

Regulations of Bangladesh Premier League 2020-21

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DEFINITIONS

The terms in Capital letters used in these Regulations (as hereinafter defined) shall have the following meaning(s):

<i>Accommodation</i>	Hotels or any other locations providing accommodation to guests for the Competition.
<i>Accreditation or Accredited</i>	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.
<i>AFC</i>	Asian Football Confederation.
<i>Appeal Committee</i>	The committee responsible for deciding appeals against any of the Disciplinary Committee's decisions.
<i>BCL</i>	Bangladesh Championship League.
<i>BFF</i>	Bangladesh Football Federation.
<i>BFF Committees & Sub Committees</i>	Committees & Sub Committees including the BFF Executive Committee, BFF Professional League Management Committee, Disciplinary Committee, Appeals Committee, Referees Committee, Technical Committee, Finance Committee, Marketing Committee, Competitions Committee and such other committees & Sub Committees of the BFF as advised by BFF from time to time.
<i>BFF Delegation</i>	Any officials appointed by BFF, including but not limited to the Head of Delegation, Head of Administration, General Coordinator, Match Commissioner, Referee Instructor/Assessor, Referee, Assistant Referees, Fourth Official, Media Officer, Security Officer, Medical Officer and Technical Study Group Officer.
<i>BPL</i>	Bangladesh Premier League.
<i>BFF Professional League Management Committee</i>	The BFF Professional League Management Committee consisting of a Chairman, Deputy Chairman and members whose duties are to organize and manage Federation Cup, Bangladesh Premier League, Bangladesh Championship League, Independence Cup and Youth Competition on behalf of the BFF including making decisions on any matters related to these Competitions; to arrange the groups, venues and dates for the competitions and matches and delegate, if necessary, the organization of the same to any Member or Committee; to appoint officials for its competitions; to recommend to the Executive Committee amendments or alterations to the Rules, Regulations and Instructions for competition and matches; to submit reports on competitions and matches to the Secretariat.
<i>BFF Headquarters</i>	BFF House, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

<i>BFF Logo(s)</i>	The official logo of BFF, and/or such other official logo, which shall be the only marks used by BFF.
<i>BFF Website</i>	www.bff.com.bd
<i>Best Category Ticket</i>	The best tickets available in the best category seats entitling the ticket holder to sit in the sector immediately adjacent to the VIP area whether in or directly opposite Area to the main stand.
<i>Broadcast Affiliates</i>	Any entity, including the Host Broadcaster, which has acquired from BFF directly or from BFF's Marketing Partner any rights in respect of the Broadcast Rights of the Competition.
<i>Broadcast Rights</i>	The right to broadcast the Competition and the right of access to the Stadia to the exclusion of all others, for the purposes of producing a live television and/or radio signal and/or recordings of the Competition in any form of audio and/or audio-visual medium and the right to license the right to exhibit such live signal and/or recordings and/or part thereof by any and all forms of television and/or radio and/or any media now existing or as may be developed in the future, including, all forms of terrestrial, cable and satellite television, IPTV, broadband (fixed and/or wireless), Internet and Interactive Television on a world-wide basis.
<i>Competition</i>	Bangladesh Premier League which shall include the Matches as set out in the Match Schedule, activities on the field of play (other than matches), opening ceremonies, presentation or closing ceremonies, press conferences or official functions connected therewith.
<i>Competition Data</i>	Any and all information related to the Competition, including Fixture Lists, Image Rights, information and/or statistics about the Participating Members 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.
<i>Competition Marks</i>	Any and all current and future competition Trademarks and/or logos, copyrights and/or designs whether or not registered or applied for and whether registered in part or in whole including any and or present and future names, designations, symbols, logos or identifying music or sounds of BFF or the Competition, the BFF Fair Play name and device mark, the official logo, the Competition Trophy and other artistic and autographic representations in one, two or three dimensional proportions used by or in Association with the Competition.

<i>Competition Website</i>	The official website in relation to a Competition operated exclusively by BFF with a dedicated URL registered, owned and maintained by BFF, at BFF's sole expense, for use exclusively by BFF.
<i>Complimentary Tickets</i>	Tickets which are supplied without charge.
<i>Controlled Access Areas</i>	The locations of the Matches and other events, 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 media centers, international broadcast centers, Official Training Sites, designated official hotels (including but not limited to the official hotels for the Participating Club Associations), hospitality and VIP areas and facilities, other areas to which admission is regulated by the accreditation system, and surrounding and adjacent areas to the locations described above.
<i>Commercial Affiliates</i>	Any entity to which BFF directly or indirectly has granted or will grant any aspect of the Commercial Rights in respect of the Competition, including but not limited to Official Sponsors, Official Supporters, Official Licensees and Official Media Partners.
<i>Club Licensing</i>	Refers to the BFF Club Licensing Regulations.
<i>DFA</i>	District Football Association.
<i>Disciplinary Committee</i>	The committee to deal with all disciplinary matters as governed by the BFF Disciplinary Code.
<i>Financial Obligation</i>	Undertaking from the Club to meet its Financial Requirements.
<i>FIFA</i>	The Federation International de Football Association.
<i>Force Majeure</i>	Any event affecting the performance or any provision of this Agreement arising from or attributable to acts, events, omissions or accidents which are beyond the reasonable control of a party, and shall include but not be limited to abnormally inclement weather, flood, lightning, storm, fire, explosion, earthquake, structural damage, epidemic or other natural disaster, failure or shortage of power supplies, war, terrorist action, military operations, riot, crowd disorder, strike, lock-outs or other industrial action, or civil commotion.
<i>Host Broadcaster</i>	The organization appointed by BFF directly or indirectly to ensure and provide the production of the broadcast signals of the Matches and other events of the Competition, and the provision of all related services in accordance with the Broadcast Rights.

<i>IFAB</i>	‘International Football Association Board’ – the Game of football as regulated by the Laws of the Game.
<i>ITC</i>	International Transfer Certificate.
<i>Levy</i>	The amount of money payable to BFF.
<i>LTC</i>	Local Transfer Certificate.
<i>Match(es)</i>	Each football match(es) in its entirety (including extra time) of the Competition, and including any delayed, deferred Matches and/or replays.
<i>Match Schedule</i>	The published schedule containing details of the Competition (which details shall include but not be limited to the names of the clubs, Venues, Stadia, and details of the Match kick-off times).
<i>Media</i>	All members of the written press, on-line editors, photographers, television news crews and the representatives of the Broadcast Rights Holders entitled to media accreditation as determined by BFF.
<i>Neutral Venue</i>	Where the match is being played as a neutral venue and appointed to assist to organize stage and host the competition.
<i>Official</i>	Office bearers and members of various committees, sub-committees, managers, coaches, trainers, match commissioners, referees, asst. referees, referee assessors, medical officers and staffs of Bangladesh Football Federation and Bangladesh Premier League participating clubs.
<i>Official Functions</i>	Any official event organized in connection with the Competitions, including but not limited to press conferences, official dinners or lunches and banquets.
<i>Player Status Committee</i>	The committee to monitor compliance with transfer regulations of players.
<i>Participating Players</i>	Those players registered and participating in the competition and any other players under the authority of BFF during the Competition.
<i>Regulations</i>	Those regulations controlled and published by BFF to be used in connection with the Competition.

<i>Season</i>	Football Season would start once BFF releases the registration related papers/documents for the participating clubs and it would continue to the previous day of releasing registration related papers/documents for the next season. Ideally football season for 2020-21 would be from November 01, 2020 to August 31, 2021.
<i>SAFF</i>	South Asian Football Federation.
<i>Sponsorship Rights</i>	An association with the Competition and/or BFF (subject to the special provisions regarding the development of BFF Logo as set out in this Agreement and/or the BFF Guidelines) by any combination of Commercial Rights, including title sponsor of the Competitions or any of them such as “Bangladesh Premier League” sponsored / presented by Company A” and/or such other designation as mutually agreed by the parties.
<i>Stadia</i>	The official stadia (or any stadium) and the airspace and surrounding areas for the Matches, whether under the control of the Hosting Team or otherwise, used for the Matches, including without limitation parking facilities, VIP and hospitality areas, concourses, concession areas, fencing and entrances.
<i>Team’s Official Delegation</i>	The Participating Club’s Official Delegation will comprise of a maximum of 35 (thirty five) players (including foreign players) and a maximum of 9 (nine) officials who are named in the Final Registration for the Competition.
<i>Training Sites</i>	Training sites designated by the Home Clubs for use by the away teams throughout the duration of the Competition.
<i>Ticketing</i>	All operational measures to provide tickets to all spectators of every Match and for Official Functions of the Competition allowing them to enter the Stadia and for a Venue. Ticketing shall include the management of operation necessary for the production, sale, distribution, delivery and payment of the tickets of the Competition.
<i>Venues</i>	The immediately surrounding area in which the Stadia are located and all the venues of BPL will be approved by BFF.

For the purposes of this 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 persons shall include any legal person or corporation.

References to BFF shall where the context permits include its successors and permitted assigns and, in relation to the availability of the Commercial Rights, its respective members, BFF and Professional League Management Committee.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Bangladesh Football Federation will adopt different regulations/guidelines to address the COVID-19 pandemic for the 'Bangladesh Premier League 2020-21'. The different regulations/guidelines will remain in effect for as long as FIFA/AFC/BFF considers them appropriate. Due to the continuously evolving understanding of COVID-19, BFF may modify or supplement this regulation at any time.

Furthermore, Bangladesh Football Federation will also follow the recommendations provided in the 'AFC Match Operations Protocol During COVID-19 Pandemic' (see **appendix 16**) to minimize the risk of COVID-19 transmission. Bangladesh Football Federation also recommends the new AFC Match Operations Protocol as a guideline for the teams and will be followed in all 'Bangladesh Premier League 2020-21' matches until further notice. All stakeholders related to 'Bangladesh Premier League 2020-21' will also follow the 'Guidelines for Prevention and Control of Covid-19' (see **appendix 17**) introduced by BFF.

Each Participating Club is responsible for compliance with the above-mentioned regulations as well as any of the further applicable laws, regulations, guidelines and decisions issued by the BFF in relation to COVID-19.

SECTION 1: REPRESENTATION

1. The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF)

- 1.1 The BFF stages the Bangladesh Premier League (hereafter the “Competition”) for senior men’s professional club teams (as per eligibility) once every year according to BFF Calendar.
- 1.2 Any rights associated with the Competition, which has not been granted by these Regulations and/or specific agreements to a Participating Club in the Competition, belong to BFF.
- 1.3 The current BFF Statutes, all BFF Regulations, Guidelines, Circulars and Codes are binding for all parties participating and involved in the preparation, and organization of the Competition. Any reference in these Regulations to the BFF Statutes refers to the Statutes valid at the time of entry and to all relevant BFF Regulations, Guidelines, Circulars and Codes.
- 1.4 Clubs are not authorized to represent BFF or the Competition without BFF’s prior written approval.
- 1.5 BFF will appoint match officials including Match Commissioner (**See Appendix 6**), Referee Instructor/Assessor, Referee, General Coordinator, Media Officer (hereafter the “BFF Organizing Team”) for each match of the Competition for the purpose of match organization.
- 1.6 All Players and Officials registered for participation in this Competition shall undertake to ensure their presence at the BFF Awards ceremony if they are nominated for an award. Any player or official failing to do so shall be referred to the BFF Disciplinary Committee.
- 1.7 The Bangladesh Football Federation has the absolute authority as per ‘BFF Club Licensing Regulations 2020-21’ to decide which clubs shall play in the Bangladesh Premier League. In the season 2019-20 the league was cancelled for COVID-19 pandemic. Thus, in the current season 2020-21 the same 13 (thirteen) teams of the season 2019-20 will take part i.e. a maximum of 13 (thirteen) teams shall be eligible to participate in the ‘Bangladesh Premier League 2020-21’.
- 1.8 BFF shall follow the Regulations, Circulars, Recommendations and Policies of FIFA & AFC for the organization of the ‘Bangladesh Premier League 2020-21’ in all the ways.

2. Participating Clubs

- 2.1 The obligations and responsibilities of the Participating Clubs are stipulated in the Participating Team Agreement (PTA) (**See Appendix 12**), its annexes and amendments, Club Licensing Regulations and other BFF regulations, guidelines and circulars and any other agreements reached between BFF and the Participating Clubs.
- 2.2 Each club 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 to be issued by BFF.
- 2.3 The eligible club shall complete the Participating Team Agreement in full

and also responsible to ensure that the original copy of the Participating Team Agreement submit to the BFF Secretariat not later than the deadline communicated to the Club before the commencement of the league matches. If the Participating Team Agreement does not reach the BFF Secretariat by the deadline, the participation of the eligible Club will be cancelled.

- 2.4 Participating Team Agreement (filled and signed by authorized official along with official seal) submitted to the BFF Secretariat by email, fax and courier post will be valid and taken into consideration.
- 2.5 The clubs selected by the Bangladesh Football Federation to participate in the Bangladesh Premier League shall comply with the 'BFF Club Licensing Regulations 2020-21' established/adopted by the Bangladesh Football Federation or which are published by BFF. Failure of a club to comply with these regulations prior to the start of the season may render the club ineligible to participate in the Bangladesh Premier League. Failure of a club to comply with these regulations during a season shall result in sanctions to be determined by Bangladesh Football Federation or BFF Professional League Management Committee, including possible exclusion from the Bangladesh Premier League for the subsequent season / seasons.
- 2.6 All clubs selected by the Bangladesh Football Federation to participate in the Bangladesh Premier League shall apply to register their clubs with the Bangladesh Football Federation under the Club Licensing Regulation and on the official Club Licensing Application Manual supplied by the Bangladesh Football Federation. Sample of this Club Licensing Application Manual is enclosed to these rules as **Appendix 1**.

3. Security and Safety

- 3.1 Each home club shall have a Safety and Security Officer in charge of Safety and Security related issues on match day in the stadium and its vicinity. Home club and Safety and Security Officer will be responsible for devising, planning and implementing adequate security and safety for the Competition at every relevant location (covering all Controlled Access Areas) which shall cover for all relevant persons at all times, including but not limited to the following:
 - All participating Club's players and official
 - BFF Match Officials
 - Media
 - Commercial Partners
 - Fans and spectators
- 3.2 A detailed and highly relevant security plan shall be issued in the form of a binding declaration on all parties involved and shall include but not be limited to the stadium and its vicinity, the training grounds and also hotels of visiting club and BFF match officials. This security plan shall be based on the principles outlined in the FIFA Safety Guidelines.

- 3.3 In the interests of the safety of players, away teams, match officials and BFF officials, the Home Club/ the Home Club's Safety and Security Officer must provide access to the field of play that guarantees the safe entry and exit of these persons.
- 3.4 Home Club and Home Club's Safety and Security Officer may be subject to disciplinary measures if appropriate security arrangements are not provided. Sanctions may include fines and suspensions.
- 3.5 Each match shall be managed by the home club to the standard specified by BFF. Each home club shall have a Local General Coordinator / Event Manager in charge on match day. Absence of the Local General Coordinator / Event Manager at the stadium on any home match will result in disciplinary action against him.

SECTION 2: TECHNICAL REGULATIONS

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

- 4.1 All Matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game laid down and published by the International Football Association Board (IFAB).
- 4.2 In case of any discrepancy in the interpretation of the Laws of the Game, the English version shall prevail and is authoritative.
- 4.3 In accordance with the temporary amendment to Law 3 (See Appendix 15) approved by The International Football Association Board, 5 (five) substitutions are permitted for competitions scheduled to be completed by 31 July 2021 as follows:
- During the match, each team:
 - may use a maximum of five substitutes
 - has a maximum of three substitution opportunities*
 - may additionally make substitutions at half-time
 - Where extra time is played, each team:
 - may use an additional substitute (whether or not the team has used its maximum number of substitutes)
 - has one additional substitution opportunity* (whether or not the team has used its maximum number of substitution opportunities)
 - may additionally make substitutions:
 - in the period before the start of extra time
 - at half-time in extra time
- If a team has not used its maximum number of substitutes or substitution opportunities, the unused substitutions and opportunities may be used in extra time.
- * Where both teams make a substitution at the same time, this will count as a used substitution opportunity for each team.
- 4.4 If there are fewer than 7 (seven) players on either of the teams, the Match shall be abandoned. In this case, the BFF Professional League Management Committee (and if required the BFF Disciplinary Committee) shall decide on the consequences.
- 4.5 A club must report to the Match Commissioner at least one and a half hour before the start of the match.

5. Duration of Matches

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

6. Cancellation of Matches

- 6.1 If the Match cannot commence on time due to 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:

- i. The Match must first be delayed for a minimum of 30 (thirty) minutes, unless the Referee decides that the Match can commence earlier, before a decision to reschedule the Match is taken.
- ii. At the discretion of the Referee, another delay of a maximum of 30 (thirty) minutes shall be allowed if in his opinion this extra period of delay will allow the Match to commence. Otherwise, at the end of this second 30 (thirty) minutes period, the Referee must declare the Match to have been cancelled.
- iii. In the case of a cancelled Match, the BFF or the Professional League Management Committee of BFF shall decide within 2 (two) hours of the Referee's decision to cancel the Match whether the Match can be rescheduled, taking sporting and organizational considerations into account, or whether any other action and decision is needed to continue with the Competition. Any disciplinary sanctions resulting from the cancelled Match shall remain in force.

6.2 No appeals may be lodged against decisions stated in (**Art. 6.1**).

7. Abandonment of Matches

7.1 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:

- i. The Match is automatically suspended for the duration of 30 (thirty) minutes to allow conditions to improve sufficiently to restart the Match, unless the referee decides that the Match can be resumed earlier.
- ii. At the discretion of the Referee, another suspension of a maximum of 30 (thirty) minutes shall be allowed if in his opinion this extra period of suspension will allow the Match to be resumed. Otherwise, at the end of this second 30 (thirty) minutes period, the Referee must declare the Match to have been abandoned.
- iii. In the case of a cancelled match, the BFF or the Professional League Management Committee of BFF shall decide within 2 (two) hours of the Referee's decision to cancel the match whether the match can be rescheduled, taking sporting and organizational considerations into account, or whether any other action and decision is needed to continue with the Competition. Any disciplinary sanctions resulting from the cancelled match shall remain in force.

- iv. In the case a match is abandoned as a result of force majeure for any reason after it has already kicked off, the match shall recommence with the same score at the minute at which play was interrupted rather than being replayed in full.

The following principles shall apply to the recommencement of the match:

- the match shall recommence with the same players on the pitch and substitutes available as when the match was initially abandoned;
- no additional substitutes may be added to the 'Match Starting List';
- the teams can make only the number of substitutions to which they were still entitled when the match was abandoned;
- players sent off during the abandoned match cannot be replaced;
- any sanctions imposed before the match was abandoned remain valid for the remainder of the match;
- the kick-off time, date (foreseen for the following day) and location shall be decided by the BFF or the Professional League Management Committee of BFF;
- Any matters requiring further decision shall be treated by the BFF or the Professional League Management Committee of BFF.

7.2 No appeals may be lodged against decisions stated in (**Art. 7.1**).

8. Refusal to Play

If it is not possible to start the match in time or to continue after the start due to the refusal of either one or both participating teams, the referee at his discretion waiting up to 15 (fifteen) minutes shall declare the match abandoned. The Disciplinary Committee of BFF based on the report of the referee and match commissioner shall take action against the club/clubs concerned as per the BFF Disciplinary Code.

9. Stadiums (Stadia)

- 9.1 The Stadiums for the matches in the Competition shall be decided by BFF or the Professional League Management Committee of BFF which will be immediately communicated with all concerned by a separate circular in due time.
- 9.2 Home Club will ensure that no Matches and/or other activities are held at the Stadium(s) nominated for the Matches at least 3 (three) days prior to the Competition, unless written permission has been given by the BFF. Unless

specified or directed by BFF otherwise, the Stadium shall be made available for use for the Competition as of 7 (seven) working days prior to the first Match of the Competition until 1 (one) day after the last Match of the Competition.

- 9.3 The facilities (stadia) used for all Bangladesh Premier League matches must meet the standards set out by BFF (**See Appendix 2**). BFF or BFF Professional League Management Committee has the authority to reject any proposed match venue if it does not meet the required standard.
- 9.4 In particular, the venue must have a good quality playing surface and dimension according to the FIFA standard.
- 9.5 The stadium for each match shall provide a safe and secure environment for players, coaches, referees, match officials, the media and fans. The Home club is responsible for all safety and security matters. BFF and local District Football Association (DFA) shall provide all assistances in this matter.
- 9.6 Home Club should ensure that the field of play is in good playable conditions.
- 9.7 The BFF 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. If the conditions of the Field of Play including the dimension of goal and field are not met by the Laws of the Game, the BFF Match Commissioner will issue instructions for the hosting club to rectify.
- 9.8 However, if prior to the match kick-off time, **Art. 9.7** is still not complied with, the Home Club shall forfeit the match Victory and the resultant 3 (three) points will be awarded to the opposing team as well as the score of 3 - 0.

10. Team Bench and Technical Area

- 10.1 Only 7 (seven) officials and 9 (nine) substitute players, from the registered 9 (nine) officials and 35 (thirty-five) players, are allowed to sit on the substitute bench. Registration and Presence of the following 2 (two) officials on each match day are mandatory:
 - i. Team Manager
 - ii. Head Coach

Along with the presence of 2 (two) above mentioned officials BFF recommend a team Doctor in the team bench to sit by considering the COVID-19 situation.

Apart from the 2 (two) officials above, the participating teams may register up to 7 (seven) more officials out of the following officials:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| i. Head of Delegation/Team Leader | viii. Equipment Manager |
| ii. Assistant Manager | ix. Security Officer |
| iii. Assistant Coach | x. Fitness Coach /Trainer |
| iv. Goalkeeper Coach | xi. Doctor |

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| v. Media Officer | xii. Technical Director |
| vi. Interpreter | xiii. Physiotherapist |
| vii. Video Analyst | xiv. Masseur |

- 10.2 The names of all the officials and players and their function must be listed on the match starting list.
- 10.3 All officials and players on the team bench must wear their accreditation card and masks at all times. The accreditation cards shall always be available for inspection prior to the start of the match. Failure to carry the accreditation card at stadium will result the official/ player concerned being fined minimum BDT 5,000 (five thousand taka only).
- 10.4 All persons on the bench must wear kits that are contrasting with the kit of the players and referees on the pitch. These kits must comply with the AFC Equipment Regulations.

11 Warming up

- 11.1 The Participating Clubs shall be entitled to warm up on the field of play before the Match if the weather permits.
- 11.2 During actual play, a maximum of 6 (six) players from each team may warm up at the same time but without a ball (except for the goalkeeper), behind the goal closest to their substitutes' bench or in a space determined by the Match Commissioner (i.e. warm up may be arranged next to each team bench) The players may be assisted by 2 (two) officials from the team bench.

12 Official Training Sites

- 12.1 Official Training Sites in good condition shall be made available to the Away Team at least 3 (three) full days prior to every Match of the Competition which will be ensured by Home Club.
- 12.2 These official training sites are reserved by Home Club for training and shall not be used for other matches and events as from 3 (three) days prior to every match in the competition, unless written permission has been obtained from the BFF.

13 Footballs

The balls chosen for the competition shall confirm with the Laws of the Game and bear one of the following standard qualities:

- FIFA APPROVED,
- FIFA INSPECTED or
- INTERNATIONAL MATCH BALL STANDARD.

14 Match Schedule

- 14.1 All matches are played according to the BFF Calendar which shall be approved by the Professional League Management Committee of BFF.

- 14.2 The matches of the club / clubs participating in the AFC and FIFA matches during the progress of the League shall be re-scheduled by the Professional League Management Committee of BFF with the approval of Bangladesh Football Federation. Players as will be required to participate in the national football team shall be governed by FIFA regulations (**See Appendix 11**).
- 14.3 No fixture can be postponed except by Professional League Management Committee of BFF or on the day of the fixture by the referee, as defined in **Law 5** of the Laws of the Game.
- 14.4 Any club which fails to fulfill a scheduled fixture shall be deemed to have forfeited that fixture by the score line of 3 (three) goals to 0 (zero) and shall be liable to further sanctions to be determined by BFF or BFF Professional League Management Committee.
- 14.5 All clubs shall fulfill (postponed) fixtures at the time rescheduled by the Professional League Management Committee of BFF. Clubs shall be informed about the rescheduled match at least 1 (one) day before the match.
- 14.6 All Matches shall be played according to the dates, stadium and kick off times as set by the BFF or the Professional League Management Committee of BFF.

15 Referees and Match Commissioner

- 15.1 BFF Referees Committee shall appoint a referee, 2 (two) assistant referees and a fourth official to every match in the Bangladesh Premier League. BFF Referees Committee has the sole and complete authority in this regard.
- 15.2 The referees shall be appointed from a panel of referees who have attended the Advanced Referees Course and have passed the full FIFA Fitness Test conducted by the Referees Committee of BFF prior to the commencement of the league. Protest against the allotment of the match officials by any participating club of the Bangladesh Premier League is not allowed in any way.
- 15.3 BFF shall appoint 1 (one) Match Commissioner for every match of Bangladesh Premier League.
- 15.4 The Match Commissioner shall be appointed from a panel made by BFF.
- 15.5 Every referee and Match Commissioner (and where necessary the assistant referees and fourth official) shall submit a written report (**See Appendix 7**) to BFF within 12 (twelve) noon of the following day of each Bangladesh Premier League match, notwithstanding the fact that the following day may be a Friday, a Saturday or a public holiday. All cases of misconduct of players, officials or spectators must also be reported. This report shall contain all relevant details of the match including goals, scorers, substitutions, cautions, expulsions and incidents, both on and off the field of play, in the stadium and in the dressing room area.
- 15.5 BFF may appoint a Referee Assessor to each Bangladesh Premier League match to assess the performance of the referee, assistant referee and fourth official. The Referee Assessor shall make an official report to BFF (**See Appendix 8**). These assessments shall be used by BFF to determine referee appointments.
- 15.6 BFF shall pay each referee, assistant referees and fourth official match fees. If a match is postponed, after the arrival of the referee and his assistants at the venue, a payment of 50% of the match fees shall be made.

16 Competition System

The format of the Bangladesh Premier League is a two-round league format. Each team shall play every other participating team 2 (two) times in the competition: once at its designated home venue and once each of its opponent's venue.

