



# COMPETITION REGULATIONS

CAFA U-20 CHAMPIONSHIP 2023









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

- a) the singular shall include the plural and vice-versa;
- b) the feminine gender shall include the masculine and vice-versa;
- c) all defined terms, unless otherwise stated herein shall bear the same meaning as ascribed in the CAFA Statutes, AFC Statutes and the AFC Competition Operations Manual, unless the context indicates otherwise.

## SECTION 1: CAFA TROPHY

### 1. General Provisions

- 1.1. CAFA U-20 Championship 2023 is organized by Central Asian Football Association;
- 1.2. These Regulations govern the rights, duties, and responsibilities of the CAFA, Organizing Association, Member Associations, Participating Teams, Participating Players and Participating Officials taking part in the Competition.
- 1.3. These Regulations and all related directives, decisions, match protocols, guidelines, and circulars issued by the CAFA shall be binding upon all parties participating and involved in the preparation, organization, and hosting of the Competition.
- 1.4. The AFC Competition Operations Manual ("Manual") forms an integral part of and shall be read in conjunction with these Regulations. The Manual shall be binding upon all parties participating and involved in the preparation, organisation and hosting of the Competition.
- 1.6. Competition logo: CAFA may use organization's logo for the Competition unless there is a Competition logo.
- 1.7. Member Associations of Central Asian Football Association, Asian Football Confederation (AFC) and FIFA can participate in the Competition following receipt of a due invitation from the CAFA.
- 1.8. Each Member Association shall be represented at the Competition by only one Participating Team.

### 2. The Central Asian Football Association

- 2.1 The CAFA General Secretariat shall carry out the necessary administrative work in preparation for the Competition.
- 2.2 The responsibilities of the CAFA shall include, but are not limited to:
  - 2.2.1. supervising general preparations and deciding on the Competition format, the draws, and the entries to the Competition;
  - 2.2.2. determining the Match Schedule;
  - 2.2.3. selecting Stadiums for the Competition (cf. Article 17);
  - 2.2.4. appointing Match Officials for each Match;
  - 2.2.5. choosing and/or approving the official footballs and stipulated technical material;
  - 2.2.6. dealing with cases of abandoned Matches or canceled Matches (cf. Articles 7 and 8);

- 2.2.7. dealing with cases of Force Majeure (cf. Article 53);
- 2.2.8. dealing with any other aspect of the Competition that is not the responsibility of any other body pursuant to these Regulations or the CAFA Statutes (cf. Article 54).

## SECTION 2: COMPETITION SYSTEM

### 3. Mode of Competition

- 3.1. The Competition shall be played in a single Round Robin (all-play-all) format. The CAFA shall decide on the teams' positions before the fixtures are made.
- 3.2. In the case of last-minute withdrawal by one (1) Participating Country, a re-draw shall be carried out to decide the new capacity of the Group if deemed necessary. The CAFA has the right to carry out the draw and/or redraw if necessary.
- 3.3. At the conclusion of each Match:
  - 3.3.1. Three (3) points shall be awarded to the winner;
  - 3.3.2. One (1) point shall be awarded to each Participating Team for a draw;
  - 3.3.3. Zero (0) points shall be awarded to the loser.
- 3.4. The winner, runner-up and 3rd placed team of the Competition shall be determined as follows:
  - 3.4.1. Higher number of Points obtained in all group Matches of the Competition;
  - 3.4.2. If two (2) or more Participating Teams are equal on points, the following criteria are applied to determine the ranking (in descending order):

#### Head-to-Head criteria

- 3.4.2.1. Higher number of Points obtained in the group Matches played between the Participating Teams in question;
- 3.4.2.2. superior goal difference from the group Matches played among the Participating Teams in question;
- 3.4.2.3. higher number of goals scored in the group Matches played among the Participating Teams in question;

#### Tiebreaker

- 3.4.2.4. 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 Results criteria

- 3.4.2.5. Superior Goal Difference from all group Matches played;
- 3.4.2.6. Higher number of goals scored from all group Matches played;



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

3.4.2.8. The lower score calculated according to the number of yellow and red cards received in group Matches (Annex 1); or

3.4.2.9. The drawing of lots.

#### Drawing of lots

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

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

3.5.2. The first name drawn shall be the highest-ranked of the Participating Teams in question;

3.5.3. 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.

### 4. Seeding

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4.1. CAFA will use team ranking based on the Participating Teams' final position in the previous editions of the relevant competitions.

4.2. Participating Team of the Organizing Association, as the Host Country, shall have the privilege of being positioned as A1 team.

### 5. Match Schedule

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5.1. All Matches shall be played in accordance with the CAFA Competitions Calendar. The dates are final and binding and not appealable.

5.2. The CAFA General Secretariat retains final discretion to amend the Match Schedule at any time.

### 6. Delay of Kick-off

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6.1. 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 CAFA Committee in its discretion. For the avoidance of doubt delay to kick-off includes delay to start of both halves.

### 7. Cancellation of Matches

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7.1. If a Match cannot commence for any reason, the following procedure shall be followed in cases where the Match in question was not canceled prior to a Match day:

- 7.1.1. The Match must be delayed for a minimum of thirty (30) minutes. During this delay, the Referee may decide whether the Match can commence prior to the completion of the delay;
- 7.1.2. Following the first delay, either:
  - 7.1.2.1. An additional delay of thirty (30) minutes shall occur if in discretion of the Referee this second delay may allow the Match to commence; or
  - 7.1.2.2. The Match shall be declared canceled by the Referee;
- 7.1.3. Following two (2) delays of thirty (30) minutes, the Referee must declare the Match canceled.
- 7.2. Any Match which is canceled, except in cases of Force Majeure recognized by the AFC relevant regulations, CAFA and/or the Local Organizing Committee, may lead to the imposition of sanctions by the relevant CAFA Committee against the relevant party that has caused the cancellation of a Match in accordance with the AFC Disciplinary and Ethics Code.

