

SAFF
FUTSAL
CHAMPIONSHIP
2026

COMPETITION
REGULATIONS

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SAFF Futsal Championship 2026 – Competition Regulations

DEFINITIONS

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

Accommodation

Any location approved by the SAFF which provides accommodation to the SAFF Delegation, Team Official Delegations, SAFF Commercial Rights Partner and Commercial Affiliates.

Accreditation Card

Any physical item which is issued by the SAFF 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 SAFF or the Organising Association.

Advertising Rights

The right to promote brands and/or corporate names and/or products and/or services at and/or in relation to the Competition by whatever means available, whether existing now or to be developed in the future, whether at the Indoor Stadiums or Facility Areas or within the Controlled Access Areas, by in-stadium/out-stadium perimeter signage and other advertising, digital signage and screens, closed circuit television, equipment usage or other methods and through printed matter (including digitally delivered printed matter) such as programmes, posters, letterheads, press releases, newsletters and Tickets, and subject to any SAFF regulations, the right to display such advertising on the clothing or footwear worn, or on any equipment used, carried or transported by officials (including for the avoidance of doubt Match Officials), medical and security staff, ball kids, player escorts, flag bearers and/or photographers. The display of the name and/or logo of the bona fide supplier of clothing on the strip of the uniforms of the officials are also included. For the avoidance of doubt, advertising on the strip of Participating Players is excluded, other than where it is the trademark of the bona fide manufacturer and is in accordance with any FIFA, AFC and/or SAFF regulations. Similarly, branding on any equipment, goods and/or services used in connection with the Competition, save where supplied by a Commercial Affiliate, may only include customary branding of the bona fide manufacturer.

SAFF

South Asian Football Federation.

FCMS

The SAFF's online competition management and registration system by FIFA.

SAFF Commercial Rights Partner

The entity appointed by the SAFF for the sale of Commercial Rights (or any part thereof) and the provision of services in relation thereto.

SAFF Committee

Any Committee of the SAFF as constituted in accordance with the SAFF Statutes.

SAFF Delegation

- (i) SAFF staff members;
- (ii) Match Officials;
- (iii) other officials appointed by the SAFF;
- (iv) SAFF Committee members; and
- (v) SAFF guests.

SAFF Competitions Committee

The Standing Committee of the SAFF which is responsible for matters relating to the Competition in accordance with the SAFF Statutes and the SAFF Organisation Regulations.

SAFF Marks

All design marks, slogans, designations, names, logos, insignia, emblems or devices (in any application) owned and/or controlled by the SAFF (in any language) relating to the SAFF itself but excluding the Competition Marks.

SAFF Website

The official website of the SAFF (currently [<http://www.thesaffederation.org>]), including without limitation all other domains or official media accounts and channels created and/or owned by the SAFF (e.g., Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, LinkedIn, etc.).

Broadcast Partner

Any entity, including the Host Broadcaster, which has been granted the Media Rights (or any part thereof) to the Competition.

Champion

The Participating Team that wins the final Match of the Competition.

Clean Stadium

An Indoor Stadium or Official Training Site whether inside, in the air space above or the outer perimeter, delivered to the SAFF at a prescribed time, that is free from:

- (i) any advertising and commercial signage of any kind, whether on any stadium infrastructure, staff uniforms, accreditations, fences, equipment, surrounding vicinity or elsewhere;
- (ii) third-party agreements relating to the use and operation of the stadium (or part thereof);
- (iii) stadium or venue naming rights; and/or
- (iv) encumbrances that may affect the use and exploitation of the Commercial Rights.

Commercial Affiliate

Any entity which has been granted the right to exercise and exploit the Commercial Rights (or any part thereof) in respect to the Competition.

Commercial Rights

Advertising Rights, Concession Rights, Hospitality Rights, Image Rights, Media Rights, Merchandise Rights, Promotional Rights, Sponsorship Rights, Travel and Tour Rights and any other rights of a commercial nature relating to the Competition.

Competition

The SAFF Futsal Championship 2026, which includes without limitation, all Matches as set out in the Match Schedule, all qualifying Matches, all activities on the Pitch (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, information and/or statistics about the Participating Players' and/or Participating Officials' participation and/or performance in the Competition, Match analysis, Referee decisions and any other information in relation to the Competition.

Competition Marks

All design marks, slogans, designations, names, logos, insignia, emblems, mascots or devices (in any application) owned and/or controlled by the SAFF (in any language) relating to the Competition.

Competition Website

The official website of the Competition (if any) with a dedicated URL including without limitation all other domains or official media accounts and channels of the Competition created and/or owned by the SAFF (e.g., Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, etc.).

Complimentary Tickets

Tickets which are supplied without charge.

Concession Rights

Sampling, vending, display and other distribution methods and payment methods connected therewith for and of products or services, including pourage rights at the Indoor Stadiums and Facility Areas.

Controlled Access Area

- (i) any Indoor Stadium;
- (ii) any Official Training Site;
- (iii) any official hotel (public areas being excepted), subject to and to the extent agreed in any executed hotel agreement;
- (iv) any official exclusion zone encircling an Indoor Stadium on a Match day;
- (v) any official parking area, accreditation centre, international broadcast compound, and/or hospitality area;
- (vi) the venue of any Official Function;
- (vii) any official SAFF fan park;
- (viii) Facility Areas; and/or
- (ix) any other location and/or facility designated by the SAFF as a Controlled Access Area, associated to the Competition to which access is permitted only to those in possession of an Accreditation Card, Ticket, and/or other officially-sanctioned entry permit.

Digital Media

The SAFF Website, in addition to any mobile application (app), online video channel, data product, photo-sharing account, social media account and any further form of digital media developed.

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 “SAFF 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 SAFF and used in connection with the Competition whether at the Indoor Stadium or elsewhere at the Venues.

FIFA

The Fédération Internationale de Football Association.

Football Association

The controlling body for football within a country or territory recognised by the SAFF.

Force Majeure

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

Futsal Laws of the Game

The laws of futsal issued by FIFA.

Round Robin League Stage

The first stage of the Competition held in accordance with these Regulations.

Hospitality Rights

The opportunity to offer and sell hospitality and entertainment services at the Venues or within the Controlled Access Areas in combination with the Tickets whether such facilities are in boxes, marquees or otherwise, but excluding those non-commercial functions and facilities reserved for the SAFF and/or Organising Association officials and its guests not forming part of the Commercial Rights.

Host Broadcaster

The party appointed to ensure and provide the production of broadcast signals of the Matches and other events of the Competition, and the provision of all related services in accordance with the Media Rights granted to it.

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 Participating Teams, Participating Players, Participating Officials, Match Officials and other officials and persons forming part of the Competition.

Indoor Stadium

Any indoor stadium at which a Match is played. For the avoidance of doubt, this includes:

- (i) the entire premises (to the extent that a valid Accreditation Card or Ticket is required in order to gain access) of an indoor stadium facility inside the outer stadium perimeter fence and (on Match days and any day on which any official training takes place within the indoor stadium), the aerial space above such indoor stadium premises;
- (ii) parking facilities;
- (iii) VIP and hospitality areas (including any hospitality village);
- (iv) concession areas;
- (v) commercial display areas;
- (vi) buildings;
- (vii) the Pitch;
- (viii) the media tribune;
- (ix) any broadcast compound;
- (x) the stadium media centre;
- (xi) the press conference room;
- (xii) the mixed zone;
- (xiii) any stands; and
- (xiv) any areas beneath the stands.

Manual

The AFC Competition Operations Manual which sets out the operational responsibilities of the relevant stakeholders in relation to the organising, hosting and staging of Matches and Competitions.

Match

A futsal match in its entirety (including a replayed and/or deferred match) which takes place as part of the Competition in accordance with the Match Schedule. For the avoidance of doubt, a match formally commences when the Indoor Stadium is officially opened to spectators and formally concludes when the Indoor Stadium is officially closed to spectators.