17 Technical Rules for the Competition

- 17.1 The winning team in a match shall be awarded 3 (three) points with the losing team receiving no point. If the match ends in a draw, each team shall receive 1 (one) point. The number of goals scored and conceded by each team shall also be recorded.
- 17.2 At the end of the season, the ranking of the teams shall be determined by:
 - 17.2.1 The number of points won;

- 17.2.2 i) In situations where there is equality of points for 2 (two) teams for the champion and bottom positions, there shall be play-off match(es) to determine the positions. Both the teams concerned shall play one home and one away match. The team scoring the greater aggregate of goals in the two matches will be regarded as winner. If both the teams score the same number of goals over the two legs, the away goals shall be counted as double. If the number of away goals scored is also equal, extra time of two periods of 15 (fifteen) minutes each shall be played at the end of the second leg. The extra-time period is an integral part of the second-leg match. Thus, if there is no result in the extra-time, kicks from the penalty mark, in accordance with the Laws of the Game, shall be taken to determine the winner.
- ii) The play-off match or matches will be organized within next 7 (seven) days of the last match of the league.
- iii) In situations where there is equality of points for more than 2 (two) teams for the champion and bottom positions then the positions of the concerned teams shall be determined by following steps:
- Greater number of points obtained in the league matches between the Teams concerned;
 - Goal difference resulting from the league matches between the Teams concerned;
 - Greater number of goals scored in the league matches between the Teams concerned;
 - Goal difference in all the group matches;
 - Fewer score calculated according to the number of yellow and red cards received in the league matches (**According to Art 17.2.3 (iii)**);
 - Toss of coin.
- 17.2.3 i) To determine all other positions of the league, goal difference (the total number of goals scored in all matches minus the total number of goals conceded) shall determine the ranking in case of equality of points;
- ii) Where there is equality in both the number of points and goal difference, the total number of goals scored shall determine ranking of the concerned teams.
- iii) If there is equality in the 3 (three) ranking criteria above for the teams concerned, then the positions of the concerned teams shall be determined by counting the number for the total yellow and red cards received (Yellow Card = 1 point, Two Yellow Cards = Red Card = 2 points, Direct Red Card = 3 points, Yellow Card + Direct Red Card = 4 points), the club gained the lowest number being at the top and the club gained the highest number being at the bottom.
- iv) If there is equality in all 4 (four) ranking criteria above for the teams concerned, then the positions of the concerned teams shall be determined by toss of coin.

- 17.3 The 2 (two) bottom ranking teams of the table of 2020-21 season shall be relegated to the Bangladesh Championship League for the season 2020-21 and 1 (one) top ranking teams of Bangladesh Championship League 2020-21 shall be promoted to the Bangladesh Premier League for the season 2021-22 who must fulfill all of the criterions of BFF Club Licensing Regulations.
- 17.4 All the matches of Bangladesh Premier League shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game laid down by the International Football Association Board and published by FIFA. Bangladesh Football Federation reserves the right to exclude any club from each edition of the Bangladesh Premier League under any of the following situation:
- 17.4.1 If any club is found to have breached contract with the players, coaches and any other appointed officials.
 - 17.4.2 If any club found to be in the fault of violation of any provisions / regulation of the Bangladesh Premier League.
 - 17.4.3 If any club is found to have not taken proper care of the visiting team with regard to security, training facilities, etc.
 - 17.4.4 If any club is found to have failed to submit the financial statements to BFF within specified time.
 - 17.4.5 If any club is found to have violated the direction and instruction provided by BFF.
 - 17.4.6 If any club is found giving walk-over in any match.

SECTION 3: ENTRIES FOR COMPETITION

18 Eligible Teams

The Senior Men's Team of Participating Clubs shall be eligible to participate provided all other terms of these Regulations have been met.

19 Duties and Obligations

On entering the Competition, the Clubs shall automatically undertake:

- 19.1 Each club selected to participate in the Bangladesh Premier League shall pay an entry fee of BDT 20,000 (twenty thousand taka only) to BFF. The amount of such entry fee shall be determined annually by BFF or BFF Professional League Management Committee. The entry fee must be deposited to BFF as per the instruction of BFF.
- 19.2 Each home club shall solely be responsible for the cost of the venue for its home matches, the cost of its office accommodation and the cost of its coaches, players, officials and employees. Each club shall provide the projected income and expenditure statement to BFF ensuring to cover all their expenses for the season 2020-21, prior to the start of the league. If BFF is not satisfied that a club can meet these requirements, it has the right to exclude such a club from the Bangladesh Premier League. Every club shall submit its audited profit or loss account to BFF within 1 (one) month after the end of each season.
- 19.3 To accept that all the administrative, disciplinary and refereeing matters connected with the Competition shall be settled by BFF in compliance with these Regulations or the decisions of relevant BFF Committee(s):
 - 19.3.1 To field their strongest team throughout the Competition;
 - 19.3.2 To observe the principles of Fair Play;
 - 19.3.3 To be responsible for the behavior of their players, officials, members, supporters and any person carrying out duties on their behalf throughout the Competition from their arrival until their departure;
 - 19.3.4 To accept all the arrangements made by the BFF;
- 19.4 To attend and participate in all official activities and events such as Team Manager's Meeting, Press Conferences, Club Licensing Seminar/ Workshop, FIFA/ AFC Seminar/ Workshop, TMS Seminar/ Workshop, Conferences other Media & Marketing activities, etc. organized by BFF in accordance with guidelines and / or instructions in circulars issued by BFF regarding, in particular, Media access to Teams. Failure to attend the Team Managers' Meeting, Press Conference and other official function in the Competition will result in the Clubs being fined BDT 50,000 (fifty thousand taka only);
- 19.5 To accept the use and/or sub-license by BFF of any of the records, names and images of the Club (including its mark), players and officials, including any

still and moving representation thereof, which must appear or be generated in connection with the Participation of the Participating Clubs and its Players and Officials in the Competition.

- 19.6 BFF will not be accountable in any way for the foreign remittance of club(s) towards FIFA/AFC/Foreign Player/Foreign Coach even if the concerned club(s) request to BFF in written or formally. However, BFF will always try to help the club(s) to its level best.
- 19.7 No change of kit colors is permitted during a season. The BFF shall decide on the kit color (jersey, shorts, and socks) to be worn for each Match on the basis of the equipment information submitted by each Participating Team prior to the Competition.
 - 19.7.1 Home Team shall be given priority to wear 'official' colors;
 - 19.7.2 Away Team shall wear 'official' colors unless they clash with the 'official' colors of Home Team;
 - 19.7.3 Away Team shall wear 'reserve' colors if its 'official' colors clash with the 'official' colors of Home Team;
 - 19.7.4 Away Team shall wear a combination of 'official' and 'reserve' colors if it is necessary to avoid a clash with the 'official' colors of Home Team; and
 - 19.7.5 Home Team and Away Team shall wear a combination of 'official' and 'reserve' colors if both the 'official' and 'reserve' colors of Away Team clash with the 'official' colors of Home team.
- 19.8 Participating Clubs shall not use, nor authorize the use of any Jersey, symbol, emblem, logo, mark or designation which, in BFF's opinion, is similar to, or is a derivation or imitation, or copyright and intellectual property rights belongs to others.
- 19.9 Throughout the Competition and for each match to which he is registered, each player shall wear the same number allocated to him on the BFF Official Registration Form for Players from 1 ~ 99 submitted to BFF during the preliminary registration. The same player may not use different shirt numbers in different matches. New registered player(s) in the 2nd registration window shall use New Jersey Number.

20 Withdrawal, penalty for failing to play and replacement

- 20.1 Participating Clubs shall play in all of their matches in the Competition.
- 20.2 Participating Clubs will withdraw prior to, or are excluded from playing in the Competition, may be replaced by another Club. BFF Committees concerned shall make the relevant decision, including a change in the Competition system and the Technical Rules for the Competition if necessary.
- 20.3 If a Participating Club withdraws after entering the Competition, except in cases of Force Majeure recognized by the BFF Professional League Management Committee, or if it refuses to continue to play or leaves the stadium before the end of the Match, or if the club fails to register minimum 22 (twenty-two) players the Participating Club shall:

- 20.3.1 Be considered to have withdrawn from the Competition;
- 20.3.2 Be required to pay compensation for any and all damages or losses suffered by the other Participating Clubs, the BFF and BFF's Commercial and TV partner(s). The amount of compensation will be determined by the BFF Executive Committee or BFF Professional League Management Committee;
- 20.3.3 Be disqualified from taking part in the next edition of the Competition;
- 20.3.4 Be referred to the BFF Disciplinary Committee for additional sanctions and fines depending on the gravity of the situation, then to BFF Executive Committee for final decision;
- 20.3.5 Return to the BFF any financial stipends that had been paid to them by BFF throughout the Competition or forfeit the right to the same;
- 20.3.6 BFF Executive Committee may extend the suspension depending on the gravity of the situation and/or damages.

The BFF Professional League Management Committee shall take whatever action it deems necessary in cases of Force Majeure.

SECTION 4: TEAM'S OFFICIAL DELEGATION: OFFICIALS & PLAYERS

21 Size of Delegation Attending Matches

Each Participating club is entitled to an Official Delegation of a maximum of 35 (thirty-five) players where club can register a maximum of 4 (four) [among them a maximum of 3 (three) players could be Non-Asian foreigner and at least 1 (one) would be Asian foreigner] foreign players, and 9 (nine) officials who must be registered by the clubs as per **Article 21-30**, from them a maximum of 20 (twenty) players [including a maximum of 4 (four) foreign players] and a maximum of 7 (seven) officials of each team will be receiving full access to the official Competition areas including the field of play and other Controlled Accessed Areas in every match day.

22 Eligibility of players

22.1 A player is eligible to play in the Competition provided he fulfills all the following conditions:

He is duly registered with the BFF by the Participating Clubs according to the provisions of these Regulations. Each player's registration is only valid until the end of the football season, the date of which is defined under the definition of Season. Where a player is contracted by a club for a longer period, the player must be registered at the start of each season.

22.2 A player is deemed ineligible if:

22.2.1 There is a violation of (**Art. 22.1**);

22.2.2 He is fielded despite being served a suspension;

22.2.3 BFF finds that the document(s) submitted during registration is/are false.

22.3 Contracts between clubs and professional players may be for a maximum of 5 (five) years. However, the contract must be signed by the concerned player at BFF House in presence of an Officer of BFF whenever a contract is more than 1 (one) year.

22.4 In the event there is a dispute pertaining to the status of a player, the case will be referred to BFF Player Status Committee.

23 Stages of Registration of Players

There are 2 (two) stages of player's registration:

23.1 Registration to determine a squad of a minimum of 22 (twenty-two) players and up to a maximum of 35 (thirty-five) players [including a maximum of 4 (four) foreign players as per Article 21];

23.2 Start List to identify the starting 11 (eleven) and up to 9 (nine) substitute players for each Match during the Competition [including a maximum of 4 (four) foreign players as per Article 21].

24 Documentation of Registration of Players

- 24.1 For the registration of players for the Competition, players must be registered using the ‘Bangladesh Premier League – Official Registration Form for Players’ (**See Appendix 3**) with the supporting documents in accordance with (**Art. 24.2**) by the deadline announced by BFF.
- 24.2 Documentations for the registration of players are, but not limited to, the following:
- Official Registration form (mandatory) for Players;
 - Passport-size colored photo 4 (four) copies (taken within 3 (three) months prior to the submission of the registration);
 - 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);
OR, Copy of National ID;
OR, Copy of Birth Certificate;
 - Original Copy of Players Contract (**See Appendix 13**);
 - Signed ‘Code of Conduct’.
- 24.3 BFF reserves the right to request for additional documents than those stipulated in (**Art 24.2**) above.

25 Principles for Registration of Players

- 25.1 Participating Clubs can register no less than 22 (twenty-two) players and no more than 35 (thirty-five) players [including a maximum of 4 (four) foreign players as per Article 21] for the Competition. BFF shall provide a registration card (affixing photograph) for each player eligible to play.
- 25.2 If a Participating Club fails to register a minimum of 22 (twenty-two) players, the team will be considered to have withdrawn in accordance with (**Art. 20.3**).
- 25.3 Throughout every Stage of the competition each player shall wear the same number allocated to him on the BFF Official Registration Form for Players submitted to BFF during the registration window. Jersey number 1 shall be reserved for the Goalkeeper.
- 25.4 Participating Club must register a minimum of 3 (three) goalkeepers in their Registration for the players without any condition.
- 25.5 Each column in the BFF Official Registration Form for the Players must be completed with correct information.
- 25.6 Players with missing documentations will not be eligible for registration. All eligible players will be issued with official eligibility cards (Accreditation Card). Should the card have been misplaced, the teams shall be required to pay BDT 1,000 (One thousand taka only) as the production fee for every card lost, to replace it.
- 25.7 In case any Participating Club found guilty of violating **Art. 24.2**, the sanction will be pronounced in accordance with BFF Disciplinary Code.

- 25.8 Should the BFF Secretariat not receive the BFF Official Registration Form with all required document by the deadline announced by BFF, the Participating Club shall be automatically disqualified from the Competition and be considered to have withdrawn in accordance with **Art. 20.3**.
- 25.9 Player Registration shall be completed within the Player Registration Window. For 2020-21 season, a club shall submit to BFF the list of a maximum of 4 (four) foreign players (as per Article 21) to be registered with BFF within the deadline determined by the Professional League Management Committee of BFF. The transfer and registration of foreign players shall be governed by electronic International Transfer Certificate (ITC) through the application of web-based FIFA Transfer Matching System (TMS). The registration of players must be on the official registration form attached to these rules (**See Appendix 3**).

26. Registration Window

- 26.1 There shall be 2 (two) Player Registration Windows to be determined by BFF or BFF Professional League Management Committee; first registration window from 01 November to 15 December 2020 is both for domestic and international players and second registration window will commence as per the BFF Calendar.
- 26.2 BFF shall be deemed to have received the registration form for a player when it has been received by BFF in accordance of **Art 24**; either in its original form or by email followed by the original one and has been stamped with the official stamp (giving time and date) of BFF. The decision of BFF on the time of receipt of all registration forms shall be final, proof of submission is not proof of receipt. BFF shall charge BDT 1,000 (one thousand taka only) per registration to cover the administrative cost. The charge for each new ITC of foreign player's shall be BDT 10,000 (ten thousand).
- 26.2.1 Before the expiry of existing contract with the club, the transfer of a local player's registration from one club to another must be in writing on the official transfer form (hereinafter known as the 'Local Transfer Certificate' or 'LTC'). This form is attached as **Appendix 4**. In such cases, BFF shall not re-register a player with a new club unless the registration form is accompanied by a valid LTC. The LTC shall be issued by the player's former club. Such transfer of a local player's registration can only occur during the two registration windows (**Art 26.1**).
- 26.2.2 BDT 25,000 (Twenty-five thousand taka only) shall be paid to the immediate former amateur club as compensation from where a player will seek transfer to join a club of the professional league. However, BDT 50,000 (Fifty thousand taka only) shall be paid by the professional club to the immediate former club as compensation if the transfer is done within 2 (two) years from the date of first registration of the concerned player.

- 26.2.3 Professional club shall complete their Player Transfer according to the Rules and Regulations of the Professional Player Contract (**See Appendix 13**).
- 26.3 For players who have played outside Bangladesh immediately prior to their registration in the registration window periods, BFF must receive an International Transfer Certificate (ITC) before the player can be registered with the BFF and be eligible to play in the Bangladesh Premier League.
- 26.4 A player can only be registered for one club.
- 26.5 If any team gets scratched in the first phase of the league the scratched team shall be eligible to sell players in the second transfer window and similarly the players of the scratched team shall be eligible to seek transfer in the second transfer window for other club of their choice with prior permission.
- 26.6 If any discrepancy arises about the status of any player shall be dealt by the Player Status Committee of BFF and an appeal may be lodged according to the BFF statutes within 5 (five) days of the date of imposition of the original sanction against the decision of the Player Status Committee of BFF.
- 26.7 The maximum number of temporary transfers of registration (loan) allowed to any club in a season shall not exceed 3 (three).
- 26.8 The following measures and penalty will be followed by the Player Status Committee of BFF if any player is found guilty of receiving money from more than 1 (one) club in order to play for them for the upcoming football season(s):
- A time limit of 72 (seventy-two) hours will be given to the concerned player to amicably solve the issue with the concerned clubs failing which the player shall immediately be suspended for 1 (one) year.
 - The player will be eligible to take part in the Competition in case of resolving the matter amicably within the stipulated 72 (seventy-two) hours' time limit.
 - If the player fails to amicably solve the issue, he will have to refund through BFF all the money taken from the concerned club(s) within 1 (one) week, the date of which will be started from the date of suspension of the concerned player.
 - If the player fails to refund the money to the concerned club(s) within the 1 (one) week time limit he will be suspended for another 1 (one) year.
 - If any club is found guilty in any way for the above matter, disciplinary sanction shall be imposed to the concerned club(s) depending on the gravity of the offence.
- 26.9 The Club is entitled to pay the player a 'Signing on Fee' while signing the agreement. 'Signing on Fee' cannot, under any circumstances, exceed 25% (twenty five percent) of the total contracted yearly amount with the player and the rest amount should be paid by the club to the player in equal monthly installments/salary.

27. Match Starting List

- 27.1 Participating Clubs must mark the team captain & goalkeepers on the ‘Player Selection List’. On match days, each club shall provide a team sheet, consisting of ‘Officials on the Bench’ list with the names of 7 (seven) officials (including team boy or masseur) who shall be entitled to sit on the bench and ‘Player Selection List’ with the names of 11 (eleven) players who will start the Match and other 9 (nine) players who are designated as substitutes [inclusive of a maximum of 4 (four) foreign players], to the BFF Match Commissioner at least 90 (ninety) minutes before the kick-off of the Match. The official Bangladesh Premier League team sheet (**See Appendix 5**) must be used for this purpose.
- 27.2 After the ‘Match Starting List’ has been completed and signed by both teams and returned to the BFF Match Commissioner, and if the Match has not yet kicked-off, the following instructions apply:
- 27.2.1 If any of the 11 (eleven) players listed on the Match Starting List selected to start the Match are not able to start the Match for any reason, they may be replaced by any of the substitutes listed on the Match Starting List. During the Match, 5 (five) players may still be replaced;
- 27.2.2 The replaced players shall no longer be eligible to participate in the match.

28. Registration of Officials

Each Member / Official entering the Competition shall submit to BFF Secretariat, via email or courier or fax, the ‘BFF Official Registration Form for Officials’ and the supporting documents in accordance with **Art. 29-30** by the deadline announced by BFF.

29. Documents for Registration of Officials

- 29.1 For the registration of officials for the Competition, officials must be registered using the ‘Bangladesh Premier League 2020-21 – Official Registration Form for Officials’ (**See Appendix 14**).
- 29.2 Documentations for the registration of Officials are, but not limited to, the following (unless already previously submitted to BFF):
- Official Registration form for Officials;
 - Passport-size colored photo 2 Copies (taken within 3 months prior to the submission of the registration);
 - 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);
OR Copy of National ID;
 - Certificate/Qualifications based on his/her function:
 - Head coach and Assistant Coach: Individual’s coaching certificate or coaching license;
 - Doctor: Medical Qualification.
- 29.3 BFF has the right to ask further documentations for the clarification of the eligibility of the officials other than documentations listed in the (**Art. 29.2**).

30 Principles of Registration of Officials

- 30.1 The Participating Clubs can nominate a maximum of 9 (nine) officials for the registration from which a maximum of 7 (seven) officials are allowed to sit in the substitute bench.
- 30.2 Each column in the ‘BFF Official Registration Form for the Officials’ shall be filled up with correct information.
- 30.3 Officials with missing documentations will not be eligible for registration. All eligible Officials will be issued with Accreditation card. Should the card have been misplaced, the clubs shall be required to pay BDT 1,000 (One thousand taka only) as the production fee for every card lost, to replace it.
- 30.4 It is responsibility of the clubs to ensure that all the forms and supporting documents in accordance with **Art. 29** are sent in good time and reach BFF Secretariat in Dhaka before the deadline announced by BFF. Proof of submission is not proof of receipt.
- 30.5 Club may replace or add any of its officials on any grounds until 5 (five) days before the first Match of the Competition provided all necessary documents have been submitted as per **Art. 29**. Further, the Accreditation Card of the replaced official must be returned to the BFF before the Accreditation Card of the new official can be produced. The new official is not considered part of the Team’s Official Delegation until he/she receives his/her Accreditation card.

SECTION 5: MEDIA

Along with the rules mentioned below for media BFF will follow the ‘AFC Match Operations Protocol During COVID-19 Pandemic’ (see appendix 16) to protect all media or broadcast personnel who work at the stadium(s).

31 General Requirements

The Participating Clubs are encouraged to link the BFF website (www.bff.com.bd) to its own website respectively upon entry to the Competition.

32 Media

32.1 Where required, the Home Teams will be responsible for the production of media bibs for photographers, TV and ENG crews under supervision by BFF. The Home Team will be responsible for their distribution before and collection after the match.

32.2 All reasonable security measures must be put in place, at the cost of the Home Teams, to protect the commentary area, camera positions and the equipment of the broadcasters.

33 Media Access Areas

33.1 No representatives of the written press or radio journalists are allowed on the field of play or the area between the boundaries of the field and the spectators.

33.2 Only those photographers who have the approval from BFF Media wing, TV cameramen of the Host Broadcaster and the main visiting broadcaster and the personnel required to operate the electronic television cameras of the Host Broadcaster are allowed in the area between the boundaries of the field of play and the spectators, where they will carry out their work in the specific locations assigned to them.

33.3 The team dressing-rooms are strictly off limits to representatives of the Media before, during and after the Match.

33.4 Bangladesh Football Federation shall ensure the Host Broadcaster and all Broadcast Affiliates have free access to the Stadium from 2 (two) days prior to match day until 1 (one) day after the Match, in order to access the technical issues of each match and to assemble and construct the relevant infrastructure required for the execution of the Broadcast Rights.

33.5 The BFF is responsible for ensuring that Broadcast 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 BFF.

34 Training Session

All Training Sessions must be opened to the Media. Should the Participating Clubs wish to close its Training Session to the Media, it shall open for at least the first 15 (fifteen) minutes of the training.

35 Press Conferences

- 35.1 The Participating Clubs must attend the pre-match press conference, if any, to be conducted under the supervision of BFF Media Officer.
- 35.2 The Head Coach of each Participating Clubs is obliged to attend and participate in the Pre-Match/Tournament Press Conference to be held at least one day before the Match.
- 35.3 Both teams are obliged to ensure attendance of their Head Coach at Post-Match press conference after each match. The losing team will seat for the Post-Match press conference first and in case of draw situation the 'Team-A' will seat for the press conference first.
- 35.4 Interpretation of the coaches and players' language into Bengali during the interview with media and at the press conferences is the responsibility of each participating team.
- 35.5 Non-compliance with clauses **Art 35.1, 35.2 and 35.3** above will result in disciplinary action which may include a fine of a minimum of BDT 10,000 (Ten thousand taka only) and the Head Coach may be subject to a ban from the dressing room and/or the substitutes' bench.

36 Mixed Zone

Players and officials of the Participating Clubs shall enter the Mixed Zone on their way from the team dressing room to the team bus after the Match.

37 Interviews

- 37.1 If requested by BFF, the Participating Clubs should have their Head Coach and 1 (one) player available for the day before each Match and/or on the Match day for an interview of up to 10 (ten) minutes, to be recorded by the main TV rights-holding or by BFF's official website www.bff.com.bd
- 37.2 Players and officials of Participating Clubs are not permitted to give interviews during the Match on the field of play or in its immediate vicinity. However, the BFF Media Officer may designate an area between the substitutes' benches and dressing rooms in which "flash" interviews for the Host Television Broadcaster only, can take place at the end of the Match. Players and officials violating this Article will be subject to disciplinary measures.
- 37.3 If requested by BFF for the 'flash' interviews, the Head Coach and at least 1 (one) key player from both Participating Clubs must be available for at least the Host Broadcaster and the TV rights-holding broadcaster.
- 37.4 All interview locations should be assigned by BFF Media Officer.

38 Audio/Video Recording of Matches

The Home Teams shall guarantee the DVD is of good quality and covering entire duration of the match.

SECTION 6: EQUIPMENT/KIT

39 Equipment Regulations

Each Participating Club is responsible for compliance with the AFC Equipment Regulations (as in www.the-afc.com) and any further applicable laws, regulations, guidelines and decisions issued by the BFF in relation to any Equipment.

- 39.1 The wearing of any Kit on the Field of Play remains subject foremost to the authority of the referee as defined in the Laws of the Game.
- 39.2 Any Kit that does not comply with these Regulations is strictly prohibited.
- 39.3 By no later than the deadlines stipulated by BFF, each Participating Club taking part in 'Bangladesh Premier League 2020-21' must submit a Complete Sample Set of Official and Reserve Jersey to BFF. All samples must display a player number and player name.
- 39.4 Both the Official Kit and Reserve Kit shall be taken to every Match of the relevant Competition.
- 39.5 The colors of the Official Kit must be noticeably different from and contrasting to the colors of the Reserve Kit. Teams may be requested to mix the Official Kit and Reserve Kit for Matches in order to create a visible contrast with the other team and must comply with any such instruction from a Match Official.
- 39.6 The Equipment Regulations are in force from the time the Participating Club's Official Delegation arrive at a Controlled Access Areas until the time the Team's Official Delegation depart from such areas.

40 Numbers and Identifications



- 40.1 A number must appear on the back (centered) of all shirts used as Playing Equipment. The number must be between 25 cm (twenty-five centimeters) and 35 cm (thirty-five centimeters) in height, clearly legible and positioned in the center back of the shirt. The stroke width of the number must be between 3 cm (three centimeters) and 5 cm (five centimeters). The number must be entirely visible when the shirt is tucked into the shorts.
- 40.2 The number must also be displayed on the front of each shirt in any position at chest level. The number must be between 10 cm (ten centimeters) and 15 cm (fifteen centimeters) in height, clearly legible and be the same color as the number on the back of the shirt.
- 40.3 The number must also appear on the front of the shorts positioned on either leg. The number must be between 10 cm (ten centimeters) and 15 cm (fifteen centimeters) in height and clearly legible.
- 40.4 Based on the principle of light and dark contrast of used colors and irrespective of the prevailing conditions, such as weather and light, the color used for any number appearing on Playing Equipment must be clearly legible and distinguishable from a distance for all Participating Players, Match Officials, spectators and media from the colors used for the Playing Equipment. This distinction may be achieved by displaying the numbers on a single colored patch. The number may be surrounded by a border or shadow outline. A 'number zone' must be created on the back of the shirt unless, at the discretion of the BFF, it is decided that the number appearing is clearly legible and distinguishable from a distance by all Participating Players, the Match Officials, spectators and media, from the colors used for the Equipment. A 'number zone' may be created on the front of the shirt.
- 40.5 The numbers may be sewn on or affixed to the kit item by heat transfer. The numbers may not be attached with Velcro or other temporary means.
- 40.6 All types of identification may be printed, embroidered or sewn on as a badge and shall be attached permanently to the Playing Equipment. No types of identification may be attached with Velcro or other temporary means.
- 40.7 All types of identification must not interfere with other elements of the Playing Equipment identifying the Participating Player and must not obstruct the clear distinction of the Participating Players and the opposing team.

41 Player Names

- 41.1 Participating Players must be identified by their surname or popular name on the back of the shirt.
- 41.2 Participating Player names may appear on the back of a shirt used as Playing Equipment for all Matches in the Competitions organized by BFF.
- 41.3 In the event that a Participating Player name appears on the back of a shirt:
 - 41.3.1 the name must be positioned above the number on the back of the shirt;
 - 41.3.2 the letters shall be between 5cm (five centimeters) and 7.5cm (seven

and a half centimeters) in height and must be separated from the number by at least 4 cm (four centimeters). They may be in upper and/or lower case. For better legibility, they may be surrounded by a border or shadow outline. In the case of striped shirts, the name must be either affixed to a neutral colored patch or surrounded by a border or shadow outline;



41.3.3 the letters must be the same color as that of the number on the back of the shirt. They may not contain any Manufacturer Identification, advertising, design features or other elements.