## 8. Abandonment of Matches

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- 8.1. If a Match has to be abandoned as a result of incidents (such as walkover, lack of orders, pitch invasions, bad weather, poor pitch condition, etc.), the CAFA Officials and the Local Organizing Committee shall meet within two (2) hours of such incidents and determine the actions to be taken.
- 8.2. Shall the CAFA Officials and the Local Organizing Committee determine that an Abandoned Match should be rescheduled and completed, the following principles shall apply:
  - 8.2.1. The Match shall recommence with the same score and from the minute at which it was interrupted rather than being replayed in full;
  - 8.2.2. The Match shall recommence with the same Participating Players on the Field of Play and same substitutes at the time when it was initially abandoned;
  - 8.2.3. No additional substitutes may be added to the Player Selection List or Match Starting List;
  - 8.2.4. The Participating Teams may only make the number of substitutions to which they were still entitled when the Match was abandoned;
  - 8.2.5. Any Participating Player sent off during the abandoned Match cannot be replaced;
  - 8.2.6. Any sanction imposed before the Match was abandoned remain valid for the remainder of the rescheduled Match;

- 8.2.7. The Kick-off time, date and Stadium of the re-scheduled Match shall be decided by the CAFA General Secretariat;
- 8.2.8. Shall there be an abandonment of a Match for whatever reason but not due to any misconduct or disciplinary reason, the score line at the time of stoppage (if after 75th minutes of game play) will be used for the awarding of points. The number of points to be awarded shall be decided by the CAFA General Secretariat; and
- 8.2.9. Any other matters not set out above shall be decided by the CAFA General Secretariat in its sole discretion.
- 8.3. If a Match is stopped by the Referee before the end of normal playing time as a result of a Participating Team being able to only field fewer than seven (7) Participating Players, the Match shall be declared abandoned and the Participating Team who is able to field more than seven (7) Participating Players shall be declared the winner by the score 3-0, or the score at the time of abandonment, whichever is higher.
- 8.4. Any Match which is abandoned, except in cases of Force Majeure recognized by the CAFA General Secretariat, may lead to the imposition of sanctions by the CAFA Competitions Committee against the relevant party that has caused the abandonment in accordance with the AFC Disciplinary and Ethics Code.

## 9. Withdrawals and Walkovers

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- 9.1. Any Participating Member Association that:
  - 9.1.1. withdraws from the Competition after it has commenced; or
  - 9.1.2. does not report for a Match of the Competition; or
  - 9.1.3. refuses to continue a Match of the Competition; or
  - 9.1.4. leaves the Stadium prior to the completion of a Match of the Competition shall be considered to have withdrawn from the Competition and shall:
- 9.2. have all its Matches canceled and considered null and void. For the avoidance of doubt, all points and goals in those Matches shall not be taken into consideration when determining the final rankings in a group pursuant to Article 3;
- 9.3. Shall be required to pay compensation for any and all damages or losses suffered by, where applicable, the CAFA and the Organizing Association. The amount of compensation shall be determined by the CAFA Executive Committee;
- 9.4. Be referred to the relevant CAFA and/or AFC Committee which may impose further sanctions in its discretion.
- 9.5. All results related to withdrawals from the Competition and walkover matches will be dealt by the CAFA and the Local Organizing Committee. The decisions by the CAFA General Secretariat regarding these matters shall be final and binding.



### SECTION 3: | STADIUMS AND OFFICIAL TRAINING SITES

#### 10. Stadiums

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- 10.1. The Organizing Association shall ensure that all Matches in the Competition are played in Stadiums which meet the requirements defined in the AFC Stadium Regulations and any other applicable AFC regulation. The CAFA General Secretariat may carry out stadium inspections at any time before and during the Competition to check whether the requirements are met.
- 10.2. Smoking is strictly prohibited within any Stadium, and in particular, in the technical area, the vicinity of the Field of Play, or within Competition functional areas which include, without limitation, the teams' dressing rooms.
- 10.3. The use of drones at the Stadium and Official Training sites is strictly prohibited.

#### 11. Official Training Sites

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- 11.1. The Organizing Association shall nominate the Official Training Sites which shall contain necessary equipment and training field prepared to Match-condition. They shall be treated as the Official Training Sites for the Participating Teams for the duration of the Competition. All relevant information including the names and locations of the Official Training Sites shall be communicated to the CAFA Match Commissioner.
- 11.2. Participating Teams shall utilize Official Training Sites for any official training from two (2) days prior to their first Match.
- 11.3. Official Training at the Stadium:
  - 11.3.1. Each Participating Team is entitled to an Official Training of sixty (60) minutes duration in the Stadium in which they are due to play either one (1) or two (2) days prior to their first Match of the Competition.
  - 11.3.2. The Field of Play must be prepared to Match-condition for the Official Training. If the Field of Play is not in Match-condition and depending on the weather conditions, CAFA Match Commissioner may shorten or cancel the Official Training and direct the Participating Teams to inspect the Field of Play wearing training shoes only.

## SECTION 4: | TECHNICAL REGULATIONS

### 12. Match Officials and Refereeing

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- 12.1. The CAFA Delegation, Match Commissioners, Referee Assessors and Referees for the CAFA U-20 Championship 2023 shall be appointed by the CAFA respective committees.
- 12.2. If the Referee is prevented from carrying out his duties, such Referee shall be replaced by the Fourth Official. The same applies for either of the Assistant Referees if a Reserve Assistant Referee is not appointed.

