

**COMPETITION
REGULATIONS
FOR
SAFF
WOMEN'S
CHAMPIONSHIP
2026**

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Competition Regulations

SAFF WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP 2026

DEFINITIONS

The terms defined in capital letters hereafter and used in these Competition Regulations (whether in capital or not) shall have the following meaning (s):

Accommodation

Hotels or any other locations providing accommodation to SAFF Delegation, Match Officials and Team's Official Delegation for the Competition.

Accreditation or Accredited

The giving of authority to a person or a group of persons, involving certification, which allows the Accredited person(s) to undertake specified activities within the Controlled Access Areas by issuance of an Accreditation Card.

Accreditation Card

A physical item that is issued to Accredited persons which allows them to undertake specified activities within the Controlled Access Areas.

Advertising Rights

The right to promote to the exclusion of all others save as qualified in these Competition Regulations, brand and/or corporate names and/or products and/or services at and/or in relation to the Competition by whatever means available, whether existing now or to be developed in the future, whether at the Stadia or Facility Areas or within the Controlled Access Areas, in association with the SAFF Logo and/or the Competition Mark, by in-stadium/out-stadium perimeter signage and other advertising, concessions, displays, sampling, premiums, digital signage and screens, closed circuit television, equipment usage or other methods and through printed matter such as programmes, posters, letterheads, press releases, newsletters and tickets, including, for the avoidance of doubt, subject always to the SAFF Guidelines, 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 Referees/linesmen and other officials are also included. For the avoidance of doubt, advertising on the strip of Participating Players is excluded, other than where it is the trademark of the bona fide manufacturer and is in accordance with AFC and/or SAFF regulations. Similarly, branding on any equipment, goods and/or services used in connection with the Competition, save where supplied by an Official Licensee, may only include customary branding of the bona fide manufacturer and may not be associated in any way with the Commercial Rights.

AFC

The Asian Football Confederation.

CAS

The Court of Arbitration for Sport.

Clean Stadia

A Stadia and/or Official Training Site and/or Controlled Access Areas that is free from any signage or advertisement, commercial or otherwise, of any kind, whether on any stadium infrastructure, staff uniforms, accreditations, fences, equipment or elsewhere for the specified time of the Competition referenced in Article 64.3 of these Regulations.

Commercial Rights

Advertising Rights, Concession Rights, Hospitality Rights, Image Rights, Media Rights, Merchandising Rights, Promotional Rights, Sponsorship Rights, Travel and Tour Rights and/or any other rights whether existing now or to be identified in the future.

Competition

SAFF Women's Championship 2026 which shall include the Matches as set out in the Match Schedule, including any Matches, 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 Competitions, Match analysis, referee decisions, and any other information in relation to the Competition.

Competition Mark

The official logo of the Competition as designed and published by SAFF.

Complimentary Tickets

Tickets which are supplied without charge. Complimentary Tickets are strictly for the purposes authorised by the Local Organising Committee (e.g. VIPs, Participating Teams, Local Organising Committee, sponsors, partners, officials, media, or promotional activities). They shall not be sold, exchanged, or otherwise transferred for financial gain.

Concession Rights

Sampling, vending, display and other distribution methods and payment methods connected therewith for and of products or services at the Stadia and Controlled Access Areas.

Controlled Access Areas

The locations of the Matches and other events of the Competition, such as (without limitation) Stadia and their fences and perimeters, the aerial space above the Stadia, and all other locations associated with the Competitions, including the Facility Areas, media centers, international broadcast centers, Official Training Sites, designated official hotels (including but not limited to the official hotels for the Participating Teams), hospitality and VIP areas and facilities, other areas which is designated by the SAFF as a Controlled Access Area and to which admission is regulated by the SAFF and/or the Organising Association's Accreditation system, and surrounding and adjacent areas to the locations described above.

Facility Areas

The location of Official Functions, press centers, Ticket offices, official hotels, media areas, sponsor areas, official hospitality areas and information centers controlled by or on behalf of SAFF used in connection with the Competition whether at the Stadia or elsewhere at the Venues.

FIFA

The Federation International de Football Association.

Force Majeure

Any event affecting the performance or any provision of these Competition 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, lock-outs or other industrial action, or civil commotion.

Hospitality Rights

The opportunity to offer and sell hospitality and entertainment facilities at the Venues in combination with the Tickets excluding those private facilities reserved for the Accommodation of SAFF Delegation and Team Official Delegation.

Host Broadcaster

The party appointed by the SAFF or Official Licensee 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 images of Participating Teams and Participating Players participating in the Competitions, and including, for the avoidance of doubt, images of Participating Officials, Match Officials, and other officials forming part of the Competition.

Laws of the Game

The latest edition of the Laws of the Game is 2025/26, as published by the IFAB.

Local Organising Committee

The committee formed by the Organising Association to aid in the successful organisation and hosting of the Competition including the Local General Coordinator, Local Media Officer and Local Security Officer.

Match (es)

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

Match Schedule

The published schedule containing details of the Competition, including, but not limited to, the names of the Participating Teams, Venues, Stadia, and details of the Match kick-off times.

Match Officials

Any individual appointed to officiate a Match in the Competition in the role of Match Commissioner, Referee Assessor, Referee, Assistant Referee, Fourth Official or Fifth Official.

Media

All members of the written press, on-line editors, photographers, television news crews and the representatives of the Host Broadcaster entitled and granted to media Accreditation Card by SAFF.

Media Rights

The right and license to produce, edit, and transmit, for intelligible reception throughout the World in any language and in any format, and on any platform including film, fixed media, digital media, games, internet, public exhibition, radio, mobile, and television, a visual, audio-visual, and/or audio signal and/or image or recording 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, and all rights to exploit any and all commercial opportunities arising from and/or in connection with such rights.

Member(s) / Member Association(s)

Those National Associations who are Members of FIFA, and who have applied for and been granted membership of SAFF in accordance with the SAFF Statutes.

Merchandising Rights

The right to design, in consultation with SAFF, and the right to exploit the Competition Marks and/or official status in connection with the promotion, manufacture, packaging, distribution and sale of goods and services of all kinds, including items of equipment, clothing, coins, medals, games, other collectibles and Premiums related to the Competition.

National Association(s)

The controlling bodies for association football within each country or territory of Asia.

Official Licensee

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

Official Functions

Any official event organised in connection with the Competitions, including but not limited to press conferences, team manager's meeting, etc.

Official Training Sites

Training sites designated by the Organising Association for use by the Participating Teams throughout the duration of the Competition.

Organising Association(s)

The Member Association(s) and their Local Organising Committee appointed by SAFF to organise, stage and host the Competition who has signed the Competition Host Agreement.

Participating Officials

Those officials registered and participating in the Competition as selected by the Participating Member Association.

Participating Players

Those players registered and participating in the Competition as selected by the Participating

Member Association.

Participating Team(s) /Member Association(s)

Those teams participating in the Competitions, under the authority of a Member Association/National Association and SAFF during the Competition (including the Host Association Team) who has signed the Participating Team Agreement.

Premiums

A promotional item (including packaging, labeling and/or containers thereof) which incorporates a mark and/or logo of SAFF and/or the Competitions, and which is distributed free of charge or via prize competitions.

Promotional Rights

Any rights to official publications, official suppliers, official products, sales promotion including but not limited to the right to organise promotional competitions and to make awards and give prizes, official music rights, the right to grant official status and all other rights of commercial value in regard to the Competition.

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/ Competition Regulations

Those regulations published and implemented by FIFA, AFC and SAFF to be used in connection with the Competition.

SAFF

The South Asian Football Federation.

SAFF Committees

Any committees constituted by SAFF for the organisation of this Competition and any committee constituted in accordance with the SAFF Statutes including but not limited to the SAFF Competitions Committee and the SAFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee.

SAFF Delegation

Any officials appointed by SAFF in relation to the Competition, including but not limited to the SAFF staff.

SAFF Guidelines

Any guidelines, regulations, policies, instructions and/or protocols issued by SAFF which form an integral part of the Competition.

SAFF General Secretariat

The secretariat of SAFF which is responsible to conduct all administrative work of SAFF and the Competition.

SAFF Logo(s)

The official logo of SAFF and the Competition Mark, and/or such other official logo, which shall be the only marks used by SAFF in relation to the Competition, save where otherwise mutually agreed

with other parties.

SAFF Statutes

The constitution of SAFF.

SAFF Website

The domain www.saffederation.org owned by the SAFF, including without limitation all other domains or official media platforms and channels created and/or owned by the SAFF (e.g. Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, etc.).

Sponsorship Rights

An association with the Competition Mark and/or SAFF Logo (subject to any special provisions regarding the SAFF Logo as set out in these Competition Regulation and/or SAFF Guidelines) by any combination of Commercial Rights, including title sponsor of the Competitions or any of them such as “SAFF Women’s Championship 2026” sponsored/presented by “Company A” and/or such other designation as mutually agreed by the parties.

Stadia/Stadium

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

Team Technical Seats

The seats located in the stands behind the technical area with access to the Field of Play and team dressing rooms.

Team Official Delegation

The Participating Team’s Official Delegation which comprises of **a maximum of 23 players and 8 officials** who are named in the Final Registration for the Competition.

Territory

The World.

The IFAB

The International Football Association Board.

Ticket

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

Ticketing

The Organising Association to provide tickets to spectators for every Match and Official Functions of the Competition allowing them to enter the Stadia. Ticketing shall include the management of 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-license official travel and tour activities in relation to the Competition, which travel and tour activities shall, for the avoidance of doubt, include the provision

of Tickets to a Match and/or Official Function of the Competition.

Tribune d’Honneur

The highest category of seating in the Stadia that is reserved for VVIP Guests.

Venues

Each Host City and the immediately surrounding area in which the Stadia are located.

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

- (a) the singular shall include the plural and vice-versa;
- (b) the masculine gender shall include the feminine and vice-versa;
- (c) reference to natural persons shall include any legal person or corporation;
- (d) references to the SAFF shall include its successors and permitted assigns; and
- (e) references to regulations shall include statutes, codes, orders, regulations, rules, directives, decisions, circulars, notifications and protocols.

SECTION 1: GENERAL

1. Representation

- 1.1. The SAFF stages the SAFF Women's Championship 2026 (**Competition**) once every year or every two (2) years to ensure the development of football within the South Asian region where all Member Associations of SAFF are eligible to participate.
- 1.2. SAFF stages the Competition in a centralised venue in one of SAFF's Member Association(s) (**Organising Association(s)**) after the appointment of these Member Association(s) by the SAFF.
- 1.3. These Competition Regulations govern the rights, duties, and responsibilities of the SAFF General Secretariat, SAFF Delegation, Match Officials, Organising Association, Participating Member Associations, Participating Teams, Participating Players and Participating Officials, and other relevant stakeholders taking part in the Competition.
- 1.4. These Competition Regulations and all related directives, decisions, guidelines, and circulars issued by the SAFF shall be binding upon all parties participating and/or involved in the preparation, organisation, and hosting of the Competition. Further details in relation to various aspects of the Competition may be communicated to the Participating Member Associations via circular letters. In the event of any discrepancy between the circular letters and these Regulations, the circular letters shall prevail to the extent of the inconsistency.
- 1.5. The AFC Competition Operations Manual forms an integral part of and shall be read in conjunction with these Competition Regulations. The AFC Competition Operations Manual shall be binding upon all parties participating and involved in the preparation, organisation, and hosting of the Competition. For the avoidance of doubt, all references to AFC therein shall be deemed to refer to SAFF in the context of this Competition. Failure to adhere to any matter set out in the AFC Competitions Operations Manual may lead to the imposition of sanctions as set out in the SAFF Disciplinary and Ethics Code. In the event of any discrepancy between these Competition Regulations and the AFC Competition Operations Manual, these Regulations shall prevail to the extent of the inconsistency.
- 1.6. Any rights and/or Proprietary Rights associated with the Competition that have not been granted by these Competition Regulations and/or specific agreements to a Participating Member Association or an Organising Association in the Competition belong to SAFF.
- 1.7. The current SAFF Statutes, all SAFF regulations, guidelines, circulars, and codes are binding for all parties participating and involved in the preparation, organisation, and hosting of the Competition.
- 1.8. Any reference in these Competition Regulations to the SAFF Statutes and SAFF, AFC, and FIFA regulations refers to those valid at the time of entry.