41.3.4 the name must be clearly distinguishable from the color of the shirt. It must contrast (light on dark or vice versa) with the color of the shirt.

42 Sleeve Patches

Each Participating Club shall allow space on the sleeves of the player's uniform available (or such other part of the player uniform as BFF may determine) to affix to the relevant Match identifier in a form, manner and position to be determined by BFF as below:

- Bangladesh Premier League sleeve patch on the right;
- BFF Logo sleeve patch on the left.

43 Sponsor Advertising

- 43.1 In the competition organized by BFF the Participating Clubs may engage in Sponsor Advertising only on the front of the shirt forming part of its Playing Equipment.
 - 43.1.1 This Sponsor Advertising may be displayed no more than once.
 - 43.1.2 No sponsor advertising is allowed on shorts and/or socks.
- 43.2 The total area used must not exceed 200 cm² (two hundred square centimeters).
- 43.3 The advertising surface may be placed on the front of the shirt either:
 - 43.3.1 horizontally, across the chest; or
 - 43.3.2 vertically, on the Right or Left, or in the center of the torso.
- 43.4 The height of the letters must not exceed 10 cm (ten centimeters). Participating Clubs may choose, at their own discretion, the script and color of then lettering. No Manufacturer Identification, Decorative Element, or other elements may be incorporated.
- 43.5 The following categories of Sponsor Advertising are prohibited in all Competitions organized by BFF:
 - 43.5.1 tobacco;
 - 43.5.2 gambling;
 - 43.5.3 Sponsor Advertising containing slogans of a political, religious or racial nature; or
 - 43.5.4 Sponsor Advertising for causes that offend common decency.
- 43.6 Any bans or restrictions deriving from the legislation of Bangladesh or territory in which any Match is taking place shall also apply.

44 Responsibility

- 44.1 Bangladesh Football Federation makes all final decisions regarding the approval of all Equipment.
- 44.2 BFF declines all responsibility and authority in the event of conflicts arising from contracts between a Member Association or Participating Club and their sponsor(s) on account of these Regulations. BFF shall not be liable for any losses, fees, damages, or any costs whatsoever which may arise as a result of, or in connection with, the requirements contained in these Regulations. Member Associations and Participating Clubs agree to indemnify the BFF from any and all damages which may arise from decisions regarding Equipment.

SECTION 7: TICKETING

Before 7 (seven) days prior to the first match of the league Bangladesh Football Federation will decide whether the match will be held without spectator attendance (closed match) or with limited spectator attendance (restricted match) or with full spectator attendance (normal match). Decision will be taken depending on the COVID-19 situation. The ticketing policy may change depending on the decision taken by BFF.

45 Policy

- 45.1 The entire ticketing system regulating ticket design, pricing policy, procedures and implementation shall be approved by BFF.
- 45.2 The Home Team will ensure that printed tickets include, where available, seat numbering and/or serial numbering. All tickets shall incorporate only those Logos and Marks of the Competition and the official Commercial Affiliates and Broadcast Affiliates as requested and/or agreed by BFF as parts of the ticket design.
- 45.3 Each home club shall be responsible for printing and sale of tickets for its home matches. It shall be entitled to retain the ticketing income after the deduction of the expenses due for the organization of the match. Bangladesh Football Federation shall be entitled to receive @ 7% (Seven percent) of the gross ticket sale proceeds as levy whereas the minimum amount of the levy (payable to BFF) is BDT 1,000 (One thousand taka only). Each home club shall provide ticket sales position to BFF within 3 (three) days after each Bangladesh Premier League match.

46 Complimentary Tickets

Each home club shall make available 25 (twenty-five) complimentary tickets in the tribune or VIP areas for visiting clubs, which shall be used for the officials, sponsors and commercial partners of the visiting club. In addition, each home club shall make available 100 (one hundred) complimentary tickets in the tribune or VIP areas for BFF, which shall be used by officials of BFF and the commercial partners of the Bangladesh Premier League. BFF is entitled to include the provision of complimentary tickets in sponsorship and commercial contracts made on behalf of the Bangladesh Premier League.

SECTION 8: MEDICAL AND DOPING CONTROL

Bangladesh Football Federation will follow the regulations of local governments and recommendations / guidelines by FIFA, AFC and WHO as health is of prime importance.

The ‘AFC Match Operations Protocol During COVID-19 Pandemic (Appendix 2: COVID-19 - Return to Football Medical Guidelines)’ (see appendix 16) is recommended by BFF to minimize the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

47 Medical Personnel

The Home Team shall provide, at its own cost, the following medical personnel on match day at the Stadium where the match is organized:

On-Pitch Medical Services:

- 1 (one) on pitch Medical Officer trained in Emergency Medicine.
- 8 (eight) trained stretcher bearers in good physical condition.

48 Anti-Doping

- 48.1 Doping is prohibited. BFF shall inform the Participating Club by means of a circular of the doping control procedure. List of prohibited substances/methods can be downloaded from the AFC or WADA website (www.wada-ama.org).
- 48.2 The BFF shall be responsible for the approval of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) accredited laboratory which will carry out the analysis of samples.
- 48.3 The BFF Disciplinary Code, the AFC Anti-Doping Regulations, as well as all relevant AFC directives will apply to this Competition.

SECTION 9: DISCIPLINARY LAWS AND PROCEDURES

49 Disciplinary measures and appeals

- 49.1 Disciplinary measures and appeals are dealt with in compliance with the current BFF Statutes, BFF Disciplinary Code and the relevant BFF circular(s).
- 49.2 BFF may initiate investigations should it suspect and/or is aware of any violations of the Laws of the Game and contravention of its Statutes, Rules, Regulations, Instructions and decisions by the Clubs, Officials and Players.
- 49.3 BFF may impose the disciplinary measures for any violations of the Laws of the Game and contravention of its Statutes, Rules, Regulations, Instructions and decisions by the Clubs, Officials and Players.
- 49.4 A club must not pay or offer any fee or remuneration to a referee or assistant referee nor shall it provide him with any gifts or incentives. Breach of this rule shall result in the offending club's expulsion from the Bangladesh Premier League and it and its officials, coaches and players shall be liable to further sanctions to be determined by the Professional League Management Committee of BFF. Referees are obliged to bring any such approach to the immediate attention of BFF. Failure of a referee to report any such approach shall lead to his omission from the Bangladesh Premier League panel of referees and to other disciplinary sanctions as appropriate.
- 49.5 Any referee who accepts any payment, inducement or gift from any Bangladesh Premier League Club at any time shall be expelled from the Bangladesh Premier League panel of referees and be liable to further sanctions to be determined by BFF or BFF Professional League Management Committee.
- 49.6 Any club which plays an unregistered (or ineligible) player or players in a match shall be deducted 3 (three) points from its point table for each match in which this occurs and shall be deemed to have forfeited the league fixture by the score line of 3 (three) goals to 0 (zero). However, result will stand for the winning team if the match score is more than 3 (three) goals.
- 49.7 No club, its officials, coaches, players or supporters may approach a referee and attempt to influence him in refereeing a match. If any club, its officials, coaches, players or supporters are guilty of making such an approach, the club shall be punished and it and its officials, coaches, players or supporters shall be liable to further sanctions to be determined by BFF or BFF Professional League Management Committee.

50 Players and Officials cautioned or dismissed from the field of play

- 50.1 All clubs selected to participate in the Bangladesh Premier League shall honor the ethos of football and be committed to participate in a spirit of fair play.
- 50.2 BFF's appointed Match Commissioner shall oversee the spirit of fair play at each Bangladesh Premier League match. The Match Commissioner shall make a report to BFF (**See Appendix 9**).

- 50.3 BFF or BFF Professional League Management Committee shall draw up a ‘Code of Conduct’ (**See Appendix 10**) which must be observed by each club, its officials, coaches and players.
- 50.4 Any matters brought to the attention of the Disciplinary Committee of BFF by referees, match commissioners, referee assessors or BFF Professional League Management Committee, the Disciplinary Committee shall have the authority to impose the sanctions or take other actions it deems appropriate as per the BFF Disciplinary Code.
- 50.5 Any player, club, official or referee or any concerned who is affected by a decision passed by the Disciplinary Committee and has an interest justifying amendment or cancellation of such decision may submit an appeal to the Appeal Committee of BFF enclosing all supporting documents within 7 (seven) days of the date of imposition of the original sanction.
- Anyone wishing to lodge an appeal shall transfer an appeal fee of BDT 25,000 (twenty-five thousand taka only) to BFF’s bank account before expiry of the time limit for submitting the reasons for appeal.
 - If this requirement has not been complied with, the appeal is not admissible.
 - This amount will be reimbursed to the appellant if he wins the case. Costs and expenses are payable by the party who loses the case.
 - If the appeal is considered to be improper, costs and expenses shall be paid in addition to the deposit.
- 50.6 An appeal may be lodged to the Appeal Committee of BFF against any decision passed by the Disciplinary Committee of BFF, unless the sanction pronounced is:
- a warning;
 - a reprimand;
 - a suspension for less than 3 (three) matches or of up to 2 (two) months;
 - a fine of less than BDT 100,000 (One lac taka only) imposed on a club or of less than BDT 50,000 (Fifty thousand taka only) in other cases.
 - decisions passed in compliance with **Article 64** of BFF Disciplinary code.
- BFF Appeal Committee shall take further decision as per the BFF Disciplinary Code.
- 50.7 BFF shall maintain a record of yellow and red cards awarded against each player and official.
- 50.7.1 A player who is sent-off (receiver a red card) during a match (either a straight red card or two yellow cards) shall automatically be suspended for the next match. If the offence for which the red card is issued is of a serious nature, the BFF Disciplinary Committee can increase the period of suspension.
- 50.7.2 A player who accumulates 3 (three) cautions (yellow cards) in Bangladesh Premier League matches shall be suspended for the next match and the same 1 (one) match suspension will be applied after the subsequent 3 (three) cautions (yellow cards) of the player. A player

who accumulates 9 (nine) cautions or 4 (four) direct red cards shall be required to appear before the BFF Disciplinary Committee to explain why his registration for the Bangladesh Premier League should not be cancelled or any other sanction including fines. If a club accumulates 4 (four) or more yellow cards in a single match shall be fined for BDT 10,000 (Ten thousand taka only).

50.7.3 If any club coach, player, or official is indulged in criticizing the BFF official, BFF, BFF Professional League Management Committee, Bangladesh Premier League, a match commissioner, referee, referee's assistant or a fourth official in public through media will tantamount to an offence followed by a sanction with minimum fine of BDT 50,000 (fifty thousand taka only). Even BFF Disciplinary Committee can take other actions it deems appropriate as per the BFF Disciplinary Code.

50.7.4 BFF may impose any sanction it deems appropriate in response to incidents brought to its attention by the Match Commissioner and/or Referee.

51 Indiscipline or Violent Conduct by players and/or officials

- 51.1 Any player 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 BFF Committees in accordance with these Regulations, the BFF Statutes and Disciplinary Code.
- 51.2 All players or club officers are completely forbidden to carry mobile or any electronic communication device or destructive items during the running of the game.
- 51.3 If the above mentioned (**Art 51.2**) is violated, the concerned club officer and player shall be subject to punishment and expel from the stadium. The breach of this regulation will directly result in Stadium Ban for 3 (three) matches of the official or player concerned. Depending on the gravity of the offence the Professional League Management Committee of BFF shall have the authority to impose any further sanctions or take other actions it deems appropriate.

52 Fixed Match

The following measures and penalty will be followed by the BFF Professional League Management Committee for any fixed or got-up match:

- 52.1 A special high-power committee will be formed to identify the fixed match/matches. This committee can take necessary help from the law enforcement/intelligence agency.
- 52.2 BFF will make, as far as possible, the videography of all the matches.
- 52.3 The result and points of the identified fixed match will be forfeited/nullified and additional 6 (six) points will be deducted from the already earned points of the teams concerned. If the concerned club does not have sufficient points in that case these 6 (six) points shall be adjusted, if necessary, from the points

earned by the concerned club in the next match(es) of the current league. Moreover, this clause would be applicable, if required, in the matches of the subsequent league.

- 52.4 Punishment, monetary and match suspension/stadium ban, shall be taken against the club, club official or player who is found to have been liable for any fixed match/matches. In addition, the concerned committee may refer the case to the BFF Disciplinary Committee for other actions it deems appropriate as per the BFF Disciplinary Code.
- 52.5 BFF shall follow the Action Plan of FIFA & AFC to combat Match Manipulation and as well as shall uphold the Recommendations and Regulations of FIFA & AFC concerning Fixed Match.
- 52.6 The decision of the BFF Professional League Management Committee concerning fixed-match is final and binding.

53 Protest

- 53.1 Subject to the following provisions, protests are objections of any kind to occurrences that have a direct effect on Matches organized in the Competition (state and marking of the pitch, accessory, match equipment, eligibility of players, stadium installations, footballs, etc.) and any matters related to the breach of these Regulations.
- 53.2 Unless otherwise stipulated in this article, protests shall first be submitted in writing to the BFF Match Commissioner within 2 (two) 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 BFF Secretariat accompanied by a fee of BDT 20,000 (twenty thousand taka only). The protest shall be addressed to the Chairman of the BFF Professional League Management Committee and the protest be disposed off within 48 (forty-eight) hours. The protest fee shall not be refunded if the protest is rejected. The plaintiff club shall confirm the protest by registered letter, to be sent to the BFF Secretariat no later than 2 (two) days after the Match in question.
- 53.3 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 BFF Match Commissioner by the head of the team delegation no later than 2 (two) hours after the Match.
- 53.4 No protests may be made against the Referee's decisions regarding facts connected with play, such decisions being final.
- 53.5 If an unfounded or irresponsible protest is lodged, the Disciplinary Committee may impose a fine and the protest fee of BDT 20,000 (twenty thousand taka only) will be forfeited.
- 53.6 Once the Competition has ended, any protests described in this article shall be disregarded.

54 Arbitration

- 54.1 Pursuant to BFF Statutes, clubs are forbidden from taking disputes to a civil court but may only submit them to the appropriate body of BFF in accordance with the applicable procedure.
- 54.2 Furthermore, any disputes involving BFF, Members, confederations, leagues, teams, players, officials and licensed agents in connection with the Competition shall be promptly settled by negotiation.
- 54.3 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 BFF Statutes, namely the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) with headquarters in Lausanne. The Code of Sports-related Arbitration of the CAS and all the relevant CAS Regulations shall apply. The language of arbitration is English.

SECTION 10: ADMINISTRATION

55 Awards

Champion and Runners-Up team shall be awarded the Championship and Runners-Up Trophy and Medal respectively. Besides this, Fair Play Trophy will be awarded to the well-disciplined team of the competition. In respect of the Fair Play Trophy, FIFA/AFC policies shall be followed.

The Participating Clubs shall receive the following payment:

- Participation money 10,00,000/= (ten lac) taka only

BFF shall provide monetary prizes to the Champion and Runners-Up teams of the 'Bangladesh Premier League 2020-21' according to the following schedule:

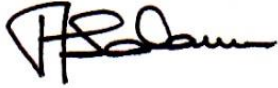
- Champion money 20,00,000/= (twenty lac) taka only
- Runners-Up money 10,00,000/= (ten lac) taka only

56 Special Provisions

- 56.1 Any disputes arising from the application of these Regulations shall be settled by the jurisdiction of BFF and, if subsequently necessary and BFF's decision is not final, by the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne, Switzerland.
- 56.2 The BFF Professional League Management Committee shall issue any instructions necessitated by special circumstances which might arise in the commencement of the Competition. These instructions shall form an integral part of these Regulations.

57 Matters not provided for

Matters not provided for in these Regulations and cases of Force Majeure shall be decided by the Professional League Management Committee, BFF or the Executive Committee of BFF, whose decisions are final.



Abdus Salam Murshedy, MP
Senior Vice-President, BFF &
Chairman

Professional League Management Committee, BFF



Md. Abu Nayeem Shohag
General Secretary, BFF

Bangladesh Premier League

Club Regulations and Guidelines for Bangladesh Premier League Season 2020-21

Introduction

- The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) sets out their own Club Licensing Regulations for the Bangladesh Premier League 2020-21 based on AFC Guidelines, BFF Regulations, and the local environment.
- The clubs must comply with the Club Licensing Regulation established by BFF to be eligible to participate in the Bangladesh Premier League.
- The guidelines set principles in the areas of:
 - Legal Status
 - Structure and administration
 - Finance
 - Access to facilities (playing and training)
 - Sporting development
 - Identity and fan support.

Bangladesh Premier League

Guidelines

Legal Status

1. The Club must be a registered member club of BFF/ Bangladesh Premier League.
2. The Club must be a legal entity complying with the local regulatory requirements. The club can either be a corporate entity, members' clubs, societies or any other legal form permitted in Bangladesh.
3. The Club must have a written constitution or statutes that set out their goals and objectives, organization structures, ownership and administration.
4. The Club must have a designated officer (or officers) who is (are) legally responsible for the club and can sign binding contracts and agreements on behalf of the club.
5. The Club must abide with their constitution or statutes and must comply with all the legal and reporting requirements of legislation relevant to their statutes.

Structure and Administration

6. The Club must have a Board, Management Committee or similar decision-making body, which has the authority to make decisions on behalf of the club and to appoint persons to implement such decisions and to administer the club.
7. The Club must have a Head of Administration (General Manager, General Secretary or Executive Secretary). The Head of Administration can be a full-time, part-time or voluntary position, but must be consistently available and capable of managing the business of the club.
8. The Club must have an office for its administrative operations. The office should be equipped with modern telecommunication facilities (computer, internet, email, fax, etc.). BFF shall ensure all the telecommunication facilities at the club and will deduct, if necessary, the entire cost from the participation money payable to club from BFF.
9. The administration must have the capacity to deal efficiently with all decisions, instructions and requests of BFF and the Bangladesh Premier League.
10. The Club must have capability to organize matches to the standard required by the Bangladesh Premier League. The Club is responsible for the safety and security of referees, visiting teams, officials and fans. The club will appoint a competent official to be responsible for all match arrangements and event management at designated home matches.
11. The club will appoint a competent official to be the media officer for the club.
12. The Club must provide BFF with written evidence that they are structured as above and have the capabilities specified.

Finance

13. The Club must have guaranteed financial resources that ensure it can meet its financial commitments for the duration of the season, with written evidence and guarantees supplied to BFF.

Bangladesh Premier League

14. The Club must provide a budget plan to the BFF that projects its income and expenditure for the season. BFF is entitled to screen the documents and assess whether the club is able to financially sustain its participation in the Bangladesh Premier League.
15. A sponsorship for a minimum of 2 (two) seasons duration for the club is strongly recommended, aimed at securing a stable foundation for the development of the club.
16. The Club should establish and keep proper financial records. The club should set up and maintain an auditing mechanism on its financial performance.
17. The Club must provide BFF with an annual audited report on its financial performance within one month after the season 2020-21.

Access to Facilities

18. The Club must have access to a 'home' stadium for all its designated 'home' matches at the time scheduled by the Bangladesh Premier League.
19. The 'Home' stadium must have adequate:
 - Dressing rooms
 - Referees room
 - Administration rooms
 - Media facilities (for print, radio, TV and electronic), including press conference & interview room
 - Medical room
 - Spectator facilities (including VIP area, hospitality area and covered seating).
20. The club must have access to adequate training facilities as and when required. The training facilities should have the following:
 - A full-sized football pitch of good quality
 - Balls, cones and other necessary training equipments
 - Changing and shower facilities
 - Gymnasium.

Sporting Development

21. *The Club will have a minimum of 22 (twenty-two) and a maximum of 35 (thirty-five) players registered with BFF/Bangladesh Premier League for its professional team.*
22. The Club must establish written contractual relationships with its coaches and its players. Copies of the contract between 'the club and the player' and between 'the club and the coach' must be submitted to BFF.
23. *For season 2020-21, the Head Coach of the club must have a minimum of AFC 'A' Certificate and the Assistant Coach of the club must have a minimum of AFC 'B' Certificate. Foreign coach(es) of any participating club must have required coaching certificate equivalent to AFC License. A replacement of the Head Coach / Assistant Coach within 2 (two) weeks is a must if the Head Coach / Assistant Coach is discharged or not willing to continue his/their responsibilities with the club.*
24. The players must have access to sports medicine services and treatments when playing, training and traveling.

Bangladesh Premier League

25. *All the foreign players must pass the 'Beep Test' and 'Medical Test' adopted by BFF or BFF Professional League Management Committee to be eligible to play in the Bangladesh Premier League.*
26. The Club must participate in the league in the spirit of fair play and must accept all decisions made by the BFF, the Professional League Management Committee and the disciplinary bodies of BFF.
27. The Club's Officials and Players must commit to and formally sign the 'Code of Conduct' for the Bangladesh Premier League.
28. *For season 2020-21, it is mandatory for all the participating clubs to organize "Under-18 Youth Training Program" for at least 1 (one) month during the football season with prior intimation to BFF and as well to participate in the "U-18 Football League" organized by BFF failing which the concerned club(s) shall immediately be punished with a maximum monetary fine of BDT 20 (twenty) lac only.*
29. Ideally, the club should establish strong links with local youth clubs, sports academies, elementary and secondary schools, colleges and universities for both sports and community development purposes.

Identity and Fan Support

30. The club must register its name / identity, logo and colors (two sets) with BFF / Bangladesh Premier League.
31. The club must have a stable identity. The club's identity, colors and logo should remain constant and cannot be changed without the permission of BFF (this does not mean that sponsors' names cannot be reflected as part of the name).
32. The club should submit to BFF / Bangladesh Premier League and implement a year-round program to build up strong community support and a solid fan base.
33. The Clubs must establish fan clubs.

Bangladesh Premier League

Registration of Clubs

Season: 2020-21

1. Name of Club:
2. Club **Office** Address:
 (for official
 correspondence).....
 Telephone No. Fax No. E-mail:

Ownership and Management

3. Club Ownerships/Membership

- (i) Name of Individual/Company/Organization that owns the club

- (ii) If the Club is a members' club, please specify
 (a) who is entitled to membership
 (b) total number of members
 (c) membership criteria
- (iii) Who are authorized to make decisions or sign documents on behalf of the club:
 (i) (ii)

4. Club Officials (8 main officials)

- (i) Club President / Chairman
 Name:
 Passport No. (Optional):
 Home Address:

 Telephone/Mobile No.
- (ii) Club General Secretary/Director In Charge/Secretary General/CEO/General
Manager/Head Of Admin (Full Time)
 Name:
 Passport No. (Optional):
 Home Address:

 Telephone/Mobile No.
- (iii) Club Financial Official
 Name:
 Passport No. (Optional):
 Home Address:

 Telephone/Mobile No.

(iv) Official in-charge of Team Affairs

Name:
Passport No. (Optional):
Home Address:
.....
Telephone/Mobile No.

(v) Official in-charge of Event Management

Name:
Passport No. (Optional):
Home Address:
.....
Telephone/Mobile No.

(vi) **Marketing Officer (Full Time or Part time)**

Name:
Passport No. (Optional):
Home Address:
.....
Telephone/Mobile No.

(vii) Club Media Officer

Name:
Passport No. (Optional):
Home Address:
.....
Telephone/Mobile No.

(viii) **Club Coordinator (Full Time)**

Name:
Passport No. (Optional):
Home Address:
.....
Telephone/Mobile No.

- Full list of names of Members of Board/Management Committee/Executive Committee of the Club (Please attach a copy of the list to this entry form if necessary)

.....
.....
.....

Club Colors and Venues

5. Club Colors:		<u>1st Choice</u>	<u>2nd Choice</u>
	Shirt		
	Shorts		
	Socks		
<u>Goalkeeper</u>	Shirt		
	Shorts		
	Socks		

6. Club Emblem & Logo

Please attach color copies of the club emblem and club logo to this entry form.

7. Club Home Venue:
(Please attach supporting documents)

8. Club Training Venue:
(Please attach supporting documents)

9. Description of Club's Youth Team: (U-18):

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

10. Club Coaches: (Mandatory)

(i) Head Coach Name:
License: (Minimum AFC 'A' Coaching Certificate)

(ii) Assistant Coach Name:
License: (Minimum AFC 'B' Coaching Certificate)

(iii) Goalkeeper Coach Name:
License:(Minimum AFC 'Level 1' Coaching Certificate)

Finance

11. Club Budget

Please attach the approved budget (income and expenditure) for the club's participation in the league.

Sponsor(s)

12. Club Sponsor(s)

(i) Principle Sponsor(s) of Club

(ii) Secondary Sponsor(s) A.

B.

C.

D.

13. Information of Club Legal Entity:

[illegible]

Declaration:

We do hereby declare and certify that the above information is true and correct. We shall abide with the Statutes of Bangladesh Football Federation, the Regulations of the Bangladesh Premier League and the Laws of the Games and/or with any decision of the Bangladesh Football Federation that affect us as a Club. We as well declare that we will not take any dispute to Ordinary Courts as per the Article 68 of BFF Statutes.

We request the BFF Professional League Management Committee of BFF to register(Club) for the season 2020-21.

Signature:
Name:
Club Position:President/Chairman.....
Date:

Signature:
Name:
Club Position:
Date:

BANGLADESH PREMIER LEAGUE



Received by Bangladesh Football Federation

Approved by the BFF Professional League Management Committee of BFF.

1) Chairman of BFF Professional League Management Committee Date:

Signature:

Name:

Date:

2) General Secretary of Bangladesh Football Federation

Signature:

Name:

Date:

BANGLADESH PREMIER LEAGUE

Bangladesh Football Federation

Player Registration

Season 2020-21



4 Copies of
Color Passport
Size Photo
Attested by Club
Secretary /
General Secretary

Club _____
Name of Player _____
Date of Birth _____ (DD/MM/YYYY)
Father's Name _____
Mother's Name _____
Citizenship _____
Country of Birth _____
Passport No. _____
Religion/Race _____
Blood Group _____
Marital Status ☐ Single ☐ Married
Local Residential Address _____
_____ Postcode _____
Home Tel. _____ Mobile _____
Jersey Name _____ Position ☐ GK ☐ DF ☐ MF ☐ FW Height _____ m
Jersey No. _____ Weight _____ Kg
Player Registration No. (if previously registered) _____

Duration of Contract _____ to _____
Last Club Represented _____
Year _____

Declaration:

I hereby declare and certify that the above information is true and correct. Please register me as a Player with Bangladesh Premier League for
(Club) for the 2020-21 Playing Season. I shall abide by my agreement with the Club, its constitution and rules. I shall also abide with the byelaws of the Bangladesh Premier League 2020-21 and the Laws of the Games and/or with any decision of the Bangladesh Football Federation that affect me as a Player.

Signature of Player

Signature of Witness

I request the Bangladesh Premier League Department to register Mr.
(Player) for the (Club) for season 2020-21.

Club Director-In-Charge / General Secretary/ Authorized Signatory

Signature : _____
Name : _____
Date : _____

BANGLADESH PREMIER LEAGUE

The registration of Mr. for the
..... (Club) for season 2020-21 is:

Manager, Professional League & Clubs Admin. Department

☐ Accepted
☐ Not Accepted

Signature : _____
Name : _____
Date : _____

Player Registration No.: _____

BANGLADESH PREMIER LEAGUE 2020-21

LOCAL TRANSFER CERTIFICATE

Issued By

In Favor of

We certify that in accordance with the rules, regulations and bye-laws of the BFF and/or the Bangladesh Premier League governing the status and transfer of players,

(Name of Player)

formerly a member of

(Name of Club)

having duly fulfilled his obligations towards his former Club, is free to pursue activities relating to association football and register with the new Club affiliated to the Bangladesh Football Federation and we as well have received the transfer money in full from theclub.