### 13. Laws of the Game

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- 13.1. All Matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game in force and as laid down by The International Football Association Board (IFAB). In the case of any discrepancy in the interpretation of the Laws of the Game, the English version shall be authoritative.
- 13.2. 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.
- 13.3. Only six (6) substitutes listed on the 'Match Start List' may take part in the Match. Any Participating Player who has been substituted may take no further part in that Match.
- 13.4. At any stage of a Match, if a Participating Team is only able to field fewer than seven (7) players, the Match shall be abandoned and Article 8.3 shall apply.

### 14. Match Operations Protocol During COVID-19 Pandemic

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- 14.1. Depending on the epidemiological situation in the world all matches of the Competition shall be played in accordance with the CAFA Match Operations Protocol During COVID-19 Pandemic (Edition 2021) unless otherwise decided by the CAFA.
- 14.2. CAFA Match Operations Protocol During COVID-19 Pandemic (Edition 2021) forms an integral part of these Regulations.

### 15. Team Bench and Technical Area

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- 15.1. A maximum of eight (8) Participating Officials and a maximum of twelve (12) Participating Players are permitted to sit on the team bench during a Match, provided they are in possession of the appropriate Accreditation Card.
- 15.2. All individuals on the team bench must wear kits that contrast with the kits of the Participating Players and Match Officials present on the Field of Play. This kits must comply with the AFC Equipment Regulations.

- 15.3. Individuals serving a Match suspension, non-selected Participating Players, and Participating Officials part of the Team Official Delegation but not listed in the 'Team Officials on the Bench' form are not permitted to enter the Field of Play and/or sit on the Team bench. They may sit at the designated area in the stands reserved for the Team Official Delegations.

## 16. Cooling Break

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- 16.1. Depending on the weather conditions, cooling breaks of maximum three (3) minutes duration may be implemented by the Referee at approximately thirty (30) minute into the run-of-play in both halves (around the thirtieth (30th) minute and seventy-fifth (75<sup>th</sup>) minute respectively).

## 17. Footballs

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- 17.1. The footballs used in the Competition shall be selected and supplied by the Organizing Association. The Organizing Association shall supply each visiting Participating Team with the same footballs in the amount of ten (10) pieces for the period of its stay.
- 17.2. Participating Teams shall solely utilize the footballs provided by the Organizing Association for training and warming-up purposes.

## 18. Equipment

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- 18.1. The CAFA has the sole authority to approve the equipment (including kits) in accordance with the AFC Equipment Regulations.
- 18.2. The AFC Equipment Regulations are operational from the arrival of each Participating Team's Official Delegation at the Match venue until its departure from the Match venue.
- 18.3. All Participating Teams shall declare their first (official) and second kit (reserve) colors during the Match Coordination Meeting, and are obliged to use these colors during their Matches of the Competition.
- 18.4. The appointed CAFA Officials shall decide on the kit colors (jersey, shorts, and socks) to be worn by Participating Players for each Match based on the equipment information submitted by each Participating Team during the Match Coordination Meeting as follows:
- 18.4.1. Team A shall be given a priority to wear "official" colors;
- 18.4.2. Team B may wear "official" colors unless they clash with the "official" colors of Team A;
- 18.4.3. Team B shall wear "reserve" colors if its "official" colors clash with the "official" colors of Team A;



- 18.4.4. Team B shall wear a combination of “official” and “reserve” colors if it is necessary to avoid a clash with the “official” colors of Team A; and
- 18.4.5. Team A and Team B shall wear a combination of “official” and “reserve” colors if both the “official” and “reserve” colors of Team B clash with the “official” colors of Team A.

**SECTION 5: | TEAM OFFICIAL DELEGATION****19. Team Official Delegation**

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- 19.1. Each Participating Team shall ensure that no person in its Team Official Delegation or otherwise affiliated to it enters or is present on its team bus, in its team dressing room, on the 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.
- 19.2. Participating Teams shall register a Team Official Delegation, subject to the conditions set out below, comprising of twenty-three (23) Participating Players and up to six (6) Participating Officials.
  - 19.2.1. Each Participating Team may nominate an additional four (4) officials who shall receive the same Accreditation Card as the six (6) Participating Officials included in the Team Official Delegation.
  - 19.2.2. All costs related to the additional four (4) officials shall be borne by the relevant Participating Member Association.
- 19.3. Should the CAFA not receive all required documents by the stipulated deadlines, the Participating Member Association concerned shall be considered to have withdrawn from the Competition (cf. Article 9) prior to its commencement.

**20. Eligibility of Players**

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- 20.1. Each Participating Member Association shall ensure that all players:
  - 20.1.1. are duly registered with the CAFA pursuant to these Regulations;
  - 20.1.2. hold the nationality of its country and are subject to its jurisdiction;
  - 20.1.3. were born on or after 1 January 2005; and
  - 20.1.4. are eligible to participate for the representative team of the Member Association in accordance with Articles 5 to 8 of the Regulations Governing the Application of the FIFA Statutes.
- 20.2. Individuals who meet the criteria set out in Article 20.1 are eligible to participate in the Competition, subject to the provisions of the AFC Disciplinary and Ethics Code.
- 20.3. The CAFA General Secretariat may decide not to approve the registration of a player if any of the requirements set out in this Section 5 are not met.
- 20.4. The approval of the registration of a Participating Player by the CAFA General Secretariat does not automatically provide for the eligibility of the Participating Player. Each Participating Member Association is responsible for fielding only eligible

Participating Players. Failure to do so shall lead to the consequences stipulated in the AFC Disciplinary and Ethics Code.

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

20.5.1. there is a violation of Article 20.1; or

20.5.2. the CAFA determines that any document submitted during registration is false.

## 21. Registration of Players

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

21.1.1. Preliminary Registration: each Participating Team must submit a squad of minimum eighteen (18) and maximum thirty-five (35) Participating Players;

21.1.2. Final Registration: each Participating Team must submit a final squad list of minimum eighteen (18) and maximum twenty-three (23) Participating Players comprising individuals registered in the Preliminary Registration;

21.1.3. Player Selection List: each Participating Team must submit a "Player Selection List" prior to each Match which identifies the starting eleven (11) and up to twelve (12) substitutes comprising individuals registered in the Final Registration.

