutes.
- 47.3. If a training session is held at a Stadium, the areas accessible by the Media shall be the same as available to them during Matches. Access to such areas shall be security-controlled by the Organising Association.

48. Press Conferences

- 48.1. The Head Coach of each Participating Team must attend a pre-Match press conference for each Match in which they participate.
- 48.2. The Head Coach of each Participating Team must attend a post-Match press conference for each Match in which they participate, commencing no later than fifteen (15) minutes after the Match.
- 48.3. Each Member Association is responsible for the interpretation of its Head Coach and relevant Participating Players into English. Interpretation into the local language (if applicable) shall be the responsibility of the Organising Association.
- 48.4. Any Head Coach who fails to attend a press conference shall be fined a minimum USD5,000 and may be subject to a ban from the dressing room and/or substitutes' bench. The relevant Member Association may be held liable for any failure to attend a press conference in accordance with Article 3.3.8.

49. Mixed Zone

- 49.1. Participating Players and Participating Officials shall pass through the Mixed Zone on their way from their team dressing room to their bus after each Match.
- 49.2. Any individual who fails to pass through the mixed zone shall be fined a minimum USD5,000. The relevant Member Association may be held liable for any failure to pass through the Mixed Zone in accordance with Article 3.3.8.

50. Interviews

- 50.1. If requested by the AFC or the AFC Commercial Rights Partner, Member Associations shall make their Head Coach and three (3) Participating Player available the day before each Match for an interview of up to ten (10) minutes, to be recorded by the Host Broadcaster or other Broadcaster, any Licensee or Official Partner, or by the AFC official website. All interview locations shall be designated by the AFC Media Officer or AFC General Coordinator.
- 50.2. Any individual who fails to conduct an interview when requested shall be fined a minimum USD5,000. The relevant Member Association may be held liable for any failure to conduct an interview when requested in accordance with Article 3.3.8.

51. Flash Interviews

- 51.1. Participating Players and Participating Officials are not permitted to give interviews during the Match, on the Field of Play, or in its immediate vicinity, without the express permission of the AFC.
- 51.2. The AFC Media Officer or AFC General Coordinator may designate an area for 'flash interviews' to be conducted by the Host Broadcaster and the visiting Media Rights-holding Broadcaster (if applicable) following each Match.
- 51.3. The Team Media Officer(s) shall be informed in the final minutes of each Match of the names of the individuals requested to participate in a 'flash interview'. Those individuals are obliged to participate in any such 'flash interview'.
- 51.4. Any individual who fails to conduct a 'flash interview' when requested shall be fined a minimum USD5,000. The relevant Member Association may be held liable for any failure to conduct a 'flash interview' when requested in accordance with Article 3.3.8.

52. Recording of Matches

- 52.1. Each Organising Association is responsible, at its own cost, to provide four (4) copies of the Match DVD to the AFC Match Commissioner immediately after

the completion of each Match. The Match DVD must be of good quality and cover the entire duration of the Match.

- 52.2. Any Organising Association who fails to provide four (4) copies of the Match DVD to the AFC Match Commissioner immediately after the completion of each Match shall be fined a minimum USD5,000.
- 52.3. The AFC shall provide each Member Association in the Qualifiers the footage of each Match in their respective groups (if applicable).
- 52.4. The AFC shall provide each Member Association in the Finals the footage of each Match in the Finals.

SECTION 8: EQUIPMENT

53. General Requirements

- 53.1. This Section 8 shall apply equally to the Qualifiers and Finals except where expressly stated.
- 53.2. Each Member Association must comply with the AFC Equipment Regulations.
- 53.3. The AFC Equipment Regulations are operational from the arrival of each Team Official Delegation at a Controlled Access Area until the departure of each Team Official Delegation from such areas.

54. AFC Badges

- 54.1. Each Member Association shall allow space on its playing jersey to affix the following sleeve badges as required by the AFC Equipment Regulations:
 - 54.1.1. AFC Women's Asian Cup sleeve badge on the right arm;
 - 54.1.2. AFC Campaign sleeve badge on the left arm.