SECTION 2: OBLIGATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

2. SAFF

- 2.1. The SAFF Competitions Committee and the SAFF General Secretariat shall be responsible for overseeing the organising of the Competition in accordance with these Competition Regulations, SAFF Statutes, and all other SAFF and/or AFC regulations, policies, and protocols and shall carry out the necessary administrative work.
- 2.2. The responsibilities of the SAFF may include, but are not limited to:
 - A. supervising general preparations;
 - B. deciding on the Competition format, draws, and entries to the Competition;
 - C. determining the Match Schedule;
 - D. selecting Organising Association, Stadium, and Official Training Sites for the Competition;
 - E. appointing Match Officials for each Match of the Competition;
 - F. approving the choice of the WADA-accredited laboratories that will carry out doping analyses and/or doping control rooms in the Stadium where the samples are taken;
 - G. choosing and approving all stipulated technical material;
 - H. reporting cases where appropriate to the SAFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee;
 - I. dealing with cases of abandoned Matches or canceled Matches;
 - J. dealing with cases of Force Majeure;
 - K. replacing Participating Teams that have withdrawn from the Competition; and
 - L. dealing with any other aspect of the Competition that is not the responsibility of any other body.
- 2.3. The SAFF General Secretariat may make some decisions in relation to the Competition in consultation with the Match Commissioner which shall be final, binding, and not appealable.
- 2.4. All decisions made by the SAFF Competitions Committee and/or SAFF General Secretariat in relation to the Competition are final, binding, and not appealable.
- 2.5. All decisions made by the SAFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee in relation to the Competition shall be in accordance with the SAFF Disciplinary and Ethics Code.

3. Organising Associations

- 3.1. The principal obligations and responsibilities of any Organising Association are stipulated in the Competition Host Agreement (**HA**), these Regulations, the AFC Competition Operations Manual, the SAFF Statutes, and all other SAFF and/or AFC regulations, directives, guidelines, and circulars.
- 3.2. The Organising Association shall be obliged and responsible to:
 - A. observe all obligations set out in these Competition Regulations, the SAFF Statutes, and all other SAFF regulations, directives, guidelines, and circulars and all applicable national and supra-national laws;
 - B. perform each of its obligations and exercise each of the rights granted to it as host, in connection with the hosting, staging, and organisation of the Competition in accordance with professional standards including forming a Local Organisation Committee;
 - C. shall share the name and contact information of the Local General Coordinator, Local Media Officer, and Local Security Officer with the SAFF General Secretariat at least fifteen (15) days before the start of the Competition;
 - D. assist and coordinate with Participating Member Associations on all arrangements relating to the Competition in agreement with SAFF;
 - E. negotiate with and/or lobby the appropriate government bodies and/or local authorities to assist in the successful hosting, staging, and organising of the Competition;
 - F. obtain all applicable and relevant licenses, permits, grants, and authorisations as may be

required to fulfill its obligation in relation to the hosting, staging, and organising of the Competition;

- G. comply with the SAFF General Secretariat and Match Commissioner's instructions on the provision of key services, facilities, equipment and infrastructure at each Stadium;
 - H. provide a Clean Stadium and the necessary assistance and support to the SAFF and Official Licensees in relation to the use and exploitation of the Commercial Rights and all Proprietary Interests of the SAFF and the protection and enforcement of rights in relation thereto;
 - I. procure all necessary insurance policies which shall provide coverage for all risks relating to the hosting, staging, and organising of the Competition;
 - J. obtain all clearances and execute all required documentation to enable the free and unfettered exercise and exploitation of Commercial Rights and clearance of all products, equipment or materials relating to the exploitation of the Commercial Rights of the Competition;
 - K. provide the necessary assistance and support to SAFF, and Official Licensees in relation to the use and exploitation of the Commercial Rights and all Proprietary Interests of SAFF and the protection and enforcement of rights in relation thereto;
 - L. submit all documents to SAFF in a timely manner upon completion of the Competition which shall in no event exceed one (1) month from the completion of the Competition;
 - M. guarantee safety and security at the Stadium in compliance with AFC Stadium Safety and Security Regulations within the Venue for Participating Teams and SAFF Delegation;
 - N. issue a detailed security plan (preferably in the form of a binding agreement) at least three (3) weeks before the start of the Competition;
 - O. provide media access to Participating Teams; and
 - P. ensure that any decision made by SAFF relating to its duties and responsibilities is enforced immediately.
- 3.3. The Organising Association shall indemnify, hold harmless and defend the SAFF, its Official Licensees as well as their officers, members, agents, auxiliary persons, representatives, and employees from and against all liabilities, obligations, damages, losses, claims, demands, recoveries, deficiencies, costs or expenses (including without limitation all costs and expenses for finding and contracting with another Organising Association able and willing to stage the Competition and/or all attorney fees and expenses) which such parties may suffer or incur in connection with, resulting from, or arising out of any breach by the Organising Association (including its officers, directors, representatives, auxiliary persons, employees or agents) or any act or omission of the Organising Association (including its officers, directors, representatives, auxiliary persons, employees or agents) in connection with the performance of its obligations under these Competition Regulations.
- 3.4. The Organising Association shall be required to sign and execute a Competition Host Agreement (**HA**) with the SAFF General Secretariat by no later than forty-five (45) days before the start of the Competition or the deadline communicated to the Organising Association by mail, the HA will detail all requirements pertaining to the organisation and staging of the Competition (which have not been covered in this Competition Regulation) and covenants to ensure the rights of any Official Licensee.

4. Participating Member Associations

- 4.1. The principal obligations and responsibilities of any Participating Member Association are stipulated in the Participating Team Agreement (**PTA**), these Regulations, the AFC Competition Operations Manual, the SAFF Statutes, and all other SAFF and/or AFC regulations, directives, guidelines, and circulars.
- 4.2. The Participating Member Association eligible to participate shall complete the Participating Team Agreement (**PTA**) in full and submit it to the SAFF General Secretariat by no later than forty-five (45) days before the start of the Competition or the deadline communicated to the Participating Member Association including any other documents as requested by SAFF. If the PTA does not reach the SAFF

General Secretariat by the deadline, the participation of the eligible Participating Member Association may be canceled. Only the PTA submitted to the SAFF General Secretariat by mail will be valid and taken into consideration. Failure to submit a validly completed PTA to the SAFF by the deadline may result in the non-participation of the relevant Member Association.

- 4.3. Each Participating Member Association taking part in the Competition shall ensure, as a condition of its participation in the Competition that every member of its delegation (players and officials) complies with the Participating Team Agreement (**PTA**) to be issued by SAFF.
- 4.4. Each Participating Member Association taking part shall undertake to:
 - A. observe all obligations set out in the Participating Team Agreement (**PTA**), these Competition Regulations, the SAFF Statutes, and all other SAFF regulations, directives, guidelines and circulars, and applicable national and supra-national laws;
 - B. comply with the Laws of the Game 2025-26 laid down by The IFAB;
 - C. accept that all the administrative, and disciplinary matters connected with the Competition shall be settled by the SAFF in compliance with these Competition Regulations;
 - D. field their strongest team throughout the Competition;
 - E. observe the principles of Fair Play;
 - F. ensure the good conduct of its Team Official Delegation and of any person carrying out duties on its behalf throughout the Competition, which includes but is not limited to their arrival on the territory of any Organising Association until their departure;
 - G. attend and participate in all official activities and events, including without limitation any team arrival meeting, match coordination meeting (**MCM**), press conferences, and other media and marketing activities in accordance with the instructions issued by the SAFF;
 - G1. failure to attend and/or fully participate in any official activity or event shall result in the Participating Member Association being fined at least USD 500; and
 - G2. the SAFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee may issue further sanctions at its discretion;
 - H. provide to the SAFF, free of charge, prior to the Competition, statistics and photographs of its Participating Players and Participating Officials, historical information related to its Participating Team, and any further data as requested and in accordance with instructions issued by SAFF;
 - I. link the official URL for the Competition on its official website;
 - J. not establish any digital, media or social media platform relating to the Competition without the prior written approval of SAFF;
 - K. accept the use and/or sub-license by SAFF of any of the records, names, and images of the Participating Member Association (including its mark/logo), players, and officials, including any still and moving representation thereof, which must appear or be generated in connection with the participation of the Participating Member Association and its Participating Players and Participating Officials in the Competition;
 - L. submit all travel documents to SAFF in a timely manner upon completion of the Competition which shall in no event exceed one (1) week from the completion of the Competition;
 - M. not make changes to Participating Players and Participating Officials from the initial list without prior consent of SAFF and without providing sufficient reasons;
 - N. ensure that any decision made by SAFF relating to its duties and responsibilities is enforced immediately;
 - O. obtain visas to enter the territory of any Organising Association no later than thirty (30) days prior to its first Match at that Venue;
 - P. accept all arrangements made by any Organising Association in agreement with the SAFF; and
 - Q. Participating Member Associations are not authorised to represent SAFF or the Competition without the prior written approval of SAFF.
- 4.5. Each Participating Member Association taking part shall, at its own expense, be solely responsible throughout the Competition for:
 - A. the procurement of insurance coverage of its Team Official Delegation which shall include

without limitation hospital and surgical insurance, travel insurance, and/or sports equipment insurance for all Matches;

- B. all other necessary insurance policies, which must provide an appropriate guaranteed sum for injury and damage to persons, objects, and property, and correspond with the specific circumstances of the Participating Member Association's participation in the Competition. The SAFF must be notified of all insurance policies and may request copies of any and all policies at its discretion;
 - C. payment of incidental expenses and for any costs incurred by its Team Official Delegation;
 - D. payment of any costs of extending the stay of any member of its Team Official Delegation in any Organising Association unless such extended stay has been approved by SAFF; and
 - E. 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.
- 4.6. Each Participating Member Association taking part shall indemnify, defend, and hold the SAFF 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 the Participating Member Association, their Team Official Delegation, their affiliates and any third-parties contracted to the Participating Member Association.

SECTION 3: ENTRY

5. Entries

- 5.1. The SAFF shall determine the Participating Member Associations who are eligible for the Competition which shall include the Organising Association.
- 5.2. All decisions by the designated SAFF Competitions Committee regarding entries are final and not subject to appeal.
- 5.3. Member Associations of SAFF, Asian Football Confederation (**AFC**), and FIFA can participate in the Competition.
- 5.4. Each Member Association shall be represented at the Competition by only one Participating Team.
- 5.5. Eligible Member Associations must complete a Participating Team Agreement (**PTA**) and submit it to the SAFF in accordance with Article 4 of these Regulations, to confirm their entry.