21.2. All Participating Players will be provided with Accreditation Cards authorized by the CAFA General Secretariat. Should a card be misplaced and/or lost the relevant Participating Team shall be required to pay USD 100 as a replacement production fee.

## 22. Documents for Registration of Players

---

22.1. The following documents shall be submitted to the CAFA for registration of Participating Players:

22.1.1. A clear-scanned colour copy of a valid passport (which shall expire not earlier than 6 months since the date of entry), containing the full name, passport number, place of birth, date of birth, date of issue, date of expiry and nationality of the Player. Group passports shall not be accepted;

22.1.2. A colour copy of a National Identification Card (where applicable);

22.1.3. One (1) passport-size colour photo taken within three (3) months prior to the submission of registration; and

22.1.4. A copy of a birth certificate (when requested).



- 22.2. All documents shall be free from tampering, and any change or erasure must be endorsed or authenticated by the appropriate authority.

### 23. Preliminary Registration

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- 23.1. Each Participating Team shall submit the supporting documents in accordance with Article 22 via e-mail [international@the-cafa.com](mailto:international@the-cafa.com) no later than twenty-five (25) days prior to the commencement of the Competition.
- 23.2. There is no allocation of jersey numbers during the Preliminary Registration.
- 23.3. Each Participating Team shall register a minimum of four (4) goalkeepers in its Preliminary Registration.

### 24. Final Registration

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- 24.1. Each Participating Team shall submit a Final Registration of a minimum of eighteen (18) and a maximum of twenty-three (23) Participating Players in the Final Registration.
- 24.2. The Final Registration may only be composed of those Participating Players registered in the Preliminary Registration for the Competition.
- 24.3. 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.
- 24.4. Each Participating Team shall submit their Final Registration to the CAFA by latest ten (10) days prior to the commencement of the Competition.
- 24.5. Each Participating Team must register a minimum of three (3) goalkeepers in their Final Registration.
- 24.6. A player listed on the final list of twenty-three (23) players may only be replaced in the event of a serious injury not later than one (1) day before the kick-off of corresponding Team's first Match in the Competition. In such case the CAFA shall receive a detailed medical assessment report confirming that the injury prevents the player from taking part in the Competition. The Participating Member Association shall immediately nominate a replacement from the preliminary list of thirty-five (35) players and inform the CAFA accordingly. Such replacement Participating Player shall only be allocated the vacated jersey number. Neither CAFA nor the Organizing Association shall be responsible for any costs incurred due to a player replacement including airfare.

## 25. Player Selection List

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- 25.1. Each Participating Team shall mark the starting eleven (11), including the team captain and up to twelve (12) substitutes, on the 'Player Selection List'.
- 25.2. Each Participating Player who is marked on the 'Player Selection List' must be available at the Player and Equipment Check undertaken by the CAFA Match Commissioner on Match day.
- 25.3. Each Participating Team must submit its 'Player Selection List' signed by the Head Coach or the Team Manager, together with the 'Team Officials on the Bench' form with the names of the eight (8) Participating Officials who shall be entitled to sit on the team bench, to the CAFA Match Commissioner by latest ninety (90) minutes prior to the commencement of each Match.

## 26. Registration of Officials

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- 26.1. There shall be two (2) registration periods for the Participating Officials.
- 26.2. During Preliminary Registration each Participating Team may register a minimum of six (6) and a maximum of ten (10) Participating Officials.
- 26.3. Each Participating Team shall submit the following supporting documents via e-mail [international@the-cafa.com](mailto:international@the-cafa.com) no later than twenty-five (25) days prior to the commencement of the Competition:
  - 26.3.1. A clear-scanned colour copy of a valid passport (which shall expire not earlier than 6 months since the date of entry), containing the full name, passport number, place of birth, date of birth, date of issue, date of expiry and nationality of the individual. Group passports are not accepted;
  - 26.3.2. A colour copy of a National Identification Card (where applicable);
  - 26.3.3. One (1) passport-size colour photo taken within three (3) months prior to the submission of the registration;
  - 26.3.4. The CAFA General Secretariat reserves the right to request additional documents in all cases.
- 26.4. Each Participating Team shall submit a Final Registration of a maximum of six (6) Participating Officials during the Final Registration not later than ten (10) days prior to the commencement of the Competition together with the Final Registration of Players as stated in Article 24. Such participating Officials shall be considered as the Team Official Delegation.

- 26.5. Each Participating Team may also nominate an additional four (4) officials in accordance with Article 19. All costs related to the additional officials shall be borne by the relevant Participating Member Association.
- 26.6. Each Participating Team must include the following four (4) Participating Officials in the registration list:
- 26.6.1. Head Coach;
  - 26.6.2. Team Manager;
  - 26.6.3. Team Doctor; and
  - 26.6.4. Team Media Officer.
- 26.7. Up to eight (8) Participating Officials may sit on the team bench for each Match. The following three (3) Participating Officials must be registered on the 'Team Officials on the Bench' form :
- 26.7.1. Head Coach;
  - 26.7.2. Team Manager; and
  - 26.7.3. Team Doctor.
- 26.8. The Team Manager and Team Media Officer shall participate in all Official Functions related to the Matches, including without limitation the Match Coordination Meeting and all Press Conferences. They shall be responsible for coordination of all Participating Team's matters with the Local Organizing Committee.
- 26.9. All Participating Officials (and additional officials) will be provided with Accreditation Cards authorized by the CAFA General Secretariat. Should a card be misplaced and /or lost, the relevant Participating Member Association shall be required to pay USD 100 as a replacement production fee.
- 26.10. Once the Final Registration of the Participating Officials has been received by the CAFA, Participating Team may replace any of the listed Participating Officials not later than three (3) days before the commencement of the Competition, subject to the provision of the relevant documents in Article 26.3. and to the below conditions;
- 26.10.1. replacement Participating Officials shall only be eligible to participate in the Competition after receiving their Accreditation Card;
  - 26.10.2. neither CAFA nor the Organizing Association shall be responsible for any costs incurred due to replacement of a Participating Official including airfare.