55. Kit Approval Procedure

- 55.1. Each Member Association shall submit to the AFC for its approval one (1) sample of all kit, as defined in the AFC Equipment Regulations, by a date provided by the AFC prior to the Qualifiers and prior to the Finals.
- 55.2. Each Member Association shall submit to the AFC for its approval one (1) sample of all other apparel to be worn by their Team Official Delegation within the Controlled Access Areas during the Competition by a date provided by the AFC prior to the Qualifiers and prior to the Finals.
- 55.3. Should any equipment submitted to the AFC infringe the AFC Equipment Regulations or these Regulations, the Member Association shall be required to resubmit corrected equipment to the AFC in accordance with the AFC Equipment Regulations.
- 55.4. The AFC Match Commissioner, the AFC General Coordinator, and/or the AFC Marketing Manager all have the right and duty to inspect the kit of a Team Official Delegation at each Venue, and are entitled to seize and send such items to the AFC Headquarters for further inspection following each Match.

56. Responsibility

- 56.1. The AFC has the sole authority to approve the equipment (including kit) set out in the AFC Equipment Regulations.
- 56.2. Each Member Association shall indemnify the AFC and hold the AFC 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 AFC Equipment Regulations.

SECTION 9: TICKETING

57. General Requirements

- 57.1. This Section 9 shall apply equally to the Qualifiers and Finals except where expressly stated.
- 57.2. Tickets shall include seat numbering and serial numbering, and only include AFC Marks, Competition Marks, and/or marks of Licensees approved by the AFC.

Qualifiers

- 57.3. Each Organising Association shall be responsible for the design, production, distribution, and sales of all Tickets. Such matters are subject to the approval of the AFC.
- 57.4. All costs of printing Tickets shall be borne by each Organising Association.

Finals

- 57.5. The AFC shall be responsible for the design, production, distribution and sales of all Tickets. Such matters shall be undertaken with the cooperation of the Organising Association.

58. Terms and Conditions

- 58.1. For the Finals only, the AFC shall, in collaboration with the Organising Association, issue special Ticketing terms and conditions which are applicable to all Ticket holders.

59. Complimentary Tickets

- 59.1. Each Organising Association shall provide complimentary Tickets to the AFC for each Match in the Competition as instructed by the AFC.

Finals

- 59.2. Each Organising Association shall provide the following complimentary Tickets to each Member Association competing at a Venue which it controls:
- 59.2.1. one (1) VVIP Ticket for each Match it participates in;
- 59.2.2. five (5) VIP Tickets for each Match it participates in;
- 59.2.3. twenty (20) Tickets of the next-best category for each Match it participates in; and

59.2.4. two (2) Tickets of the next-best category for all other Matches at the Venues controlled by the Organising Association.

60. Purchasable Tickets

- 60.1. Each Organising Association must make available at least eight percent (8%) of the net saleable capacity of a Stadium available exclusively to the supporters of each Member Association, in a segregated, safe area to be determined by the AFC and the Organising Association.
- 60.2. This allocation shall be comprised of a mixture of Category 1 and Category 2 Tickets. The number of Tickets to be purchased must be declared by each Member Association no later than one (1) month prior to the first Match. Each member Association 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 Organising Association.
- 60.3. Each Organising Association shall provide the AFC Commercial Rights Partner with the opportunity to buy Tickets at face-value for each Match. The number of Tickets to be purchased must be declared by no later than two (2) weeks prior to the Match.

SECTION 10: MEDICAL & ANTI-DOPING

61. General Requirements

- 61.1. This Section 10 shall apply equally to the Qualifiers and Finals except where expressly stated.

62. Medical Facilities and Treatment

- 62.1. Each Organising Association is responsible, for each Member Association from the arrival of their Team Official Delegation (as approved by the AFC) until one (1) day after their final Match, the costs of the following medical treatments:

62.1.1. out-patient treatment (non-admission to hospital);

62.1.2. minor surgeries (e.g. suturing);

62.1.3. radiological investigations; and

62.1.4. emergency treatment.