6. Eligible Teams

- 6.1. In the Competition, the National Women's Team of Participating Member Associations shall be eligible to participate in this Competition provided all other terms of these Competition Regulations have been met.
- 6.2. The Member Associations are eligible if they ensure that the Participating Players meet criteria that are set in Article 28.1 below of these Regulations.
- 6.3. The Participating Member Associations are eligible when they confirm in writing (within the PTA) that they themselves, as well as their players and officials, comply with the Laws of the Game 2025-26 promulgated by The International Football Association Board (IFAB) and agree to respect these Competition Regulations and all related SAFF regulations, policies, guidelines, and notifications.
- 6.4. The Participating Member Associations are eligible when they confirm in writing (within the PTA) that they themselves, as well as their players and officials, agree to recognise the jurisdiction of the SAFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee and the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne, Switzerland or the CAS Alternate Hearing Centre in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

7. Sanctions

Withdrawal from Competition

- 7.1. All Participating Member Associations undertake that their Participating Teams shall play all of their Matches until elimination.
- 7.2. In the case of a Participating Member Association withdrawing or being excluded from the Competition, the SAFF Competitions Committee and the SAFF General Secretariat shall be responsible for making any decisions, including without limitation whether to:
 - A. change the Competition system;
 - B. change the technical regulations; and
 - C. the means of effecting such change.
- 7.3. Without limitation, the following shall be considered as withdrawal, if any Participating Member Association that (for any reason):
 - A. informs SAFF in writing that it does not intend to or is unable to report to a Venue and/or for a Match;
 - B. fails to report to a Venue and/or for a Match;
 - C. refuses or fails to continue a Match;
 - D. leaves the Stadium prior to the completion of a Match;
 - E. is excluded, suspended, or banned by any competent body from participating in the Competition (or any stage of the Competition) at any time after the draw for the Competition

(or stage, as appropriate); or

- F. is excluded, suspended, or banned by any competent body from participating in any Match in the Competition at any time after the relevant Match has been scheduled.
- 7.4. The SAFF Competitions Committee shall be responsible for determining events of Force Majeure in connection with any withdrawal and shall be entitled to take any action it considers appropriate in such circumstances. Any Participating Member Association that wishes to put forward a case of Force Majeure for the consideration of the SAFF Competitions Committee must do so in writing (with supporting evidence) no later than thirty (30) days after the date of its withdrawal. The SAFF General Secretariat may put forward cases of Force Majeure for the consideration of the SAFF Competitions Committee at any time at its discretion.
- 7.5. In the event that a Participating Member Association withdraws from the Competition at any stage, whether before or after the commencement of the Competition, the Competition may continue with the remaining Participating Member Associations and Matches without any replacement. For the avoidance of doubt, Article 7.5 of these Regulations shall apply in all instances and is applicable even in cases of Force Majeure determined by the SAFF Competitions Committee. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the SAFF General Secretariat may, at its discretion, put forward a request to replace the relevant Participating Member Association and, where applicable, the means of effecting such replacement, for the consideration of the SAFF Competitions Committee, in which case the SAFF Competitions Committee shall be entitled to take a decision in the matter.
- 7.6. Any Participating Member Association that withdraws from the Competition prior to the commencement of the Competition shall be fined if the withdrawal takes place:
- A. up to thirty (30) days before its first Match: at least USD 20,000;
 - B. less than thirty (30) days before its first Match: at least USD 40,000; and
 - C. be subject to further sanctions at the discretion of the SAFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee.
- 7.7. Any Participating Member Association that withdraws from the Competition after the commencement of the Competition or does not report for a Match or refuses to continue a Match or leaves the Stadium prior to the completion of a Match shall:
- A. have all its Matches canceled and considered null and void;
 - B. be required to return all subsidies (if paid) and pay compensation for any and all damages or losses suffered by SAFF, Official Licensees, Organising Association, SAFF Delegates and Participating Member Association participating in the Competition;
 - C. be fined at least USD 60,000;
 - D. shall not receive any disbursements in relation to the Competition or forfeit the right to the same;
 - E. may be disqualified from participating in one (1) or more future seasons of the Competition; and
 - F. be subject to further sanctions at the discretion of the SAFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee.

Failure to stage

- 7.8. If an Organising Association fails to stage the Competition (except in the case of Force Majeure), then they shall:
- A. be liable to fine of at least USD 50,000 if more than sixty (60) days remain for the Competition;
 - B. be liable to fine of at least USD 100,000 if less than sixty (60) days remain for the Competition;
 - C. be banned from hosting the Competition for one (1) or two (2) other subsequent editions; and
 - D. be subject to further sanctions at the discretion of the SAFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee.

Defaulting on deadlines

- 7.9. If the Participating Teams or the Organising Associations fail to follow the deadlines which are set by SAFF in these Competition Regulations and by the issuance of SAFF Guidelines, the organisation at fault may be required to pay USD 50 for each day the default continues and be subject to other

sanctions as mentioned within these Regulations and at the discretion of the SAFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee.

Delay of Kick-off

- 7.10. A Participating Team that causes a delay of any scheduled Kick-off of a Match (as determined by the Official Countdown) may be sanctioned by the relevant SAFF Committee at its discretion. For the avoidance of doubt delay to Kick-off includes delay to the start of both halves.

SECTION 4: COMPETITION SYSTEM AND MATCH SCHEDULE

8. Competition System

- 8.1. The Competition shall consist of two (2) stages:
 - A. Group Stage: depending on the number of teams participating in the event; and
 - B. Knock out Stage.
- 8.2. The SAFF Competitions Committee shall decide upon the format and system of the Competition that are final and binding and not appealable.
- 8.3. In case the number of Participating Teams is less than six (6) the SAFF General Secretariat reserves the right to change the Competition system and the technical regulations.
- 8.4. The Matches in the Competition shall be played in accordance with the following format:
 - A. In groups composed of several teams in a centralised venue, with three (3) points awarded for a win, one (1) point for a draw, and zero (0) points for a loss (league system); and
 - B. Knock out Stage.
- 8.5. SAFF will use team ranking based on the Participating Teams' final position in the previous editions of the relevant Competition or the current FIFA ranking of the National Women's Teams.

9. Duration of Match

Group Stage

- 9.1. Each Match shall last ninety (90) minutes, comprising two periods of forty-five (45) minutes, with an interval of fifteen (15) minutes in between from the whistle ending the first period to the whistle starting the second period.

Knockout Stage

- 9.2. Each Match shall last ninety (90) minutes, comprising two periods of forty-five (45) minutes, with an interval of fifteen (15) minutes in between from the whistle ending the first period to the whistle starting the second period.
- 9.3. If no winner is determined at the end of normal playing time during the knockout Matches including semi-finals and final, an extra-time shall follow lasting thirty (30) minutes, comprising two periods of fifteen (15) minutes, with an interval of five (5) minutes in between from the whistle ending the first period to the whistle starting the second period.
- 9.4. If no winner is determined at the end of extra-time during the knockout Matches including semi-finals and final, Penalties (penalty shoot-out) shall be taken in accordance with the Laws of the Game 2025-26.

10. Group Draw Regulations for the Competition

- 10.1. The Participating Teams taking part in the Competition shall be divided into groups depending on the number of teams in the entry.
- 10.2. The following Match sequence applies for groups with four (4) teams (the number designates the position drawn in each group):

Match Day	Schedule	
1	Team 1 V Team 4	Team 2 V Team 3
2	Team 4 V Team 2	Team 3 V Team 1
3	Team 1 V Team 2	Team 3 V Team 4

- 10.3. The following match sequence applies for groups with five (5) teams (the number designates the

position drawn in each group):

Match Day		Schedule
1	Team 3 V Team 2	Team 5 V Team 4
2	Team 4 V Team 1	Team 5 V Team 3
3	Team 1 V Team 5	Team 2 V Team 4
4	Team 2 V Team 5	Team 3 V Team 1
5	Team 4 V Team 3	Team 1 V Team 2

10.4. The following match sequence applies for groups with three (3) teams (the number designates the position drawn in each group):

Match Day	Schedule
1	Team 3 V Team 1
2	Team 2 V Team 3
3	Team 1 V Team 2

10.5. The ranking in each group shall be determined in accordance with Article 11.2 below.

11. League Format

11.1. A league system may be followed upon considering the number of Participating Teams for the Competition which may be either single-legged or double-legged and may be followed by a final.

11.2. In the league/group format, the ranking in each group is determined as follows:

- A. Greater number of points obtained in all group Matches;
- B. If two or more teams are equal on the basis of the above criteria (11.2 A), their rankings shall be determined as follows:

Head-to-head criteria

- B1. Greater number of points obtained in the group Matches between the teams concerned;
- B2. Superior goal difference resulting from the group Matches between the teams concerned;
- B3. Higher number of goals scored in the group Matches between the teams concerned;

Tiebreaker

- B4. If, after having applied 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 result criteria

- B5. Superior goal difference in all the group Matches;
- B6. Greater number of goals scored in all the group Matches;
- B7. Penalties if only two (2) Participating Teams still have an equal ranking and have played their last group Match against each other;
- B8. Ranking/fair play points system in which the number of yellow and/or red cards in all group Matches are considered according to the following deductions:
 - i. per yellow card: minus 1 point;
 - ii. per indirect red card (as a consequence of two yellow cards in the same Match): minus 3 points;
 - iii. per direct red card: minus 3 points;

The Participating Team receiving the least number of minus points shall be ranked highest. The remaining Participating Teams shall be ranked in descending order.

- B9. Drawing of lots.

11.3. If a drawing of lots is required to decide the ranking in a group, the following principles shall apply:

- A. The names of Participating Teams in question shall be placed into a pot;

- B. The first name drawn shall be the highest-ranked of the Participating Teams in question;
- C. If necessary and subject to the number of Participating Teams concerned, the procedure shall be repeated to determine the rankings of all Participating Teams concerned.

12. Knockout Stage

- 12.1. The Knockout Stage may consist of the Semi-Finals and Final.
- 12.2. For each round of the Knockout Stage, Participating Teams shall play one (1) Match in accordance with the Match Schedule.
- 12.3. The four (4) Participating Teams that qualify from the Group Stage shall play the Semi-Finals as follows (if the Competition format permits):
 - SF1: Winner Group 1/Winner Group vs Runner-up Group 2/Runner-up Group
 - SF2: Winner Group 2/Group Third vs Runner-up Group 1/Group FourthFor the avoidance of doubt, the above does not represent the chronological order in which the Matches will be played.
- 12.4. The two (2) winners of the Semi-Finals or as determined by the Competition format shall play the Final as follows:
 - Final: Winner SF1/Winner Group vs Winner SF2/Runner-up Group

13. Extra Time and Penalties

- 13.1. If no winner is determined at the end of normal playing time during the knockout Matches including semi-finals and final, an extra-time shall follow lasting thirty (30) minutes, comprising two periods of fifteen (15) minutes, with an interval of five (5) minutes in between from the whistle ending the first period to the whistle starting the second period.
- 13.2. If no winner is determined at the end of extra-time during the knockout Matches including semi-finals and final, Penalties (penalty shoot-out) shall be taken in accordance with the Laws of the Game 2025-26.

14. Match Schedule

- 14.1. All Matches shall be played according to the dates, stadium, and Kick-off times as set by SAFF. The Match Schedule is final and binding on all concerned.
- 14.2. The Organising Association/s shall inform the SAFF General Secretariat of the Kick-off times for all Matches upon entry to the Competition, which shall be subject to approval by the SAFF General Secretariat.
- 14.3. The Match Schedule shall be determined following the official draw of the Competition.