**SECTION 6: | LOGISTICAL ARRANGEMENTS****27. Responsibilities**

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- 27.1. The Organizing Association shall cover the following expenses of the Participating Teams representing CAFA Member Associations comprising of maximum twenty-three (23) Participating Players and six (6) Participating Officials:
  - 27.1.1. international round trip air-tickets to the Venue or the nearest airport;
  - 27.1.2. board and lodging in a high-standard hotel (subject to Articles 28 and 31);
  - 27.1.3. domestic transportation in the Venue (subject to Articles 28 and 29);
- 27.2. The Organizing Associations shall also pay for the international round trip air-tickets, board and lodging in a high-standard hotel, domestic transportation in the Venue for the CAFA Match Commissioners, and any other appointed CAFA Officials;
- 27.3. Any non-CAFA Participating Team shall cover all its expenses related to the participation in the Competition including, but not limited to, visa costs, international and domestic travel costs, full board accommodation, domestic transportation in the venue, PCR testing, etc.
- 27.4. The Participating Teams shall not be permitted to stay at the same hotel chosen for the CAFA Officials;
- 27.5. The CAFA shall reimburse to the Organizing Association all relevant expenses related to the organization of the Competition upon submission of all financial reports and supporting documents.

**28. Arrival and Departure**

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- 28.1. Each Participating Team shall arrive in the Venue two (2) days prior to the first Match-day of the Competition or by the arrival date determined by the CAFA;
- 28.2. Each Participating Team shall depart from the Venue one (1) day after the final Match-day of the Competition or by the arrival date determined by the CAFA;
- 28.3. Participating Teams shall bear all costs resulting from the early arrival in and/or late departure from the Venue.
- 28.4. Participating Teams are prohibited to play any non-official matches during their stay in the Venue.



## 29. Domestic Transportation

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- 29.1. From two (2) days prior to the first Match-day until one (1) day after the final Match-day of the Competition, the Organizing Association must provide for the Team Official Delegation of each Participating Team:
  - 29.1.1. One (1) 35-seated air-conditioned bus with designated driver;
  - 29.1.2. One (1) air-conditioned sedan car with designated driver; and
  - 29.1.3. One (1) equipment truck for airport transfers only when necessary.

## 30. Visas

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- 30.1. Each Participating Member Association must apply for all necessary visas for their Team Official Delegation no later than twenty-five (25) days prior to the commencement of the Competition. Visa application costs shall be reimbursed by CAFA after the Competition in exchange of the visa payment receipts of the relevant Participating Member Associations.

## 31. Accommodation, Meals and Refreshments

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- 31.1. Only Official Hotels proposed by the Organizing Association and approved by the CAFA shall be utilized for the Participating Teams' Accommodation;
- 31.2. From two (2) days prior to the first Match-day until one (1) day after the final Match-day of the Competition, the Organizing Association must provide for the Team Official Delegation of each Participating Team:
  - 31.2.1. Accommodation in a high-standard four-star hotel for the Team Official Delegation comprising of twenty-three (23) Participating Players and six (6) Participating Officials, which shall include eleven (11) double rooms and seven (7) single rooms. All rooms, where possible, shall be on the same floor;
  - 31.2.2. one (1) empty room in the said hotel for the purposes of medical treatment and/or equipment storage;
  - 31.2.3. one (1) meeting room in the said hotel (shared between Participating Teams) for the duration of the Competition equipped with a whiteboard and an LCD projector. The meeting room shall accommodate at least thirty-one (31) persons in a classroom layout setting;
  - 31.2.4. three (3) meals per day (international buffet style) in a dedicated dining area for the Team Official Delegation;
  - 31.2.5. minimum three (3) liters of bottled water per person per day for the Team Official Delegation;

- 31.2.6. daily laundry services (but no dry cleaning or pressing) for six (6) pieces of kits per person per day for the Team Official Delegation; and
  - 31.2.7. one (1) liaison officer proficient in English, and preferably the language of the Participating Member Association.
- 31.3. Should the Participating Team decide to be accommodated in a different hotel than those approved by the CAFA, it shall be responsible for all the costs related to its accommodation in a different hotel. It shall also ensure that the Organizing Association is notified on the name and location of such hotel at least one (1) week prior to the Participating Team's first Match in the Competition.

**SECTION 7: | MEDIA OPERATIONS****32. Media Rights**

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- 32.1. The CAFA owns and is entitled to use and exploit all Media Rights relating to the Competition.
- 32.2. The CAFA reserves the right to withhold or revoke any Media Rights granted at any time prior or during the Competition.
- 32.3. The CAFA reserves all rights in respect to the coordination of all media activities related to the Competition including without limitation the coordination of all press conferences, interviews and release of press statements, as well as selection of designated media areas for the conduction of all press conferences and interview sessions.
- 32.4. Participating Teams' Players and Officials shall participate and provide full support to the Organizing Association in relation to any media activities organized by the Local Organizing Committee.
- 32.5. Participating Teams through their registered Media Officer shall assist the Organizing Association and where applicable the Organizing Association's Commercial Rights Partner with the coordination of all press conferences and/or interview sessions by ensuring availability and timely attendance of the Team Official Delegation members selected to participate in such media activities.
- 32.6. Participating Teams may engage their respective video analyst or media person(s) to record any part of a Match or official training only with the prior approval of the Local Organizing Committee. Such recording shall be strictly used for technical purposes and should not interfere with Match operations, be utilized by any Broadcast Partner and/or for any commercial purposes.