Match Officials

Any individual appointed to officiate a Match in the Competition in the role of the Referee, Second Referee, Third Referee, Timekeeper, and any other match official stipulated in the Futsal Laws of the Game.

Match Schedule

The official schedule which sets out, without limitation, the dates and times on which Matches will be played, the Indoor Stadiums at which the Matches will be played, and the names of the Participating Teams.

Media

Any individual granted a media Accreditation Card by the SAFF.

Media Rights

The right and licence to produce, edit, and/or transmit, for intelligible reception throughout the world in any language, and in any format, and on any platform including film, fixed media, Digital media, games, internet, public exhibition, radio, mobile, and television, a visual, audio-visual, and/or audio signal and/or image or recording (including without limitation the basic feed, multi feeds, additional feeds, audio feeds, a feed incorporating Competition Data, world feed and unilateral feeds) of the Competition, and all interview activities and action during and forming part of the Competition including Official Functions and the Image Rights by any and all means of transmission distribution, exhibition and reception, now existing or hereinafter developed including but not limited to analogue, digital, satellite cable and interactive communication systems, on a live, delayed, and unlimited repeat basis, in full or in part (including without limitation by way of clips and/or highlights and/or support programmes and/or magazine shows and/or news access), and all rights to exploit any and all commercial opportunities (including for example broadcast sponsorship and commercial airtime opportunities) arising from and/or in connection with such rights.

Member Association

A Football Association which is a member of the SAFF.

Merchandise Rights

The right granted to Commercial Affiliates for the use and exploitation of the Competition Marks and/or official designation in the manufacture, packaging, distribution and sale of goods and services of all kinds, including items of equipment (e.g., futsal balls), clothing, coins, medals, games (electronic or otherwise), other collectibles and Premiums related to the Competition.

Official Function

Any event which is officially organised or sanctioned by the SAFF 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 SAFF gala dinner, lunch, or banquet, cultural events, official press conferences, official draws, workshops and launch events.

Official Training Site

Any site designated by the Organising Association and approved by the SAFF for use by the Participating Teams throughout the Competition for training purposes.

Organising Association

A Member Association approved by the SAFF to organise, stage and host Matches in the Competition.

Participating Member Association

A Member Association whose representative team participates in the Competition.

Participating Official

Any official who is registered to participate in the Competition.

Participating Player

Any player who is registered to participate in the Competition.

Participating Team

Any representative team affiliated to a Participating Member Association.

Pitch

The area described in Law 1 of the Futsal Laws of the Game issued by FIFA.

Premiums

Any promotional items (including packaging, labelling and/or containers thereof) which incorporate a mark and/or logo of the SAFF and/or the Competition, and which may only be distributed free of charge or as prizes.

Promotional Rights

Any advertising and/or promotions which are carried out in connection with the Competition, Competition Marks, or other rights/opportunities granted by the SAFF.

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.

Regulations

These Competition Regulations.

Sponsorship Rights

The right, in any and all media, throughout the world, and in all languages, to promote an association between the Competition and certain products, services, and/or brands, and shall include (by way of illustration only) the exclusive right to exercise rights of association with the Competition, including without limitation the right to:

- (i) use an official designation;
- (ii) use the SAFF Marks and/or applicable Competition Marks on branded products and/or product packaging (including Premiums, and in relation to the Competition Marks only on items for retail sale) and/or advertising;
- (iii) receive commercial programme Tickets; and
- (iv) receive broadcast sponsorship opportunities in connection with broadcasts of a Match or Official Function.

Team Official Delegation

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

Ticket

A pass providing access to a venue for the purpose of attending either a Match, official training, 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 Indoor 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.

Travel and Tour Rights

The right to organise and/or sub-licence official travel and tour activities in relation to the Competition, which travel and tour activities shall, for the avoidance of doubt, include the provision of Tickets to a Match and/or Official Function of the Competition.

Venue

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

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

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

SECTION 1 | GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. SAFF Futsal Championship 2026

1.1. The South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) hereby establishes and organises the SAFF Futsal Championship 2026 (“Competition”), which is being staged for the first time under the auspices and authority of SAFF.

1.2. These Regulations constitute the definitive legal framework governing the ownership, control, administration, rights, duties, and obligations of SAFF, the Organising Association, Member Associations, Participating Teams, Participating Players, Participating Officials, and any other stakeholder directly or indirectly involved in the preparation, participation, organisation, delivery, commercialisation, or hosting of the Competition.

1.3. These Regulations shall have full force and effect and shall be binding upon all parties referenced herein. All directives, decisions, circulars, guidelines, instructions, and notices issued by SAFF in connection with the Competition shall form an integral part of these Regulations and shall be complied with unconditionally. Participation in the Competition shall be deemed as full and irrevocable acceptance of these Regulations and all related instruments issued by SAFF.

1.4. The AFC Competition Operations Manual (“Manual”) forms an integral and inseparable part of these Regulations and shall be read, interpreted, and applied in conjunction with them. The Manual shall be binding upon all relevant parties in its entirety. For the purposes of this Competition, all references to “AFC” appearing in the Manual shall be construed as references to “SAFF.” Any non-compliance with the provisions of the Manual may result in disciplinary measures pursuant to the SAFF Disciplinary and Ethics Code. In the event of any inconsistency or conflict between these Regulations and the Manual, the provisions of these Regulations shall prevail to the extent of such inconsistency.

1.5. All rights, interests, and proprietary assets in and associated with the Competition, including but not limited to commercial, media, broadcasting, marketing, intellectual property, image, data, archival, and licensing rights, that are not expressly granted to any Organising Association or Participating Member Association by virtue of these Regulations or any specific agreement, shall exclusively vest in and remain the sole property of SAFF. No entity shall claim or exercise any such right without the prior written consent of SAFF.

1.6. Any reference in these Regulations to the statutes, codes, regulations, decisions, or directives of SAFF, AFC, or FIFA shall be deemed to refer to those instruments as valid, amended, and in force at the time of their application to the Competition. The Parties agree to be bound by any future amendments and interpretations issued by the competent authority thereof.

1.7 For the purposes of this Competition only, the Organising Association shall be Futsal and Beach Soccer International, a company duly incorporated under the laws of the Kingdom of Thailand and appointed by SAFF to organise, manage, and deliver the Competition pursuant to a binding Service Agreement executed between SAFF and Futsal and Beach Soccer International.

The Service Agreement shall form an integral and enforceable component of these Regulations. All parties participating in or involved with the Competition shall recognise and comply with the terms of the Service Agreement. Any act or omission by the Organising Association in the performance of its obligations under the Service Agreement shall be deemed an act or omission under these Regulations and subject to the jurisdiction and authority of SAFF.

2. The South Asian Football Federation

2.1. The SAFF Competitions Committee shall have primary authority and responsibility for the organisation, governance, and overall management of the Competition in accordance with the SAFF Statutes and these Regulations. The SAFF General Secretariat shall act under the direction of the SAFF Competitions Committee and shall execute all administrative, operational, and logistical functions necessary for the delivery of the Competition.

2.2. Without prejudice to the generality of Article 2.1, the responsibilities and exclusive powers of SAFF in relation to the Competition shall include, but shall not be limited to, the following:

2.2.1. Overseeing and approving all preparatory and organisational activities, including determining the Competition format, conducting the draw, and confirming the entries of Participating Teams;

2.2.2. Establishing, approving, and issuing the official Match Schedule;

2.2.3. Selecting, designating, and approving Indoor Stadiums and training facilities to be used for the Competition;

2.2.4. Appointing Match Officials and any other officials required for each Match;

2.2.5. Selecting and/or approving the official futsal ball and all mandatory technical equipment and materials to be used in the Competition;

2.2.6. Approving WADA-accredited laboratories and overseeing the implementation of doping control procedures in accordance with applicable anti-doping regulations;

2.2.7. Referring matters, where appropriate, to the SAFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee for adjudication;

2.2.8. Replacing any Participating Team that withdraws or is deemed to have withdrawn from the Competition, in accordance with these Regulations;

2.2.9. Determining the course of action in cases of cancelled, interrupted, or abandoned Matches;

2.2.10. Taking decisions in cases of Force Majeure or any situation beyond the reasonable control of the parties; and

2.2.11. Exercising residual authority over any other matter relating to the Competition that is not expressly assigned to another body pursuant to these Regulations or the SAFF Statutes.