15. Cancellation of Matches

- 15.1. If the Match cannot commence on time due to Force Majeure or any other incidents such as, but not limited to, the field not fit for play, weather conditions, floodlight failure, etc. the following procedures must be followed:
 - A. The Match must first be delayed for a minimum of thirty (30) minutes, unless the Referee decides that the Match can commence earlier, before a decision to reschedule the Match is taken; and
 - B. At the discretion of the Referee, another delay of a maximum of thirty (30) minutes shall be allowed if in his/her opinion this extra period of delay will allow the Match to commence.
 - C. At the discretion of the Referee, another delay of a maximum of sixty (60) minutes shall be allowed if in his/her opinion this extra period of delay will allow the Match to commence.

Otherwise, at the end of this sixty (60) minute period, the Referee must declare the Match to have been canceled.

- 15.2. In the case of a canceled Match except in the case of Force Majeure, the SAFF shall decide within two (2) hours of the Referee's decision whether to cancel the Match or whether the Match can be rescheduled, taking sporting and organisational considerations into account, or whether any other action and decision are needed to continue with the Competition. Any disciplinary sanctions resulting from the canceled Match shall remain in force.
- 15.3. No appeals may be lodged against decisions stated in this Article 15.

16. Abandonment of Matches

- 16.1. If the Match is stopped by the Referee before the end of normal time or during any extra time because of any Force Majeure or any other incidents such as, but not limited to, the field is not fit for play, weather conditions, floodlight failure, etc. the following procedures must be followed:
 - A. The Match is automatically suspended for the duration of thirty (30) minutes to allow conditions to improve sufficiently to restart the Match unless the Referee decides that the Match can be resumed earlier; and
 - B. At the discretion of the Referee, another suspension of a maximum of thirty (30) minutes shall be allowed if in the Referee's opinion this extra period of suspension will allow the Match to be resumed.
 - C. At the discretion of the Referee, another suspension of a maximum of sixty (60) minutes shall be allowed if in his/her opinion this extra period of suspension will allow the Match to be resumed. Otherwise, at the end of this sixty (60) minute period, the Referee must declare the Match to have been abandoned.
- 16.2. In the case of an abandoned Match except in cases of Force Majeure, the SAFF shall decide within two (2) hours of the Referee's decision to abandon the Match and whether the Match result at the time of abandonment is valid or whether a replay shall be organised, taking sporting and organisational considerations into account. Any disciplinary sanctions resulting from the abandoned Match shall remain in force.
- 16.3. No appeals may be lodged against decisions stated in this Article 16.

SECTION 5: STADIUM AND OFFICIAL TRAINING SITES

17. Stadiums (Stadia)

- 17.1. The Stadium for the Matches in the Competition shall be nominated upon bidding to host, by the Member Association and subject to inspection and approval by SAFF.
- 17.2. Unless stipulated otherwise in these Competition Regulations, Matches in the Competition must be played in a stadium that meets the entire basic requirement for conducting the Matches and shall conform to AFC Stadium Regulations and other applicable SAFF and/or AFC regulations.
- 17.3. The Organising Association shall ensure that no Matches and/or other activities are held at the Stadium(s) nominated for the Matches at least five (5) days before the start of the Competition and during the Competition unless prior written permission has been obtained from SAFF.
- 17.4. If an Organising Association fails to comply with Article 17.3 above shall be fined at least USD 2,000 and be subject to further sanctions at the discretion of the SAFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee.
- 17.5. If the Organising Association considers the field of play unfit for play, the SAFF General Secretariat shall be informed immediately, as well as the Participating Member Associations and the SAFF Delegation before their departure. If the Organising Association concerned fails to do this, it will be obliged to cover all of the expenses incurred for travel, board, and lodging of the parties involved.
- 17.6. If there is any doubt regarding the condition of the field of play once the Participating Member Association/s has already left to play the Match, the Referee shall decide whether the field of play is playable or not. If the Referee declares that the Match cannot commence because of Force Majeure, or any other incidents such as, but not limited to, the field not fit for play, weather conditions, floodlight failures, etc. the procedure to be followed is described in Article 15 above of these Regulations.
- 17.7. Prior to approving any Stadium, SAFF reserves the right to conduct an inspection of the nominated Stadium.
- 17.8. If, at any time during the Competition, the SAFF General Secretariat and Match Commissioner deems that, for whatever reason, the Stadium is not fit for staging a Match, the SAFF may consult with the Organising Association/s and propose an alternative Stadium, in accordance with the standards required by SAFF.
- 17.9. The Organising Association will be subjected to disciplinary sanctions if Matches in the Competition are played in a Stadium not approved by SAFF.

18. Field of Play

- 18.1. All Matches shall be played on natural grass playing surfaces, in accordance with the requirements of AFC Stadium Regulations. Artificial turf or hybrid surfaces shall not be permitted unless explicitly approved in writing by the SAFF.
- 18.2. If the Organising Association considers the Field of Play unfit for a Match, it shall immediately inform the SAFF, the Participating Teams and the Match Officials before their departure to the Venue. The Host Organisation that fails to comply shall be liable for all costs incurred for the travel, board and lodging expenses of the parties involved.
- 18.3. The SAFF Match Commissioner will inspect the Stadium prior to the Match Day and ensure that all arrangements are in accordance with The Laws of the Game 2025-26. If the conditions of the field of play including the dimensions of goal and field do not meet the requirements stated in the Laws of the Game 2025-26, the SAFF Match Commissioner will issue instructions for the Organising Association to rectify the situation. If, in the opinion of the referee, the instructions issued are not complied with by the start of the Match, the matter may be brought to the SAFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee for appropriate action.

19. Training Sessions at the Stadium

- 19.1. For the purposes of training sessions in this Competition, the provisions of Article 11 of the AFC Competition Operations Manual shall apply.

20. Warming up

- 20.1. For the purposes of warming up in this Competition, the provisions of Article 19.1 and Article 19.2 of the AFC Competition Operations Manual shall apply.

21. Official Training Sites

- 21.1. Official Training Sites shall contain a fully equipped training field prepared to Match conditions (including having appropriate changing rooms and washrooms) and situated near the Participating Teams' hotel and shall be made available to the Participating Teams at least three (3) full days prior to the first Match in the Competition. A minimum of two (2) and a maximum of four (4) Official Training Sites shall have to be provided by the Organising Association.
- 21.2. These Official Training Sites are reserved for training and shall not be used for other Matches and events from three (3) days before the first Match in the Competition unless written permission has been obtained from the SAFF.
- 21.3. If Articles 21.1 and 21.2 above are not followed, Organising Associations may be fined at least USD 2,000 and imposed further sanctions by the SAFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee.
- 21.4. The Participating Teams in the Competition shall use only those Official Training Sites that have been officially designated for training by SAFF from two (2) days prior to their first Match.
- 21.5. The Organising Association will decide the specific training schedule for the Participating Member Associations in consultation with SAFF and Participating Teams must strictly follow the decided training schedule.

SECTION 6: TECHNICAL REGULATIONS

22. Matches played in accordance with the Laws of the Game

- 22.1. All Matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game 2025-26 laid down by the International Football Association Board and published by FIFA.
- 22.2. In case of any discrepancy in the interpretation of the Laws of the Game 2025-26, the English version shall prevail and is authoritative.
- 22.3. Each Match shall last ninety (90) minutes, comprising two (2) periods of forty-five (45) minutes, with a half-time interval of fifteen (15) minutes. Knock out stage Matches shall also have Extra-time, lasting thirty (30) minutes, comprising two (2) periods of fifteen (15) minutes, with a half-time interval of five (5) minutes.
- 22.4. Only five (5) substitutes listed on the Match Starting List may take part in the Match. Each Team is permitted to use a maximum of five (5) substitutes & a maximum of three (3) substitution opportunities. A player who has been substituted will take no further part in the Match.
- 22.5. If there are fewer than seven (7) players on either of the teams, the Match shall be abandoned. In this case, the SAFF General Secretariat (and if required the SAFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee) shall decide on the consequences.
- 22.6. One (1) additional substitute and one (1) additional substitution opportunity may be used when a Match goes into Extra Time (regardless of whether the Participating Team has already utilised the full number of permitted substitutes and opportunities).
- 22.7. Each Participating Team shall be permitted to use a maximum of one 'concussion substitute' in a Match in accordance with the Laws of the Game 2025-26; and when a 'concussion substitute' is used, the opposing team shall then have the option to use an 'additional substitute' for any reason.
- 22.8. The SAFF **may**, at its discretion, decide to use football technologies in any Match or Match(es) in the Competition or in the Competition as a whole (including goal-line technology [GLT], a video assistant referee [VAR] system or electronic performance and tracking systems [EPTS]) in accordance with the Laws of the Game 2025-26.

23. Refereeing

- 23.1. If the Referee is unable from carrying out his/her duties, such Referee shall be replaced by the Fourth Official. The same applies to either of the Assistant Referees if either of the is unable to continue.
- 23.2. A Video Assistant Referee (VAR) (if made available by SAFF) may assist the Referee in making a decision using replay footage in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Laws of the Game 2025-26 in force at the time of the Competition and as laid down by The IFAB.

24. Team Bench and Technical Area

- 24.1. Up to 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.
- 24.2. All officials and players on the team bench must wear their Accreditation Card at all times. The Accreditation Cards shall always be available for inspection prior to the start of the Match.
- 24.3. All persons on the bench must wear kits that contrast with the kits of the players and referees on the pitch. These kits must comply with the AFC Equipment Regulations.
- 24.4. Team 'A' shall occupy the left-hand side bench as viewed from the 4th Official Bench and Team 'B' shall be on the right-hand side.
- 24.5. The Organising Association(s) shall ensure to secure a minimum of **ten (10)** Team Technical Seats for each Participating Team's additional Participating Players and Participating Officials who will not be

seated on the team bench. For the avoidance of doubt, only Participating Players and Participating Officials from each Participating Team who are duly registered for the Competition are permitted to sit on the Team Technical Seats, provided they are in possession of the appropriate Accreditation Card.

25. Footballs

- 25.1. The footballs for the Competition shall be selected and supplied by SAFF as follows:
- A. The SAFF shall provide each Participating Team with ten (10) approved new footballs prior to the start of the Competition. Only these footballs will be used for practices and warming-up purposes, at the Stadium and the Official Training Sites.
 - B. Only footballs that bear one of the FIFA quality marks as below shall be utilised for the competition:
 - FIFA Quality Pro
 - FIFA Quality
 - FIFA Basic (previously known as IMS)

26. Equipment

Regulations

- 26.1. The Participating Member Associations must comply with the AFC Equipment Regulations.
- 26.2. The AFC Equipment Regulations are in force from the time the Participating Member Association's Official Delegation arrives at a Controlled Access Area until the time the Team Official Delegation departs from such areas.
- 26.3. Equipment checks and allocation shall be conducted by the SAFF Match Commissioner shall conduct the Participating Team's equipment check at the match coordination meeting (MCM) as per Article 14.4 of the AFC Competition Operations Manual.

Approval Procedure

- 26.4. The AFC Equipment Regulations require the Participating Member Associations to submit to SAFF, for SAFF's approval, one sample of all kits that the AFC Equipment Regulations cover. At the same time, when required, the Participating Member Associations shall also submit to SAFF, for SAFF's approval, one sample of all other apparel to be worn by their Team Official Delegation within the Controlled Access Areas during the Competition period.
- 26.5. The Participating Member Association shall submit to the SAFF General Secretariat the above-mentioned equipment at least thirty (30) days prior to the Competition or by a date to be determined by SAFF. If any equipment submitted infringes any of the AFC Equipment Regulations, SAFF will require the Participating Teams to take corrective action and resubmit to SAFF the corrected equipment.
- 26.6. All items to be used by Participating Member Associations within the Controlled Access Areas during the Competition period shall be subjected to SAFF's approval in accordance with the procedure set forth in the AFC Competition Operations Manual.
- 26.7. The SAFF Match Commissioner, the SAFF General Coordinator, and/or the SAFF Head of Media & Communication has/have the right and duty to check kit items at the Match venue and are entitled to send such items to the SAFF General Secretariat for further control after the Match.