As From

Date _____

Signature of General Secretary

Issuing Club's Stamp

Name (in BLOCK letters)

Appendix 5

Bangladesh Premier League

Team Sheet

MATCH NO:

Team A:
Jersey Color:
Played at:
Date:

Team B:
Jersey Color:
Stadium:
Time:

Jsy.	Name	P	S	N
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
10.				
11.				
12.				
13.				
14.				
15.				
16.				
17.				
18.				
19.				
20.				

Coach:

(Signature)

Jsy.	Name	P	S	N
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
10.				
11.				
12.				
13.				
14.				
15.				
16.				
17.				
18.				
19.				
20.				

Coach:

(Signature)

Official in Charge

Referee	:	
Assistant Referee 1	:	
Assistant Referee 2	:	
Fourth Official	:	
Match Commissioner	:	

Use P/S/N to indicate the categories of each player

P: Player	S: Substitute	N = Not Eligible, Suspended, Injured or Not Selected
-----------	---------------	--

Match Commissioner Signature: _____

Bangladesh Premier League

DUTIES OF THE MATCH COMMISSIONER

The Bangladesh Premier League designates a Match Commissioner to every match. He is the Bangladesh Premier League representative at the match. He has the authority to act on behalf of Bangladesh Premier League Department. His report is official and any incidents or events included in his report will be dealt with by Bangladesh Premier League and BFF.

Bangladesh Premier League will appoint a panel of Match Commissioners.

Match Commissioner's Responsibilities

1. The Match Commissioner will contact both clubs in advance of the Match to ascertain where the arrangements being put in place by the home club (organizer) are satisfactory.
2. If the Match Commissioner or Bangladesh Premier League deems it necessary, the Match Commissioner will call a pre-match organizing meeting at least one day before the match to ensure that all necessary arrangements are being made to a high standard. The designated Event Managers / Controllers for both clubs are obliged to attend all such meetings.
3. The Agenda for such an pre-match organizing committee will include
 - Club officials in-charge
 - Teams colors
 - Referees & Fair-play
 - Match countdown
 - Securities
 - Expected attendance
 - Security arrangements
 - Media arrangements
 - Commercial arrangements
 - Medical arrangements
4. On the day of the match, he shall arrive at the stadium at least 120 minutes before the start of the match. He will meet with the Event Manager to ensure that arrangements for the match are to a high standard.
5. 90 minutes before kick-off, he shall visit each team in their dressing-rooms with the official in charge of Event Management to ascertain the player's eligibility to play by checking the player's Letter of Authorization against the team list submitted by the respective teams and explain to the head of the team delegation and/or captain that:
 - foul play will not be tolerated

Bangladesh Premier League

- the referee and the BFF Disciplinary Committee will penalize foul play and unsporting conduct severely
 - fair play must prevail
 - the people sitting on the substitutes' bench must behave respectfully towards the referee and opponents.
6. The team colors already prescribed to the participants is binding upon each team. If the referee reports any discrepancy in these colors, the commissioner shall decide which team must adapt its colors. This definitive decision shall be announced to a representative from each team delegation.
7. He shall visit the referees in the dressing rooms and inform them of incidents reported inside and outside the stadium. Under no circumstances may he prompt them on the game itself.
8. During the match, the commissioner shall be seated in the VIP box, which affords the best overall view of the stadium. He is thus in a position to assess any trouble occurring on the pitch and/or on the terraces, with freedom of movement and no interruptions. He is advised to memorize the route from his seat to the dressing rooms and the pitch in anticipation of prompt action in the case of an emergency. The referee inspector should sit near the commissioner to enable better communication.
9. Doping controls will be carried out after every match: A player receiving a red card during the second half of the match shall be kept in custody by a representative of his/her team or by the BFF Doping Control Coordinator until the names of the players who have to undergo a doping test will be known.

The draw to select the players to undergo doping tests will take place during the second half of the match at the Doping Control Room/Station. It will be carried out by the BFF Doping Control Coordinator.

Shortly before the end of the match, the names of the players will be disclosed to the Doping Control Escorts who at the end of the match (90 minutes), will inform the team doctor at the team bench of the names of the players who are required to report for a doping test after the match. The announcement of the players who have to undergo doping control will be made by relevant BFF form.

Doping Control (after the match) – only the following persons have access to the Doping Control Station.

- the player and his/her accompanying person
- a representative of the BFF Medical Committee
- the Doping Control Officer(s)

Bangladesh Premier League

- a representative of the BFF
- a language specialist (if available and requested)

The samples will be transported to the Laboratory at the completion of the doping control session.

10. If necessary, after the match, match commissioner shall go to the dressing rooms of each team and the referees, to ascertain whether any formal protests have been lodged.
11. The match commissioner shall use the official form given to him before the match to make his report. After the match, he shall fill it in and personally hand it back to the Bangladesh League Department of BFF in the special envelope provided for the purpose or submit his report in the required format to BFF through e-mail system, by fax or mail by 12 noon the day after the match, notwithstanding that it may be a Friday, Saturday or a public holiday.

Appendix 8

Bangladesh Premier League 2020-21

Bangladesh Football Federation

REFEREE ASSESSOR'S REPORT



1	REFEREE ASSESSOR'S NAME:		
	TEAM A	TEAM B	
	PLAYED IN	(CITY - VILLE)	Bangladesh Dhaka
		/	/
	FINAL SCORE	IN FAVOUR OF	
	HALF-TIME SCORE	IN FAVOUR OF Draw	
	REFEREE	NATIONALITY	
	ASSISTANT REFEREE1:	NATIONALITY	
	ASSISTANT REFEREE 2:	NATIONALITY	
	FOURTH OFFICIAL	NATIONALITY	
2	CORRECTNESS AND CONSISTENCY IN DECISION-TAKING		TOTAL 40 POINTS
	CORRECT AND CONSISTENT INTERPRETATION AND APPLICATION OF THE LAWS AND SPIRIT OF THE LAWS.	30	
	APPLICATION OF THE ADVANTAGE LAW.	10	
	Advantages were applied properly		

3	CONTROL OF THE GAME	TOTAL 30 POINTS	
	CAUTIONS AND EXPULSIONS WHEN NECESSARY.	20	
	MANNER, ASSERTIVENESS, IMPARTIALITY, CLEAR SIGNALS AND DECISIONS.	10	
4	PHYSICAL FITNESS, MOVEMENT AND POSITIONING	TOTAL 20 POINTS	
	STAMINA, SPEED, ACCELERATION WHENEVER NECESSARY.	10	
	POSITIONING	10	
5	COOPERATION WITH THE ASSISTANT REFEREES	TOTAL 10 POINTS	
	EFFECTIVE TEAMWORK WITH ASSISTANT REFEREES.	5	
	QUICK OR SLOW REACTION TO ASSISTANT REFEREE'S	5	
6	TOTAL NUMBER OF POINTS DIVIDED BY 10		

DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY OF THE GAME										EASY										DIFFICULT										VERY DIFFICULT				
SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT																																		
7	EVALUATION OF THE ASSISTANT REFEREES																																	
AS	1	2	2	3	3	4	4	5	5	6	6	7	7	8	8	9	9	10	10	SIS														
COMMENTS:																																		
AS	1	2	2	3	3	4	4	5	5	6	6	7	7	8	8	9	9	10	10	SIS														
COMMENTS:																																		
8	COMMENTS ON FOURTH OFFICIAL																																	
9	DATE														SIGNATURE OF THE REFEREE ASSESSOR																			
THIS REPORT MUST BE FAXED TO THE FIFA SECRETARIAT WITHIN 24 HOURS OF THE MATCH.																																		

Appendix 10

Bangladesh Premier League

BANGLADESH PREMIER LEAGUE PLAYER / COACH / ASST. COACH

CODE OF CONDUCT

The Player / Coach / Asst. Coach is required to abide by the following Code of Conduct of the Bangladesh Football Federation and Bangladesh Premier League.

1. By virtue of being a registered Player / Coach / Asst. Coach with Bangladesh Premier League or the appointed coach of a participating club, the Player / Coach / Asst. Coach is an ambassador of Bangladesh Premier League. He shall thus avoid putting himself in a situation that could disparage the image of the BFF, Bangladesh Premier League or any of the Bangladesh Premier League affiliated clubs.
2. The Player / Coach / Asst. Coach is expected to conduct himself in a proper manner, both on and off the field. He will refrain from any behavior, gesture or language that is threatening, abusive, obscene or provocative.
3. The Player / Coach / Asst. Coach shall at all times obey the instructions of the referee and his assistants and be respectful to them. In particular, he shall refrain from criticizing any decision of the referee.
4. The Player / Coach / Asst. Coach will refrain from discussing in a derogatory manner the Bangladesh Premier League and/or any other tournaments or matches of BFF, the BFF, its affiliated Clubs or anyone associated therein, and/or the footballing fraternity in Bangladesh (including sponsors, fans and the media).
5. The Player / Coach / Asst. Coach is obliged to preserve a confidential relationship with BFF / Bangladesh Premier League and the club for which he plays. He is to observe secrecy in respect of confidential information which he might acquire as a result of his status as a registered player or appointed coach.
6. No payment or offer of (or attempt to offer) any payment of any kind or form or of whatever nature shall be received by or be made to the Player / Coach / Asst. Coach with the intention to influence the result of any match organized or sanctioned by Bangladesh Premier League. Any such payment or offer shall be reported immediately to his club and to Bangladesh Premier League / BFF.
7. The Player / Coach / Asst. Coach and his immediate family members shall not be permitted to participate in any way in soccer-betting. He shall also not offer or attempt to offer, receive or attempt to receive any form of dividends (of whatever nature) arising from any form of soccer-betting on matches organized or sanctioned by BFF / Bangladesh Premier League.
8. The player is obliged to submit himself to a doping control test when directed by BFF / Bangladesh Premier League at their absolute discretion.
9. The player is not to receive any extra remuneration or excessive allowances on top of his basic wage and bonuses from his Club above the amount specified in his contract.
10. So long as the player remains registered with Bangladesh Premier League / BFF, he is to refrain from substance (drug) abuse at all times, whether on or off the field.

DECLARATION

As a registered player/appointed coach for a Bangladesh Premier League club, I understand my responsibilities towards the BFF, Bangladesh Premier League and my club. I accept the terms of the above 'Code of Conduct' for players/coaches, the breach of which may result in disciplinary action taken against me, jeopardizing my status as a registered player/appointed coach.

Witness's Signature

Player/Coach's Signature

Witness's Name & Designation

Player/Coach's Name

Date

Player/Coach's Passport No.

Appendix 10

Bangladesh Premier League

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Witness's Signature

Player/Coach's Signature

Witness's Name & Designation

Player/Coach's Name

Date

Player/Coach's Passport No.

CLUB COPY

Appendix 10

Bangladesh Premier League

BANGLADESH PREMIER LEAGUE PLAYER / COACH / ASST. COACH

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8. The player is obliged to submit himself to a doping control test when directed by BFF / Bangladesh Premier League at their absolute discretion.
9. The player is not to receive any extra remuneration or excessive allowances on top of his basic wage and bonuses from his Club above the amount specified in his contract.
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Witness's Signature

Witness's Name & Designation

Date

Player/Coach's Signature

Player/Coach's Name

Player/Coach's Passport No.

PLAYER / COACH'S COPY

Appendix 11**Annex 1, art. 1 of the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players****Annexe 1, article 1**

1. Clubs are obliged to release their registered players to the representative teams of the country for which the player is eligible to play on the basis of his nationality if they are called up by the association concerned. Any agreement between a player and a club to the contrary is prohibited.
2. The release of players under the terms of paragraph 1 of this article is mandatory for all international windows listed in the international match calendar (cf. paragraphs 3 and 4 below) as well as for the final competitions of the FIFA World Cup™, the FIFA Confederations Cup and the championships for “A” representative teams of the confederations, subject to the relevant association being a member of the organizing confederation.
3. After consultation with the relevant stakeholders, FIFA publishes the international match calendar for the period of four or eight years. It will include all international windows for the relevant period (cf. paragraph 4 below). Following the publication of the international match calendar only the final competitions of the FIFA World Cup™, the FIFA Confederations Cup and the championships for “A” representative teams of the confederations will be added.
4. An international window is defined as a period of nine days starting on a Monday morning and ending on Tuesday night the following week (subject to the temporary exceptions below), which is reserved for representative teams’ activities. During any international window a maximum of two matches may be played by each representative team (subject to the temporary exceptions below), irrespective of whether these matches are qualifying matches for an international tournament or friendlies. The pertinent matches can be scheduled any day as from Wednesday during the international window, provided that a minimum of two full calendar days are left between two matches (e.g. Thursday/ Sunday or Saturday/Tuesday).
 - i. During the international windows scheduled for October 2020 and November 2020, for associations affiliated to UEFA:
 - a) the international windows are extended by one day; and
 - b) a maximum of three matches may be played by each representative team.
 - ii. During the international window scheduled for June 2021, for associations affiliated to the AFC, CAF, Concacaf and the OFC:
 - a) the international window is extended by seven days; and
 - b) a maximum of four matches may be played by each representative team.

5. Representative teams shall play the two matches (subject to the temporary exceptions set out in paragraph 4 of this article) within an international window on the territory of the same confederation, with the only exception of inter-continental play-off matches. If at least one of the two matches is a friendly, they can be played in two different confederations only if the distance between the venues does not exceed a total of five flight hours, according to the official schedule of the airline, and two time-zones.
6. It is not compulsory to release players outside an international window or outside the final competitions (as per paragraph 2 above) included in the international match calendar. It is not compulsory to release the same player for more than one “A” representative team final competition per year. Exceptions to this rule can be established by the FIFA Council for the FIFA Confederations Cup only.
7. For international windows, players must be released and start the travel to join their representative team no later than Monday morning and must start the travel back to their club no later than the next Wednesday morning following the end of the international window, subject to the temporary exception below. For a final competition in the sense of paragraphs 2 and 3 above, players must be released and start the travel to their representative team no later than Monday morning the week preceding the week when the relevant final competition starts and must be released by the association in the morning of the day after the last match of their team in the tournament.
 - i. During the international windows scheduled for October 2020, November 2020 and June 2021, players must start the travel back to their club no later than the morning following the end of the international window.
8. The clubs and associations concerned may agree a longer period of release or different arrangements with regard to paragraph 7 above.
9. Players complying with a call-up from their association under the terms of this article shall resume duty with their clubs no later than 24 hours after the end of the period for which they had to be released. This period shall be extended to 48 hours if the representative teams’ activities concerned took place in a different confederation to the one in which the player’s club is registered. Clubs shall be informed in writing of a player’s outbound and return schedule ten days before the start of the release period. Associations shall ensure that players are able to return to their clubs on time after the match.
10. If a player does not resume duty with his club by the deadline stipulated in this article, at explicit request, the FIFA Players’ Status Committee shall decide that the next time the player is called up by his association the period of release shall be shortened as follows:
 - a) international window: by two days
 - b) final competition of an international tournament: by five days
11. Should an association repeatedly breach these provisions, the FIFA Players’ Status Committee may decide:
 - a) to further reduce the period of release;

b) to ban the association from calling up a player(s) for subsequent representative teams' activities.

Annex 1, art. 3 par. 2 of the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players

Annexe 1, article 3, par. 2

2. Associations wishing to call up a player must notify the player in writing at least 15 days before the first day of the international window (cf. Annex 1, article 1 paragraph 4) in which the representative teams' activities for which he is required will take place. Associations wishing to call up a player for the final competition of an international tournament must notify the player in writing at least 15 days before the beginning of the relevant release period. The player's club shall also be informed in writing at the same time. Equally, associations are advised to copy the association of the clubs concerned into the summons. The club must confirm the release of the player within the following six days.

Bangladesh Premier League 2020-21

PARTICIPATING TEAM AGREEMENT FOR CLUBS

THE UNDERSIGNED:

(INSERT HERE NAME OF CLUB (IN BLOCK LETTERS))

AND

(NAME OF GENERAL SECRETARY/SECRETARY/DIRECTOR IN-CHARGE/MEMBER IN-CHARGE OF
ADMINISTRATION/DIRECTOR OR THE NAME OF PRESIDENT/CHAIRMAN OF CLUB IN BLOCK LETTERS)

HEREWITH CONFIRM AND ACKNOWLEDGE BY EXECUTING THIS Participating Team Agreement and participating in the competition that BFF owns the commercial and intellectual property rights and competition marks relating to the Competition noted above in and that the Club, by submitting to the BFF Secretariat the completed Official Entry Form, and by competing under BFF's Rules and Regulations for the Competition it assigns to BFF all commercial rights to the extent that any local or national laws or regulations may result in any commercial rights in relation to the Competition or any Competition match being owned or controlled by any Club (whether by virtue of the hosting or organisation of any Competition match or otherwise).

Further, the Club agree to ensure that each Club before entering the Competition has executed and in its possession a written agreement signed by all players and/or officials affirmatively consenting to: (i) The making of recordings (visual, audio, or audio/visual and in or an any medium) of his performances and and/or appearances during the Competition; (ii) The player and/or official further consenting to the exploitation of such recordings by BFF and its Official Licensees throughout the world without limit of time by any and all means and in all media but excluding any such exploitation in a manner which may reasonable be considered to constitute a personal endorsement by the Players and/or Official of any product or service; and (iii) The player and/or official grants to BFF the irrevocable right during and following the conclusion of the Competition to use his Player/Official Attributes and/or sub-license such use to the Official Licensees – such use to be in connection with the promotion of the Competition and the exploitation of the Commercial Rights. The player's Player Attributes and/or Official's Official Attributes shall not (without his/her prior written consent) be used in any manner which may reasonable be considered to constitute a personal endorsement by any such Player and/or Official of any product or service.

And, the Club noted above further confirms that by executing this Participating Team Agreement and participating in this Competition that it is fully aware of and shall comply with all Competitions Regulations, its annexes, amendments, guidelines, Circulars and any other relevant Regulations of AFC/FIFA.

(PLACE)

(DATE)

SIGNATURES:

(GENERAL SECRETARY/SECRETARY/DIRECTOR IN-CHARGE/MEMBER IN-CHARGE OF ADMINISTRATION/DIRECTOR OF CLUB)

(STAMP OF THE CLUB)

(PRESIDENT/CHAIRMAN OF CLUB)

Please return this form to BFF via Email by:

EMAIL:

info@bff.com.bd

PLAYER CONTRACT
(Professional)

An Agreement made on the _____ day of _____ (month)
_____ (year) between

(Name)_____

(Designation/position)_____

(Address)_____

acting pursuant to the Authority of and on behalf of the
_____ Football Club

(hereinafter referred to as the "Club") of the one part

and

(Name)_____

(holding Passport No.) _____ of

(Country)_____

(Address)_____

a Football Player (hereinafter "the Player") of the other part,

and inclusive (if any) of

(Name)_____

(Holding Passport No.) _____ of

(Country) _____

(address)_____

Intermediary (hereinafter "Intermediary").

Signature of Club Director-In-Charge

Club Stamp

Signature of the Player

WHEREBY it is agreed as follows:

- 1) This Contract shall commence on the _____ day of _____ (month) _____ (year) and shall remain in force until the _____ day of _____ (month) _____ (year)
(The minimum period of contract must be from the date of commencement to the end of the football season and the maximum period can be five years from the date of commencement. For a player less than eighteen years of age at the commencement of the contract the maximum duration can be three years).
- 2) This Contract shall be subject to the laws of Bangladesh.
- 3) The official language of this contract shall be English. Where a Bengali language version of this contract is provided, the terms of the official English version shall take precedence.
- 4) The contract may only be terminated on expiry of the term of the contract or during the term of the contract by mutual agreement of both parties. The contract may not be unilaterally terminated during the course of a season. However, the contract can be terminated by either party on the basis of Just Cause in cases of breach of the terms of this contract or on the basis of Sporting Just Cause as specified in FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players (Art. 13-16). If the contract is terminated without Just Cause the consequences stipulated in the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players (Art. 17) shall apply.
- 5) Where applicable, if the International Transfer Certificate (hereinafter referred to as 'the ITC') is not received by the Bangladesh Football Federation (hereinafter 'BFF'), the date of actual receipt of the ITC in FIFA TMS (Transfer Matching System) will constitute the date of commencement of this Contract unless mutually agreed in writing by the parties hereto. The regulations governing application for an ITC and the subsequent registration of the player with the Bangladesh Premier League and BFF shall be those set out in Annex 3 of the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players. The timing of receipt of the ITC in FIFA TMS will not affect the date of termination of the contract.
- 6) The Player agrees to play football solely for the Club or as authorized / permitted by the Club. The Player agrees that he

Signature of Club Director-In-Charge

Club Stamp

Signature of the Player

shall not, without the written consent of the Club, play football or participate in any other sporting activities for any other person, club, firm or corporation. Knowledge by the club of such activities of the Player shall not be deemed as consent by the Club. Such activities if engaged in by the Player shall be absolutely at his own risk, and any injury or sickness suffered thereby shall not be deemed to be in the performance of his services under this contract. The Club shall not be obliged to pay the player the remuneration under this contract during periods of such injury. Such injury or sickness shall be reported to the Club within forty-eight (48) hours of its occurrence. Such activities or injury/sickness arising therefore, may, at the sole discretion of the club, be deemed to constitute a unilateral breach of this contract.

- 7) The Player shall attend promptly all training sessions and matches and any other events in accordance with instructions given by any duly authorized official of the Club.
- 8) The Player warrants that he will strive to achieve excellent physical condition and that, as a professional footballer, he will perform at all times to the best of his ability.
- 9) The Player shall undergo promptly at the Club's expense a complete physical/medical examination as and when required by the Club.
- 10) The Player may be required to travel out of Bangladesh to fulfill his obligations under this contract, provided always that such travel and accommodation and all other direct expenses outside Bangladesh, shall be at the expense of the Club.
- 11) The Player agrees to comply with the laws of the game as laid down by FIFA, the rules of the Club, the rules and regulations of the Bangladesh Premier League and the rules and regulations of BFF and to abide by the Code of Conduct for Professional Players as set out by BFF / Bangladesh Premier League and which forms part of the registration agreement with Bangladesh Premier League and BFF. If the Player fails to comply with this provision, the Club shall have the right to take such action as it determines appropriate including the imposition of monetary fines of up to 50% of the players monthly remuneration and in cases of serious breach of such rules and regulations the right to terminate this Contract, as the Player is deemed to be in unilateral breach without Just Cause and the club may take

such other action as may be specified in the existing Rules of the Club or Rules of Bangladesh Premier League or BFF.

- 12) The club shall have the right to take disciplinary action against the player for breaches of club rules and code of discipline.
- 13) If the player is suspended for a period of 6 (six) months or more by Bangladesh Premier League, BFF, the Asian Football Confederation (hereinafter referred to as 'AFC') or FIFA for a breach of rules or as a disciplinary measure for unacceptable conduct, the player will be deemed to have breached this contract and it may be terminated by the club at its sole discretion.
- 14) If the player retires from football or is forced to cease playing due to injury, the player is deemed to be unable to provide his services under the terms of this contract and hence the club is not obliged to pay the player the remuneration specified in this contract. In such circumstances, the club will be entitled to maintain the player's registration with Bangladesh Premier League and BFF as a professional footballer during the terms of this contract and will be entitled to seek transfer fees and compensation if the player seeks to be registered with another club either in Bangladesh or elsewhere.
- 15) The player may make public statements on technical aspects of the games subject to the permission of the team manager and coach, but may not discuss or make any press and/or public statement or comment on the Club's policies and decisions and/or on any disagreement and/or dispute between the Club and the player.
- 16) The player shall keep confidential all information that comes into his possession about the club and its teams, their strategies and tactics, training regime, his fellow players and any other confidential information about the club, its decisions, policies and finances as may come to his attention.
- 17) The Club agrees to provide the player with the sporting apparel and equipment required for his training and participation in matches.
- 18) The Club is obliged to release the player for the player's country's representative team matches. The release of the player for representative team matches shall be governed by the regulations specified in Annex 1 of the FIFA Regulations on the

Status and Transfer of players.

- 19) In the event that the Player is injured or incapacitated or inflicted with sickness in the performance of his services under this Contract, the Player shall inform the Club of the same within 1 (one) day of its occurrence. The Club shall then provide to the player, at its expense, such medical or hospital care as is advised by the medical advisors of the Club. The Club shall keep a record of any such incapacity, be it sickness or injury or any other form of absence from training or matches. The club shall pay the player his basic remuneration under this contract during periods of injury only when such injury has arisen in the performance of his services under this contract.
- 20) The Player shall not be entitled to receive any gifts, payments, bonuses and/or any considerations and/or any offers as an inducement to influence the score of a match. The player has an absolute obligation to immediately inform in writing both the Club and Bangladesh Premier League/BFF of any of such gifts, payments, bonuses, considerations or offers, in whatever form. If the player is found to be in breach of this provision, the Club shall have the right to unilaterally and immediately terminate this contract without any notices and compensations and together with Bangladesh Premier League, BFF, AFC, and FIFA impose any other such penalties and sanctions as the situation shall warrant.
- 21) The Player shall be paid such remuneration on a monthly basis as is set out in **Schedule I** to this Agreement. Schedule I shall include all allowances to which the Player is or may be entitled. It may be amended or revised during the course of this contract by the mutual agreement of both parties. Any such agreement shall be in writing, signed by both parties with witnesses and attached as a codicil to this contract. Any such amendments and/or supplements to the terms of this Contract must be officially communicated by both Parties to Bangladesh Premier League and BFF. If the club is in breach of this provision to pay the player on a monthly basis for 2 (two) consecutive calendar months, the club is deemed to be in unilateral breach of this contract.
- 22) During the course of this contract, if there are any related arising issues which are not stipulated in this contract, both parties may amend or supplement the terms of this contract by mutual agreement. Any such agreement shall be in writing, signed by both parties with witnesses and attached as a codicil to

this contract. Any such amendments, codicils and/or supplements to the terms of this contract will be immediately communicated by the Club to the Bangladesh Premier League and BFF.

- 23) The Club and player may at any time during the duration of this contract mutually agree to extend the term of this contract. This agreement will be reflected in a new contract between the two parties and when agreed and signed, this contract will be terminated. Any such new/replacement contract will be immediately communicated by the Club to the Bangladesh Premier League and BFF.
- 24) The Player agrees that he shall abide by and comply with all reasonable requests of the Club in relation to publicity, promotions, advertisement, sponsorship contracts and such other programs or activities as the Club shall consider necessary in the interests of the Club.
- 25) The Player shall be permitted to enter into arrangements for promotional and advertisement activities with any companies, and/or any individuals and/or any organizations and to receive remuneration for such activities, only after having consulted with and obtained the written approval of the Club. The Player will not be allowed to promote or advertise the products, services and/or trademarks of competitors (direct or indirect) of the sponsors or commercial partners of the Club.
- 26) During his time representing the Club in competitions, tournaments, training and official functions (award ceremony, press conference, television interview and other events as designated by the Club), the Player must wear a club uniform as provided by the Club and may not wear or display (in any way) the branding of any companies whose products, services and trademarks are competitors of the sponsors or commercial partners of the Club.
- 27) During and after the performance of this contract, neither Party has the rights to disclose to any third Party information related to the Articles of this contract except as required by their legal obligation, legal proceedings or arbitration hearings or as agreed in writing by both parties.
- 28) The Player shall not induce or attempt to induce any other player in the Club to leave the Club for any reason whatsoever.