2.3. All decisions made by the SAFF Competitions Committee and/or the SAFF General Secretariat in connection with the organisation, implementation, and administration of the Competition shall be final, binding, and not subject to appeal, unless otherwise expressly provided in these Regulations.

2.4. All decisions made by the SAFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee in relation to the Competition shall be governed by and subject to the applicable procedures and appellate mechanisms set out in the SAFF Disciplinary and Ethics Code.

3. Organising Association

3.1. The principal rights, duties, and obligations of the Organising Association shall be derived from and governed by the Organising Association Agreement (“OAA”), these Regulations, the Manual, the SAFF Statutes, and all other regulations, directives, guidelines, circulars, and decisions issued by SAFF, as well as all applicable national and supra-national laws.

For the purposes of this Competition only, the Organising Association shall be Futsal and Beach Soccer International, a company duly incorporated under the laws of the Kingdom of Thailand. The OAA shall be the legally binding Service Agreement executed between SAFF and Futsal and Beach Soccer International, and shall form an integral and enforceable part of these Regulations.

3.2. The Organising Association shall, at its sole cost, risk, and expense, undertake and be responsible for the following obligations in a diligent, professional, and timely manner:

3.2.1. Strictly observe and comply with all obligations set out in the OAA, these Regulations, the Manual, the SAFF Statutes, and all other SAFF regulations, directives, guidelines, circulars, and decisions, as well as all applicable national, regional, and international laws and regulations;

3.2.2. Fully perform all obligations in relation to the hosting, staging, and organisation of the Competition in accordance with the highest international professional standards and in a manner that protects and enhances the reputation and interests of SAFF;

3.2.3. Coordinate with, and provide all necessary support to, Participating Teams in relation to logistical, operational, and Competition-related arrangements, strictly in consultation with and subject to the approval of SAFF;

3.2.4. Engage, negotiate with, and where necessary lobby the relevant governmental authorities, public bodies, and regulatory agencies to facilitate the successful organisation and delivery of the Competition;

3.2.5. Obtain and maintain in full force all licenses, permits, visas, customs clearances, grants, waivers, and authorisations required to discharge its obligations and ensure the lawful staging of the Competition;

3.2.6. Ensure absolute compliance with SAFF's instructions concerning the provision, maintenance, and operation of the Indoor Stadiums, training facilities, and all related infrastructure, equipment, and services;

3.2.7. Provide all necessary cooperation, access, and assistance to SAFF, the SAFF Commercial Rights Partner, and all designated Commercial Affiliates in connection with the exercise, exploitation, and enforcement of SAFF's Commercial Rights and Proprietary Interests, including but not limited to media, sponsorship, branding, broadcast, and data rights;

3.2.8. Procure and maintain, at its own expense, insurance policies that provide comprehensive coverage for all risks and liabilities associated with the hosting, staging, and organisation of the Competition, and which name SAFF as a co-insured party;

3.2.9. Secure all legal, regulatory, and customs clearances and execute all necessary documentation to ensure the unrestricted importation, installation, operation, and exploitation of products, equipment, or materials relating to the Competition's Commercial Rights; and

3.2.10. Guarantee, implement, and maintain the highest standards of safety and security at all Indoor Stadiums, ensuring the protection of players, officials, spectators, media, and all other accredited persons.

3.3. The Organising Association hereby irrevocably agrees to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless SAFF, the SAFF Commercial Rights Partner, its Commercial Affiliates, and each of their respective officers, members, directors, employees, agents, and representatives from and against any and all liabilities, obligations, losses, damages, claims, demands, actions, fines, penalties, costs, or expenses (including, without limitation, legal fees, expenses incurred in appointing an alternative Organising Association, and any consequential or reputational damage) arising directly or indirectly out of:

(a) any breach by the Organising Association of the OAA, these Regulations, or any other binding instrument; or

(b) any negligent, unlawful, or wrongful act or omission on the part of the Organising Association or any of its officers, directors, employees, auxiliary persons, or agents in connection with the performance of its obligations in relation to the Competition.

4. Participating Member Associations

4.1. The principal obligations and responsibilities of each Participating Member Association shall be as set out in the Participating Team Agreement (“PTA”), these Regulations, the SAFF Statutes, and all other regulations, directives, guidelines, and circulars issued by SAFF from time to time.

4.1.1. Each Member Association entering the Competition shall execute and submit a duly completed PTA as a mandatory condition of participation.

4.1.2. The PTA, together with any ancillary documents, undertakings or information requested by SAFF in connection therewith, shall be completed in their entirety and submitted to SAFF no later than the deadline stipulated by SAFF.

4.1.3. Failure to submit a validly executed PTA in accordance with the applicable deadline shall result in the automatic exclusion of the relevant Member Association from the Competition, without the need for further notice.

4.2. Each Participating Team shall ensure, as a strict condition of its participation, that every member of its Team Official Delegation is fully aware of, accepts, and complies with all terms of the PTA.

4.3. Each Participating Team shall, without limitation, undertake and be responsible to:

4.3.1. strictly observe all obligations set forth in the PTA, these Regulations, the Manual, the SAFF Statutes, and all other regulations, directives, guidelines, and circulars issued by SAFF, as well as all applicable national and supra-national laws;

4.3.2. fully comply with the Futsal Laws of the Game as promulgated by FIFA;

4.3.3. irrevocably accept that all administrative, disciplinary, and refereeing matters connected with the Competition shall be determined exclusively by SAFF in accordance with these Regulations;

4.3.4. field its strongest possible team throughout all stages of the Competition and refrain from any conduct which may compromise the sporting integrity of the Competition;

4.3.5. uphold and promote the principles of fair play at all times;

4.3.6. ensure the discipline, good conduct, and orderly behaviour of its Team Official Delegation and any individual acting on its behalf, from their arrival in the territory of the Organising Association until their departure;

4.3.7. accept and adhere to all arrangements made by the Organising Association in consultation with SAFF, including logistical, technical, and operational matters;

4.3.8. ensure that its Participating Players and Participating Officials attend and actively participate in all official events and activities as directed by SAFF, including but not limited to

team arrival meetings, match coordination meetings, press conferences, and media, commercial, and promotional activities:

4.3.8.1. Failure to attend or fully participate in any official activity or event shall result in a minimum fine of USD 1,000 imposed on the Participating Member Association;

4.3.8.2. The SAFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee may, at its absolute discretion, impose additional disciplinary or financial sanctions.

4.3.9. provide to SAFF, free of charge and within the timeframes prescribed by SAFF, any photographs, audio/visual content, statistical, historical, or organisational information requested in connection with the Competition;

4.3.10. display a direct hyperlink to the official Competition website on its own official website throughout the duration of the Competition;

4.3.11. refrain from creating, operating, or authorising any digital, media, or social media accounts related to the Competition without the express prior written approval of SAFF.