Responsibility

- 26.8. SAFF makes final decisions regarding the approval of kits and other items mentioned in the AFC Equipment Regulations. SAFF declines all responsibility and authority in the event of conflicts arising from the contract between a Participating Member Association and its sponsor(s) on account of the

advertising provisions of the AFC Equipment Regulations.

26.9. Each Participating Member Association shall indemnify the SAFF and hold the 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.

Sanctions

26.10. Failure to comply with any matter set out within this Article 26 is an offence and may be sanctioned accordingly by the SAFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee.

SECTION 7: TEAM OFFICIAL DELEGATION: OFFICIALS & PLAYERS

27. Team Official Delegation

- 27.1. Each Participating Team shall ensure that no person other than 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 Field of Play, 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.
- 27.2. Each Participating Member Association (including the Host Association Team) is entitled to a Team Official Delegation of a maximum of **twenty-three (23)** players and **eight (8)** officials who must be registered by the Participating Member Association (including the Host Association Team) as per Article 28 – 37 of these Regulations in the Final Registration. The Team Official Delegation (including the Host Association Team) will be provided with full board Accommodation, and transportation benefits as well as full access to the official Competition areas including the field of play and other Controlled Accessed areas.
- 27.3. At their own cost, each Participating Member Association can nominate, up to an **additional two (2)** officials who will receive access to the team hotel, Official Training Sites, and the Official Areas, except the field of play, and team bench. The additional officials will be given Accreditation Cards by SAFF.

28. Eligibility of Players

- 28.1. A player is eligible to play in the Competition provided **she** fulfills all the following conditions:
 - A. is duly registered with SAFF by the Participating Member Association according to the provisions of these Regulations;
 - B. holds the nationality of its country and is subject to its jurisdiction;
 - C. is a bona fide citizen of the country she represents; and
 - D. is eligible to participate for the representative team of the Member Association in accordance with the Regulations Governing the Application of the FIFA Statutes. If a Participating Player is national in two separate Member Associations' jurisdiction, the Participating Team shall be required to provide a clearance from the Member Association the Participating Player chose not to represent and/or from FIFA.
- 28.2. Individuals who meet the criteria set out in Article 28.1 of these Regulations are eligible to participate in the Competition, subject to the provisions of the SAFF Disciplinary and Ethics Code.
- 28.3. 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.
- 28.4. A player is deemed ineligible if:
 - A. there is a violation of this Article 28;
 - B. she 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
 - C. SAFF finds that documents submitted during registration is/are forged.

29. Sanction

- 29.1. Should the SAFF not receive all required documents by the stipulated deadline, the Participating Member Association concerned may be considered to have withdrawn from the Competition prior to the commencement of the relevant stage and subject to Article 7 of these Regulations.

30. Documentations for Registration of Players

- 30.1. Participating Players must be registered for the competition using the SAFF Official Registration Form for Players and the FIFA Competition Management System (FCMS).
- 30.2. Documentations for the registration of players to be sent by email are, but not limited to, the following:
 - A. Registration form for Players;
 - B. Color copy of valid passport containing full name, passport number, date of birth, date of issue, date of expiry, and nationality (group passport will not be accepted) (this is a **mandatory provision**);
 - C. Color copy of national ID (if applicable);
 - D. Color copy of birth certificates (if applicable); and
 - E. Passport-size color photo (taken within 3 months prior to the submission of the registration).
- 30.3. In cases of registration of naturalised players, the Participating Member Associations concerned must present proof of naturalisation by providing supporting documents issued by the competent authorities of their countries as proof of the Player's nationality in accordance with Art. 26 to 29 of the Regulations Governing the Application of the FIFA Statutes.
- 30.4. SAFF reserves the right to request additional documents than those stipulated in this Article 30 or waive the requirement of any document.

31. Principles for Registration of Players

- 31.1. If a Participating Member Association fails to register a minimum of **eighteen (18)** players, the team will be considered to have withdrawn in accordance with Article 7 of these Regulations.
- 31.2. Participating Member Association must register a minimum of **three (3)** goalkeepers in their SAFF Initial and Preliminary Registration and Final Registration for the players. Registration of fewer goalkeepers will not entitle Participating Member Associations to register more outfield players.
- 31.3. Each column in the SAFF Official Registration Form for the Players must be completed with correct information.
- 31.4. Players with missing documentation will not be eligible for registration. All eligible players will be issued with official Accreditation Cards authorised by the SAFF General Secretariat. Should the card have been misplaced, the teams shall be required to pay a USD 200 production fee for every card lost, to replace it.
- 31.5. Any Participating Member Association found guilty of fielding an ineligible player shall forfeit the Match. Victory and the resultant three (3) points will be awarded to the opposing team as well as the score of 3-0, or greater, depending on the score of the Match. The guilty Participating Member Association, its officials and team officials shall also be subject to further fines and sanctions as determined by the SAFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee.
- 31.6. It is the responsibility of the Participating Member Association to ensure that all original forms and supporting documents in accordance with Article 30 of these Regulations are sent in good time and reach the SAFF General Secretariat by email to SAFF before the deadline announced by SAFF. Proof of submission is not proof of receipt.
- 31.7. Should the SAFF General Secretariat not receive the original copy of the SAFF Official Registration Form with all required documents by the deadline announced by SAFF, the Participating Member Association shall be automatically disqualified from the Competition and be considered to have withdrawn in accordance with Article 7 of these Regulations.
- 31.8. In the event there is a dispute pertaining to the status of a player, the case will be referred to FIFA.

32. Preliminary Registration of Players

- 32.1. A Participating Member Association can register no less than **eighteen (18)** players and no more than **thirty-five (35)** players for the Competition in the Preliminary Registration.
- 32.2. Each Participating Member Association entering the Competition shall submit to the SAFF General Secretariat by mail, the SAFF Official Registration Form for the Players and the supporting documents in accordance with Article 30 of these Regulations by no later than **thirty (30)** days prior to its first Match or as otherwise determined by SAFF.
- 32.3. Once the SAFF Official Registration Form has been received by SAFF and after the deadline under no circumstances will the Participating Member Associations be allowed to submit additional names or replacement of players for registrations, even if their quota of **thirty-five (35)** players has not been completed.

33. Final Registration of Players

- 33.1. Participating Member Associations are required to submit a final registration of a minimum of **eighteen (18)** players and a maximum of **twenty-three (23)** players from the squad list of **thirty-five (35)** players in the Preliminary Registration. The Final Registration shall be submitted no later than fifteen (15) days prior to the first Match of the Competition.
- 33.2. The Participating Players must be assigned jerseys numbered 1-23. 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 Competition.
- 33.3. Once the final registration of a minimum of **eighteen (18)** players and a maximum of **twenty-three (23)** players have been submitted and received by SAFF, Participating Member Associations can still replace any of these players in the event of serious injury or illness, up until five (5) days before their first Match in the Competition provided a detailed written medical assessment from the Team Doctor.
 - A. However, the replacement of a player (i.e., 'new player') must be nominated from the list of up to **thirty-five (35)** players already registered in accordance with the Preliminary Registration of Players, and replacement Participating Players shall only be allocated the vacated shirt numbers.
 - B. In the event two (2) of the goalkeepers are unable to participate at any point in the Competition for a long-term injury or illness, then the Participating Team may be allowed one (1) replacement by registering one (1) new Participating Player (goalkeeper) provided a request is made to SAFF and all documents required by SAFF is provided (including a detailed medical report).
- 33.4. Only when the replacement player has received her Accreditation Card will **she** be considered to be registered for the Competition and eligible to participate in the Competition.

34. Player Selection List

- 34.1. For each Match in the Competition, each Participating Member Association will receive a 'Player Selection List' on which the numbers and names of up to **twenty-three (23)** players in the squad are listed prior to their arrival at the Stadium.
- 34.2. The Participating Member Association must indicate on the 'Player Selection List' the **eleven (11)** players who will start the Match and the other **twelve (12)** players who are designated as either substitute, suspended, or not playing. The team Captain must be identified on the 'Player Selection List'.
- 34.3. Both teams must send their 'Player Selection List' to the SAFF Match Commissioner at least **two (2)** hours before the kick-off of their Match, duly signed by the Head Coach and the Team Manager. Hard copy of the 'Player Selection List' must be handed over to Match Commissioner latest by ninety (90) minutes before kick-off.

35. Match Starting List

- 35.1. The 'Match Starting List' will be generated by Match Commissioners whose signature will make the 'Match Starting List' an official document.
- 35.2. The SAFF Match Commissioner will ask to see the Accreditation Cards and equipment of the players whose names are listed on the 'Match Starting List'. Each player participating in the Match must be in possession of their Accreditation Card issued by the SAFF General Secretariat. Only those players who are in possession of an official Accreditation Card are entitled to play in the Matches.
- 35.3. For all other matters relating to 'Match Starting List', the provisions of Article 17 of the AFC Competition Operations Manual shall apply

36. Registration of Officials

- 36.1. Each Participating Member Association entering the Competition shall submit to SAFF General Secretariat, mail, the SAFF Official Registration Form for Officials and the supporting documents in accordance with Article 37 and Article 38 of these Regulations by the deadline announced by SAFF.

37. Documentations for Registration of Officials

- 37.1. For the registration of officials for the Competition, officials must be registered using the 'SAFF Official Registration Form for Officials and using the online registration platform FIFA Competition Management System (FCMS).
- 37.2. Each Participating Team shall submit the supporting documents in accordance with Article 37 of these Regulations via email no later than **thirty (30)** days prior to its first Match of the Competition.
- 37.3. Documentations for the registration of Officials are, but are not limited to, as follows (unless already previously submitted to SAFF and available in the FCMS):
 - A. Official Registration Form for Officials;
 - B. Passport-size colored photo (taken within 3 months prior to the submission of the registration);
 - C. Color copy of valid passport containing full name, passport number, date of birth, date of issue, date of expiry, and nationality (group passport will not be accepted); and
 - D. Color copy of National ID (when applicable, unless the official is a foreigner from a non-SAFF Member Association).
- 37.4. SAFF has the right to ask for further documentation for the clarification of the eligibility of the officials other than the documentation listed in this Article 37.