If the player breaches this provision, the club will have the right to unilaterally terminate this contract.

- 29) If the Player is convicted of any offense or crime by a court of law, the Club may, on giving 7 (seven) days' written notice to the Player, unilaterally terminate this contract.
- 30) In the case of any dispute between the parties to this contract, disciplinary action by the club against the Player or termination of this contract by the Club, the Player has the right to appeal his case to the Player Status Committee of BFF. The appeal will be subject to the statutes and procedures of BFF, FIFA and the Court of Arbitration for Sport (hereinafter referred to as 'CAS').
- 31) Upon execution of this Contract, the Club shall effect the Registration of the Player with Bangladesh Premier League and BFF in accordance with their respective Rules. A copy of this contract will accompany such registration.
- 32) Such Registration may be transferred by mutual consent in writing of the Club and the Player and this contract will be deemed to be terminated on such transfer. Such transfer of registration may only occur during the registration periods permitted by Bangladesh Premier League and BFF. Such transfer must be notified forthwith in writing by the Club to Bangladesh Premier League and BFF and will be subject to the Rules of Bangladesh Premier League and BFF. The Club reserves the right to seek a compensation payment from any prospective Club seeking the Player's transfer and registration at any point during the period of this contract as specified in Annex 4 of FIFA Regulations for the Status and Transfer of Player.
- 33) A club intending to conclude a contract with the player must inform the player's current club in writing before entering into negotiations with him. The player shall only be free to conclude a contract with another club when this contract has expired or will expire within 3 (Three) months. Any breach of this provision shall be subject to appropriate sanctions.
- 34) The Club and the Player by mutual agreement may arrange a temporary transfer of registration (loan) to another club during the currency of this contract. Such temporary transfer of registration (loan) may only occur during the registration periods permitted by Bangladesh Premier League and BFF. Such temporary transfer (loan) must be notified forthwith in writing

by the Club to Bangladesh Premier League and BFF and will be subject to the rules and regulations of Bangladesh Premier League, BFF, AFC and FIFA. Only one such temporary transfer of registration is permitted per season.

- 35) The Player shall be entitled to a maximum of 30 (thirty) calendar days paid leave per year, such leave to be taken at a time which the Club in its absolute discretion shall determine. The Player shall not participate in football, professional or otherwise, or in any other sporting activity or otherwise during his leave unless consent thereto shall be given by the Club in writing.
- 36) Where reference is made in this contract to statutes, rules and/or regulations of FIFA/AFC/BFF/ Bangladesh Premier League, this shall refer to the statutes, rules and/or regulations as in force at the date of this contract or as subsequently amended.
- 37) Any previous agreement or contract between the Club and the Player is hereby cancelled.

Signed by the said

Player

Name_____

Signature_____

Intermediary (if any)

Name_____

Signature_____

In the presence of (witness)

Name & Designation_____

Signature_____

Signature of Club Director-In-Charge

Club Stamp

Signature of the Player

Authorized Club Official

Name_____

Position_____

Signature_____

In the presence of (witness)

Name & Designation_____

Signature_____

Interpreter (if any), who interpreted this Contract to the player and who acknowledges that the player understood the contents of this Contract.

Name_____

Passport No._____

Signature_____

Signature of Club Director-In-Charge

Club Stamp

Signature of the Player

SCHEDULE I

- a) A gross monthly salary of BDT (in ward: only) will be paid to the player under this contract.
- b) The Club is entitled to pay the player a 'Signing on Fee' while signing the agreement. 'Signing on Fee' cannot, under any circumstances, exceed 25% (twenty five percent) of the total contracted yearly amount with the player and the rest amount shall be paid by the club to the player in equal monthly installments/salary.
- c) The Club will pay the player a signing on fee of BDT (in ward: only) on signing of this contract (optional provision at discretion of club).
- d) To receive reimbursement for all direct expenses incurred during the course of the Player's participation in any activity connected with the Club.
- e) Any bonus and incentive shall be at the complete discretion of the club.
- f) The player shall be responsible for his personal income tax.
- g) The Club shall pay foreign players the cost of economy return travel to the player's home once a year (optional provision at discretion of club).
- h) Any other conditions:

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.....

Signature of Club Director-In-Charge

Club Stamp

Signature of the Player

SCHEDULE II

Player shall abide by the following, and any violation thereof shall subject the Player to fines imposed at the discretion of the Club:

1. Player must be on time for all meeting, practice sessions and all publicity appointments.
2. The use of drugs is forbidden, and the Player submits himself to random checks at the behest of the Club or Bangladesh Premier League and/or BFF through the Club.
3. Player must not visit frequent gambling resorts nor associate with gamblers or other notorious or dubious characters.
4. Player shall report immediately, in writing, to the Club, with a copy to the Manager, Bangladesh Premier League and/or General Secretary, BFF of any communication, howsoever made, of any offer, oral or in writing, of any form of illegal consideration or gratification, howsoever made, and of whatsoever kind.
5. Player must not take part in activities, whether sporting activities or otherwise, which are dangerous or places the Player at risk of injury that may affect this Agreement.
6. Player must report all injuries/sickness to the Coach or Trainer or Team Manager immediately in accordance with this Agreement.
7. Player must be appropriately dressed in the Club sponsored attire during all training sessions and matches.
8. Player shall not write or sponsor magazine or newspaper articles, or endorse any product or service or appear on or participate in any radio or television program whatsoever without the consent of the Club.
9. Player shall not defy instructions given by Team Manager, his assistant, Coach, his assistant, Trainer or other responsible officials of the Club or its Committee.
10. Player shall not be unnecessarily cautioned by the referee for an offence of dissent.
11. Player shall not be absent from training without the production of a proper medical certificate issued by a registered medical practitioner or provide a sufficient and good reason acceptable to the Club.

Signature of Club Director-In-Charge

Club Stamp

Signature of the Player

BANGLADESH PREMIER LEAGUE**Bangladesh Football Federation****Official Registration****Season 2020-21**

Club _____
 Name of Official _____
 Date of Birth _____ (DD/MM/YYYY)
 Designation (As per Regulations) _____
 Passport No. _____
 Blood Group _____
 Local Residential Address _____
 _____ Postcode _____
 Home Tel. _____ Mobile _____

2 Copies of
 Colour Passport
 Size Photo
 Attested by Club
 Secretary /
 General Secretary

Declaration:

I hereby declare and certify that the above information is true and correct. Please register me as a Club Official with Bangladesh Premier League for (Club) for the 2020-21 Playing Season. I shall abide by my agreement with the Club, its constitution and rules. I shall also abide with the regulations of the Bangladesh Premier League 2020-21 and the Laws of the Games and/or with any decision of the Bangladesh Football Federation that affect me as a Club Official.

 Signature of Official

I request the Bangladesh Premier League Department to register Mr. (Official) for the (Club) for season 2020-21.

Club Director-In-Charge / General Secretary/ Authorized Signatory

Signature : _____
 Name : _____
 Date : _____

BANGLADESH PREMIER LEAGUE

The registration of Mr. for the (Club) for season 2020-21 is

Manager, Professional League & Clubs Admin. Department
☐
☐

Accepted

Not Accepted

Signature : _____

Name : _____

Date : _____

To all national football associations,
and confederations

Circular no. 19

Temporary amendment to Law 3

Zurich, 8 May 2020

SEC/2020-C350/bru

The International Football Association Board

Münstergasse 9, 8001 Zürich, Switzerland

T: +41 (0)44 245 1886

theifab.com

Dear Sir or Madam,

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a far-reaching impact on daily life, including sport, around the world. As many countries begin to emerge from this situation, the focus is slowly turning to the resumption of football competitions that have been affected by the virus. When competitions resume, matches may be played in a condensed period (e.g. to reduce the impact on future competitions) and in different weather conditions, both of which could have an impact on player welfare.

Consequently, The IFAB has approved FIFA's proposal to introduce a temporary amendment to **Law 3 – The Players** relating to the maximum number of permitted substitutions (details below and on page 3) for competitions **scheduled to be completed in 2020**, whether or not they have already started.

Competition organisers have discretion as to whether or not to apply this temporary amendment. The IFAB and FIFA will determine at a later stage whether this option will need to be extended, e.g. to competitions due to be completed in 2021.

Law 3 – The Players – temporary amendment

The exact wording can be found on page 3 of this document, but in summary:

- Each team will be permitted to use a maximum of five substitutes.
- To reduce disruption to the match, each team will have a maximum of three opportunities to make substitutions during the game; substitutions may also be made at half-time.
- If both teams make a substitution at the same time, this will count as one of the three opportunities for each team.
- Unused substitutions and opportunities are carried forward into extra time.
- Where competition rules allow an additional substitution in extra time, teams will each have one additional substitution opportunity; substitutions may also be made before the start of extra time and at half-time in extra time.

NB: the use of return substitutes is not an option for senior competitions.

The IFAB also takes this opportunity to draw competition organisers' attention to existing options within the Laws of the Game concerning the welfare and safety of the players and other participants, in particular those related to drinks breaks and cooling breaks contained in Law 7.

Competitions in which video assistant referees (VARs) are implemented are permitted to cease their use upon their restart, at the discretion of the competition organiser. However, where VARs are used, all aspects of the Laws of the Game and, by extension, the VAR protocol will remain in place.

Competitions eligible to use the temporary amendment to Law 3, or any of the other existing options, do not require permission from The IFAB to do so.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) and the Laws of the Game 2020/21

The Laws of the Game 2020/21 come into force for competitions (and non-competition matches) as from 1 June 2020, but competitions suspended because of COVID-19 have the option of completing the competition using the Laws of the Game 2019/20 or the Laws of the Game 2020/21, even if the restart is after 1 June 2020. 'Friendly/warm-up/practice' matches in preparation for the restart of the competition should use the version of the Laws that will be used when the competition restarts.

Thank you for your attention and please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or enquiries.

We hope you stay safe and healthy.

Yours sincerely,

The IFAB



Lukas Brud

Secretary

cc:

FIFA

Law 3 – The Players: number of substitutions

Current wording:

2. Number of substitutions

Official competitions

The number of substitutes, up to a maximum of five, which may be used in any match played in an official competition will be determined by FIFA, the confederation or the national football association except for men's and women's competitions involving the 1st teams of clubs in the top division or senior 'A' international teams, where the maximum is three substitutes.

Temporary amendment:

Competition organisers have the option of applying either or both of the following:

- *During the match, each team:*
 - *may use a maximum of five substitutes*
 - *has a maximum of three substitution opportunities**
 - *may additionally make substitutions at half-time*
- *Where extra time is played, each team:*
 - *may use an additional substitute (whether or not the team has used its maximum number of substitutes)*
 - *has one additional substitution opportunity* (whether or not the team has used its maximum number of substitution opportunities)*
 - *may additionally make substitutions:*
 - *in the period before the start of extra time*
 - *at half-time in extra time*

If a team has not used its maximum number of substitutes or substitution opportunities, the unused substitutions and opportunities may be used in extra time.

**Where both teams make a substitution at the same time, this will count as a used substitution opportunity for each team.*

To all national football associations,
and confederations

Circular no. 20

Temporary amendment to Law 3 – continuation

Zurich, 15 July 2020
SEC/2020-C357/bru

Dear Sir or Madam,

On 8 May, in response to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on football competitions worldwide, The IFAB approved FIFA's proposal to introduce a temporary amendment to **Law 3 – The Players**. As per Circular no. 19 (see enclosed), competitions – at that stage, specifically those scheduled to be completed in 2020 – were given the option of allowing teams to use a maximum of five substitutes in matches.

The main reason for the temporary amendment was the impact on player welfare of competitions being played in a condensed period and in different weather conditions.

The IFAB Board of Directors agreed to review whether to extend the option into 2021. That review, which included stakeholder feedback and an analysis of the impact of COVID-19 on competition calendars, has shown that the initial reasons for the temporary amendment remain valid and the impact on player welfare is likely to continue into 2021 due to various factors, including:

- Some competitions that resumed in 2020 may have a shorter-than-usual recovery/preparation period before the start of their next season.
- For many competitions, the 2020/21 season will involve matches being played in a condensed period due to a delayed start and the inability to end later than usual because of major international tournaments.

Consequently, The IFAB Board of Directors has extended the optional temporary amendment to **Law 3 – The Players** for **competitions scheduled to be completed by 31 July 2021** and for **international competitions scheduled to take place in July/August 2021**.

There are no changes to the details of the temporary amendment, but The IFAB would like to remind all concerned that making substitutions at half-time does not count as using one of the three opportunities.

The changing impact of the pandemic on football will be kept under constant review to ensure appropriate action is taken in the future in relation to this temporary amendment. Thank you for your attention and please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or enquiries. We hope you stay safe and healthy.

Yours sincerely,

The IFAB



Lukas Brud

Secretary

cc:	FIFA
Encl.:	as mentioned

AFC MATCH OPERATIONS PROTOCOL DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC



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INTRODUCTION

Objectives

This document is a compilation of recommended guidelines and measures to be observed and applied by AFC Match officials and the LOC match operations team.

It is aimed at minimising the risk of COVID-19 spreading among all those participating in AFC Competitions and sets out the recommended guidelines for the MAs/Clubs, when devising a plan for the matches in AFC Competitions.

The document is based on experiences from Member Associations across the world following the outbreak of COVID-19 and the health initiatives implemented by a number of Governments.

This document covers the period starting with the travel of the away team to the venue on MD-3, up to and including match day and return to their country on MD+1.

Requirements

The AFC requires mandatory face coverings (i.e. masks) for all personnel including spectators (if applicable) at the football venues.

In addition to face coverings, the following measures shall be included under the Match Operations Protocol:

- Temperature screening of all personnel at the stadium such as stadium workers, match officials, teams and spectators (if applicable).
- Changing in arrival and departure processes to minimise contact with other workers or officials.
- Movement control within the stadium before, during and after the match.
- More frequent and deeper stadium cleaning (especially official areas); and
- Simplified match protocol that minimises team movements and interaction with match officials.



The AFC will be updating the document with the inclusion of our marketing partner and the sponsors operation protocol principles whenever deemed necessary and the electronic version of the updated document will be provided to all AFC Member Associations accordingly.



MATCH OPERATIONS PROTOCOL

Guidelines on Organising the Matches
in AFC Competitions

Overview



To minimise the risk of COVID-19 transmission, the AFC recommends the new Match Operations Protocol as explained in this document, to be applied in all AFC Competition matches until further notice.

The points stated in this document are purely operational in nature. **Whenever applicable and in the case of contradiction, medical requirements set by the relevant National Authority shall prevail over this protocol (where such medical requirements are more stringent than those contained herein).**

This protocol covers all scenarios of AFC matches:

- **Scenario 1:** Match without spectator attendance (closed match)
- **Scenario 2:** Match with limited spectator attendance (restricted match)
- **Scenario 3:** Match with full spectator attendance (normal match)

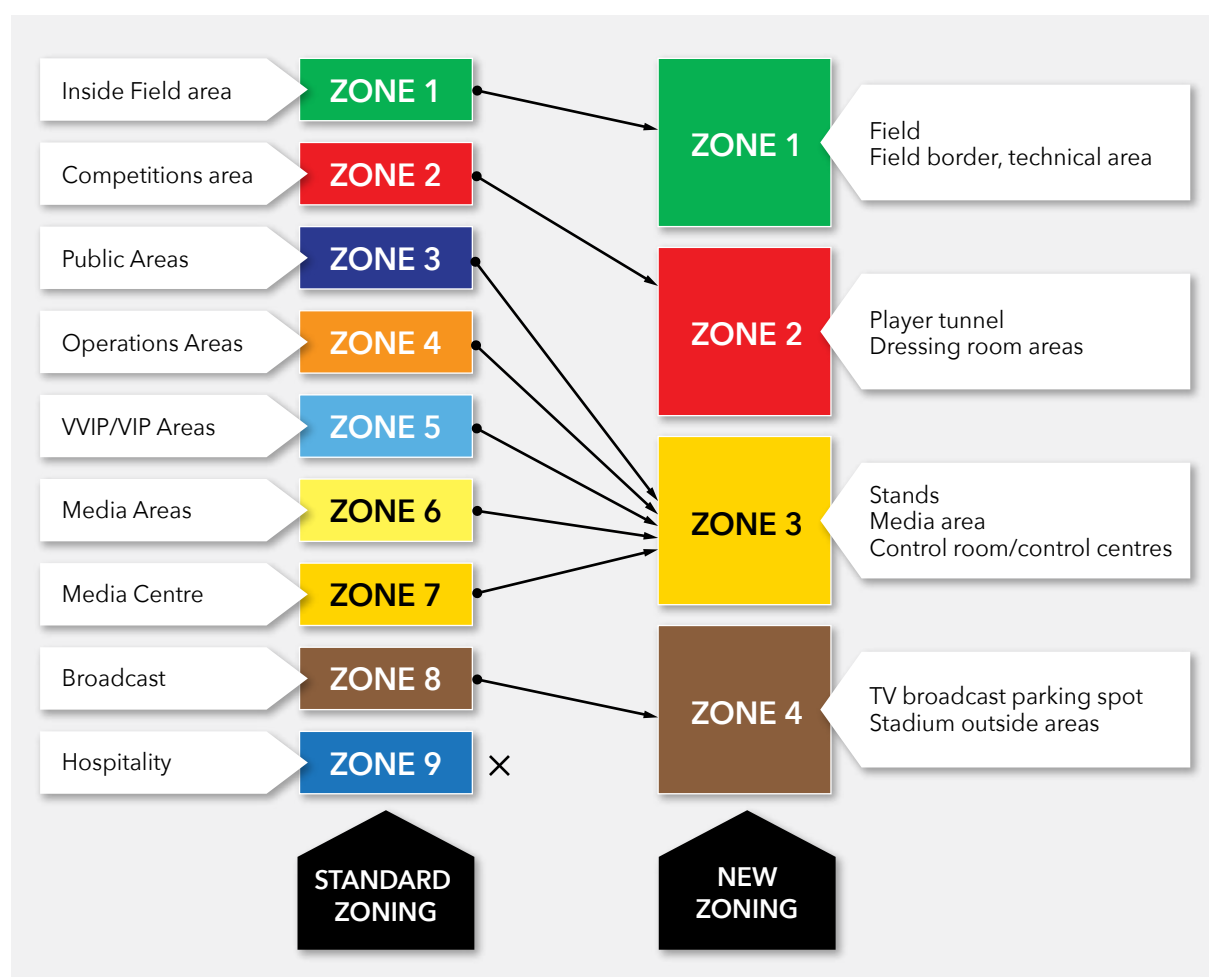
The following precautions shall be organised in the stadium on match day:

- **Zoning:** Stadium to be divided into Four Zones to avoid overcrowding and allow for social distancing to be practiced.
- **Personnel planning:** Attendance and presence of stadium personnel confirmed by AFC Match Commissioner (MC).

Stadium Zoning

- The stadium is to be divided into four zones:
 - **Zone 1:** Field of Play Area
 - **Zone 2:** Official Area
 - **Zone 3:** Stands
 - **Zone 4:** All other areas
- Host MA/Club shall keep the minimum number of people to be allowed in each zone.
- Number of people is subject to the stadium configuration and at the discretion of the host MA/Club.
- Preparation and setup for match day must be completed prior to the arrival of teams.

In comparison to standard 9 Zone allocation, it shall be understood as following:



Recommended Personnel Planning in Zone 1

Group	Team Arrival	Kick-off	Full time	Team depart
Players	0	22	22	0
Substitutes & officials	0	32	32	0
LOC Staff	5	10	10	8
Referees	0	5	0	0
Ball kids	0	6	0	0
HB	23	15	15	13
Medical/Doping	0	0	2	0
PHO	0	TBD*	TBD*	0
Stretchers	0	8	8	0
Hygiene personnel	0	3	3	0
Groundsmen/Service Crew	16	0	0	16
Security	4	4	4	4
Commercial partner	7	0	7	0

The numbers are to be adjusted depending on the venue's configuration. It should be discussed and agreed with the AFC MC in advance.

TBD - Media and PHO numbers to be adjusted at each venue accordingly.*

Recommended Personnel Planning in Zone 2

Group	Team Arrival	Kick-off	Full time	Team depart
Players	22	0	4	4
Substitutes & officials	32	0	4	4
LOC Staff	10	5	5	7
Referees	5	0	5	0
Ball kids	6	0	6	0
HB	5	0	0	0
Medical/Doping	2	2	0	2
PHO	0	0	0	0
Stretchers	8	0	0	0
Hygiene personnel	3	0	0	0
Groundsmen/Service Crew	0	0	0	0
Security	4	4	4	4
Commercial partner	2	2	2	2

The numbers are to be adjusted depending on the venue's configuration. It should be discussed and agreed with the AFC MC.

Recommended Personnel Planning in Zone 3

Group	Team Arrival	Kick-off	Full time	Team depart
Security	10	10	10	10
Stretchers	4	4	4	0
Police & Firefighters	6	6	6	0
Stadium operators	5	5	5	5
LOC staff	8	8	8	0
AFC staff / Commercial partner	10	10	10	10
Team guests	12	12	12	0
HB	26	19	19	16
Medical/Doping	2	2	0	0
Media (Journalists)	0	TBD*	TBD*	0
Video analysts	4	4	4	4
Hygiene personnel	5	5	5	8

TBD* - Media numbers to be decided by host MA/Club based on media tribune capacity, keeping social distancing measures in mind.

Recommended Personnel Planning in Zone 4

Group	Team Arrival	Kick-off	Full time	Team depart
Security	50	50	50	20
HB	14	14	14	11
Groundsmen/Service Crew	16	16	16	0
Commercial partner	2	2	2	2

The numbers are to be adjusted depending on the venue's configuration. It should be discussed and agreed with the AFC MC.

Disinfecting the Stadium

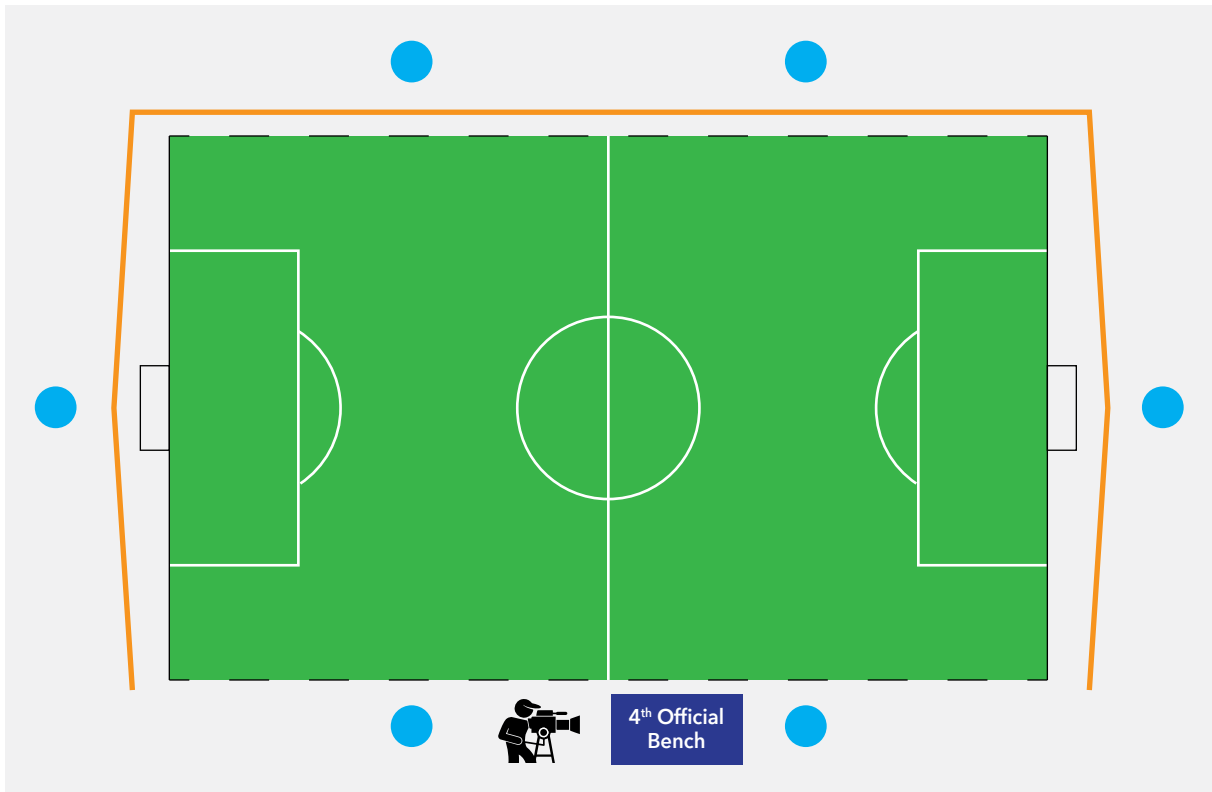
- Stadium disinfection to be conducted by the local health authority on the morning of each match.
- The disinfection must take place early in the morning before the arrival of the stadium staff.
- It is responsibility of host MA/Club to coordinate this procedure with local health authorities.
- All costs related to disinfecting shall be borne by the host MA/Club.
- Dressing rooms shall be closed at the end of disinfection.
- It is recommended that MC is present during the disinfection of dressing rooms.

Pitch Watering

- There shall be no change in the timing and order of the watering of the pitch.

Ball Kids

- Total of 6 ball kids are recommended.
- Ball kids shall be trained to cover the area allocated for them.
- Ball kids should be provided with hand sanitiser.
- Social distancing must be maintained at all times.
- Disposable gloves must be used while in the playing area.