4.4. Each Participating Team shall be solely and exclusively responsible, at its own cost, for:

4.4.1. procuring comprehensive insurance coverage for its Team Official Delegation, including but not limited to hospitalisation, surgical, travel, liability, and sports equipment insurance for all Matches;

4.4.2. procuring any additional insurance policies that provide adequate coverage for injury, loss, or damage to persons, property, equipment, or assets in connection with its participation in the Competition, and notifying SAFF of all such policies, with copies to be provided upon request;

4.4.3. payment of all incidental expenses incurred by its Team Official Delegation, including accommodation, transportation, and other operational costs;

4.4.4. payment of all costs associated with any extension of stay of any member of its Team Official Delegation in the territory of the Organising Association;

4.4.5. obtaining, at least thirty (30) days prior to its first Match, all necessary visas and travel authorisations for entry into the territory of the Organising Association, including bearing all associated costs;

4.4.6. payment of all taxes, fees, duties, levies, and charges relating to the importation, exportation, transportation, or use of equipment, merchandise, or goods in connection with the Competition.

4.5. Each Participating Member Association shall indemnify, defend, and hold SAFF and all its officers, directors, employees, representatives, agents, subsidiaries, local organising committees, and other auxiliary persons harmless against any and all liabilities, losses, penalties, claims, damages, actions, fines, and costs (including reasonable legal fees) arising out of or resulting from

any breach of these Regulations, the PTA, or any related SAFF directive by the Participating Member Association or any member of its Team Official Delegation.

4.6. Participating Member Associations shall not represent, bind, or hold themselves out as agents of SAFF or the Competition in any capacity without the prior express written consent of SAFF.

4.7. Participating Players and Participating Officials nominated for awards shall be strongly encouraged to attend the SAFF Annual Awards Ceremony in the relevant calendar year.

4.8. Each Participating Member Association shall ensure the immediate and full implementation of any decision made by SAFF in connection with its participation in the Competition.

5. Entry

5.1. SAFF shall, in its sole and absolute discretion, determine the Member Associations that are eligible to participate in the Competition, in accordance with the SAFF Statutes and any applicable regulations, directives, or criteria issued by SAFF.

5.2. Each eligible Member Association shall be required to duly complete and submit a Participating Team Agreement (“PTA”) to SAFF in accordance with Article 4 of these Regulations. Submission of a validly executed PTA within the stipulated deadline shall constitute formal confirmation of entry into the Competition.

5.3. All decisions of the SAFF Competitions Committee with respect to the entry, acceptance, or rejection of any Member Association into the Competition shall be final, binding, and not subject to appeal or review before any judicial or arbitral body, except as may be expressly provided under the SAFF Statutes.

6. Withdrawal from the Competition

6.1. Each Participating Member Association irrevocably undertakes that its Participating Team shall participate in all Matches of the Competition until it is formally eliminated in accordance with the Competition format.

6.2. Without limitation, any Participating Member Association shall be deemed to have withdrawn from the Competition if, for any reason, it:

6.2.1. notifies SAFF in writing of its intention not to report, or inability to report, to a Venue and/or for a Match;

6.2.2. fails to report to a Venue and/or for a Match at the designated time;

6.2.3. refuses to commence or fails to continue playing a Match;

6.2.4. departs the Indoor Stadium prior to the conclusion of a Match without justification accepted by SAFF;

6.2.5. is excluded, suspended, or banned by any competent authority from participating in the Competition (or any stage thereof) at any point after the draw has been conducted; or

6.2.6. is excluded, suspended, or banned by any competent authority from participating in a scheduled Match in the Competition.

6.3. Subject to Articles 6.5 to 6.8, in the event of withdrawal at any stage of the Competition, whether prior to or after its commencement, the SAFF Competitions Committee shall determine any necessary measures, including (without limitation) amendments to the technical regulations and/or Competition system (pursuant to Section 4 and Article 7 respectively), and the method and timing for implementing such measures.

6.4. The SAFF Competitions Committee shall determine whether an event constitutes Force Majeure in connection with any withdrawal. Any Participating Member Association seeking to invoke Force Majeure must submit a written application, with full supporting documentation, to SAFF no later than thirty (30) days following the date of its withdrawal. The SAFF General Secretariat may, at its discretion, refer any matter of Force Majeure to the SAFF Competitions Committee at any time.

6.5. In the event of withdrawal at any stage, the Competition shall proceed with the remaining Participating Teams and Matches without replacement. This provision applies in all circumstances, including cases determined by the SAFF Competitions Committee to constitute Force Majeure. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the SAFF General Secretariat may, at its discretion, propose the replacement of a withdrawn Participating Member Association and, where applicable, the method and procedures for such replacement, for the consideration of the SAFF Competitions Committee.

6.6. Where a Participating Member Association withdraws after commencement of the Competition, all of its Matches shall be declared null and void. All points, goals, and results of such Matches shall be expunged and shall not be counted in determining the final standings in accordance with Article 7.2. This Article shall apply irrespective of any finding of Force Majeure.

6.7. Any Participating Member Association deemed to have withdrawn from the Competition at any stage shall be disqualified from participating in the next edition of the SAFF Futsal Championship, except where the SAFF Competitions Committee has determined that such withdrawal was the result of Force Majeure.

6.8. Where a Participating Member Association fails to comply with Article 6.1, the matter shall be referred to the SAFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee. Accordingly, any Participating Member Association that withdraws:

6.8.1. Before commencement of the Competition shall be subject to a fine of:

6.8.1.1. not less than USD 5,000 if the withdrawal occurs thirty (30) days or more prior to its first scheduled Match; or

6.8.1.2. not less than USD 8,000 if the withdrawal occurs less than thirty (30) days prior to its first scheduled Match.

6.8.2. After commencement of the Competition shall be subject to a fine of not less than USD 15,000.

In all cases, the SAFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee shall also order the relevant Participating Member Association to return to SAFF any subsidy previously received in connection with the Competition (or, if such subsidy has not yet been disbursed, to forfeit its entitlement thereto), and shall order the payment of compensation for any and all losses or damages incurred by SAFF, other Participating Member Associations, the SAFF Commercial Rights Partner, Commercial Affiliates, and/or the Organising Association. The quantum of such compensation shall be determined exclusively by the SAFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee.

This Article 6.8 shall not apply in cases determined to constitute Force Majeure by the SAFF Competitions Committee but shall apply in all other circumstances.

6.9. All decisions rendered by the SAFF Competitions Committee pursuant to Articles 6.3 to 6.5 shall be final, binding, and not subject to appeal.

SECTION 2 | COMPETITION SYSTEM AND MATCH SCHEDULE

7. Competition System

7.1. The SAFF Competitions Committee shall decide upon the format of the competition system. Such decisions are final, binding, and not appealable.

7.2. As the competition system involve a Round Robin League Stage (group) of several teams, the ranking in the group shall be determined in accordance with Article 1 of the Manual and in descending order as follows:

7.2.1. Higher number of points obtained in all group Matches;

7.2.2. If two (2) or more Participating Teams are equal on points, the following criteria shall be applied to determine the ranking (in descending order):

Head-to-Head criteria

7.2.2.1. Higher number of points obtained in the group Matches played among the Participating Teams in question;

7.2.2.2. Superior goal difference from the group Matches played among the Participating Teams in question;

7.2.2.3. Higher number of goals scored in the group Matches played among the Participating Teams in question;

Tiebreaker

7.2.2.4. If, after applying the Head-to-Head criteria, two (2) or more Participating Teams still have an equal ranking, the Head-to-Head criteria shall be reapplied exclusively to the Matches between the Participating Teams in question to determine their final rankings. If this procedure does not lead to a decision, the Group Results criteria shall apply;

Group Results criteria

7.2.2.5. Superior goal difference from all group Matches played;

7.2.2.6. Higher number of goals scored from all group Matches played;

7.2.2.7. Kicks from the Penalty Mark only if two (2) Participating Teams still have an equal ranking and have played their last group Match against each other;

7.2.2.8. The lower score, calculated according to the number of yellow and red cards received in the group Matches (Appendix 1 of the Manual); or

7.2.2.9. The drawing of lots.

7.3. Should the competition system require the best-ranked Participating Teams from among different groups to advance, the rankings shall be determined by the method set out in Appendix 2 of the Manual.