- 62.2. Each Organising Association is responsible for the costs of the medical treatments set out in Article 62.1 for all members of the AFC Delegation from their arrival in the Venues until their departure.

- 62.3. Each Member Association is responsible, for all members of its Team Official Delegation, for the cost of any:

62.3.1. hospitalisation (admission to hospital);

62.3.2. surgical operations not provided for in Article 62.1; and

62.3.3. specialised investigative procedures.

- 62.4. Each Organising Association is responsible for the provision of an emergency medical room and doping control room for each Match. The provision of such rooms must comply with the relevant AFC Stadium Regulations.

63. Medical Personnel

- 63.1. Each Organising Association for the Qualifiers, at their own cost for each Match, must provide:

63.1.1. one (1) certified medical officer supported by a team of para-medical staff in the Stadium medical room;

63.1.2. the following Field of Play medical services:

- 63.1.2.1. one (1) medical officer trained in emergency medicine supported by a team of support para-medical staff trained in emergency medical care (CPR/ALTS);
- 63.1.2.2. eight (8) trained stretcher bearers in good physical condition; and
- 63.1.2.3. two (2) ambulances with designated drivers fully equipped with advance life-support equipment (oxygen, masks, defibrillator, I/V dripsets, emergency medicaments), and trained medical staff;

63.1.3. the following doping control personnel:

- 63.1.3.1. one (1) Doping Control Assistant (medical officer);
- 63.1.3.2. four (4) Doping Control Chaperones; and
- 63.1.3.3. one (1) Security Officer.

64. Anti-Doping

- 64.1. Doping is prohibited. The AFC Anti-Doping Regulations, the AFC Disciplinary Code, and all relevant AFC directives in relation to anti-doping are applicable to the Competition.
- 64.2. The AFC shall inform each Member Association by means of a circular of the doping control procedure for the Competition.
- 64.3. The AFC Medical Committee shall be responsible for the approval of the WADA-accredited laboratory which shall carry out the analysis of all doping samples.

65. Gender Verification

- 65.1. Gender verification is not mandatory for female Participating Players.
- 65.2. Recognising the possibility of one's gender being challenged or the existence of doubt that requires further investigation, the AFC reserves the right to take appropriate measures to undertake the determination of the gender of a Participating Player.
- 65.3. Strict confidentiality shall be observed in the conduct of such measures.

SECTION 11: DISCIPLINARY

66. Disciplinary Measures

- 66.1. All disciplinary measures in relation to the Competition shall be undertaken in accordance with the current AFC Statutes, AFC Disciplinary Code, AFC Code of Ethics and any relevant AFC circular.
- 66.2. The AFC may introduce new disciplinary rules and sanctions for the duration of the Competition. Such rules shall be communicated to the Member Associations one (1) month before the first Match of the Finals at latest.
- 66.3. All Participating Players agree to:
- 66.3.1. respect the spirit of fair play, non-violence, and the authority of the Match Officials;
 - 66.3.2. behave accordingly; and
 - 66.3.3. refrain from doping.

67. Cautions and Expulsions

- 67.1. 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 AFC Disciplinary Code except where expressly set out below.
- 67.2. Any Participating Player who completes the Qualifiers having cumulatively received one (1) caution shall not carry-over that caution to the Finals.
- 67.3. Any Participating Player who completes the Group Stage having cumulatively received one (1) caution shall not carry-over that caution to the Semi Finals.

68. Indiscipline or Violent Conduct

- 68.1. Any individual reported for any act of indiscipline or violent conduct at the Stadium (including without limitation within the team dressing room or on the Field of Play), Official Training Site, Accommodation, or any other location within the Venue of a Match shall be referred to the AFC Disciplinary Committee.

69. Protest

- 69.1. A protest is an objection of any kind to any matter that has a direct effect on Matches and any matters related to breach of these Regulations.