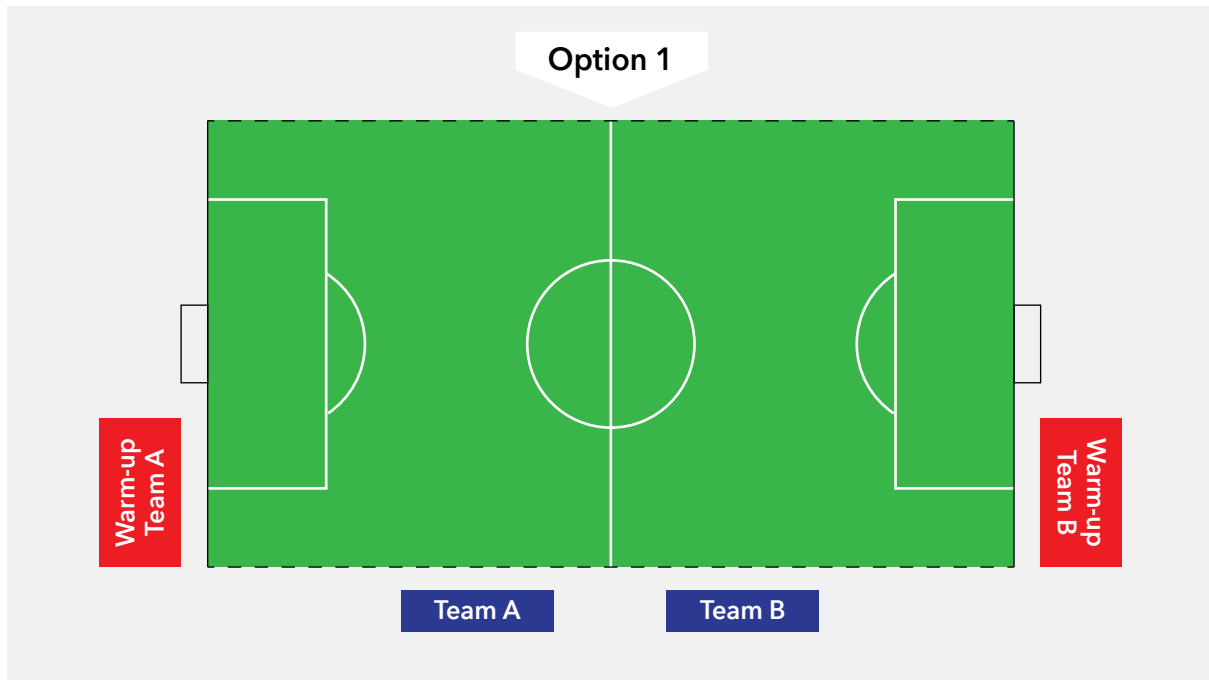


Position of Centre-Line Camera

- Centre-line Camera shall be positioned in the space as shown here - sharing centre-line with 4th official bench as per normal practice.
- MC shall have a final say in case of dispute and/or other issues raised taking into consideration space and layout of the field.

Warming Up

- To be arranged behind each goal (Option 1 below).
- If space behind goal does not permit - Option 2 shall be applied and warm up shall be arranged next to each team bench (on the left side of Team A bench for team A, on the right side of Team B bench for team B).



Team Arrival

- Each team shall use two buses (or alternative transport) to ensure adequate physical distancing between players and supporting staff inside the vehicles.
- Bus shall be disinfected prior to use and after the team vacates the bus at the stadium.
- Everyone must wear a mask, which shall be provided by the team to its delegation members. Masks may display identifications of the MA/Club but shall not bear any commercial, religious or political messages.
- Separate time and space shall be arranged for the team arrivals into the stadium (min. 10 min. gap).
- Implementation of different entry gates and different paths to the dressing rooms are recommended as much as possible (e.g. Team A and Team B enter the stadium from different gates).
- Coach on arrival interview will be conducted by HB while ensuring adequate physical distance as well as using dedicated microphone on stand for the coach.
- It should be noted that once teams arrive at the stadium, nobody can come in and nobody can leave from Zone 1 and 2. This is a recommended measure to have same people in these areas until the end of the match to have better control.

Dressing Room

- Any adjacent room space available shall be used as additional dressing room for teams to allow social distancing.
- If used, these additional rooms must also be disinfected.



Team Check by MC and 4th Official

- Team check by MC and 4th Official shall not be conducted in the dressing rooms.
- It shall be conducted in the team technical area once players come out for pre match warm-up (before start of the warm-up).

Field of Play

- Area between field of play and VIP tribune shall be clear of any people, except following personnel:
 - Team Delegation
 - 4th Official
 - Camera Position
 - Stretchers
- TV activities inside the Field of Play Area shall be minimised.

Match Officials

- A secure distance of a minimum of 1-metre should be maintained when communicating with players.
- MC, RA, LGC, LMO, LSO and 4th Official must always wear masks.



Pre-match Warm-up

- Same warm-up timings will be kept to ensure the sporting integrity.
- Teams shall use different entries for warm-up if stadium structure allows such amendment – MC to discuss with host MA/Club and make the final decision on this matter.

Final Check by Referee Before March-in

- Final check of players shall be conducted by referees at each dressing room door when players are coming out from the rooms (the gathering area inside the tunnel).

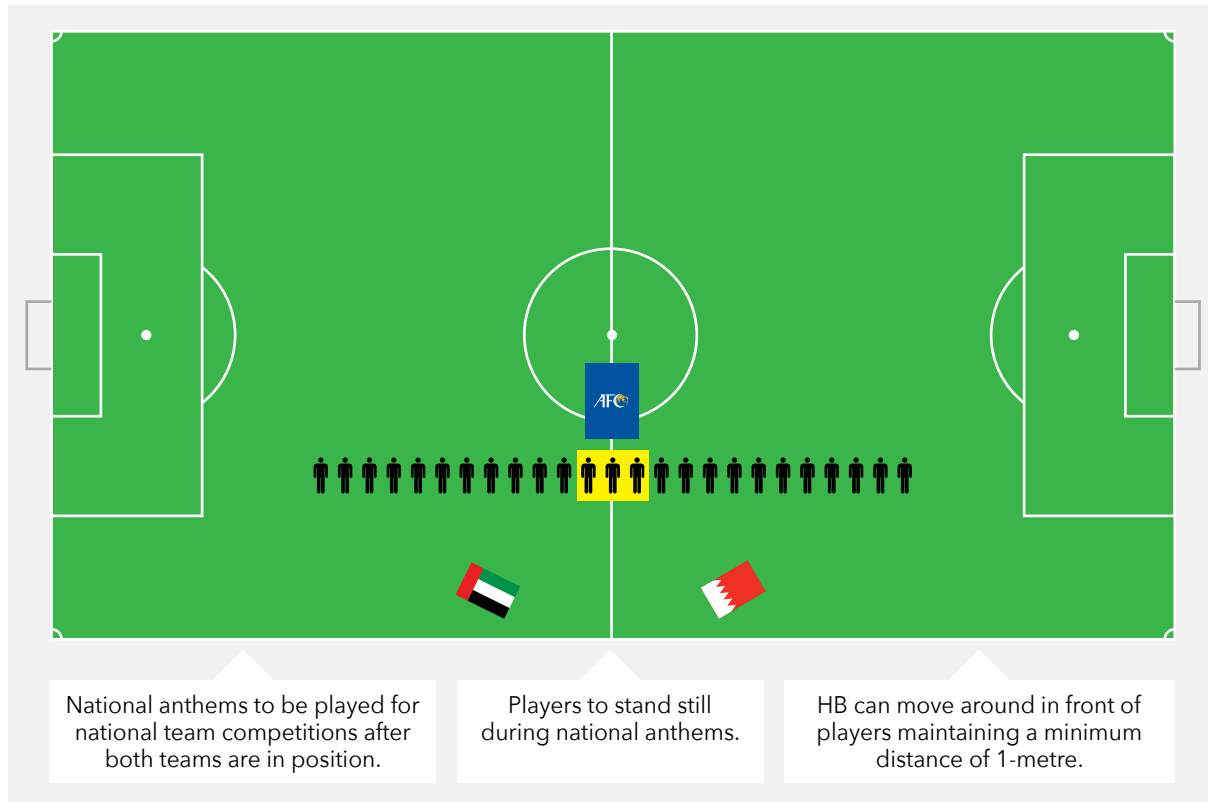


Team Entry

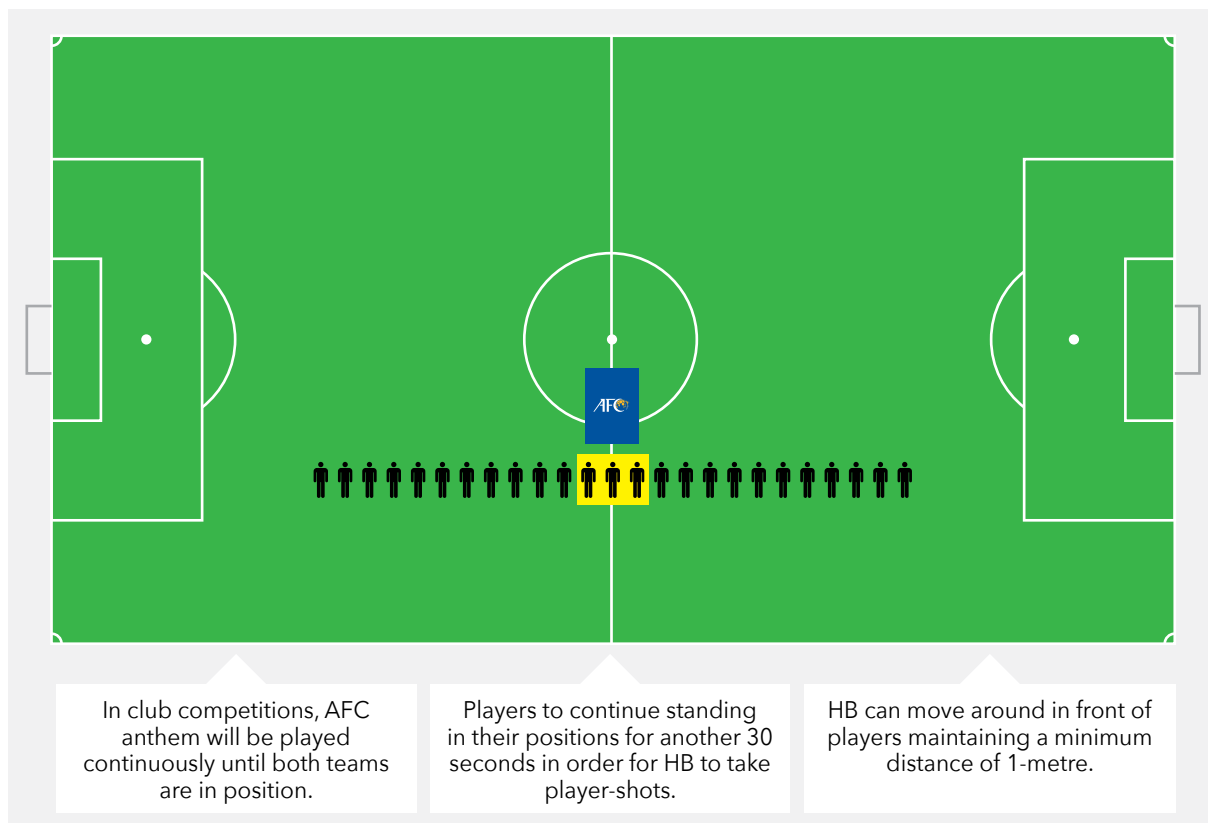
- No player escort kids.
- The same walk-in procedure to be maintained (HB allowed to film).
- No presentations by a third party, no VIP handshakes before the match.
- No handshakes between the teams.
- Team photo procedure remains the same (Only official photographer allowed to take team photo; other photographers and RTV not allowed).
- No unified team line-up for photo - only separate photos by each team.

The AFC will advise on any special team entry procedures for the centralised competitions, if required.

Final Position - National Team Competitions



Final Position - Club Competitions

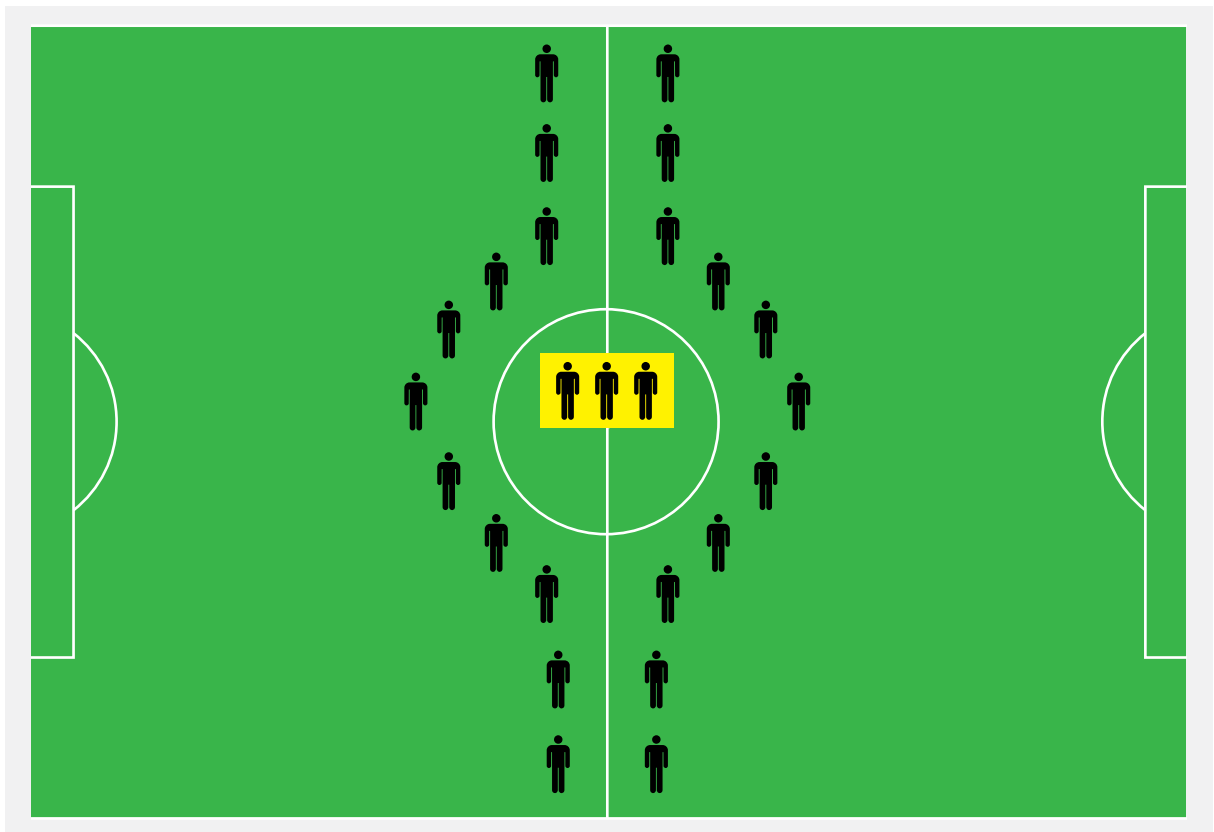


Half Time

- Separate access to dressing rooms shall be arranged depending on venue facilities.
- Hand sanitiser to be provided in the tunnel for use.
- Avoid communication with others.
- Avoid team scrum (gathering in a circle) before kick off.

After the Match

- No post-match handshake.
 - Players are encouraged to leave the field without any physical contact.
 - Teams to line up next to centre circle in their own half and applaud the other team before leaving the field.
 - Referees to remain in the centre circle until players have left the field.



- Media activities
 - Press workroom and Mixed Zone are to stay closed.
 - Press conferences will be conducted only in the press conference room with seating restrictions.
 - Minimise interviews while following strict hygiene measures.
- Operations
 - Depending on facilities, a second anti-doping room shall be used as space separation to allow distance between the players of each team and any changes on the anti-doping procedures must be in full alignment with the existing regulations.
 - Team departure to team buses shall follow the same order as to team arrival.
 - Length of stay in the dressing room after the match shall be minimised.

Cool Down After the Match

- Subject to MC's approval.
- Teams are recommended to leave stadium and minimise the length of stay after the match.

Dressing Room Visit After the Match

- Dressing room visits by team guests shall not be allowed after the match.

Recommendations to Teams

- Team members to wear masks at all times except those players in the FOP during training, warm up, cooling down and match.
- Substitute players to wear masks at all times even when seated on the team bench during the match.
- Avoid contact (handshake) as much as possible.
- Avoid spitting.
- Avoid sharing personal belongings.
- Equip personal water bottles.
- Avoid exchanging uniforms.
- It will be compulsory for those involved to wear face covering during press conference and at any media interviews.
- Avoid close contact during any goal celebration.





HOSTING MATCHES

Guidelines on Hosting
AFC Competitions



Risk Assessment Checklist

The host is recommended to use the WHO Mass Gathering Sports Addendum Risk Assessment tools in the context of COVID-19 to host the matches of AFC Competitions (relevant checklist to be provided together with **Appendix 1: Guidelines - Risk Assessment tools.**)

1. Risk assessment tool (to answer Yes/No) to 6 key questions to determine a total risk assessment score that incorporates factors specific to mass gathering in sporting events.
2. Mitigation measures checklist (to answer 62 targeted questions to determine a total mitigation score).
3. The decision matrix shall be used to make the decision with overall risk score, which includes the risk score and the mitigation score, to provide a colour determination. (The colour determination identifies the overall risk of transmission and further spread of COVID-19 in relation to the mass gathering).

The host is also encouraged to use the illustrative supporting considerations developed by the WHO and provide it to their teams for further use.

- Training, from individuals to group training.
- Athletes, before, during and after the event (adapted from sports addendum).



Normal Match, Closed Match or Restricted Match

Based on the requirements of the local government and local health authorities, the host MA/Club shall suggest if the match is held under one of the three scenarios: with spectators (normal match), without spectators (closed match) or with a limited number of spectators (restricted match).

While the AFC will fully support the selected scenario by the host MA/Club, it is the **AFC's recommendation is that the match is played without spectators** to minimise the risk, to protect all stakeholders and to avoid to be seen to be contributing to a possible spread of the virus.

Requirements for Home Team

- The home team shall assign a person in charge of the matters related with COVID-19 and establish the network of emergency contacts with public services in the country.
- It shall be compulsory for all operational staff at the stadium to wear masks and gloves.
- Disinfect the stadium in the morning of the match day, or no later than arrival of the teams.
- Disinfect and provide hand sanitisers around essential facilities (toilet, convenience store, ticket booth, etc.) every hour after the opening of gate.
- Educate sanitary workers on COVID-19 related measures.
- Establish a cooperation system with local health care centre, police station, etc.
- Inspect ventilation system before and after the match.

General Recommendations

- Put signage at the dressing rooms regarding COVID-19 recommendations.
 - Avoid contact
 - Practice coughing etiquette and hand hygiene
 - No spitting etc.
- Minimise close contact at all stages.
 - Contactless arrival and AD check processes
 - Physical distancing throughout the entry process
 - Meticulous hand hygiene
 - Enhance cleaning procedures
 - Masks / face coverings
- It is mandatory to wear masks for everyone except those players and match officials in the field of play during the match, warm up and cooling down.

Human Resources

It is recommended that the number of staff at the stadium (or the training facility) are kept to a minimum, especially around match days

Staff shall be limited to (if possible):

On-pitch staff members

- Players
- Coaching staff
- Medical and physiotherapy staff

Off-pitch staff members

- Backroom staff (directors, analysts, kitmen, etc.)
- Facility staff (cleaners, cooks, laundry staff, etc.)
- Security and ground staff

It is recommended that all facilities shall follow the advice issued by the health authorities and go through a thorough cleaning and disinfection procedures prior to the arrival of any employees.

In addition, it is recommended that hands are frequently washed using sanitiser or soap at the club facilities.

Dressing Room Area

As a potential transmission risk area, the presence of any staff members in the dressing room shall be limited as much as possible.

It is highly recommended that off-pitch staff members shall avoid using the dressing room.

Any adjacent room space shall be used as additional dressing room for teams to allow more space between each other.

Dressing rooms shall be disinfected on match day prior to team arrival and locked with a label of **"clean area"**.

"Clean area" label shall only be opened on match day by the team delegation.

Referees' Room

Disposable masks, hand sanitiser and alcohol wipes shall be provided in the referees' room.

Set Up of VOR (Video Operation Room) (if used)

Disinfection of the VOR (Video Operation Room) shall be carried out on the match day.

Sanitisers, masks and disposable gloves shall be provided in the VOR.

Staff shall wear a mask and use disposable gloves during installation; masks and gloves shall not be reused.

Everyone inside VOR shall wear masks and disposable gloves at all times.

Ventilation and re-disinfection of equipment (including head-sets) shall be carried out during half-time.

Full ventilation and re-disinfection of VOR after the match is necessary.

Medical and Physiotherapy Area

The recommended instructions for the operational management of the medical and physiotherapy area inside the dressing room are:

- During all phases, all treatment sessions shall only consist of one physiotherapist and one player in a treatment area at any given time.
- The physiotherapist should always wear a mask, and if possible, wear gloves.
- Any disposable equipment shall be thrown out after each player is treated.
- Extra attention should be paid to the cleanliness of this area and it shall be cleaned frequently.
- The use of manual treatment should be kept to a minimum and shall be limited solely to injured players.



Medical and Physiotherapy Treatment

It is recommended that a designated medical/physiotherapist only works with the same group of selected players.

On-pitch Training Equipment

All on-pitch training equipment (cones, ladders, mannequins, balls, etc.) are recommended to be stored outside and to be disinfected before and after each training session.

It is recommended that the same members of the stadium staff shall be responsible for handling the transportation of the equipment from the storage room to training pitch/stadium and carrying out the disinfection of the equipment, including temporary goals.

It is recommended that all staff members should not share any personal training equipment during each training session and should be washed after each use.

Furthermore, all staff members are recommended to have a labeled personal water bottle, which is washed with soap after each training session and match.





PARTICIPATION

Guidelines on Participating
in AFC Competitions

Return to Training Safety Considerations



The AFC Medical team has established recommendations to ensure a safe environment for the players and team personnel when returning to formal training before the resumption of official matches.

Host MA/Club shall familiarise themselves with this document and share it with relevant parties involved.

If the main language of the host MA/Club is not English, it is encouraged that this file is translated into the local language and shared with relevant parties involved.

Appendix 2: COVID-19: Return to Football Medical Guidelines.

Normal Match, Closed Match or Restricted Match

Based on the requirements of the local government and local health authorities, the host MA/Club shall suggest if the match is held under one of the three scenarios: with spectators (normal match), without spectators (closed match) or with a limited number of spectators (restricted match).

While the AFC will fully support the selected scenario by the host MA/Club, it is the **AFC's recommendation is that the match is played without spectators** to minimise the risk, to protect all stakeholders and to avoid to be seen to be contributing to a possible spread of the virus.



Requirements for Teams

In case the local league has not resumed, a minimum period of 15 days of group and/or collective training is recommended prior to the AFC Match.

The team shall provide its players, coaches and staff with necessary supplies to protect themselves properly (with gloves and masks being the minimum requirement). All disposable masks and gloves must be thrown away at the end of each day.

The team shall establish its own guidelines regarding the purchase of disinfection and cleaning products that comply with the standards of the local health authorities.

As per the AFC Tournament Regulations, it is mandatory for the Participating Member Associations (PMAs) to conduct Pre-Competition Medical Assessment (PCMA) to be eligible to participate, which will include COVID-19 testing as part of the parameters. PMAs must submit a copy of the result prior to the competition (*please refer to the Appendix 2 for the guidelines on COVID-19 testing*).

The team shall assign a contact person to be in charge of the matters related with COVID-19.



Mode of Transport to and from Training and Stadium

It is recommended to travel with buses at half the capacity (e.g. if normal capacity is 40 people, 20 people is recommended). The same shall be provided to the away team delegation.

It is recommended to only place one staff member on each double seat, and if possible, on every second row.

The arrival and departure of staff members at the facilities of the club, hotel, stadium, etc., is recommended to be staggered while ensuring a safe distance of 1-metre between staff to ensure the least amount of off-pitch contact.

Recommendations for Hotel Accommodation

It is recommended, when staying in a hotel, each staff member has access to their own individual hotel room. Furthermore, it is recommended that the individual hotel room is seen as the temporary "home" of the staff members.

When not training, players are recommended to spend their time in their own rooms. Gatherings are not recommended regardless if it takes place in common areas or in bedrooms.

A box of gloves and masks must be made available in each room for players to be able to use at least one a day.

- Early engagement between the team and the hotel is recommended.
- A separate team delegation is recommended to travel first in order to optimise the joint coordination with the hotel (responsible for hygiene, chef, security officer etc.).
- The above-mentioned delegation shall be kept as small as possible, the staff members should be trained in hygiene; patients deemed at risk (age, underlying health conditions) should not travel with the team.
- Exclusive floor/sector shall be reserved for the team to avoid contact with other hotel guests.
- In the event that such exclusivity is impossible, it is recommended to check other options such as:
 - Separate entrance for the team.
 - Separate hotel sectors without any other visitors (room corridor, dining room, conference room).
 - Separate elevator.
- No access for players and staff members to wellness areas, gyms and other common areas (e.g. bar) – the closure of these premises can also be a solution.
- Hand sanitisers should be available in the corridor, at the entrance of and in the meeting rooms, in the rooms used by the medical team and, where possible, in every single room.
- Masks shall be provided for players and staff members when they are outside their rooms.
- Special/fundamental disinfection and cleaning of the rooms and premises shall be done before team arrival. Rooms shall have a good ventilation system.
- Large dining and conference room in order to keep the distance of minimum 1-metre between each other.



- Minimum interaction with hotel employees; service to be provided by the team staff as much as possible.
- Hotel employees should wear masks, regularly disinfect hands, be briefed and trained and must not access the team hotel if they have signs of infections.
- Minimise contact with hotel employees and provide extensive preparations in advance:
 - Sufficient food, beverages and dishes to be prepared before the players eat.
- Rooms with enough ventilation, otherwise not too dry air via the air conditioning (21°C, humidity 50-60%)
- It is recommend not to touch elevator buttons, handrails or door handles with the hand (use the elbow instead).
- Avoid using the personal devices of others.
- Physical distance of less than 1-metre shall be avoided as much as possible even within the team members.
- In general, only staff members who have an essential role shall accompany the team for the away match.



Match Day Requirements for Both Teams and All Players/Officials

1st, 2nd temperature check (prior inspection)

For all players and staff members.

- 1st: Before going to sleep on MD-1
- 2nd: 10:00am on matchday

Team manager informs the result to MC at 10:30am.

3rd temperature check (while entering stadium)

Check after being dropped off from the bus (facility to be organised by host MA/Club).
Results to be provided to MC when delivering the starting list.

Person with symptoms (players)

Check again and if temperature is above 37.5°C, immediately quarantine the individual and send back to hotel (or hospital).

Take out from the team list and inform the MC.

Requirements for Both Teams and All Players/Officials

- Separate team bus arrivals with difference of minimum 10 min gap.
- Team members must wear masks at all times.
- Players can take off mask during training, warm up, cooling down and match.
- Substitute players to wear masks at all times when seated on the team bench during the match.
- Avoid contact (handshake) as much as possible.
- Avoid spitting.
- Avoid sharing personal belongings.
- Equip personal water bottles.
- Avoid exchanging uniforms.
- It will be compulsory for those involved to wear face covering during the press conference and at any media interview.
- Avoid close contact during any goal celebrations.

Official Training

Players shall arrive at the stadium in their training kit.

From their arrival at the stadium up until they enter the field of play, players must wear mask and gloves.

If possible, individual training drills should be conducted with gloves.

At the end of training, the players shall head directly to their team hotel to minimise their movement around the facility as much as possible.

Members of the coaching staff shall be able to watch the training from a distance, while respecting the minimum distance of at least 1-metre.

Water bottles with the players name (or number) on shall be provided.

Warm-up

It is recommended that all physical pre-training and match activities (pre-activation, warm-up, etc.) shall follow these guidelines:

- Should be carried out outside on a specified and selected area of the pitch.
- Warm-up in relation to match play should be separated into groups at each end of the pitch.
- Close assembly/contact of the team is not permitted.
- All team-talks, etc. should be kept at a minimum, and if conducted on the pitch, it should adhere to the recommended safety distance (at least 1-metre).

In general, it is recommended that all non-match play related pre-match activities (handshakes with-in and between teammates, high-fives, etc.) shall not be conducted.

Match

It is recommended that during the match there should be no on-pitch limitations.