8. Competition

8.1. The Competition shall consist of a Round Robin League Stage.8.2. The Round Robin League Stage shall consist of seven (7) Participating Teams drawn into one (1) group.

8.3. Each Participating Team shall play one (1) Match against each of the other Participating Teams within the league in accordance with the Match Schedule.

8.4. The ranking in the league shall be determined in accordance with Article 7.2.

8.5. At the conclusion of the Round Robin League Stage:

8.5.1. The Champion, the runner-up and the second runner-up will be determined in accordance with the ranking in Article 8.4.

9. Match Schedule

9.1. All Matches shall be played in accordance with the Match Schedule determined by SAFF. The dates are final and binding and not appealable.

9.2. The SAFF General Secretariat retains final discretion to amend the Match Schedule at any time.

10. Cancellation of Matches

10.1. For any Match which is cancelled as a result of Force Majeure, the SAFF Competitions Committee shall decide on the matter at its sole discretion and take whatever action is deemed necessary.

10.1.1. Decisions made pursuant to Article 10.1 are final and binding and not appealable.

10.2. Any Match which is cancelled, except in cases of Force Majeure recognised by the SAFF Competitions Committee, may lead to the imposition of sanctions by the SAFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee against the relevant party that has caused the cancellation in accordance with the SAFF Disciplinary and Ethics Code.

10.3. If a Match cannot commence for any reason, the procedure described in Article 7 of the Manual shall be followed.

11. Abandonment of Matches

11.1. For any Match which is abandoned as a result of Force Majeure, the SAFF Competitions Committee shall decide on the matter at its sole discretion and take whatever action is deemed necessary.

11.1.1. Decisions pursuant to Article 11.1 are final and binding and not appealable.

11.2. Any Match which is abandoned, except in cases of Force Majeure recognised by the SAFF Competitions Committee, may lead to the imposition of sanctions by the SAFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee against the relevant party that has caused the abandonment in accordance with the SAFF Disciplinary and Ethics Code.

11.3. If a Match is stopped by the Referee for any reason, the procedure described in Article 8 of the Manual shall be followed.

SECTION 3 | INDOOR STADIUMS AND OFFICIAL TRAINING SITES

12. Indoor Stadiums

12.1. The Organising Association shall ensure that all Matches in the Competition are played in Indoor Stadiums which meet the requirements defined in the AFC Futsal and Beach Soccer Stadium Regulations and all other applicable SAFF regulations. The SAFF General Secretariat may carry out inspections at any time before and during the Competition to check whether the requirements are met.

12.2. The Organising Association shall ensure that no futsal matches and/or other events or activities are held at any Indoor Stadium:

12.2.1. during the period starting at least ten (10) days prior to the opening Match until one (1) day after the completion of the final Match in the Indoor Stadium, unless prior written permission has been obtained from SAFF.

12.3. Unless otherwise specified or directed by SAFF, the Indoor Stadiums shall be made available to SAFF for its exclusive use:

12.3.1. during the period starting at least seven (7) days prior to the date on which the Indoor Stadium will first be used (such as the first Match or training sessions to be held in the Indoor Stadium, or any other Competition-related event to be held in the Indoor Stadium prior to such Match or training session) until one (1) day after the last use of the Indoor Stadium.

12.4. An Organising Association that fails to comply with Article 12.2 or Article 12.3 shall be:

12.4.1. fined at least USD 1,000; and

12.4.2. The SAFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee may impose further sanctions at its discretion.

13. Official Training Sites

13.1. Official Training Sites shall contain a fully equipped training pitch prepared to Match-condition.

13.1.1. An Organising Association that fails to comply with Article 13.1 shall be fined at least USD 1,000.

13.1.2. The SAFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee may impose further sanctions at its discretion.

13.2. Official Training Sites shall be made available at least five (5) days prior to the first Match in the Venue until one (1) day after the last Match in the Venue. They shall not be used for any other purpose during this period, unless written permission has been obtained from SAFF.

13.2.1. An Organising Association that fails to comply with Article 13.2 shall be fined at least USD 1,000.

13.2.2. The SAFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee may impose further sanctions at its discretion.

13.3. Participating Teams must solely utilise Official Training Sites for any official training from two (2) days prior to their first Match.

SECTION 4 | TECHNICAL REGULATIONS

14. Futsal Laws of the Game

14.1. All Matches shall be played in accordance with the Futsal Laws of the Game. In the case of any discrepancy in the interpretation of the Futsal Laws of the Game, the English version shall prevail.

14.2. Each Match shall last forty (40) minutes, comprising two (2) periods of twenty (20) minutes, with a half-time interval of fifteen (15) minutes.

14.3. The nine (9) substitutes listed on the 'Match Start List' may take part in the Match. An unlimited number of substitutions may be made during a Match.

14.4. The Participating Teams are entitled to one (1) timeout per period, consisting of one (1) minute each. Participating Officials are authorised to submit a request for a timeout to the Third Referee or Timekeeper (if there is no Third Referee) using the form provided by SAFF.

14.5. SAFF may, at its discretion, decide to use football technologies in any Match or Matches in the Competition or in the Competition as a whole (including video support [VS] system or electronic performance and tracking systems [EPTS]) in accordance with the Futsal Laws of the Game.

14.6 In accordance with the Futsal Laws of the Game, if a team utilizes the Powerplay tactic (flying goalkeeper), the outfield player assuming the goalkeeper's role must wear a jersey that is the same color as their team's official goalkeeper jersey and must display their own player number.

15. Refereeing

15.1. If one of the two (2) Referees is prevented from carrying out his/her duties, such Referee shall be replaced by the Third Referee.

16. Team Bench and Technical Area

16.1. A maximum of nine (9) Participating Players and a maximum of six (6) Participating Officials are permitted to sit on the team bench during a Match, provided they are in possession of the appropriate Accreditation Card.

17. Futsal Balls

17.1. The futsal balls used shall be selected and supplied by SAFF.

17.2. Participating Teams shall only utilise the futsal balls provided by SAFF for training and warming-up purposes.

17.3. Each Participating Member Association is responsible for any taxes and/or fees pertaining to the customs clearance of futsal balls delivered to it by SAFF.

18. Equipment

18.1. SAFF has the sole authority to approve the equipment (including kit) in accordance with the AFC Equipment Regulations.

18.2. Each Participating Member Association shall indemnify SAFF and hold SAFF 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 5 | TEAM OFFICIAL DELEGATION

19. Team Official Delegation

19.1. Each Participating Team shall ensure that no person in its Team Official Delegation or otherwise affiliated to it enters or is present on its team bus, in its team dressing room, on the Pitch, or in any other Controlled Access Area without being in physical possession of the necessary Accreditation Card which has been validly issued to such person.

19.2. Participating Teams shall register a Team Official Delegation, subject to the conditions set out below, comprising fourteen (14) Participating Players and up to six (6) Participating Officials.

19.2.1. Each Participating Team may nominate an additional four (4) Participating Officials as part of its Team Official Delegation, who shall receive the same Accreditation Card as the six (6) Participating Officials referred to above.

19.2.2. All costs related to the additional four (4) Participating Officials shall be borne by the relevant Participating Team.

20. Eligibility of Players

20.1. Each Participating Member Association shall ensure that all players:

20.1.1. are duly registered with the SAFF pursuant to these Regulations;

20.1.2. hold the nationality of its country and are subject to its jurisdiction;

20.1.3. are eligible to participate for the representative team of the Member Association in accordance with the Regulations Governing the Application of the FIFA Statutes.

20.2. Individuals who meet the criteria set out in Article 20.1 are eligible to participate in the Competition, subject to the provisions of the SAFF Disciplinary and Ethics Code.