38. Principles for Registration of Officials

- 38.1. The Participating Member Associations can nominate a maximum of **twelve (12)** officials in the Preliminary Registration List which must include a minimum of three (3) official, including:
 - A. Team Manager;
 - B. Head Coach;
 - C. Team Doctor;
 - D. Assistant Coach;
 - E. Physiotherapist;
 - F. Goalkeeper Coach;
 - G. Security Officer;
 - H. Fitness Trainer;
 - I. Masseur;
 - J. Fitness Coach;
 - K. Technical Staff/Secretary;

- L. Video Analyst; or
 - M. Media Officer.
- 38.2. The Participating Member Associations shall nominate **eight (8) officials** in the 'Officials on the Bench List' for each Match, who will be entitled to access the Field of Play and Team Bench.
- 38.3. The following three (3) officials must be registered as part of 'Officials on the Bench List':
- A. Team Manager;
 - B. Head Coach; and
 - C. Team Doctor.
- 38.4. Apart from three (3) officials above, the Participating Member Associations may register **five (5)** more officials out of the following officials or any other positions provided the officials submit their qualifications, certification, or contracts with the Participating Member Associations:
- A. Assistant Coach;
 - B. Goalkeeper Coach;
 - C. Security Officer;
 - D. Fitness Trainer;
 - E. Masseur;
 - F. Fitness Coach;
 - G. Technical Staff/Secretary;
 - H. Video Analyst; or
 - I. Media Officer.
- 38.5. The additional **two (2)** officials referred to in Article 27.3 of these Regulations will receive access to all official areas except the field of play and team bench. **Should the Participating Teams have a Head of Delegation/Team Leader, he/she must be registered as one of these additional two (2) officials.** Failure to do so will result in the Head of Delegation not receiving access to the team dressing room.
- 38.6. Team Manager and Team Media Officer who coordinate all team & Media related matters with SAFF shall work in full-time exclusive capacity from the team's Official Arrival Date at the Venue and one (1) day after the team's last Match in the Competition and shall participate in the Team Manager's Meeting, Press -conference and other Official Function for the Match in the Competition.
- 38.7. The Team Manager and any official member must attend the match coordination meeting (**MCM**), and the Head Coach along with a Participating Player must attend the press conferences and other Official Functions of the Competition as required by SAFF.
- 38.8. 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 using only one (1) lightweight amateur camera each. This recording shall be strictly for technical purposes and should not interfere with Match operations or be utilised by any Broadcast Partner.
- 38.9. Notwithstanding Article 38.2 above of these Regulations, if the Participating Team does not appoint any of the designated persons or if SAFF does not approve of the persons nominated, the number of officials on the bench for the team will reduce proportionately.
- 38.10. Each column in the SAFF Official Registration Form for the Officials shall be filled up with correct information.
- 38.11. Officials with missing documentation will not be eligible for registration. All eligible Officials will be issued with official Accreditation Cards authorised by the SAFF General Secretariat. Should the card have been misplaced, the Participating Member Association shall be required to pay a USD 200 production fee for every card lost, to replace it.
- 38.12. Should the SAFF General Secretariat not receive the original copy of the SAFF Official Registration Form with all required documents in accordance with Article 37 of these Regulations, the team may be automatically disqualified from the Competition and be considered to have withdrawn in accordance with Article 7 of these Regulations.
- 38.13. Participating Member Association may replace any of its officials until **ten (10)** days before their first

Match in the Competition provided valid reasoning and all necessary documents have been submitted as per Article 37-38 of these Regulations. Further, the Accreditation Card of the replaced official must be returned to the SAFF before the Accreditation Card of the new official can be produced. The new official is not considered part of the Team Official Delegation until he/she receives his/her Accreditation Card.

SECTION 8: LOGISTICS & OFFICE EQUIPMENT

39. Visa Application

- 39.1. Participating Member Associations must apply for visas to the country hosting their Matches no later than **thirty (30) days** before the start of the Competition or no later than the deadline for initial and preliminary player registration, whichever is later, and to pay all visa application costs for itself which shall be reimbursed by SAFF provided necessary documents are received.
- 39.2. If a Participating Member Association fails to secure a visa in time for their Match as a result of non-compliance with Article 39.1 of these Regulations, the Participating Member Association may be considered to have withdrawn in accordance with Article 7 of these Regulations.
- 39.3. Organising Association must guarantee and ensure that visa will be granted to the SAFF Delegation, Match Officials, officials and players of the Participating Member Association, sponsors, and media without any discrimination of gender, race or nationality.
- 39.4. Organising Association should assist broadcasters visiting from overseas in providing them with any documents or approvals they need for visas, accreditations, temporarily importing television equipment, and shooting in the Host City.

40. Taxes

- 40.1. The Organising Association must cover all taxes and/or fees related to any importation and/or exportation of equipment, merchandise and/or goods to be used for the Competition.
- 40.2. The Organising Association is required to cover the cost of any advertising taxes and/or fees or similar taxes at the Stadia and/or within the Venue.

41. Arrival and Departure and Travel Arrangements

- 41.1. All SAFF Delegation and Match Commissioners taking part in the Competition shall arrive at the Official hotel at least three (3) days before the start of the Competition, the rest of the Match Officials shall arrive **two (2)** days before the start of the Competition or on the official arrival date to be determined by SAFF and leave **one (1)** day after the completion of the Competition.
- 41.2. Each Participating Member Association (including the Host Association Team) taking part in the Competition shall arrive in the team hotel reserved for it in the host country **two (2)** days before the Competition and leave **one (1)** day after the completion of the team's respective last Match in the Competition. Should a Participating Team wish to arrive at the Venue only one (1) day before the relevant Match, it shall submit a request via an official letter to the SAFF with valid reasons and arrival flight itinerary details at least seven (7) days prior to the Match for approval (to be accepted at its sole discretion). Should the SAFF accept such a request, the late arrival of the relevant Participating Team shall not interrupt the timing of Official Functions and/or the participation of the relevant Participating Team in Official Functions.
- 41.3. All Participating Member Associations shall pay for their own airfares (international and domestic airfares) from the Participating Member Associations home venue to the Venue of the Competition and vice-versa which has to be submitted to SAFF for prior approval and shall be reimbursed by SAFF provided necessary documents are received.
- 41.4. Tickets must be endorsable and date changes must be allowed with or without any penalties. SAFF will not be responsible for any penalties incurred for date changes.
- 41.5. Any costs relating to non-compliance to Article 41.2, 41.3 or 41.4 above shall be borne by the Participating Member Association concerned.
- 41.6. Participating Member Association shall undertake not to play in any commercially driven Matches when traveling to and from the venue of the Competition.

42. Accommodation, Local Hospitality, Meals and Refreshments

- 42.1. Only official hotels approved by SAFF shall be used for Accommodation.
- 42.2. The Organising Association must provide the following to the Official Delegation of Participating Member Associations (including the Host Association Team) from **two (2)** days prior to the Competition, to **one (1)** day after the Participating Member Association's last Match in the Competition:
- A. Accommodations for the Team Official Delegation in an international standard hotel determined by SAFF, and as per Article 27 of these Regulations not exceeding thirty-one **(31)** persons (**11 double rooms plus 1 single room for Players, and 8 single rooms for Officials**); and **1 separate medical room**.
 - B. Each room is attached to a clean bathroom with a toilet and shower facility.
 - C. SAFF reserves the right to inspect all hotels including team hotels and SAFF delegation hotel prior to approval.
 - D. SAFF reserves the right to ask the Organising Association to change the Accommodation facilities to another hotel, in the event that SAFF decides that the Accommodation to be used does not fulfill the requirements in this Article 42.2.
- Accommodation requirements:
- E. Suitable meals three times a day in international buffet style of sufficient quantity and an additional light meal on Match days for each Participating Team's Official Delegation as per Article 27 not exceeding **thirty-one (31)** persons.
 - F. A minimum of six (6) liters of water per person per day for each Participating Team's Official Delegation as per Article 27 of these Regulations, not exceeding **thirty-one (31)** persons, and a sufficient amount of ice and refreshments for the teams at the hotel.
 - G. Laundry but no dry cleaning or pressing for playing and training outfits (**six (6)** pieces per day per person) for each Participating Team's Official Delegation as per Article 27 of these Regulations, not exceeding **thirty-one (31)** persons.
- 42.3. Each Participating Team shall also be entitled to receive thirty - fifty (30 - 50) kilograms of ice for each training day and Match day from the Organising Association.
- 42.4. Ensure that the Participating Teams' officials and players (Teams' Official Delegation) are accompanied by officials from the Organising Association during arrival and departure to facilitate transport, immigration, customs, and checking-in matters.
- 42.5. Ensure that there are Liaison Officers for each Participating Teams who should be proficient in English.
- 42.6. The Participating Member Associations shall pay for incidental expenses incurred by its delegation members during the course of their stay in the host country and for any costs incurred by additional members of the delegation and extending their stay other than those mentioned in these Regulations.
- 42.7. The Organising Association must provide the following to the SAFF Delegation and Match Officials including (Match Commissioner & Referee Assessor) for the Competition from their official arrival date to one day after the last Match in the Competition:
- A. Accommodation in an international standard hotel different from the teams, unless otherwise approved by SAFF, **one (1) single room for each SAFF Delegation and Match Officials including Match Commissioner & Referee Assessor**. Suitable meals **three (3)** times a day in international buffet style of sufficient quantity and an additional light meal on Match days;
 - B. A minimum of six (6) liters of water per person/day, ice, and refreshments at the hotel and at the Stadium during the Match;
 - C. Reasonable laundry but no dry cleaning or pressing for not more than **six (6)** pieces per day per person for Referees, Assistant Referees, Fourth Official;

- D. Reasonable laundry (including pressing) for not more than six (6) pieces of clothing daily and dry cleaning (including pressing) for one (1) jacket and one (1) pair of trousers/skirt once every two (2) days for all other SAFF Delegation, Match Commissioner and Referee Assessor;
- E. Ensure that the SAFF Delegation and Match Officials are accompanied by officials from Organising Association during arrival and departure to facilitate transport, immigration, customs, and checking-in matters; and
- F. Liaison Officers who should be proficient in English.

43. Local Land Transportation

- 43.1. The Organising Association must provide the following to the visiting teams two (2) days prior to the Competition or the official arrival date to be determined by SAFF, during the Competition until the day after the visiting team's last Match in the Competition (including escorts of security):
 - A. One (1) bus for training, Matches, transfers to and from the airport of the Venue, and Official Functions;
 - B. One (1) luggage truck must be provided during airport transfers; and
 - C. One (1) sedan car.
- 43.2. The Organising Association must provide the following to the SAFF Delegation and Match Officials for the Competition from their official arrival date to one day after the last Match in the Competition for the purposes of inspections, meetings, Matches, airport transfers, and Official Functions:
 - A. One (1) sedan car for the SAFF Match Commissioner;
 - B. One (1) sedan car for SAFF Delegation; and
 - C. One (1) van (15 seaters) or two (2) vans (7 seaters each) for the Referee Assessors, Referee, Assistant Referees and Fourth Official.
- 43.3. Additional internal transportation must be provided if there are other SAFF-appointed Match Officials/delegates.
- 43.4. Failure to provide any of these provisions of this Article 43 will result in the forfeiture of the Match Subsidies (if any) due to the Organising Association and further sanctions from the SAFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee.

44. Tournament Secretariat and Facilities for SAFF Delegation

- 44.1. The Organising Association must ensure that the following are provided, at its own cost, to the SAFF Delegation upon their arrival to the Venue, until one (1) day after the final Match:
 - A. Office equipped with the facilities as follows at the Match Commissioner's room:
 - A1. Sim cards are to be provided for each SAFF Delegate, Match Commissioner, and Referee Assessor;
 - A2. One (1) printer and its consumables such as but not limited to paper, toner, and cartridges;
 - A3. One (1) photocopying machine and its consumables such as but not limited to paper, toner and cartridges;
 - A4. One (1) staff proficient in English and use of computers;
 - A5. Broadband internet connections for all offices;
 - A6. One (1) meeting room, equipped with a whiteboard and LCD projector to accommodate at least thirty-one (31) persons, one day prior to the Competition for purposes of the match coordination meeting (MCM);
 - A7. At least a minimum of three (3) walkie-talkies at the Stadium on Match Day;
 - A8. At least two (2) substitution boards at the Stadium on Match Day;
 - A9. One (1) television with a live feed of the Match to be located at the seating area of the SAFF Match Commissioner; and

A10. **One (1)** secure storage room at all times at the Stadium for Competition equipment and supplies.