- 69.2. Unless otherwise stipulated, to be considered valid, protests shall be:
- 69.2.1. submitted in writing to the AFC Match Commissioner within two (2) hours of the Match in question;
 - 69.2.2. followed up with a full written report, including a copy of the original protest, sent to the AFC General Secretariat by facsimile or registered letter to the AFC within twenty four (24) hours of the end of the Match.;
 - 69.2.3. accompanied by a non-refundable fee of USD500 submitted within twenty four (24) hours of the end of the Match.
- 69.3. No protest shall be lodged relating to the Referee's decisions regarding facts connected with play. Such decisions are final and not subject to appeal, unless expressly otherwise stipulated in the AFC Disciplinary Code.
- 69.4. Should the AFC Disciplinary Committee determine that a protest is unfounded or irresponsible, it may impose a fine.
- 69.5. If any of the formal conditions of a protest as set out in these Regulations are not met, such protest shall be disregarded. Following the completion of the final Match of the Competition, all protests shall be disregarded.
- 69.6. The AFC Disciplinary Committee shall make decisions on protests. The AFC Disciplinary Committee may transfer a protest to the AFC Women's Football Committee for its decision if it is deemed to be purely operational in nature.

70. Arbitration

- 70.1. Any dispute in connection with the Competition shall be promptly settled by negotiation.
- 70.2. In compliance with the AFC Statutes, Member Associations, 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 AFC.
- 70.3. Member Associations, Participating Players, and Participating Officials acknowledge and accept that, once all internal channels have been exhausted at the AFC, 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.
- 70.4. The jurisdiction of the CAS to resolve disputes is only available where it has not been expressly excluded or a decision is declared as final and binding and not subject to appeal.

SECTION 12: ADMINISTRATION

71. Awards

- 71.1. The following awards shall be presented after the Finals:
- 71.1.1. Most Valuable Player of the AFC Women's Asian Cup 2018;
 - 71.1.2. Top Goalscorer of the AFC Women's Asian Cup 2018; and the
 - 71.1.3. AFC Fair Play Award for the AFC Women's Asian Cup 2018.
- 71.2. The Most Valuable Player is awarded to the Participating Player who has a major influence in each of her Matches during the Finals and the Finals overall.
- 71.3. The Top Goalscorer is awarded to the Participating Player who has scored the highest number of goals in the Finals. In the event of a tie, the number of assists (as determined by the AFC Technical Study Group) will be taken into account. If there is still a tie after taking into account the number of assists, the total minutes played will be taken into account with the player with less minutes played ranked first.
- 71.4. The AFC Fair Play Award is awarded to the Member Association who has collected the most Fair Play points in the Finals.
- 71.4.1. The Member Association may be disqualified if it or any of its Team Official Delegation is involved in any severe misconduct related to the Competition.
- 71.5. The AFC Women's Football Committee may decide to introduce further awards.

72. Trophy and Medals

- 72.1. The original Competition trophy is presented to the Champion during the prize presentation ceremony and shall remain in the possession of the AFC at all times thereafter. The Champion shall subsequently be awarded a full-size replica by the AFC as its permanent possession.
- 72.2. The AFC shall award the following medals:
- 72.2.1. thirty-five (35) medals to the Champion;
 - 72.2.2. thirty-five (35) medals to the Runner-Up;
 - 72.2.3. thirty-five (35) medals to the Third Place;

72.2.4. thirty-five (35) AFC Fair Play medals to the Member Association who wins the AFC Fair Play Award; and

72.2.5. five (5) commemorative medals to the Referees of the Final Match.

72.3. No additional medals shall be produced.

72.4. The replica trophy awarded to the Winner must remain within its control at all times, and must not leave its region or territory of its Member Association without the prior written consent of the AFC. The Winner must not permit the replica trophy to be used in any context where a third-party (including without limitation, their sponsors and other commercial partners) is granted visibility or in any other way which could lead to an association between any third party and the trophy and/or the Competition. The AFC may issue additional trophy guidelines which the Winner must comply with from time to time.