Furthermore, it is recommended that during the match the team delegations on the bench shall follow strict hygiene measures while securing safety distance from each other. It is recommended that all staff members use their personal drink bottle.

All team delegation members to be familiarised with the new AFC Match Operations Protocol prior to the match so that everyone involved is aware of the main recommendations.





MEDIA / TV

Guidelines on Attending AFC Competitions

Access Control



(c) K. LEAGUE

- The goal is to protect all Media or Broadcast personnel who work at the stadiums.
- Maximum safety can only be accomplished through maintaining hygiene, and restricting physical contact and proximity. Individual hygiene measures are of utmost importance and must be carried out to safeguard personnel from getting infected and potentially spreading the infection to others.
- All delegates on location must confirm their willingness to comply with hygiene regulations and necessary temperature check.
- There will be a guideline issued to all accredited Media and Broadcast personnel about compliance of the basic hygiene measures (hand disinfectant, coughing and sneezing hygiene, distance) at each venue.
- Media and broadcast personnel must always wear masks on the stadium premises.
- Stadiums will have a designated point of entry on the same side as the Main Stand where accredited personnel will have their temperature taken prior to entry.
- Entry to the stadium will only be granted, at the discretion of the AFC/Venue Medical Officer, after the temperature readings meet entry requirements.
- Hand sanitisers shall be used before entry.

Additional Safety Regulations

- **Avoidance of private conversations.**
- Essential conversations should be kept to **small groups**.
- **Doors should be kept open** to prevent the need to touch door handles.
- **Keeps hands off** elevator buttons, banisters or door handles.
- **Mouth and nose protection:** It is mandatory to wear face coverings at all times. Pay attention to the correct methods of taking masks on and off, (fully covered mouth and nose).
- **Hand disinfection:** It is mandatory to disinfect your hands before and after using shared equipment (emphasis on broadcast equipment). Hand sanitisers must be used on dry hands.

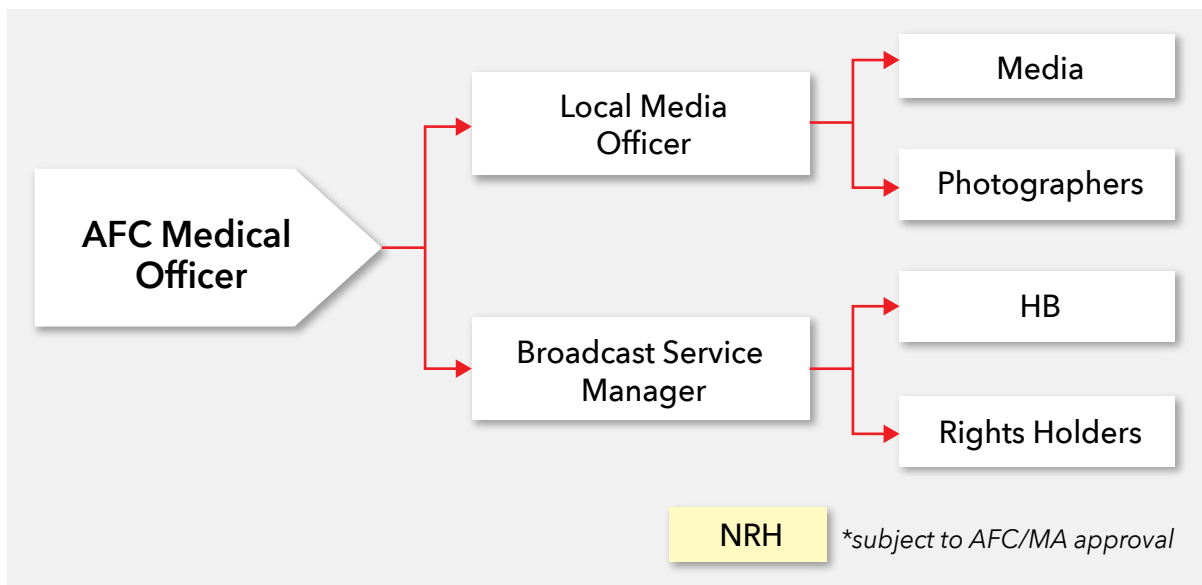
Mobile Handwashing Units to be placed in relevant Media and Broadcast Areas.



Points of Liaison

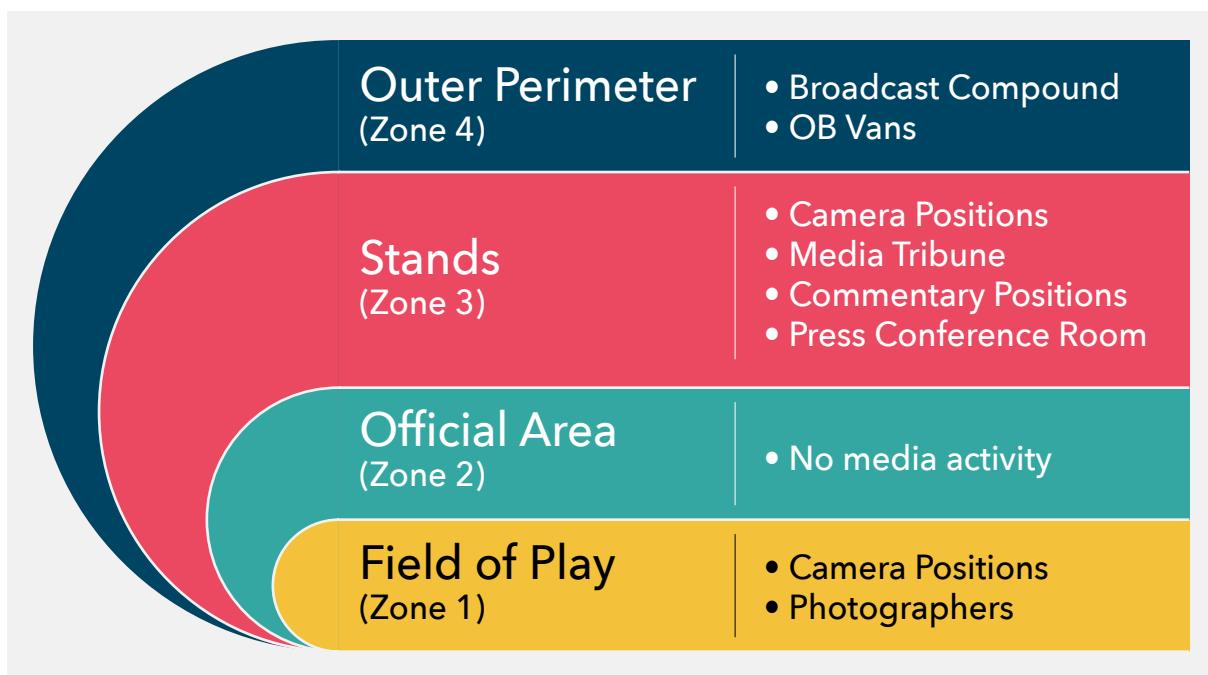
The Local Media Officer (LMO) and the Broadcast Service Manager (BSM) are responsible for the planning and implementation of all Media and Broadcast activities.

The Venue Medical Officer or another delegated person will also liaise with them and oversee the implementation of all hygiene measures.



Zoning

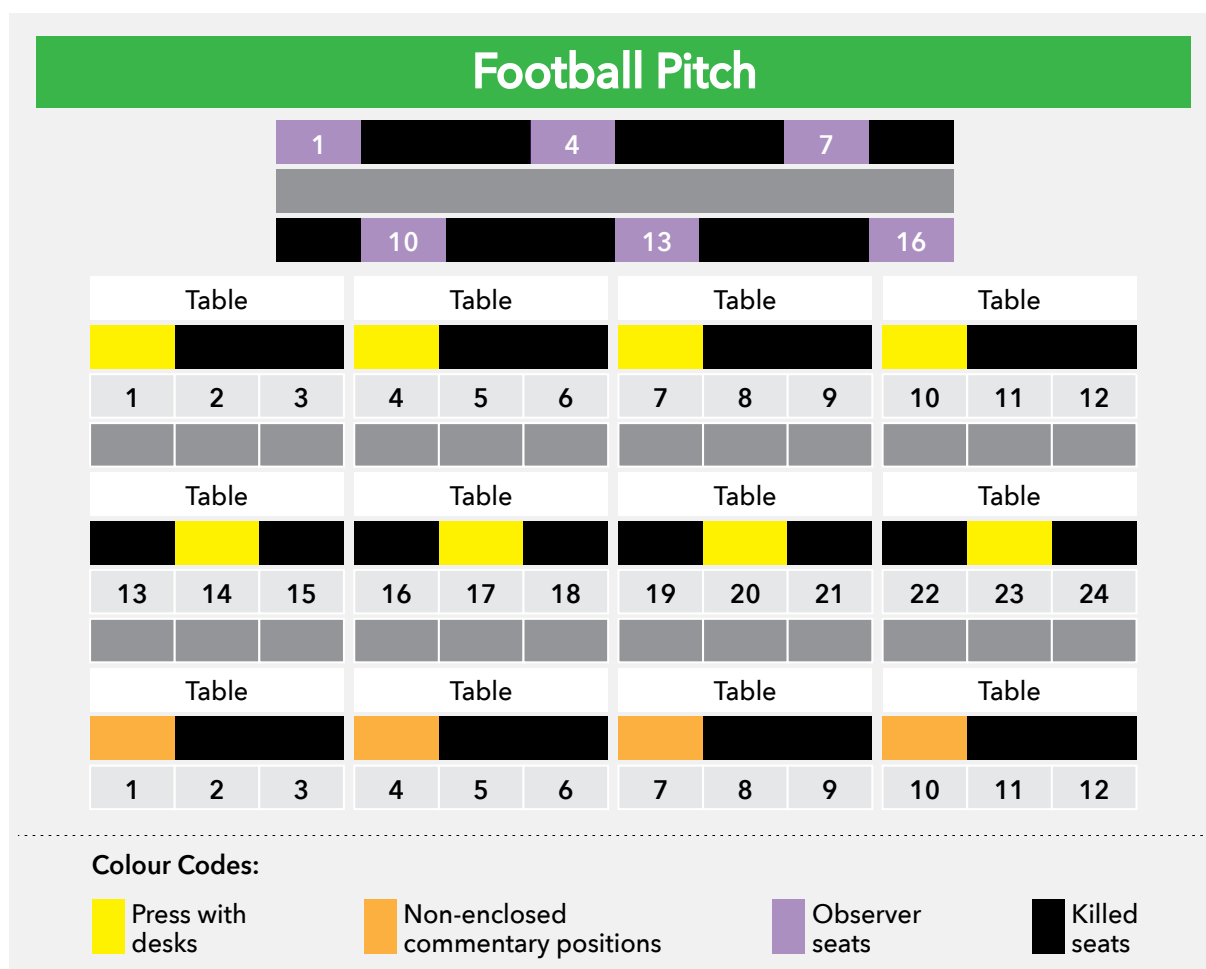
The Stadium will be divided into these four zones.



Requisite Personnel for Each Area

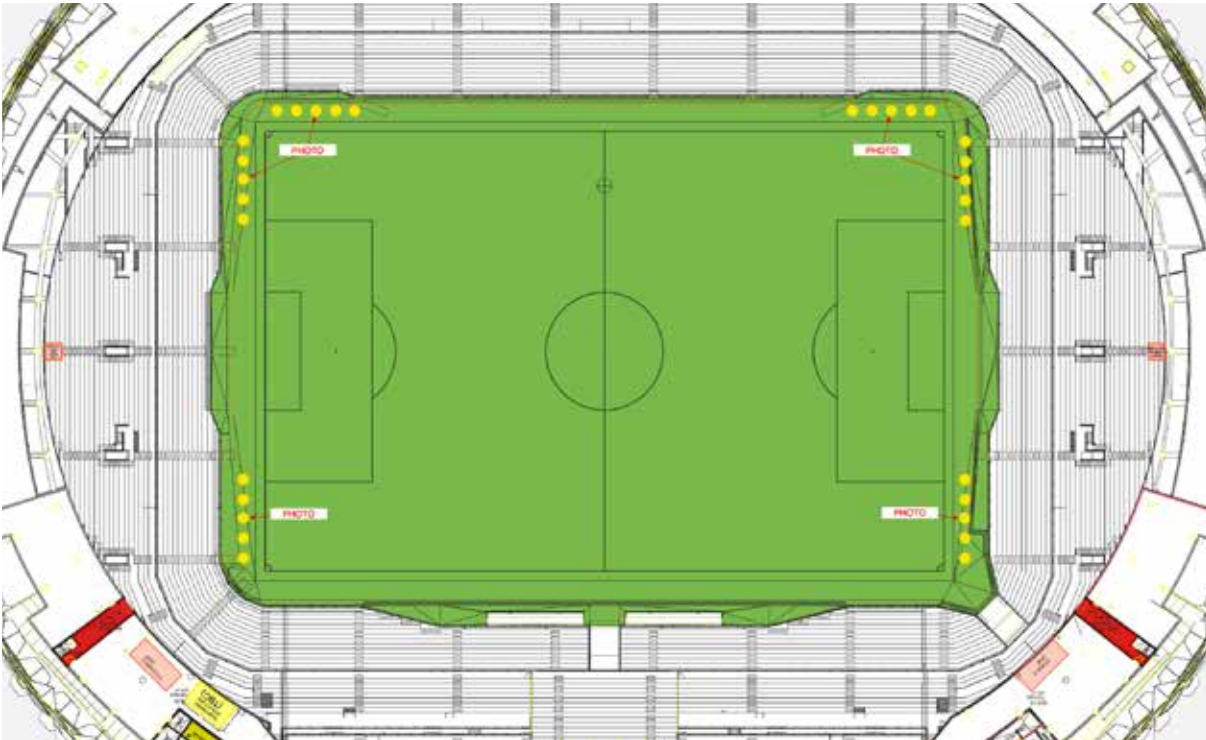
Media & Broadcast Operations - Allowed Personnel Numbers			
Media / Broadcast Area	Personnel Involved	Scenario	
		Timing	Suggested Numbers
Media Tribune	MEDIA / NRH / RTV	1 Hour before Kick Off	1 Person per 3 seats (Number to vary across stadiums)
Field of Play	PHO	1 Hour before Kick Off	30 People (including Official PHO)
Field of Play	HB	From 10hrs before KO to KO - 23 People During Match - 15 People FT to FT + 2hrs - 13 People	
Stands	HB	From 10hrs before KO to KO - 26 People During Match - 19 People FT to FT + 2hrs - 16 People	
Stadium Perimeter	HB	From 10hrs before KO to KO - 14 People During Match - 14 People FT to FT + 2hrs - 11 People	

Media Tribune Layout

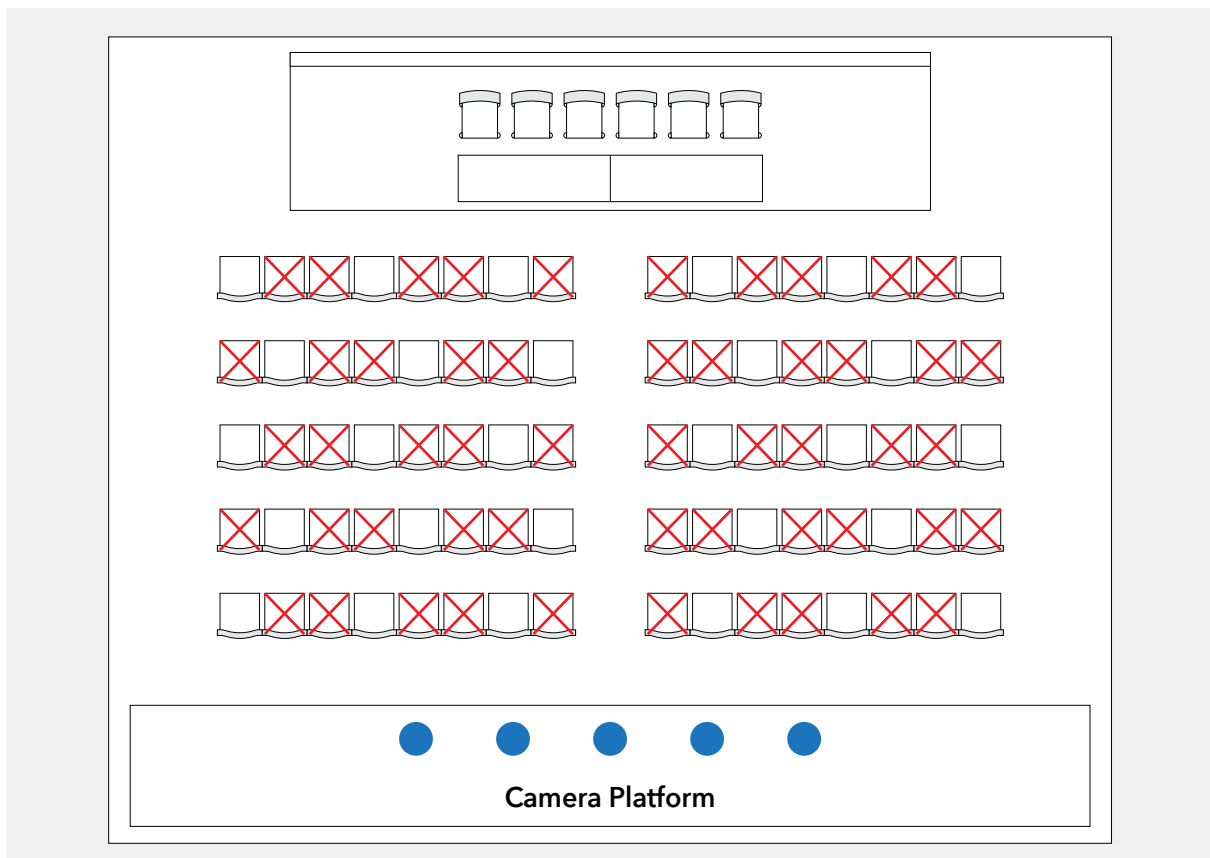


**Preference to be given to Rights Holders and Agencies*

PHO Seating Layout

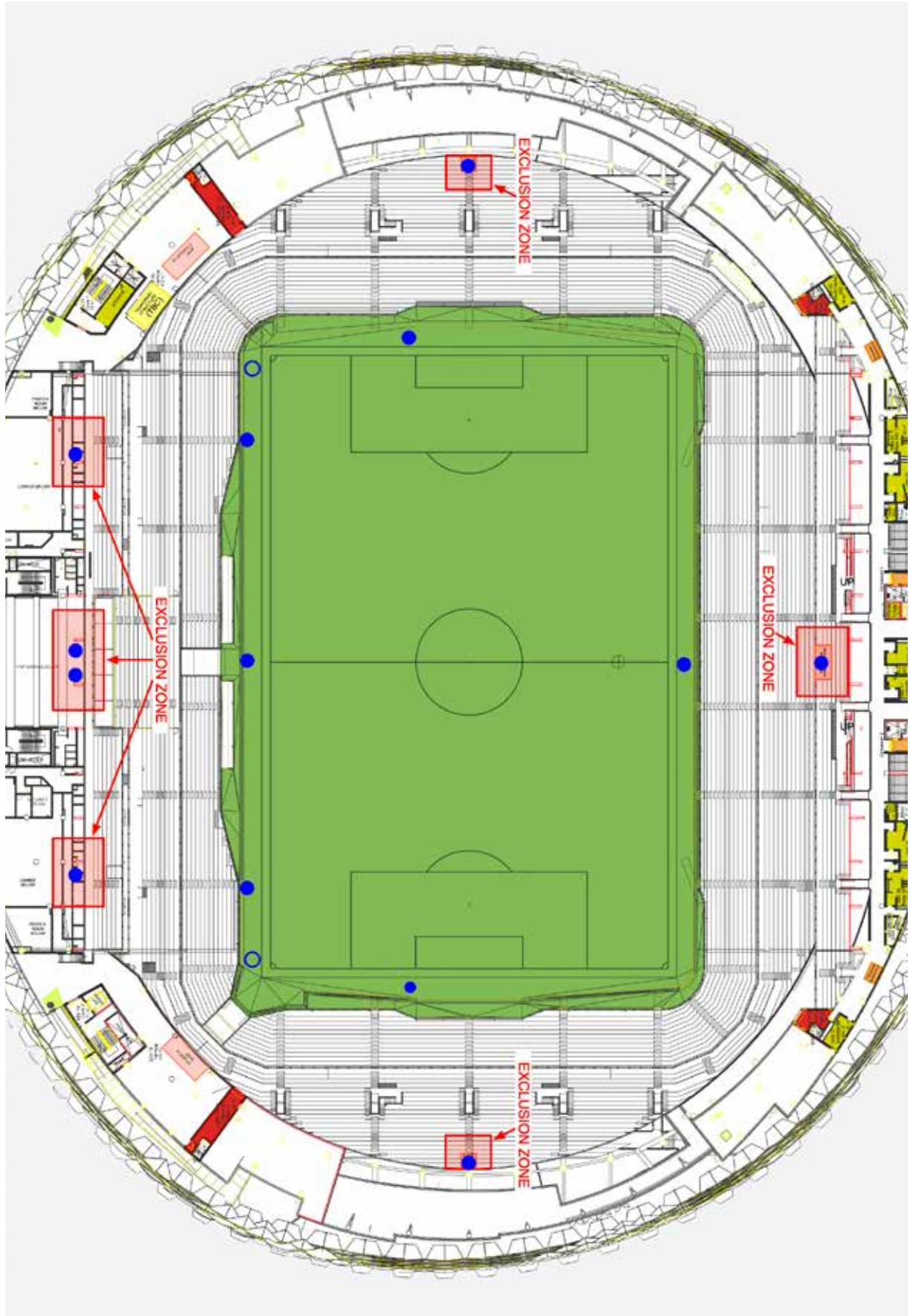


PC Room Layout



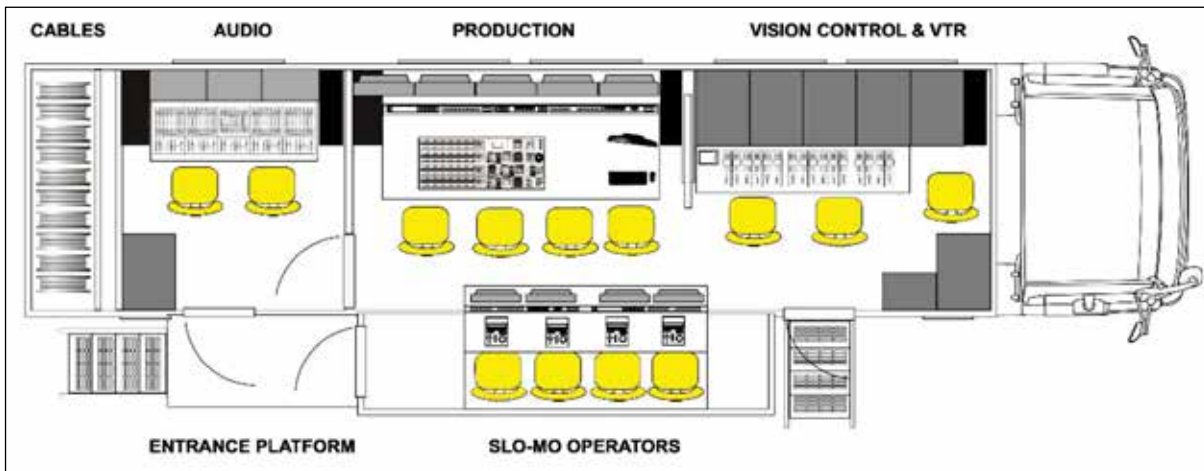
**Preference to be given to Rights Holders and Agencies*

Camera Plan

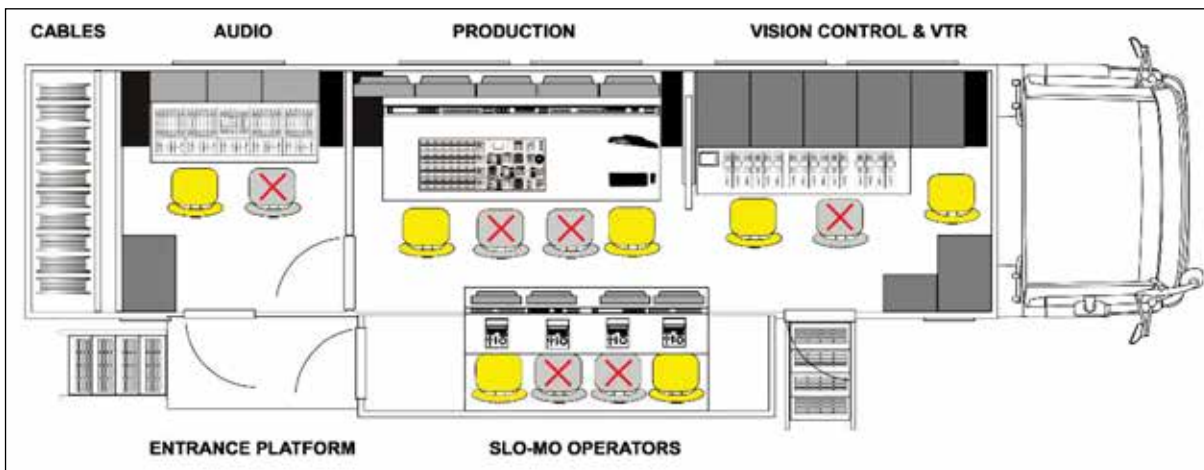


OB Van Layout

Usual Layout



Post COVID-19 Layout



Additional Guidelines

- The length of stay on-site shall be minimised (as mentioned in previous slides).
- In order to prevent congregating of any kind, no catering will be offered. The Stadium Media Centre will remain closed.
- The production truck will remain inaccessible to unauthorised personnel not working in it.
- The minimum distance of at least 1-metre on camera platform and in the Media Tribune must be observed and shall be managed by AFC/LOC Media officer in charge of the match.
- Separate equipment such as microphones and headsets to be used for interviewee and interviewer.
- Mandatory to clean equipment and working surfaces after the match.



(c) J. LEAGUE

Media Activities - Stadium Entrance

- **Must wear AD card and should be visible at all times.**
- **Compulsory to sign media register list before entering.**
 - Those who refuse to sign will be denied entry.
- **Temperature check upon entering.**
- **Separate media gate and players entrance.**
 - If it is not possible due to stadium layout, a barricade should be placed and the distance between should be at least 1-metre away.
- **All media members must wear masks.**
 - The media must supply and wear masks at all times. Those failing to comply will not be allowed to enter the stadium.

Media Activities – Before Kickoff

- No interview before the match.
- No stand up interviews are allowed before or after the match.
- No mixed zone.
- Movement by photographers must be separated from the teams.
- Only official photographer and HB allowed to be present near the benches during team march in procedure. Other photographers and RTVs should take their positions behind the A-boards directly.
- For HB:
 - Coach on arrival interview is allowed but maintaining physical distancing is necessary as well as using dedicated microphone on stand for the coach.
 - Flash interview is allowed, but must be held outside (FOP).
 - Flash interview must secure at least 1-metre distance (use long poll with mic), and interviewer must wear masks.
 - It is not allowed to film the player locker rooms at any time.
 - Allowed to film team walk-in procedure

Media Activities – During the Match

- Secure photo line at least 1-metre distance when players enter FOP, to be controlled by AFC/LOC Media officer in charge of the match.
- Photographers and cameramen can film within the area stated under the existing media regulation.
- Designated media seats will be allocated and assigned according to a first-come-first-served basis.
- Media seats will secure at least 1-metre distance from each other.
 - If the seats are not enough, spectators' seats will be used.
- For HB:
 - Filming of players waiting in the tunnel is allowed, but 1-metre physical distance and wearing of mask must be observed at all times.