**33. Competition Promotional Material**

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- 33.1. Prior to the commencement of Competition and/or any Match of the Competition, the Participating Member Associations shall, upon request from the CAFA and/or the Organizing Association, provide photographs and/or audio-visual materials of the Participating Teams' Players and Officials and/or any further information (including without limitation, statistics and historical information) as requested.
- 33.2. All Participating Member Associations hereby grant the CAFA exclusive rights to use and where applicable, authorize the Organizing Association to use the aforesaid provided materials for promotional and/or editorial purposes in relation to the Competition.
- 33.3. All requested materials shall be provided to the CAFA in a timely manner, and in the format requested by the CAFA and/or the Organizing Association.

#### 34. Team Media Officer

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- 34.1. Each Participating Team in accordance with Article 26. shall register a dedicated English-speaking Media Officer to coordinate all media arrangements between the Local Organizing Committee and where applicable, the Participating Team's Players and Officials, the Host Broadcaster and the Media, including without limitation participation in all press conferences and interviews, and to cooperate on all matters related to the Competition.
- 34.2. Each Participating Member Association shall be responsible to ensure that their registered Media Officer briefs all Participating Players and/or Participating Officials in respect to their media obligations as required by the CAFA and the Organizing Association.
- 34.3. Each Participating Member Association and their registered Media Officer shall be responsible to ensure the provision of translation services where any of the Participating Team's Players or Officials participates in media activities in languages other than English. For the avoidance of doubt, the translation shall be conducted from all other languages into the English language.
- 34.4. The registered Media Officer shall be responsible for compliance with the relevant guidelines as set out in Annex 3 (Photographer Guidelines).

#### 35. Press Conferences and Interviews

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- 35.1. The Head Coach of each Participating Team must attend a pre-Competition press conference to be held at least one (1) day prior to the first Match of the Competition.
- 35.2. In accordance with Article 34.3. Each Participating Member Association is responsible for the interpretation of its Head Coach and relevant Participating Players into English. Interpretation into the local language (if applicable) shall be the responsibility of the Organizing Association.
- 35.3. If requested by the CAFA and/or the Organizing Association, Participating Teams shall make their Head Coach and one (1) Participating Player available for an interview of up to ten (10) minutes, to be recorded by the Host Broadcaster or any other Broadcast Partner, any Commercial Affiliate and/or the CAFA. All interview locations shall be designated by the CAFA or CAFA General Coordinator/Match Commissioner.
- 35.4. If requested by the CAFA, 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.
- 35.5. If requested by the CAFA, any Participating Player (Maximum 3) and/or Participating Officials (Head Coach) shall participate in a 'flash interview' following each Match.

- 35.6. Each Participating Team shall ensure that its selected Official Delegation Member participating in any press conference or interview sessions refrain from making any statements or references which will or are likely to damage or bring into disrepute the good name, image and reputation of the CAFA, Organizing member Association, relevant Member Association and/or the Competition.
- 35.7. Each Participating Team shall ensure, during any press conference or interview session, that:
- 35.7.1. the products or other identifiers of their affiliated Member Association or their commercial partners or any associated third parties do not appear and or are not used in any manner;
- 35.7.2. their Participating Players and Participating Officials do not make any reference to any third-party products or entities.
- 35.8. In the event the Participating Team's Head Coach is suspended for the Match, the Participating Team shall request the individual replacing the Head Coach on the team bench to attend any scheduled press conferences or interview sessions.
- 35.9. Should the Participating Team decide not to attend any of their pre-match, post-match interviews or other media related activities, such Participating Team can be sanctioned by the relevant body of the CAFA.

## 36. Mixed Zone

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- 36.1. The CAFA shall ensure that a mixed zone containing a sectioned-off area reserved for the Broadcast Licensees is set up and organized for the media after the Match, and that the Mixed Zone is conducive and safe for Participating Teams' Players and Officials to pass through.
- 36.2. Participating Teams' Players and Officials acknowledge that it is mandatory to pass through the Mixed Zone.
- 36.3. Speaking to the media in the mixed zone is not compulsory. However, it is strongly recommended that Participating Teams' Players and Officials give brief interviews to the media.

## 37. Official Training

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- 37.1. All official training sessions of the Participating Teams shall be open to the Media for the first fifteen (15) minutes unless otherwise decided by the CAFA.



### 38. Recording of Matches

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- 38.1. An Organizing Association shall provide one (1) copy of the Match recording to each Participating Team and three (3) copies of the Match recording to the CAFA Match Commissioner immediately after the completion of each Match.

**SECTION 8: | COMMERCIAL****39. Commercial Rights**

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- 39.1. The CAFA is the owner of all the Commercial Rights emanating from the Competition as well as from any other related events coming under its jurisdiction, without any restrictions as to content, time, place and law. The CAFA may grant the Organizing Association such Commercial Rights in whole or in part.
- 39.2. Participating Member Associations shall provide the necessary assistance and support to the Organizing Association and ensure that members of its Team Official Delegation and associated third parties observe all instructions of the CAFA and/or Organizing Association in relation to the protection and enforcement of the Commercial Rights or any commercial programme established by the CAFA and/or Organizing Association in relation to the Competition for the Tournament.
- 39.3. 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 Organizing 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 Organizing Association's proprietary interest in the Competition.
- 39.4. Participating Member Associations and their affiliated Participating Teams shall promptly notify the CAFA General Secretariat of any infringement or suspected infringement of any intellectual property rights relating to the Competition upon becoming aware of any such matter.