73. Prize Presentation Ceremony

73.1. A prize presentation ceremony, managed and controlled by the AFC and coordinated with the Organising Association, shall be held immediately after the Final to present the awards, trophies, and medals.

73.2. The Participating Players and Member Associations that qualify to receive the awards, trophies, and medals are required to attend the relevant prize presentation ceremony. Member Associations shall be represented by their Team Official Delegation. No other officials, players, or staff may participate.

74. Protocol

74.1. The AFC Protocol Guidelines shall apply for all Matches.

75. Special Instructions

75.1. The AFC Women's Football Committee shall, in conjunction with the various Organising Associations, issue any instructions necessitated by special circumstances which might arise in the organisation of Matches.

75.2. These instructions shall form an integral part of these Regulations.

76. Force Majeure

76.1. The AFC Women's Football Committee is the only body capable of declaring a Force Majeure event.

77. Matters not provided for

77.1. Matters not provided for in these Regulations shall be decided by the AFC Women's Football Committee. Such decisions are final and binding and not appealable.

78. Enforcement

78.1. These Regulations were ratified by the AFC Executive Committee on 23 December 2015 and came into force immediately.

For the AFC Executive Committee

President:

Sheikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa

General Secretary:

Dato' Windsor John

APPENDIX 1: Determining the ranking in a group using Fair Play criteria

1. Each Participating Team shall be awarded points for receiving red and yellow cards as indicated below:
 - 1.1 per yellow card: one (1) point;
 - 1.2 per red card (as a consequence of two 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.
2. The Participating Team receiving the least number of points shall be ranked highest. The remaining Participating Teams shall be ranked in descending order.

APPENDIX 2: Determining the best positioned team from groups

1. If, after the AFC Women's Football Committee has approved the competition system for the Qualifiers, and the best second or third-placed Participating Teams must to be identified from among groups, the following shall be applied:

Case 1: where all groups consists of the same number of teams
(using the second-placed Participating Team as the example)

Step 1: Identify the second-placed Participating Teams in each group.

Step 2: Rank the second-placed Participating Teams on the following basis:

- (a) greater number of points from all group Matches;
- (b) goal difference resulting from all group Matches;
- (c) greater number of goals scored in all group Matches;
- (d) application of the Fair Play criteria (see Appendix 1);
- (e) drawing of lots.

Group A

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
Team A	3	1	1	1	8	4	4	4
Team B	3	1	1	1	4	3	1	4
Team C	3	1	0	2	7	9	-2	3
Team D	3	0	0	3	5	8	-3	0

Group B

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
Team E	3	2	1	0	14	2	12	7
Team F	3	1	1	1	8	10	-2	4
Team G	3	0	1	2	5	8	-3	1
Team H	3	0	1	3	2	9	-7	1

Team B and Team F are the second-placed Participating Teams.

Both teams have four (4) points, therefore, criteria (a) does not provide identify the best second-placed Participating Team. Team B has a goal difference of +1 whereas Team F has a goal difference of -1. Applying criteria (b), Team B is ranked as the best second-placed Participating Team.

Case 2: where the number of teams in group varies
(using the second-placed Participating Team as the example)

Due to the varying number of Participating Teams in each group, the second-placed Participating Teams in each group will have played a different number of Matches. In order to ensure equality, all Participating Teams shall be compared across the same number of Matches, the number of which shall be decided by the AFC.

In principle, the results between the identified Participating Teams and the bottom-placed Participating Team in the group shall be considered null and void.

Step 1: Identify the second-placed Participating Teams in each group.

Step 2: Rank the second-placed Participating Teams on the following basis:

- (a) greater number of points from the Matches identified by the AFC;
- (b) goal difference resulting from the Matches identified by the AFC;
- (c) greater number of goals scored in the Matches identified by the AFC;
- (d) application of the Fair Play criteria in the Matches identified by the AFC (see Appendix 1);
- (e) drawing of lots.