44.2. Failure to provide any of the provisions of Article 44.1 A above will result in the forfeiture of the Match subsidies (if any) due to the Organising Association and further sanctions from the SAFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee.

SECTION 9: MEDIA

45. General requirements

- 45.1. The Organising Association is responsible for ensuring all Media requirements and facilities, as stated in the AFC Stadium Regulations, are met at its own cost.
- 45.2. The Organising Association shall be required to provide a broadcast control room with adequate facilities, including but not limited to, chairs, tables, high-speed internet, backup internet, backup electricity, generator connections, and screens.
- 45.3. The Organising Association shall ensure that SAFF, the Host Broadcaster, and all affiliates have free access to the Stadium from three (3) days prior to Match day until one day after the Match, in order to access the technical issues of each and to assemble and construct the relevant infrastructure required for the execution of the Media Rights.
- 45.4. The Organising Association is responsible for ensuring that SAFF's Media Rights are protected and that no broadcaster and/or video or ENG camera crews are allowed access to the Stadium without the prior written permission of SAFF.

46. Media Accreditation

- 46.1. The Organising Association must implement a media Accreditation program as instructed by SAFF to control and manage access to the Stadiums as per Article 43 of the AFC Operations Manual.

47. Press Conferences

- 47.1. The Participating Member Associations must attend a pre-Match press conference to be conducted under the supervision of the SAFF Head of Media and Communication and/or LOC Media Officer and/or SAFF Match Commissioner **one (1)** day prior to the Competition.
- 47.2. The Head Coach and **one (1)** starting player of each Participating Member Association are obliged to attend and participate in a pre-Match press conference to be held at least one day before the Match. The Participating Team's Media Officer must ensure the attendance of the Head Coach and one starting player. In the event SAFF arranges a trophy display, all Participating Teams shall be required to attend as per the instructions provided by SAFF Head of Media & Communications.
- 47.3. Both teams are obliged to make their Head Coach available at post-Match press conference and an interpreter must be provided by the Organising Association (if required).
- 47.4. Each Participating Member Association is responsible for the 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.
- 47.5. Non-compliance with Article 47.1, 47.2, 47.3, or 47.4 above will result in disciplinary sanctions as described in Article 4.4G of these Regulations.

48. Interviews & Flash Interviews

Interviews:

- 48.1. If requested by SAFF, Participating Teams shall make their Head Coach available on Match-day for an interview of not more than ninety (90) seconds at their point of arrival at the Stadium for the Match.
- 48.2. If requested by SAFF, Participating Teams shall make one key player available on Match-day for an interview of not more than ninety (90) seconds at their point of arrival at the Stadium for the Match.
- 48.3. If requested by SAFF, the Participating Teams should have their Head Coach and one (1) player available for the day before each Match and/or on the Match Day for an interview, to be recorded

by the main TV rights-holding broadcaster (or local TV rights-holding broadcaster) in the territory of the relevant Team, for the purpose of regional news-exchange distribution to all Official Licensees.

Flash interviews:

- 48.4. Players and officials of Participating Teams are not permitted to give interviews during the Match on the field of play or in its immediate vicinity. However, the SAFF Media Officer and/or SAFF Match Commissioner may designate an area between the substitutes' benches and dressing rooms in which "flash" interviews for the Host Broadcaster only, including the visiting TV rights-holding broadcaster if there is any, can take place at the end of the Match. Players and officials violating this Article will be subject to disciplinary measures.
- 48.5. If requested by SAFF for the 'flash' interviews, the Head Coach and at least one (1) key player from both Participating Teams must be available for at least the Host Broadcaster and the TV rights-holding broadcaster. All interview locations shall be assigned by the SAFF Head of Media and Communication and/or SAFF Match Commissioner.

Mixed Zone:

- 48.6. The Head Coach and all Participating Teams shall pass through the mixed zone on their way from their team dressing room to their bus after each Match.

Sanction:

- 48.7. Non-compliance with Article 48.1, 48.2, 48.3, 48.4, 48.5 or 48.6 above will result in disciplinary sanctions as described in Article 4.4G of these Regulations.

49. Audio/Video Recording of Matches

- 49.1. The Organising Association is responsible, at its own cost, for providing four (4) copies of Digital Video/pen drive of each Match of the Competition played in its territory to the SAFF Head of Media & Communication immediately after the Match. In the absence of the SAFF Head of Media & Communication, the Organising Association shall provide two (2) copies through a pen drive to the SAFF Match Commissioner and Referee Assessor immediately after the Match and send one (1) copy to SAFF on the next day. The Organising Association shall guarantee the flash drive is of good quality and covers the entire duration of the Match, and deliver the flash drive after the examination and approval of the SAFF Match Commissioner.
- 49.2. Any Organising Association that fails to comply with Article 49.1 of these Regulations shall be fined at least USD 1,000. The SAFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee may impose further sanctions at its discretion.

SECTION 10: TICKETING

50. General

- 50.1. It is left to the Organising Association to decide whether there will be entrance tickets or free entry for the Matches.
- 50.2. Tickets, electronic or hard copy, shall include seat numbering and serial numbering and only include SAFF Marks, Competition Marks, and/or marks of Official Licensees approved by SAFF.
- 50.3. 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.
- 50.4. The Organising Association must ensure that access to the Stadium is granted to the SAFF Delegation, Team Official Delegation, Official Licensees, Media, and traveling supporters without any discrimination.

51. Terms and Conditions

- 51.1. 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.
- 51.2. Each Organising Association shall determine for each of the Matches:
 - A. the total number of Tickets made available in a Stadium in which a Match takes place;
 - B. the pricing of all Tickets;
 - C. the category of Tickets; and
 - D. the assignment of Stadium seats to Tickets.
- 51.3. 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.
- 51.4. SAFF will, when necessary, in collaboration with the Organising Association, issues special Ticketing terms and conditions which will apply to all ticket holders, including but not limited to National Associations, and which must be communicated to all relevant parties.

52. Complimentary Tickets

- 52.1. The Organising Association shall set aside the following number of Complimentary Tickets:
 - A. A minimum of 10 seats in the VVIP (Tribune d'Honneur) area and a minimum of 10 seats in the VIP shall be reserved for the SAFF Delegates and their guests;
 - B. A minimum of 15-20 seats for each Participating Team (who are playing the Match) and their guests; and
 - C. In addition, appropriate place shall be reserved for players of the non-playing teams and non-playing players of the Participating Teams to watch the Matches (Subject to approval of the Match Commissioner).

53. Purchasable Tickets

- 53.1. The Organising Association must make at least 8% of the net saleable capacity of their Stadium available exclusively to supporters of the visiting teams, for the Matches they feature in, in a segregated, safe area to be determined by the Organising Association. The visiting teams must declare the number of seats required (up to 8% of the net saleable capacity) by one week before the Match day. The Participating Member Association is responsible for the cost of all seats declared.
- 53.2. Participating Teams shall be entitled to purchase an agreed number of tickets, i.e., up to 100 top or second-category tickets, or a combination thereof, for their VIPs, supporters, sponsors, etc. The price of tickets for supporters of the visiting teams may not exceed the price of tickets of a

comparable quality that are sold to supporters of the home team.

- 53.3. Each Organising Association shall provide the Official Licensees 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 Official Licensees and the Organising Association.

SECTION 11: MEDICAL & ANTI-DOPING

54. Medical Facilities and Treatment

- 54.1. Participating Member Associations must pay for any and all costs of hospitalisation, surgical operation, and specialised investigative procedures for all members of its delegation.
- 54.2. The Organising Association must provide, at its own cost, the following to the Participating Member Associations from the official arrival date to be determined by SAFF until one (1) day after the Participating Member Associations' last Match in the Competition and to the SAFF Delegation from the moment they arrive to the Venue until one (1) day after the Competition:
 - A. Medical treatment, including hospital facilities for injuries and emergencies related to the Match, sustained/occurring during their stay in the host country;
 - B. The treatment must cover requirements as per the AFC Competition Operations Manual;
 - C. A fully-staffed medical room located in close proximity to the player's dressing room/field of play, fully equipped with emergency medical supplies which include the following:
 - C1. Oxygen with appropriate masks/oral airway;
 - C2. Splints (Spinal injuries);
 - C3. Hardboard stretchers;
 - C4. Suction machine;
 - C5. I/V drip sets with emergency injections and medication;
 - C6. Minor surgery supplies and equipment;
 - C7. Automated External Defibrillator;
 - C8. A certified medical officer preferably trained in emergency medicine;
 - C9. A team of support Para -medical staff trained in emergency medical care (CPR/ATLS); and
 - C10. **Two (2)** ambulances with designated drivers equipped with oxygen, masks, defibrillators, I/V drip sets, emergency medical, and trained medical staff, one of which should be an Advanced Life Support (ALS) ambulance.
- 54.3. Organising Associations failing Article 54.2 above shall be fined at least USD 10,000 and be subject to further sanctions at the discretion of the SAFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee.

55. Medical Personnel

- 55.1. The Organising Association must provide, at its own cost, medical personnel—as per the AFC Competition Operations Manual.
- 55.2. Organising Associations failing Article 55.1 above shall be fined at least USD 4,000 and be subject to further sanctions at the discretion of the SAFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee.

56. Anti-Doping

- 56.1. Doping is prohibited and is a punishable offence. In case of anti-doping rule violations, SAFF will instigate disciplinary proceedings and take appropriate disciplinary measures including provisional measures.
- 56.2. SAFF shall inform the Participating Member Associations by means of a circular of the doping control procedure. List of prohibited substances / methods can be downloaded from the FIFA or WADA website (www.wada-ama.org).
- 56.3. The SAFF General Secretariat shall be responsible for the approval of the World Anti -Doping Agency (WADA) – accredited laboratory which will carry out the analysis of samples (if required).
- 56.4. The SAFF Disciplinary and Ethics Code, the AFC Anti-Doping Regulations, as well as all relevant SAFF directives will apply to this tournament.

SECTION 12: DISCIPLINARY LAWS AND PROCEDURES

57. Disciplinary measures

- 57.1. Disciplinary measures and appeals are dealt with in compliance with the current SAFF Statutes, SAFF Disciplinary and Ethics Code and the relevant SAFF regulations, codes, protocols and circulars.
- 57.2. SAFF may initiate investigations should it suspect and/or is aware of any violations of the Laws of the Game 2025-26 and contravention of its statutes, rules, regulations, instructions and decisions by its Member Associations, officials and players.
- 57.3. SAFF may impose disciplinary measures for any violations of the Laws of the Game 2025-26 and contravention of its statutes, rules, regulations, instructions and decisions by its Member Associations, Officials and Players.
- 57.4. 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 Finals at the latest.
- 57.5. All Participating Players agree to:
 - A. respect the spirit of fair play, non-violence, and the authority of the Match Officials;
 - B. behave accordingly; and
 - C. refrain from doping.

58. Good Conduct

- 58.1. Each Participating Member Association is liable for the improper conduct of:
 - A. any member of its Team Official Delegation; and/or
 - B. any person affiliated with it and/or carrying out duties on its behalf throughout the Competition.
- 58.2. For any violation of Article 58.1 of these Regulations, the SAFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee may impose any sanction listed in the SAFF Disciplinary and Ethics Code.