**40. Image Rights**

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- 40.1. The Organizing Association is entitled to use and exploit all Image Rights relating to the Competition and reserves all rights in respect to the use and/or license of such rights throughout its Territory for any purposes, commercial or otherwise, free from any royalty or compensation, in relation to the Competition and grant of rights in relation thereto.
- 40.2. Participating Member Associations and their affiliated Participating Teams acknowledge that participation in the Competition shall automatically be considered as a constitute agreement to the use and/or recording of their image without notice or compensation, and shall indemnify, defend and hold harmless the CAFA, the Organizing Association and any Official Licensees from any and all claims relating to the use of their images in relation to the Competition and/or grant of rights relating to the Competition.

#### 41. Official Functions

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- 41.1. The Organizing Association is entitled to exploit all rights relating to the Official Functions and events relating to the Competition and reserves all rights in respect to the organizing and/or staging of such functions or events throughout its Territory.
- 41.2. Participating Member Associations and their affiliated Participating Teams and any third parties associated with the Competition shall not organize any Official Functions or events relating to the Competition without the prior written approval of the CAFA. Any party that wishes to organize and/or stage any Official Function shall provide the CAFA with a detailed plan setting out among others the date, time and venue of the proposed function or event and shall follow and comply with any directions or instructions issued by the CAFA regarding the overall organization and/or staging of the Official Function.
- 41.3. Any approved events or functions shall be organized and/or staged on a non-commercial basis with no sales of tickets or payment from any third party or company and/or no association to the CAFA and Organizing Association.

## **SECTION 9: | MEDICAL AND ANTI-DOPING**

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### **42. Medical**

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- 42.1. It is sole responsibility of each Participating Team to ensure that each player in its Preliminary Registration undergoes a Pre-Competition Medical Assessment (“PCMA”) and any necessary medical checks at least thirty (30) days prior to the first Match of the Competition.

### **43. Anti-doping**

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

## **SECTION 10: | SAFETY AND SECURITY**

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### **44. General Principles**

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- 44.1. All matters relating to safety and security shall be undertaken in compliance with the AFC Stadium Regulations and AFC Safety and Security Regulations.
- 44.2. The Organizing Association shall, in conjunction with the relevant government authorities and/or Stadium owners, devise, plan, and implement adequate security and safety measures for the Competition at all Controlled Access Areas within the Venue and other relevant locations to protect all relevant persons, including without limitation the CAFA Delegation, Team Official Delegations, Organizing Association Commercial Rights Partner, Commercial Affiliates, Media, and spectators, and all goods brought in by the CAFA, Team Official Delegations, Organizing Association Commercial Rights Partner, and Commercial Affiliates.
- 44.3. The Organizing Association shall have 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 CAFA Delegation and Team Official Delegations. Such security plan shall be based upon the principles set out in the AFC Stadium Regulations and AFC Safety and Security Regulations.

**SECTION 11: | DISCIPLINARY****45. Disciplinary Measures**

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- 45.1. All disciplinary measures in relation to the Competition shall be undertaken in accordance with the current CAFA Statutes, AFC Statutes, AFC Disciplinary and Ethics Code, and any relevant AFC circular;
- 45.2. The CAFA may introduce new disciplinary rules and sanctions for the duration of the Competition. Such rules shall be communicated to the Participating Member Associations fifteen (15) days before the first Match of the Competition.
- 45.3. Only Participating Players and Participating Officials may serve match suspensions during the Competition.
- 45.4. All Participating Players agree to:
  - 45.4.1. respect the spirit of fair play, non-violence, and the authority of the Match Officials;
  - 45.4.2. behave accordingly; and
  - 45.4.3. refrain from doping.

## 45.5. Following Disciplinary Measures are applicable for the Competition:

Caution

- 45.5.1. A caution (yellow card) is a warning from the Referee to an individual during a Match to sanction minor infringements as set out in Law 12 of the Laws of the Game;
- 45.5.2. Two (2) cautions received during the same Match incur an expulsion (indirect red card) and automatic suspension from the next Match in the same competition (cf. Article 45.5.13. below). The two (2) cautions that caused the expulsion are rescinded.
- 45.5.3. If an individual receives a caution in two (2) separate Matches of the same CAFA competition, she/he is automatically suspended from the next Match in that competition.
- 45.5.4. If a Match was abandoned and is to be replayed in full, any caution issued during that Match shall be annulled. If a Match was abandoned, in particular for reasons of force majeure, and it recommences at the minute at which play was interrupted, any caution imposed before the Match was abandoned remains valid for the remainder of the Match. If the Match is not to be replayed, the cautions received by the teams shall be upheld.
- 45.5.5. Cautions issued in a Match that is subsequently forfeited shall not be annulled.



### Expulsion

45.5.6. An expulsion is the order given by the Referee to someone to leave the field of play and its surroundings, including the team bench and the technical area, during a Match. The individual who has been sent off may enter the stands unless he is serving a Stadium ban.

45.5.7. Expulsion takes the form of a red card for individuals. The red card is regarded as direct if it sanctions a sending-off offence (cf. Law 12 of the Laws of the Game); it is regarded as indirect if it is the result of an accumulation of two (2) cautions.

#### A Player who has been sent off:

45.5.8. shall stay in the team dressing room and may be allowed to sit in the stands, provided his integrity and security are safeguarded, and is no longer wearing his football equipment; and

45.5.9. is not entitled to attend the post-Match press conference or any other media activity held in the Stadium.

#### A Team Official who has been sent off:

45.5.9. may be allowed to sit in the stands, but not in the immediate vicinity of the field of play, provided his security and integrity are safeguarded;

45.5.10. shall not enter the dressing room, tunnel or technical area including the team bench;

45.5.11. shall not communicate with or contact anyone involved in the Match by any means whatsoever; and

45.5.12. is not entitled to attend the post-Match press conference or any other media activity held in the Stadium.