20.3. Each Participating Team shall ensure to submit authentic documents for registration of its Participating Players.

20.4. The approval of the registration of a Participating Player by the SAFF General Secretariat does not mean that the Participating Player is eligible to participate in the Competition.

Each Participating Member Association is responsible for fielding only eligible Participating Players. Failure to do so shall lead to the consequences stipulated in the SAFF Disciplinary and Ethics Code.

20.5. A Participating Player shall be deemed ineligible, without limitation, if:

20.5.1. there is a violation of Article 20.1; or

20.5.2. he participates in a Match contrary to a decision of the SAFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee, these Regulations, or the operation of the SAFF Disciplinary and Ethics Code; or

20.5.3. the SAFF determines that any document submitted during registration is falsified or forged.

21. Registration of Players

21.1. There are three (3) stages of registration for the players:

21.1.1. Preliminary Registration: each Participating Team must submit a squad of a minimum of fourteen (14) and maximum of twenty-five (25) Participating Players;

21.1.2. Final Registration: each Participating Team must submit a squad of fourteen (14) Participating Players comprising individuals registered in the Preliminary Registration;

21.1.3. Player Selection List: each Participating Team must submit a "Player Selection List" prior to each Match which identifies the starting five (5) and up to nine (9) substitutes comprising individuals registered in the Final Registration.

21.2. All Participating Players will be issued with Accreditation Cards authorised by the SAFF General Secretariat. Should a card be misplaced/lost or damaged, the relevant Participating Team shall be required to pay USD 200 as a replacement production fee.

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

22. Documents for Registration of Players

22.1. Participating Players must be registered via FCMS and the supporting documents as set out in Article 23 of the Manual with the exception of Article 23.8 are to be emailed to info@saffederation.org.

23. Preliminary Registration

23.1. Each Participating Team shall submit the supporting documents in accordance with Article 22 via email no later than forty (40) days prior to its first Match.

23.2. There is no allocation of jersey numbers during the Preliminary Registration.

23.3. If a Participating Team fails to register a minimum of fourteen (14) Participating Players, its Member Association shall be deemed to have withdrawn from the Competition prior to its commencement and subject to Article 6.

23.4. Each Participating Team must register a minimum of three (3) goalkeepers in its Preliminary Registration.

23.5. No later than seven (7) days prior to its first Match, each Participating Team may replace or add up to five (5) players for any reason provided that the maximum number of players is not exceeded.

24. Final Registration

24.1. Each Participating Teams shall submit a Final Registration of fourteen (14) Participating Players in the Final Registration.

24.1.1. The Final Registration may only be composed of those Participating Players registered in the Preliminary Registration.

24.1.2. Participating Players must be allocated a playing number between 1 and 14. Playing number 1 shall be reserved for a goalkeeper. Each Participating Player shall wear the same playing number allocated in the Final Registration during all Matches.

24.1.3. Each Participating Team shall submit its Final Registration to the SAFF by latest ten (10) days prior to the first Match of the Finals.

24.1.4. Each Participating Team must register a minimum of two (2) goalkeepers in its Final Registration.

24.2. Once the Final Registration has been received by the SAFF, Participating Teams may replace any of the registered Participating Players up to six (6) hours prior to their first Match in the Finals, subject to the conditions below:

24.2.1. any replacement Participating Player must have been registered in the Preliminary Registration;

24.2.2. replacement Participating Players shall only be allocated the vacated shirt numbers;

24.2.3. to replace a Participating Player, a Participating Team must provide his Accreditation Card to the SAFF and shall receive the Accreditation Card of the replacement Participating Player in exchange; and

24.2.4. replacement Participating Players shall only be eligible to participate in the Finals after receiving their Accreditation Card.

25. Player Selection List

25.1. Each Participating Team shall mark the starting five (5), including the team captain and up to nine (9) substitutes, on the "Player Selection List".

25.1.1. Each Participating Player who is marked on the “Player Selection List” must be available at the “Player and Equipment Check” undertaken by the SAFF Match Commissioner on Match day.

25.2. Each Participating Team must hand their “Player Selection List” signed by the Head Coach or the Team Manager, together with the “Officials on the Substitution Bench” form with the names of the six (6) Participating Officials who shall be entitled to sit on the team bench, to the SAFF Match Commissioner by latest ninety (90) minutes prior to the commencement of each Match.

26. Registration of Officials

26.1. There shall only be one (1) registration period for Participating Officials.

26.2. Each Participating Team shall submit the supporting documents in accordance with Article 27 by email no later than thirty (30) days prior to the first Match of the relevant stage of the Competition.

26.3. Each Participating Team may nominate a minimum of three (3) and a maximum of six (6) Participating Officials. Each Participating Team may also nominate an additional four (4) Participating Officials in accordance with Article 19.

26.4. Each Participating Team must include the following three (3) Participating Officials in the registration list:

26.4.1. Head Coach;

26.4.2. Team Manager; and

26.4.3. Team Doctor.

26.5. Up to six (6) Participating Officials may sit on the team bench for each Match. The following three (3) Participating Officials must be registered on the “Officials on the Substitution Bench” form:

26.5.1. Head Coach;

26.5.2. Team Manager; and

26.5.3. Team Doctor.

26.6. 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 relevant stage of the Competition. This recording shall be strictly for technical purposes and should not interfere with Match operations or be utilised by any Broadcast Partner or otherwise distributed.

26.7. All Participating Officials (and additional Participating Officials) will be issued with an Accreditation Card. Should a card be misplaced, the relevant Participating Member Association shall be required to pay USD 200 as a replacement production fee.

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

26.9. Once the registration of Participating Officials has been received by the SAFF, Participating Member Associations may replace any of the listed Participating Officials at any stage with twenty-four (24) hours' notice to the SAFF by submitting the documents set out in Article 27 via email, subject to the conditions below:

26.9.1. To replace a Participating Official, a Participating Team must provide the official's Accreditation Card to the SAFF and shall receive the Accreditation Card of the replacement Participating Official in exchange; and

26.9.2. Replacement Participating Officials shall only be eligible to participate in the Competition after receiving their Accreditation Card.

[27. Documents for Registration of Officials](#)

27.1. Participating Officials must be registered by FCMS with the supporting documents set out in Article 26 of the Manual with the exception of Article 26.1.4 to be sent by email to info@saffederation.org.

SECTION 6 | MEDIA

28. Media Access

28.1. Each Organising Association shall ensure that the SAFF, SAFF Commercial Rights Partners, Commercial Affiliates, the Host Broadcaster, and all Broadcast Partners have free access to each Indoor Stadium from ten (10) days prior to the first Match in the Indoor Stadium until one (1) day after the final Match in the Indoor Stadium to allow for the resolution of any technical issues and for the assembly and/or disassembly of the relevant infrastructure required to execute the Media Rights.

29. Press Conferences

29.1. The Head Coach of each Participating Team must attend a pre-Competition press conference, to be held at least one (1) day prior to the start of the Competition.

29.2. The Head Coach and one (1) of the key Participating Players of each relevant Participating Team must attend the pre-Match press conference for the Final, to be held one (1) day prior to the Final.

29.3. 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. If requested by the SAFF, the player of the Match of each Match must also attend the post-Match press conference.

29.4. Each Participating Team shall be responsible for the language interpretation and translation of its Head Coach and relevant Participating Players into English. Interpretation and translation into the local language (if applicable) shall be the responsibility of the Organising Association.

29.5. Any individual who fails to attend an obligatory press conference shall be fined at least USD 1,000. The relevant Participating Team shall also be held liable in accordance with Article 4.3.8. The SAFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee may impose further sanctions at its discretion.

30. Mixed Zone

30.1. The Head Coach and all Participating Players of each Participating Team shall pass through the mixed zone on their way from their team dressing room to their bus after each Match.