Group A

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
Team A	3	1	1	1	8	4	4	4
Team B	3	1	1	1	4	3	1	4
Team C	3	1	0	2	7	9	-2	3
Team D	3	0	0	3	5	8	-3	0

Group B

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
Team E	4	3	1	0	14	2	12	10
Team F	4	2	1	1	8	10	-2	7
Team G	4	1	1	2	5	8	-3	4
Team H	4	0	1	3	2	9	-7	1
Team I	4	0	0	4	2	11	-9	0

Team B and Team F are the second-placed Participating Teams

Groups A and B have played a different number of matches. In order to identify the best second-placed Participating Team, the number of matches shall be equalised.

The number of matches to be identified shall be equal to that contested in Group A (i.e. the group with the lower amount of matches per Participating Team).

Accordingly, the number of matches played in Group B shall be reduced to three (3) matches per Participating Team. As such, the match between Team F and Team I will be considered null and void.

Assume Team F won the match 3-0. We will have a new calculation for Team F:

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
Team F	3	1	1	1	5	10	-5	4

After applying criteria (a), both Team B and Team F are equal, having accrued 4 points. Team B has a goal difference of +1 and Team F has a goal difference of -5, and after applying criteria (b), Team B is identified as the best second-placed Participating Team.

Note: when deleting matches, the points or rankings of the other Participating Teams in group are irrelevant. Any new calculation is solely for the purpose of determining the best-placed Participating Team among the groups.

APPENDIX 3: Registration of players who have acquired a new nationality

No.	Documents	Attached (please tick)
1.	Official Registration Form for Players with passport photo.	
2	The player must provide <u>one of the following categories of documents</u> :	
a)	1) Letter from the Member Association of the player's previous nationality or country of birth declaring that the player has never played (either in full or in part) for its representative teams in an official competition of any category of any type of football; and 2) Letter from the player declaring that he has never played for any representative teams of any Member Association (either in full or in part) in an official competition of any category of any type of football.	
b)	Decision of the FIFA Players' Status Committee allowing the player to change Association.	
3.	Clear copy of player's passport	
4.	Clear copy of player's national ID card	
5.	If the player seeks to rely on 2(a) as opposed to 2(b), they must provide <u>one of the following categories of documents</u> :	
a)	1) Evidence that their father or mother was born on the territory of the relevant Association; and 2) Evidence that such person is their biological parent.	
b)	1) Evidence that their grandfather or grandmother was born on the territory of the relevant Association; and 2) Evidence that such person is their biological grandparent.	
c)	Evidence that the player has lived continuously on the territory of the relevant Association for at least five (5) years after the age of 18.	

*Players under the age of 23 must provide a decision of the FIFA Players' Status Committee.

APPENDIX 4: Registration of players who have a nationality entitling them to represent more than one football association

No.	Documents	Attached (please tick)
1.	Official Registration Form for Players with passport photo.	
2	The player must provide <u>one of the following categories of documents</u> :	
a)	1) Letter from the Member Association of the player's previous nationality or country of birth declaring that the player has never played (either in full or in part) for its representative teams in an official competition of any category of any type of football; and 2) Letter from the player declaring that he has never played for any representative teams of any Member Association (either in full or in part) in an official competition of any category of any type of football.	
b)	Decision of the FIFA Players' Status Committee allowing the player to change Association.	
3.	Clear copy of player's passport	
4.	Clear copy of player's national ID card	
5.	If the player seeks to rely on 2(a) as opposed to 2(b), they must provide <u>one of the following categories of documents</u> :	
a)	1) Evidence that their father or mother was born on the territory of the relevant Association; and 2) Evidence that such person is their biological parent.	
b)	1) Evidence that their grandfather or grandmother was born on the territory of the relevant Association; and 2) Evidence that such person is their biological grandparent.	
c)	Evidence that the player has lived continuously on the territory of the relevant Association for at least two (2) years.	



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