45.5.13. An expulsion automatically incurs suspension from the the next Match in the same competition.

### Match suspension

45.5.14. A Match suspension is a ban on taking part in a future Match and on attending it in the area immediately surrounding the field of play.

45.5.15. A Player who is suspended in accordance with Article 45.5.14.:

45.5.15.1. is automatically banned from the team dressing room(s), tunnel and technical area including the team bench;

45.5.15.2. may be allowed to sit in the stands, but not in the immediate vicinity of the field of play, provided his security and integrity are safeguarded; and

45.5.15.3. shall not attend the post-Match press conference or any other media activity held in the Stadium.

45.5.16. A Team Official who is suspended in accordance with Article 45.5.14.:

- 45.5.16.1. is automatically banned from the team dressing room(s), tunnel and technical area including the team bench;
- 45.5.16.2. may be allowed to sit in the stands, but not in the immediate vicinity of the field of play, provided his security and integrity are safeguarded;
- 45.5.16.3. shall not be permitted to communicate with or contact any person involved in the Match by any means whatsoever for the duration of a Match; and
- 45.5.16.4. shall not attend the post-Match press conference or any other media activity held in the Stadium.

#### 46. Good Conduct

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- 46.1. Participating Member Associations are liable for the improper conduct of:
  - 46.1.2. any member of its Team Official Delegation; and/or
  - 46.1.3. any person affiliated to it and/or carrying out duties on its behalf throughout the Competition.
- 46.2. Any sanction issued by CAFA General Secretariat comes into force immediately upon notification.

#### 47. Indiscipline or Violent Conduct

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- 47.1. Each Member Association is fully responsible for its Participating Team's Players and Officials indiscipline or violent conduct at the Stadium (including without limitation the Team Dressing Room or the Field of Play), Training Sites, places of Accommodation, or any other location within the territory of the Organizing Association.

#### 48. Protest

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- 48.1. For the purpose of these Regulations, a protest is an objection of any kind related to any event and/or matter that has a direct effect on a Match.
- 48.2. Unless otherwise stipulated in these Regulations, to be considered valid, a protest must be:
  - 48.2.1. submitted in writing (using the appropriate Protest Form issued by the CAFA General Secretariat) to the CAFA Match Commissioner for the relevant Match within two (2) hours of the end of the relevant Match;

- 48.2.2. followed up with a full written report (including a copy of the original Protest Form) which must be sent to the CAFA General Secretariat within twenty-four (24) hours of the end of the relevant Match; and
- 48.2.3. accompanied by a non-refundable fee of USD 300 (non-inclusive of any bank charges) which must be transmitted to the bank account nominated by the CAFA General Secretariat within twenty-four (24) hours of the end of the relevant Match.
- 48.3. No protest shall be lodged relating to the Referee's decisions regarding facts connected with play. Such decisions are final and binding and not appealable.
- 48.4. If any of the formal conditions of a protest as set out in these Regulations are not met, such protest shall be disregarded. Following the completion of the Final Match of the Competition, all protests shall be disregarded.

## SECTION 12: AWARDS

### 49. Trophy, Awards and Medals

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- 49.1. The trophy of the Competition shall be presented to the Champion during the prize presentation ceremony after the last match of the Competition.
- 49.2. The following awards of the Competition shall be presented in accordance with the Regulations:
  - 49.2.1. Most Valuable Player;
  - 49.2.2. Top Goalscorer;
  - 49.2.3. Fair Play Award; and
  - 49.2.4. Special Award;
- 49.3. The CAFA shall award the following medals:
  - 49.3.1. twenty-nine (29) medals to the Champion;
  - 49.3.2. twenty-nine (29) medals to the second place;
  - 49.3.3. twenty-nine (29) medals to the third place; and
  - 49.3.4. commemorative medals for the Match Officials of the last match of the Competition.

## **SECTION 13: | CLOSING PROVISIONS**

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### **50. Special Instructions**

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- 50.1. The CAFA General Secretariat shall, in conjunction with the Organizing Association, issue any instructions necessitated by special circumstances which might arise in the organization of Matches.
- 50.2. These instructions shall form an integral part of these Regulations.

### **51. Decisions**

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

### **52. Amendments**

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

### **53. Force Majeure**

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- 53.1. The AFC, CAFA and Organizing Association are the only bodies capable of declaring Force Majeure event.

### **54. Matters not Provided For**

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- 54.1. Matters not provided for in these Regulations shall be decided by the CAFA General Secretariat in conjunction with the Organizing Association. Such decisions are final and binding and not appealable.

**ANNEX 1: | DETERMINING THE RANKING IN A GROUP USING FAIR PLAY CRITERIA**

1. Each Participating Team's Players and Officials shall be awarded points for receiving red and yellow cards as indicated below:
  - 1.1. per yellow card: one (1) point;
  - 1.2. per red card (as a consequence of two yellow cards): three (3) points;
  - 1.3. per direct red card: three (3) points; and,
  - 1.4. per yellow card followed by a direct red card : four (4) points.
2. The Participating Team receiving the least number of points shall be ranked highest. The remaining Participating Teams shall be ranked in descending order.



**ANNEX 2: 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 Organizing 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 Organizing 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 sixty (60) minutes before kick-off;
5. Access to the Field of Play is not permitted at any time, including before and after the Match;
6. Before the start of each Match, photographers may shoot the line-ups of the 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. At the press conference, all photographers must stand at the rear of the room and allow journalists to be seated towards the front;
9. CAFA 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 authorization of the Local Organizing Committee and/or Local Media Officer before setting up any remote camera in designated areas.









**CENTRAL ASIAN FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION**

37/1 Bokhtar Street, Bokhtar Business Center, 734002, Dushanbe, Tajikistan  
Tel/Fax: +992 640 00 81, E-mail: [international@the-cafa.com](mailto:international@the-cafa.com)  
[www.the-CAFA.com](http://www.the-CAFA.com)