30.2. Any individual who fails to pass through the mixed zone shall be fined at least USD 1,000. The relevant Participating Team may also be held liable for any failure to pass through the mixed zone in accordance with Article 4.3.8. The SAFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee may impose further sanctions at its discretion.

31. Interviews

31.1. If requested by the SAFF, Participating Teams shall make their Head Coach and one (1) 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 any other Broadcast Partner, Commercial Affiliate and/or by the SAFF.

31.2. All interview locations shall be assigned by the SAFF Media Coordinator or SAFF General Coordinator/Match Commissioner.

31.3. Any individual who fails to conduct an interview when requested shall be fined at least USD 1,000. The relevant Participating Team may also be held liable for any failure to conduct an interview when requested in accordance with Article 4.3.8. The SAFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee may impose further sanctions at its discretion.

32. Flash Interviews

32.1. If requested by the SAFF, any Participating Player and/or Participating Official shall participate in a flash interview following each Match.

32.2. Any individual who fails to conduct a flash interview when requested shall be fined at least USD 1,000. The relevant Participating Team may also be held liable for any failure to conduct a flash interview when requested in accordance with Article 4.3.8. The SAFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee may impose further sanctions at its discretion.

33. Recording of Matches

33.1. Immediately after each Match, the relevant Organising Association shall provide four (4) copies of the full Match recording to the SAFF Match Commissioner.

33.2. Any Organising Association that fails to comply with Article 33.1 shall be fined at least USD 600. The SAFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee may impose further sanctions at its discretion.

33.3. The SAFF shall provide each Participating Team the footage of its Matches.

SECTION 7 | TICKETING

34. General Requirements

34.1. Tickets, electronic or hard copy, shall include seat numbering and serial numbering, and only include SAFF Marks, Competition Marks, and/or marks of Commercial Affiliates approved by the SAFF.

34.2. The SAFF reserves the right at its sole discretion to substitute the seating area or the gate entrance identified on a Ticket with another, if deemed appropriate for security or technical reasons.

34.3. The Organising Association must ensure that access to the Indoor Stadium is granted to the SAFF Delegation, Participating Teams' Team Official Delegation, SAFF Commercial Rights Partner, Commercial Affiliates, Media and travelling supporters without any discrimination.

35. Terms and Conditions

35.1. Each Organising Association shall be responsible at its own cost for the design, production, distribution, and sales of all Tickets. Such matters are subject to the approval of the SAFF.

35.2. The SAFF shall, in collaboration with the Organising Association, issue special Ticketing terms and conditions which are applicable to all Ticket holders.

35.3. The SAFF may change the terms and conditions and shall advise the Organising Association on any requirements relating to Ticket production, distribution and/or sales.

36. Complimentary Tickets

36.1. The Organising Association shall provide the following Complimentary Tickets to each Participating Team competing at the Venue:

36.1.1. one (1) VVIP Ticket for each Match the Participating Team participates in;

36.1.1. two (2) VIP Tickets for each Match the Participating Team participates in;

36.1.3. fifteen (15) Tickets of the next-best category (as determined by the SAFF) for each Match the Participating Team participates in; and

36.1.4. two (2) Tickets of the next-best category (as determined by the SAFF) for all other Matches at the Venue not involving the relevant Participating Team.

37. Purchasable Tickets

37.1. Each Organising Association must make available at least eight percent (8%) of the net saleable capacity of each Indoor Stadium available exclusively to the supporters of each

Participating Member Association playing in a Match, in a segregated, safe area to be determined by the SAFF General Secretariat and the Organising Association.

37.2. The number of Tickets to be purchased must be declared by each Participating Member Association in accordance with the Ticketing timeline and guidelines issued by the SAFF. Each Participating Member Association is responsible for all Tickets purchased, even if the Tickets are not utilised. The price of the Tickets shall not exceed the price of comparable Tickets that are sold to the general public by the Organising Association.

37.3. Each Organising Association shall provide the SAFF 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 at a time to be mutually agreed between the SAFF Commercial Rights Partner and the Organising Association.

SECTION 8 | COMMERCIAL

38. Commercial Rights

38.1. The SAFF is the owner of all Commercial Rights emanating from the Competition as well as from any other related events under its jurisdiction, without any restrictions as to content, time, place and law. The SAFF may grant the Organising Associations the Commercial Rights, in whole or in part, in accordance with the Manual which governs the rights, duties, and responsibilities of all parties regarding the Commercial Rights.

38.2. Each Organising Association shall use its best efforts in seeking political and administrative support from all local, regional and national governmental authorities to ensure the effective exploitation and protection of the Commercial Rights (including through the implementation of government guarantees and tabling of supplementary legislation).

38.3. Each Organising Association shall, where requested by the SAFF, procure at its own cost the registration of all Competition Marks and Competition Websites in its territory.

38.4. Each Organising Association shall appoint a reasonable number of personnel to assist the SAFF in the implementation and enforcement of its rights protection programme.

39. Clean Stadium

39.1. The Organising Association shall deliver all Indoor Stadiums and Official Training Sites as a Clean Stadium five (5) days before the first Match and official training at each Indoor Stadium and Official Training Site of the Competition, until one (1) day after the final Match of the Competition.

40. Advertising and Branding

40.1. Except where instructed or communicated by the SAFF, the Organising Association shall ensure that all relevant permits and approvals are secured and unrestricted access for the placement and publishing of advertising or branding of the Competition at each Indoor Stadium, Official Training Site and/or such other locations as advised by the SAFF shall be available to the SAFF ten (10) days before the first Match.

SECTION 9 | SAFETY AND SECURITY

41. General Principles

41.1. All matters relating to safety and security shall be undertaken in compliance with the AFC Futsal and Beach Soccer Stadium Regulations and AFC Safety and Security Regulations (as applicable).

41.2. Each Organising Association shall, in cooperation with the relevant government authorities and/or Indoor 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 SAFF Delegation, Team Official Delegations, SAFF Commercial Rights Partner, Commercial Affiliates, Media, spectators, and all goods brought in by the SAFF, Team Official Delegations, SAFF Commercial Rights Partner, and Commercial Affiliates.

41.3. Each Organising Association shall issue a detailed security plan in the form of a binding agreement with, without limitation, the management of all Indoor Stadiums, Official Training Sites, and the Accommodation of the SAFF Delegation and Team Official Delegations. This security plan shall be based upon the principles set out in the AFC Futsal and Beach Soccer Stadium Regulations and AFC Safety and Security Regulations (as applicable).

41.4. The Organising Association shall discharge the SAFF and hold it harmless from all responsibility and relinquish any claim against the SAFF and the members of its delegation for any damages resulting from any act or omission relating to the organisation of the Competition to the exclusion of damages caused by the SAFF or the members of its delegation acting with intent or gross negligence.

SECTION 10 | MEDICAL & ANTI-DOPING

42. Facilities and Personnel

42.1. Each Organising Association shall provide a medical room and doping control room fully equipped with all items stipulated in the Manual.

42.2. The Organising Association shall be fined:

42.2.1. at least USD 4,000 for failing to fully equip the medical room; or

42.2.2. at least USD 2,000 for failing to fully equip the doping control room; or

42.2.3. at least USD 8,000 for failing to fully equip both rooms.

42.2.4. The SAFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee may impose further sanctions at its discretion.

42.3. Each Organising Association shall provide all medical personnel and doping control personnel stipulated in the Manual.

42.4. The Organising Association shall be fined:

42.4.1. at least USD 2,000 for failing to provide all required doping control personnel; or

42.4.2. at least USD 4,000 for failing to provide all required medical personnel.

42.4.3. The SAFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee may impose further sanctions at its discretion.

43. Anti-Doping

43.1. Doping is strictly prohibited. The AFC Anti-Doping Regulations, the SAFF Disciplinary and Ethics Code, and all relevant SAFF directives in relation to anti-doping are applicable to the Competition.