59. Players and Officials cautioned or dismissed from the field of play

- 59.1. A player/official who receives two (2) cautions (yellow cards) during the Competition shall automatically be suspended from the Match following the Match in which he/she received the second caution.
- 59.2. A player and/or official who were sent off during the Competition (by receiving a red card) shall automatically be suspended from the Match following the Match in which he/she was sent off, and if it is his last Match in the Competition, it will be carried forward to his/her next Match in any SAFF competition.
- 59.3. Any player and/or official who were sent off (by receiving a red card) during the Competition shall remain suspended from further play until his/her case has been decided by the SAFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee.
- 59.4. A suspended player and/or official shall not be allowed on the substitution bench and technical area.
- 59.5. Each Member Association shall bear the responsibility of monitoring the cautions and/or suspensions received by its players and officials and to ensure that all players and officials registered and/or fielded during the Competition are eligible to play.
- 59.6. Single (1) yellow card received in the Group Stage of the Competition will not be carried forward to the Knock-out Stage of the Competition.

60. Indiscipline and Violent Conduct by players and/or officials

- 60.1. Any player and/or official reported for indiscipline or violent conduct anywhere in the Stadium

including but not limited to the field of play, the changing rooms, at the Training Sites and in the hotels shall be dealt with by the relevant SAFF Committees in accordance with these Regulations, the SAFF Statutes and SAFF Disciplinary and Ethics Code.

61. Administrative Procedure

- 61.1. 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:
- A. 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;
 - B. if the offence is admitted, the SAFF shall submit the compounded offence to the Chairperson of the SAFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee for approval, should the party deny the offence, the SAFF shall open disciplinary proceedings;
 - C. upon approval of the Chairperson of the SAFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee, the sanction shall be notified and applied administratively by the SAFF, should the Chairperson of the SAFF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee not approve the compounded offence, the SAFF shall open disciplinary proceedings;
 - D. by agreeing to compound the offence, the party waives its right to request a motivated decision or appeal the sanction issued; and
 - E. any sanction issued administratively comes into force immediately upon notification in accordance with the SAFF Disciplinary and Ethics Code.

62. Protest

- 62.1. Subject to the following provisions, protests are objections of any kind to occurrences that have a direct effect on Matches organised in the Competition (state and marking of the pitch, accessory, Match equipment, eligibility of players, Stadium installations, footballs, etc.) and any matters related to breach of these Competition Regulations.
- 62.2. Unless otherwise stipulated in this article, protests shall first be submitted in writing to the SAFF Match Commissioner within two (2) hours of the Match by the team concerned and followed up immediately with a full written report, including a copy of the original protest, to be sent in writing to the SAFF General Secretariat accompanied by a fee of USD 600. The plaintiff Participating Member Association shall confirm the protest by registered letter, to be sent to the SAFF General Secretariat no later than two (2) days after the Match in question.
- 62.3. Protests against any incidents that occur during the course of a Match shall be made to the referee by the team captain immediately after the disputed incident and before play has been resumed. The protests shall be confirmed in writing to the SAFF Match Commissioner by the Team Manager no later than two (2) hours after the Match.
- 62.4. **No protests may be made against the Referee's decisions regarding facts connected with play, such decisions being final.**
- 62.5. Once the final Match of the Competition has ended, any protest described in this article shall be disregarded.

63. Arbitration

- 63.1. Pursuant to SAFF Statutes, Participating Member Associations and/or Organising Associations are forbidden from taking disputes to a civil court but may only submit them to the appropriate body of SAFF in accordance with the applicable procedure.
- 63.2. Furthermore, any disputes involving SAFF, Participating Member Associations, Organising

Association, confederations, leagues, teams, players, officials and licensed agents in connection with the Competition shall be promptly settled by negotiation.

- 63.3. If no solution can be reached, or a formal appeal is envisaged, the issue shall be exclusively resolved under the auspices of the arbitration chamber set forth in the SAFF Statutes, namely the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) with headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland or the CAS Alternate Hearing Centre in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Code of Sports related Arbitration of the CAS and all the relevant CAS Regulations shall apply. The language of arbitration is English.

SECTION 13: COMMERCIAL AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

64. Rights Protection

- 64.1. The Competition logo shall be the SAFF organisation's logo for the Competition unless there is a separate Competition logo.
- 64.2. All Commercial Rights in relation to the Competition, the Participating Teams and/or the Official Functions belong to SAFF, if the Organising Association desires to utilise any of the rights, they shall be required to make a formal request to SAFF at least **forty-five (45)** days before the start of the Competition specifying the Commercial Rights they want to avail, upon which SAFF shall hold a meeting to discuss and finalise on what terms the stipulated Commercial Rights may be shared.
- 64.3. The Organising Association shall deliver all Stadiums and Official Training Sites as a Clean Stadium three (3) days before the first Match at each Stadium or official training at each Official Training Site, until 24 hours after the final Match of the Competition.
- 64.4. The Organising Association shall ensure that all relevant approvals are secured and unrestricted access for the placement and publishing of advertising or branding of the Competition shall be available to the SAFF and/or Official Licensees **three (3) days** before the first Match at each Stadium or official training at each Official Training Site, until 24 hours after the final Match of the Competition.
- 64.5. Each Organising Association shall use reasonable 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).
- 64.6. 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, at least **two (2)** months prior to the start of the relevant stage of the Competition.
- 64.7. Each Organising Association shall appoint a reasonable number of personnel to assist SAFF in the conduct of its rights protection programme.
- 64.8. SAFF is the exclusive owner of all intellectual property rights of the Competition, including any current or future rights in all types of audio and visual material of the Competition, Competition Data, names, logos, visual identities, brands, music, mascots, medals and trophies. Any use of the aforementioned rights, any imitation and/or variation thereof and any other reference to the Competition (such as by associating the name of an association with the date of a Match) requires the prior written approval of SAFF and must comply with any conditions imposed by SAFF.
- 64.9. All rights to the fixture list and Match Schedule, as well as any data and statistics (including databases in which such data is stored) in relation to the Matches and players' participation in the Competition are the sole and exclusive property of SAFF. No tickets or Accreditation may be used by anyone in order to gain access to a venue for the purposes of collecting or gathering such data, and such activities are expressly prohibited. The foregoing prohibition does not apply to the Participating Member Associations, subject to any and all such data collected being used solely for the purposes of instructing their team, players and officials and expressly excluding any other exploitation or use whatsoever.
- 64.10. Participating Member Associations shall provide the necessary assistance and support to the SAFF and/or Organising Association and ensure that members of its Team Official Delegation and associated third parties observe all instructions of the SAFF and/or Organising Association in relation to the protection and enforcement of the Commercial Rights or any commercial programme established by the SAFF and/or Organising Association in relation to the Competition.
- 64.11. Participating Member Associations and their affiliated Participating Teams shall not oppose and shall use reasonable efforts to ensure that none of its affiliates oppose any trademark or copyright applications filed in respect to the SAFF and/or the Organising Association or the Competition and

may not in any way challenge or apply for any copyright, trade mark, patent or domain name registrations which would adversely affect the SAFF and/or the Organising Association's proprietary interest in the Competition.

64.12. Participating Member Associations and/or the Organising Association and their affiliated Participating Teams shall promptly notify the SAFF General Secretariat of any infringement or suspected infringement of any intellectual property rights relating to the Competition upon becoming aware of any such matter.

SECTION 14: SECURITY

65. General

- 65.1. All matters relating to safety and security shall be undertaken in compliance with the AFC Stadium Regulations, the AFC Safety and Security Regulations.
- 65.2. 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 where Accommodation is provided to protect all relevant persons, including without limitation the SAFF Delegation, Team Official Delegations, Official Licensees, Media, and spectators, and all goods brought in by the SAFF, Team Official Delegations, and Official Licensees.
- 65.3. Each Organising Association shall issue a detailed security plan in the form of a binding agreement with, without limitation, the management of all 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 Stadium Regulations, and the AFC Safety and Security Regulations.
- 65.4. 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 15: ADMINISTRATION

66. Financial Provisions

- 66.1. Participating Members Associations shall pay for their travel of their team and officials from their countries to the venue of the tournament and back. SAFF shall reimburse the approved travel cost of airfares of the Participating Member Associations on receipt of invoice and tickets not exceeding thirty-one (31) members. The Participating Member Associations will have to book the ticket of each individual or group ticket without names at least fourteen (14) days before the start of the Competition in accordance with the SAFF Travel and Accommodation Policy.
- 66.2. SAFF shall reimburse to the Organising Association the approved cost of Accommodations, foods, local transportations for the Participating Teams and SAFF Delegations and other logistic requirements as approved by SAFF and/or provided in the Host Agreement.
- 66.3. All reimbursement will be made on receipt of the fund from FIFA/AFC under the FIFA Forward Programme.
- 66.4. 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

67. Trophy and Medals

- 67.1. Trophies and/or medals will be presented to the champions and runners up. The Champions trophy will be presented to the champions along with thirty-one (31) gold medals. The runners up will be presented with thirty-one (31) silver medals. The Most Valuable Player of the Tournament, Highest Goal Scorer, Best Goal Keeper and the winners of the Fair Play will also be presented.

68. Special Provisions

- 68.1. Any disputes arising from the application of these Regulations shall be settled by the jurisdiction of SAFF and, if subsequently necessary and SAFF's decision is not final, by the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne, Switzerland or the CAS Alternate Hearing Centre in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- 68.2. The SAFF Executive Committee shall, in conjunction with the Organising Association, issue any instructions necessitated by special circumstances that might arise in the country hosting Matches of the Competition. These instructions shall form an integral part of these Regulations.

69. Matters not provided for

- 69.1. Matters not provided for in these Regulations and cases of Force Majeure shall be decided by the SAFF Secretariat, whose decisions are final.

70. Amendment

- 70.1. These Regulations shall be subject to any necessary amendment and/or additional requirements at any time as may be required by any of the regulations and directives of the SAFF as deemed appropriate.

71. Force Majeure

- 71.1. The SAFF is the only body capable of declaring a Force Majeure event.

72. Implementation

72.1. 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.

Kazi Md. Salahuddin
President

Purushottam Kattel
General Secretary

ANNEX 1: PHOTOGRAPHER GUIDELINES

1. Failure to adhere to this Annex may result in the ejection from a Stadium and refusal of Accreditation for future Competitions;
2. All photographers requiring access to the Competition must contact the Local Organising Committee and/or Local Media Officer and complete the necessary application procedures to clear their request;
3. All photographers requiring pitch-side access must wear a Media Identity Bib. Bibs are available from the Local Organising Committee and/or Local Media Officer at the entrance to a Stadium in exchange for a Media AD card;
4. Teams' Start lists shall be made available latest eighty (80) minutes before kick-off;
5. Access to the Field of Play is not permitted at any time, including before and after the Match;
6. Before the start of each Match, photographers may shoot the line-ups of the Participating Teams from the touchline, but must not enter the Field of Play;
7. Once the Match starts, photographers must stay behind the advertising boards behind the goals and are not permitted to change sides until half-time, the end of normal playing time, or the start of extra time. When changing ends, photographers should pass along the near side of the Field of Play, not behind the advertising boards. Under no circumstances photographers shall be allowed to shoot from either touchline during the Match;
8. The coaches of the Participating Teams shall attend a press conference that will commence immediately after the Match;
9. SAFF Official Photographer may work from any position, including touchlines, but shall not move during the Match. The instructions provided by the Commercial Rights Partner present at a Stadium shall be followed;
10. Photographers are required to obtain the prior authorisation of the Local Organising Committee and/or Local Media Officer before setting up any remote camera in designated areas.
11. Any other directions from the SAFF Head of Media and Communications will have to be followed by the Organising Association, Participating Member Associations and/or the Participating Teams.