43.2. The SAFF shall inform each Participating Team by means of a circular of the doping control procedure for the Competition.

43.3. The SAFF shall be responsible for the approval of the WADA-accredited laboratory which shall carry out the analysis of all doping samples.

SECTION 11 | FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

44. Responsibilities

44.1. Any financial payments to be made by the SAFF in accordance with these Regulations shall be subject to all applicable laws, regulations, orders, by-laws and international sanctions.

44.2. The Participating Teams shall cover their international and domestic travel costs to the Venue or the nearest airport, as well as incidental expenses.

44.3. The SAFF and the Organising Association shall provide all other logistical arrangements in accordance with the OAA. Such arrangements shall be communicated to the Participating Teams by circular prior to the Competition.

45. Accommodation, Meals, and Refreshments

45.1. From two (2) days prior to the first Match until one (1) day after the final Match, each Organising Association must provide at its own cost, for the Team Official Delegation of each visiting Participating Team:

45.1.1. Accommodation in an international four/five-star hotel for the Team Official Delegation (or an international four-star hotel if there are no international five-star hotels in the Venue), not exceeding twenty (20) persons, which shall comprise seven (7) double rooms and six (6) single rooms. All rooms, where possible, shall be on the same floor;

45.1.2. one (1) empty room in the said hotel for the purposes of medical treatment and/or equipment storage;

45.1.3. one (1) meeting room in the said hotel (shared between two (2) Participating Teams) for the duration of the Competition equipped with a whiteboard and an LCD projector. The meeting room shall accommodate at least twenty (20) persons in a classroom layout setting;

45.1.4. 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;

45.1.5. minimum six (6) litres of water per person per day for the Team Official Delegation, as well as ice and refreshments; and

45.1.6. daily laundry services (but no dry cleaning or pressing) for six (6) pieces of kits (as defined in the AFC Equipment Regulations) per person per day for the Team Official Delegation; and

45.1.7. at least one (1) liaison officer proficient in English, and preferably the language of the Member Association.

46. Domestic Transportation

46.1. From two (2) days prior to the first Match until one (1) day after the final Match, each Organising Association must provide at its own cost, for the Team Official Delegation of each Participating Team:

46.1.1. one (1) bus with a minimum of thirty-five (35) seats for transportation of the Team Official Delegation to training, Matches, Official Functions, and airport transfers within the Venue; and

46.1.2. one (1) luggage truck for airport transfers, hotel transfers (if applicable) and Match day.

SECTION 12 | AWARDS

47. Trophy, Awards, and Medals

47.1. The following awards of the Competition shall be presented:

47.1.1. The Champions trophy.

47.2. The SAFF shall award the following medals:

47.2.1. twenty-four (24) medals to the Champion;

47.2.2. twenty-four (24) medals to the runner-up; and

47.2.3. twenty-four (24) medals to the second runner-up.

47.3. The SAFF Competitions Committee may decide to introduce further awards.

SECTION 13 | DISCIPLINARY

48. Disciplinary Measures

48.1. All disciplinary measures in relation to the Competition shall be undertaken in accordance with the current SAFF Statutes, SAFF Disciplinary and Ethics Code, and all relevant SAFF regulations and circulars.

48.2. The SAFF may introduce new disciplinary rules and sanctions for the duration of the Competition. Such rules shall be communicated to the Participating Member Associations thirty (30) days before the first Match of the Competition at the latest.

48.3. All Participating Players agree to:

48.3.1. respect the spirit of fair play, non-violence, and the authority of the Match Officials;

48.3.2. behave accordingly; and

48.3.3. refrain from doping.

49. Good Conduct

49.1. Each Participating Member Association is liable for the improper conduct of:

49.1.1. any member of its Team Official Delegation; and/or

49.1.2. any person affiliated to it and/or carrying out duties on its behalf throughout the Competition.

49.2. For any violation of Article 49.1, the SAFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee may impose any sanction listed in the SAFF Disciplinary and Ethics Code.

50. Administrative Procedure

50.1. Subject to the SAFF Disciplinary and Ethics Code, for any offence set out in these Regulations with a listed minimum fine, where it is the first such offence committed by a party:

50.1.1. the SAFF, after completing its investigation but prior to opening disciplinary proceedings, may write to the party and make an offer to compound the offence and reduce the listed fine by twenty percent (20%) should the party admit to the offence;

50.1.2. if the offence is admitted, the SAFF shall submit the compounded offence to the Chairperson of the SAFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee for approval;

50.1.2.1. should the party deny the offence, the SAFF shall open disciplinary proceedings;

50.1.3. upon approval of the Chairperson of the SAFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee, the sanction shall be notified and applied administratively by the SAFF;

50.1.3.1. should the Chairperson of the SAFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee not approve the compounded offence, the SAFF shall open disciplinary proceedings;

50.1.4. by agreeing to compound the offence, the party waives its right to request a motivated decision or appeal the sanction issued;

50.1.5. any sanction issued administratively comes into force immediately upon notification in accordance with the SAFF Disciplinary and Ethics Code.

51. Cautions and Expulsions

51.1. 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 SAFF Disciplinary and Ethics Code and any relevant SAFF circular except where expressly set out below.

52. Protest

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

52.2. Unless otherwise stipulated in these Regulations, to be considered valid, a protest must be:

52.2.1. submitted in writing to the SAFF Match Commissioner for the relevant Match within two (2) hours of the end of the relevant Match;

52.2.2. followed up with a full written report which must be sent to the SAFF General Secretariat within twenty-four (24) hours of the end of the Match; and

52.2.3. accompanied by a non-refundable fee of USD 100 (non-inclusive of any bank charges) which must be transmitted to the bank account nominated by the SAFF General Secretariat within twenty-four (24) hours of the end of the relevant Match.

52.3. No protest shall be lodged relating to the Referee's decisions regarding facts connected with play. Such decisions are final and binding and not subject to appeal, unless otherwise stipulated in the SAFF Disciplinary and Ethics Code.

52.4. Any protest which relates to the eligibility of a player to participate in the Finals must be submitted to the SAFF General Secretariat no later than five (5) days before the day on which the opening Match of the Finals is scheduled to take place. To be considered valid, such a protest must be:

52.4.1. submitted in writing (in the form of a full written report); and

52.4.2. accompanied by a non-refundable fee of USD 100 (non-inclusive of any bank charges) which must be transmitted to the bank account nominated by the SAFF General Secretariat before the expiry of the aforementioned deadline.

52.5. If any of the formal requirements set out in Article 52.2 and/or Article 52.4 is not met, the relevant protest shall be disregarded. The SAFF General Secretariat decides whether or not such formal requirements have been met. Such decisions are final and binding and not appealable.

52.6. Subject to Article 52.5 and any other exceptions set out in these Regulations, the SAFF Disciplinary and Ethics Code, the SAFF Statutes and/or any other applicable SAFF regulation, the SAFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee shall make decisions on protests. Should the SAFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee determine that a protest is unfounded or irresponsible, it may impose a fine. The SAFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee may transfer a protest to the SAFF Competitions Committee for its decision if it is deemed to be purely operational in nature.

53. Arbitration

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

53.2. In compliance with the SAFF Statutes, Participating 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 SAFF.

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

SECTION 14 | CLOSING PROVISIONS

54. Special Instructions

54.1. The SAFF and/or SAFF Competitions Committee (as appropriate) shall, in conjunction with the Organising Association, issue any instructions necessitated by special circumstances which might arise in the organisation of Matches.

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

55. Decisions

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

56. Amendments

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

57. Force Majeure

57.1. The SAFF Competitions Committee is the only body capable of declaring a Force Majeure event.

58. Matters Not Provided For

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

59. Implementing Provisions

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

For the SAFF Executive Committee

Kazi Md Salahuddin
President

Purushottam Kattel
General Secretary