Media Activities – After the Match

- **PMPC:** Movement should be controlled between the media personnel and team members.
- All personnel entering PMPC room must wear masks.
- Recording devices (dictaphones, mobile phones, etc) must not be placed on the press conference podium.
- Avoid seating at the front row, secure at least 1-metre distance between the media and interviewee.
- Secure at least 1-metre distance between media personnel: a bigger room can also be required.
- Mixed zone will not be used.
- Media personnel will be prohibited to enter the area where team exits.
- For HB:
 - Flash interview for Head Coach and Key player will be allowed, but must be held outside (FOP) as well as using dedicated microphone on stand for the coach/players.
 - All media personnel must wear masks and gloves during flash interview, and should secure at least 1-meter distance apart during the interview.

Media Activities - Summary

Section	Media personnel	Media activity	Availability	Remark
Before kick off	HB	Players' bus drop off	Available	Secure at least 1-metre distance
		Dressing rooms	Not available	
		Head Coach flash interview	Available	Outside (FOP)
	Photographer	Players' bus drop off/entrance in to stadium	Available	Official PHO is allowed
	Reporter	Head Coach & Players pre-interview	Not available	
During match	HB	Players' waiting in tunnel	Available	Secure at least 1-metre distance
	PHO	Line up, tossing coin, etc	Available	Secure at least 1-metre distance
Post match	HB	Head Coach & Players flash interview	Available	Secure at least 1-metre distance
	Reporter	Official press conference	Available	Briefing room (secure distance)
		Mixed Zone	Not available	





EXPLANATION OF SCENARIO 1

Match without Spectator Attendance
(Closed Match)

Match Without Spectators (Closed Match)



In the case of implementation of the post-COVID-19 Match Operations Protocol, the objective is to safeguard the safety of all stakeholders involved in the matches. This is of paramount concern. If the MA/Club decides to play the match behind closed doors the AFC shall be informed of the decision by the host MA/Club and this decision will be supported by the AFC.

When it is decided to play a match without spectators, the AFC Match Operations Protocols on conducting a match behind closed doors shall apply.

Supporters will not be permitted to enter the stadium to view the match.

However, access can be granted to the following:

The number of people allowed from each team

- Players and team officials as accredited for the match
- Maximum of 2 guests in VVIP tribune
- Maximum of 25 guests in VIP tribune
- No guests in other areas

Other people allowed to attend the match

- LOC and Stadium management involved in the match organisation (the number of people to be confirmed with AFC Match Commissioner in advance)
- Security personnel (the numbers to be confirmed with AFC Match Commissioner in advance)
- Representatives of the AFC and its commercial partner
- Accredited media and TV broadcast

No tickets shall be sold for the match.

All personnel in the team not directly involved during in the match play (excluded are the 22 players and referees on the pitch), should always wear masks.

While some VVIP and VIP guests may attend the matches as per the numbers given above, dressing room visits shall not be allowed at any time.

All facilities including entrance, ticket booth should have clear signs indicating that the match is taking place behind closed doors and that no tickets are available. This will prevent anyone asking for tickets.

The host MA/Club shall make it clear that the match will be played behind closed doors on the MA/Club website and by all appropriate outlets.

Additional security and safety officials should be deployed outside the stadium to disperse any crowds which may attempt to gather.

Teams and other stakeholders should enter, where possible, be different entrances but the number of gates should be kept to the safety minimum.

The home team will be allowed to play recorded cheering to create an atmosphere in stadium for crowd simulation without any obligation to away team. The content must be approved by AFC Match Commissioner in advance.

The home team is also allowed, with the approval of the Match Commissioner, to play goal celebration noise and supporting video materials on the giant screen at the appropriate time during the match. Recorded sound shall not bear any commercial, religious, political or offensive messages.

All protocols, procedures, material and appropriateness of content must be cleared by the AFC Match Commissioner in advance of the fixture.

If the Host Broadcaster has issues with the sound effects, then there may be a request to adjust the noise levels.

The AFC Match Commissioner and/or the Match Officials reserve the right to stop the crowd effects and/or reduce the volume at any time during the game for any reason.



EXPLANATION OF SCENARIO 2

Match with Limited Spectator
Attendance (Restricted Match)

Match With Limited Spectators (Restricted Match)



This type of game has no different from the full match other than for the very specific protocol of regulating the number of spectators allowed into a stadium to below normal capacity.

This option is to facilitate social distancing during the COVID-19 emergency and to avoid the mass gathering of fans at the stadium.

The host MA/Club can exercise this option only with the permission of the local authorities for crowds to attend the events. This will allow, rather than a full capacity, a step-by-step approach to admitting a limited number of spectators.

Main recommendation for the delivery of this match:

- Instead of normal ticket sales, only selected spectators (members of the fan club, season ticket holders for league matches etc.) can be allowed.
- Spectator capacity for restricted match shall be less than 50% of the total sale able tickets while the recommended ratio is 30% of the total tickets available for sale, including the allocation of away tickets.
- Allocation of away tickets shall be discussed between two teams. However, it is not recommended to reduce the percentage of away team, maintaining at 8% of total capacity.
- Similar to closed match, there shall be clear announcements through appropriate media channels, including the MA/Clubs own platform, to make spectators aware of the status of the match.
- While the maximum number of spectators is recommended to be 30% of the total tickets available for sale, the fans who attend should be spread around the stadium and the distance between them controlled by the host MA/Club.
- Distance between spectators shall be controlled by the host MA/Club according to local regulations.
- Announcement shall be made regularly to control distance between spectators.
- The host MA/Club shall manage and control the number of spectators per entrance entering the stadium and shall also control the speed of entry of the spectators.
- Speed of entry of spectators (e.g. limited number of people per hour etc.).



EXPLANATION OF SCENARIO 3

Match with Full Spectator Attendance
(Normal Match)

Match With Full Spectators (Normal Match)

This phase consists of a full return to the normal use and procedures for on- and off-pitch facilities and activities with no limitations.

However, during this type of match, it is still required that the host MA/Club complies with the strictest hygiene and disinfection guidelines.

The continuation of the highest standards of hygiene measures should continue until the emergency health situation is declared over. Regular health messages should also be broadcast during matches to continue the process of educating fans.





APPENDIX 1

Guidelines - Risk Assessment Tools

Guidance for the Use of the WHO Mass Gathering Sports Addendum Risk Assessment Tools in the Context of COVID-19

Guidance for organisers of sports events planning mass gatherings during the current outbreak of COVID-19.

Routine planning for mass gatherings includes conducting risk assessments to determine the overall risk of disease spread. In view of the current outbreak of COVID-19, a disease-specific and event-specific risk assessment and mitigation checklist has been developed for use by host countries and organisers of mass gathering, to assess the specific risk of COVID-19.

This tool includes all factors from the general WHO risk assessment and mitigation checklist for mass gatherings as well as additional factors relating to sporting events, to enable event organisers to determine a more accurate overall risk score.

The following risk assessment and mitigation checklist should be used in conjunction with the WHO Mass Gathering Sports Addendum Guidelines.

In order to accurately provide answers to the following risk assessment and mitigation checklist, organisers must be knowledgeable on the current COVID-19 outbreak. The organisers should reference the daily global COVID-19 situation reports provided by WHO as well as the national COVID-19 situation reports, if available.

The tool must be completed in this Excel spreadsheet (see following tabs), as the scores are automatically calculated there. After the tools have been completed, the scores you receive in the Excel spreadsheet for both sections will need to be entered into the decision matrix found on the final tab ("Overall risk scores") for the overall risk score to be determined.

It must be ensured that this risk assessment is conducted with input from local public health authorities and that the necessary personnel with expertise in mass gatherings, risk assessment, epidemiology, and infectious disease control measures are included from the initial stages of planning.

For the overall determination, factors under consideration include:

- The current stage of the COVID-19 outbreak and known transmission dynamics.
- The geographical distribution and number of participants, and their individual risk profile.
- The risk assessment tool.
- The mitigation measures that are currently in place or feasible.

It is important to remember that while mitigation measures can reduce the risk of COVID-19 infections, they cannot completely eliminate the threat. It is WHO's view that all countries with community transmission should seriously consider postponing or reducing mass gatherings that bring people together and have the potential to amplify disease and support the recommended best practice of physical distancing. Any decision will be supported through the use of WHO tools, in particular the Risk Assessment for Mass Gatherings during COVID-19.

If movement restrictions and further national measures have been established in the country, the WHO RA does not apply.

However, when the process of re-opening/conducting mass gatherings is being considered post movement restrictions, it will be key to ensure any decisions are based on a risk assessment, such as the WHO Mass gatherings COVID-19 risk assessment.

You can find the Football-specific risk assessment tool [here](https://resources.fifa.com/image/upload/covid-19-footballra-060520a-final-hsp.xlsx?cloudid=raw/upload/gasm901hqp2n0zj4mtsr.xlsx). (<https://resources.fifa.com/image/upload/covid-19-footballra-060520a-final-hsp.xlsx?cloudid=raw/upload/gasm901hqp2n0zj4mtsr.xlsx>)



APPENDIX 2

COVID-19: Return to Football Medical Guidelines

1. Introduction

COVID-19 infection labelled as a pandemic has caused major disruptions in the lives of people and organisations. The virus is highly virulent and contagious as well as potentially fatal with no available specific drug therapy or vaccine. It is transmitted via human contact and the most effective way to contain the infection is to “Break the Chain” of the spread. Implementing regulations and adherence to recommendations of the World Health Organization, Local Governments and Football Organisations will help to break the chain of infection and control its spread. We are still not out of the woods as the virus is not fully understood by experts.

The intensity of infection varies from country to country in Asia. Limited hospital capacity in most places has led governments to implement stringent measures to keep the disease in check in collaboration with international assistance. Most Asian countries have reported reduction in the number of COVID-19 infections with flattening of the curve or plateau. Hence easing of restrictions will vary from country to country. This has led to much excitement and enthusiasm among the football community to commence the return of football.

With the lifting of restrictions in various countries, the custodians of the game of football need to exercise extreme caution for the reintroduction of football participation and competition. It is essential that Football Associations need to abide by the regulations of local governments and recommendations / guidelines by WHO, CDC and FIFA as health is of prime importance.



2. Return of Football

Health and safety of players is pivotal to the re-introduction of football. The following guidelines are advocated:

Pre-Competition Phase

1. Medical Examinations

- a) Daily screening of players / officials for body temperature and other symptoms such as cough, flu, shortness of breath etc. It is highly recommended that players / officials must do self-monitoring twice daily and record the results on a paper or electronic log that can be monitored by the team doctor.
- b) All players must be subjected to medical evaluation and tested for COVID-19 exposure (strictly PCR testing procedure) prior to training resumption.
- c) Asymptomatic Player with positive COVID-19
 - 1. No training for two weeks.
 - 2. Isolation with medical evaluation, cardiac screening (ECG; Echo and Cardiac MRI); blood tests for Troponin & C-Reactive Protein (CRP).
 - 3. If no cardiac concerns, player may proceed to graduated return to training with no high intensity training for one week.
- d) Symptomatic Player
 - 1. To follow local health governmental guidelines; and
 - 2. To undergo Pre-Competition Medical Assessment (PCMA) upon return to training.

Football being a contact sport, it is very important from a psychological perspective to convince the team that all players have been tested and no cases of COVID-19 exposure prevails within the team. This will enhance commitment and confidence in training and matches.

2. Training

- a) Detraining adversely affects fitness and performance of players. Coaches need to assess fitness of players. Hence gradual increase in intensity and workload need to be exercised to prevent injuries and illness.
- b) Training may begin as individual or pairs; small groups or as a complete team.
- c) Players with symptoms such as flu, fever, cough, sore throat, rashes, asthma etc. should be isolated, monitored and not attend the training.
- d) Players should maintain personal hygiene i.e. wash hands regularly, use hand sanitiser; no sharing of personal equipment (water bottles, towels, soaps, etc), cover mouth while sneezing or coughing etiquette using elbows or disposable wipe tissues.
- e) Avoid spitting and clearing of nasal/respiratory secretions on the pitch.
- f) No handshake, hugging, cheek to cheek, high five or any other physical contact. Greet with hello, nod or wave.
- g) After training: wear face mask; avoid crowding and disperse as soon as possible.



3. General Measures

- a) Players must have 8 - 10 hours of sleep, eat adequate amount of varied food both in quantity and quality and adequate amounts of fluids.
- b) Avoid crowded places. Maintain social distance of at least 1 - 2 metres from other people.
- c) Reduce number of team officials at training sites.
- d) Disinfect and rigorously clean team dressing rooms, balls, and related equipment prior to and after training.
- e) Ensure appropriate infection prevention supplies are present in multiple targeted areas (e.g., hand sanitiser, facial tissues, facial coverings, etc.).
- f) Players should separate their dirty clothes in a disposable bag and use fresh clothes when leaving the training site.
- g) Wear masks during travelling to/from the training site.
- h) Dispose of used tissues and masks in sealed bins.
- i) Travelling procedures: follow local government guidelines.
- j) If a player is found positive for COVID-19:
 - Testing of team.
 - Contact tracing.
 - Management to follow local health guidelines.
 - Notify AFC with strict confidentiality.

4. Education

It is essential to focus on preventing the spread and/or return of COVID-19 and the complications that may arise from infection. The implementation of the general measures must coincide with a comprehensive and continuous education regarding infection mitigation procedures:

- a) Ensure that players and team members are updated on the current pandemic situation and any emerging information.
- b) Ensure that players and team members are updated and fully understand the directives and guidelines of the local health authority.
- c) Continue to advocate measures such as personal hygiene, social distancing and maintaining a healthy lifestyle.



Competition Phase

1. Screening

One of the key factors in tackling the spread of COVID-19 across the globe is testing and it is vital to test quickly to identify and isolate those with the disease and to calculate accurate infection and survival rates. The testing availability worldwide has been limited, but it has changed over the course of the pandemic as cases and definitions evolve resulting in testing kits have becoming more available.

Now, testing is essential until such time the vaccine is available to safeguard the health of the players, coaches and other members of the team.

- a) The Pre-Competition Medical Assessment (PCMA) including COVID-19 testing must be conducted based on the following guidelines:
 - The COVID-19 testing shall be mandatory and part of the PCMA of all the Participating Players to be submitted to the AFC - 72 hours prior to your Team's departure from their home country to the Competition Venue. The PCMA documents shall be part of the eligibility requirements in accordance with the specific provisions set out in the relevant Competition Regulations.
 - Participating Clubs that have submitted the PCMA Declaration at the beginning of the AFC Champions League 2020 and AFC Cup 2020 do not need to resubmit a new PCMA, but are required to submit a copy of the COVID-19 test results to the AFC - 72 hours prior to your Team's departure from their home country to the Competition Venue.
 - All Team Officials must undergo the COVID-19 testing and copy of the results are required to be submitted to the AFC -72 hours prior to their departure from their home country to the Competition Venue.
 - The Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) shall be strictly used as the diagnostic test procedure.

- Officials and Players who are tested positive for COVID-19 prior to their departure from their home country shall submit an immunity certificate proving their recovery as well as a medical certificate by the Team Doctor (with relevant medical qualification); to ensure that the said players are fit to play - subject to approval of the AFC.
 - Team Delegation (Officials and Players) shall be subjected to COVID-19 testing upon arrival at the Competition Venue in accordance with the local health authorities' guidelines and/or any other restrictions deriving from the national legislation of the country or territory in which the Competition is taking place.
 - Team Officials and Players may be subject to sampling and testing, at the discretion of the AFC, throughout the duration of the Competition.
 - The AFC reserves the right to request additional documents in all cases.
- b) All players and officials must be screened for body temperature, cough, sore throat, etc. prior travel to stadium and upon entering the stadium.
- c) For the team delegation, reduce number of officials.

2. Match Operations

The AFC has established its protocol on match operations in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic situation which covers areas of operations with the aim to mitigate the spread of virus and ensure safe environment for the players and those involved in the organisation. The teams should adhere with the modifications as part of the "new normal".

3. Travel

a) Pre-Travel

- Advanced communication, coordination, and planning with the organiser and responsible authorities prior to departure.
- The LOC must appoint a medical liaison officer in constant communication with the club/team doctor and AFC.
- Follow local health screening procedures prior to embarkation. It is advisable that the team must arrive earlier at the airport to have sufficient time to go through check-in procedures and health screening requirements.

b) In-flight

Social distancing is difficult on crowded flights, and persons may have to sit near others (within 6 feet), sometimes for hours. This may increase risk exposure to infected person with COVID-19.

Travel increases chances of exposure to the virus as passengers require spending time in security lines and airport terminals which can bring a person in close contact with other people and frequently touched surfaces.

There are few ways to protect oneself from contacting the virus while on-board:

- Keep hands clean by bringing a pocket hand sanitiser on board or a small pocket of antiseptic hand wipes which can be used to wipe armrests, tray tables, remote controls at your seat and frequently touched surfaces such as handrails and lavatory handles and knobs.
- Wear face mask, if necessary.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed or unsanitised hands.
- Avoid close contact with a sick person on board and sit in group and refrain from gathering in groups as much as possible. The team's administration can plan and coordinate early with the airlines to request the team members to be seated in group.

c) On Arrival

- The Club/Team arriving at the host country should follow local health authority screening guidelines and management.
- To maintain appropriate distancing strategy when passing through the immigration.
- The LOC, however, can pre-arrange a dedicated fast lane or other modes of checking at the immigration and custom to avoid mixing with other passengers.

d) Transport to and from the airport

- Number of vehicles must be enough to implement social distancing.
- All vehicles must be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.
- Drivers and other personnel involved (at a minimum number) should be certified free from COVID-19 and must be wearing a mask, gloves, etc.

4. Team Bus

- a) Team bus must be cleaned and disinfected before the players embark to the stadium and after the players step-out of the bus. The disinfection must follow local government regulations.
- b) Driver must be free from symptoms of COVID-19 and must wear personal protective equipment such as mask and gloves.
- c) Only team members with proper accreditation shall be allowed to board the team bus.

5. Hotel Accommodations

- a) The Local Organising Committee (**LOC**) and hotel must appoint a person responsible for hygiene.
- b) The LOC Hygiene Personnel must inspect the hotel and discuss special provisions on sanitation and best solution to minimise possible transmission.
- c) The LOC must pre-book the official hotel/s with the number of rooms required for the visiting club/team while the visiting club/team should provide the list of players and officials at least 1-week prior to travelling. Any changes or additional people must be communicated two (2) days prior to the match.

- d) Hotel declaration form must be provided to the team before travelling and must be completed prior disembarking from the aircraft. The team responsible person will hand-over the forms to hotel manager.
- e) The LOC must ensure that all team members are on the same floor.
- f) A dedicated spacious dining room must be available to allow social distancing of 1 – 2 meters apart. Meals should be scheduled in a staggered basis to avoid overcrowding of the dining hall and maintain social distancing.
- g) Access to common areas such as spa, gym and bars is prohibited.
- h) Availability of hand sanitisers at the common access areas such as corridor, lift, main entrance of hotel and outside and inside the team medical room.
- i) Players and staff members must wear a face mask when they travel and when they are outside their rooms, the dining room and the team bus.
- j) Sanitising and cleaning of the rooms and premises must comply within the local government regulations.
- k) Maintain a good ventilation of the room. Air-conditioning in hotels can cause respiratory tract ailments and the risk of contagion can largely be prevented simply by switching off the air-conditioning in the hotel room, especially at night.
- l) Hotel should appoint a dedicated staff to clean the rooms for the entire duration of teams' stay. Alternatively, cleaning of room can be done as per the member request.
- m) Hotel employees should maintain personal hygiene by regular washing and disinfectant of hands, to wear face masks at all time especially if close contact with the team members. Hotel staff with symptoms of infections must not have access to the team hotel.
- n) Minimum number of hotel employees service to be provided to minimise transmission.
- o) Avoid direct contact with the buttons, handrails or door handles with the hand (some ideas to avoid contacts by using pen to press the lift button, use of elbow to open doors etc). However, make sure to wash hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use alcohol-based sanitisers.
- p) Avoid using other person's mobile phone/tablet/PlayStation/etc. Should the need arise high caution must be observed.

6. Meals

- a) Sufficient amount of food, beverages and dishes should be prepared before the players' arrival.
- b) No self-service/no buffet. Meals to be handed out by the own staff and/or the least number of hotel staff. The food will be put onto a table and fetched by players/coaches/staff members.
- c) The tables can only be cleared after the players have left the dining hall in order to have the least possible presence of hotel staff in the dining rooms during the meals.

3. Future Consideration

1. In the event vaccine is made available, teams must make an effort to vaccinate all players and team officials.
2. To continue to maintain personal hygiene of players and team personnel at place of stay, during training and in public though social distancing is no longer required.
3. Maintain the standard of cleaning and disinfection of training grounds, common touched areas, and equipment before, during and after training.
4. Continue to educate the players and team personnel on the infection control measures.



4. References to Available Guidelines

AFC recommends referring to the following documents as a guide to those undertaking risks assessments when organising training/competitions:

1. Football-specific risk assessment tool
<https://resources.fifa.com/image/upload/covid-19-footballra-060520a-finalhsp.xlsx?cloudid=raw/upload/gasm901hqp2nzj4mtsr.xlsx>
2. WHO risk assessment and mitigation checklist for mass gatherings in the context of COVID-19
https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/332079/WHO-2019-nCoV-Adjusting_PH_measures-Mass_gatherings-2020.1-eng.pdf.
3. WHO risk assessment tool: addendum for sports mass gatherings in the context of COVID-19
(<https://www.who.int/who-documents-detail/guidance-for-the-use-of-the-who-mass-gatherings-sports-addendum-risk-assessment-tools-in-the-context-of-covid-19>).
4. Considerations for sports federations/sports event organizers when planning mass gatherings in the context of COVID-19
(<https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/331764>).

5. Final Comments

1. Changes to the protocol shall be made from time to time.
2. Given that the COVID-19 pandemic situation is evolving, and diagnosis of the disease is emerging, please refer to the following resources for further updated information:
 - a) the WHO's global COVID-19 situation reports (<https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus>)
 - b) COVID-19 statistics by country, to identify risk by geographical location (<https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/#countries>).
 - c) the daily WHO situation and country-specific report (<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports>).
 - d) regional/national COVID-19 situation reports; and
 - e) the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control website on COVID-19 (<https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/novel-coronavirus-china>).



**THE BEST WAY TO
PROTECT YOURSELF
FROM COVID-19**



Wash your hands frequently and thoroughly using soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use alcohol-based hand sanitiser if soap and water aren't available.



Cough or sneeze into a tissue or flexed elbow, then throw the tissue in the trash.



Avoid touching, your eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands.



Maintain social distancing and stay at least 1 – 2 metres away from other people.



When sick, consult your health care provider and inform your team doctor.



Clean and disinfect surfaces and objects people frequently touch.



Wear a face mask when you are in crowded places and if you have respiratory symptoms.

HEALTH PROTOCOL RETURN TO TRAINING DURING THE CURRENT COVID-19 PANDEMIC

1 Before Training



- 1 Do a self-check (temperature and monitoring for other symptoms) to ensure you are well. If you are not well, do not go to training and instead inform your team doctor/health provider and seek advice.



- 2 Prepare your mask, hand sanitiser, wipes, tissues, and own water bottle.



- 3 Bring extra clothes for changing after training.



- 4 Upon arrival for training, team doctor should check player's temperature.



- 5 Education on infection control must be included in the pre-training briefing.



- 6 Team personnel to ensure equipment are rigorously cleaned and disinfected.

HEALTH PROTOCOL RETURN TO TRAINING DURING THE CURRENT COVID-19 PANDEMIC

2 During Training



- 1** Players should not share clothing, towels, bar soap or other personal items.



- 2** Avoid spitting and clearing of nasal/respiratory secretions on the pitch during training and play.



- 3** Players should not share water bottle. Strictly follow infection control measures (wash hands or use hand sanitiser, facial tissues, facial coverings, etc.).



- 4** Avoid touching door handles, railing & lift button, instead, use elbow and disinfect your hands when touching commonly touched areas.



- 5** No handshake, hugging, cheek to cheek, high five or any other physical contact. Greet with hello, nod or wave.

HEALTH PROTOCOL RETURN TO TRAINING DURING THE CURRENT COVID-19 PANDEMIC

3 After Training



1

Players should separate their dirty clothes in a disposable bag and use fresh clothes when leaving the training site.



2

Ensure all equipment are rigorously cleaned and disinfected after training. Proper disposal of used waste materials after training.



3

Use mask when leaving the training site to return home or place of stay. If you are staying at home, do not expose yourself to your family before cleaning and sanitising.



4

Disinfect all your training apparel (e.g. bag, shoes, gloves etc.) and wash clothes immediately.



5

Take a shower, clean oneself from head to toe.



6

Eat balanced diet and sleep 8 – 10 hours to boost your immunity



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SPECIAL RULES APPLICABLE TO AFC COMPETITIONS DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC



Special Rules Applicable to AFC Competitions During COVID-19 Pandemic (Edition 2021)

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PREAMBLE

These Special Rules are applicable to all AFC football Competitions and Matches taking place in the period during which they are in force in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic (the “Special Rules”).

These Special Rules set out the responsibilities of the AFC, Host Organisations, Participating Teams/Participating Clubs and all other relevant stakeholders participating in and/or otherwise involved in the staging, organising, hosting and/or delivery of the AFC Competitions and Matches (collectively the “Stakeholders” and each a “Stakeholder”), as well as any and all persons affiliated to the Stakeholders and/or carrying out duties on their behalf (collectively the “Individuals” and each an “Individual”).

These Special Rules shall be read in conjunction with and be considered to form an integral part of the relevant Competition regulations and the AFC Competition Operations Manual (the “Manual”), and shall also be read in conjunction with the AFC Match Operations Protocol during COVID-19 Pandemic (“AFC MOP”) and all other protocols, directives, decisions, guidelines and circulars issued by the AFC in connection with its Competitions and Matches.

In the event of any discrepancy between these Special Rules and any of the foregoing documents, the provisions of these Special Rules shall prevail to the extent of the discrepancy.

Failure to comply with any matter set out in these Special Rules is an offence and may be sanctioned in accordance with the relevant Competition regulations and the AFC Disciplinary and Ethics Code (as applicable).

For the purposes of these Special Rules, all defined terms shall bear the same meaning as ascribed to them in the relevant Competition regulations and the Manual, unless the context requires otherwise.

1. Compliance with AFC and Host Country Medical Protocol

- 1.1. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the AFC MOP, all Stakeholders and Individuals are required to comply with:
 - 1.1.1. the provisions of these Special Rules and all rules set out herein; and
 - 1.1.2. all health, safety, medical, security, travel and other protocol and laws set by the relevant authorities of the host country any Match is held in, at all relevant times.
- 1.2. For the avoidance of doubt, where the relevant authorities of a host country have imposed additional and/or stricter requirements than those set out in these Special Rules, such additional and/or stricter requirements shall prevail.
- 1.3. For the avoidance of doubt, nothing in these Special Rules shall affect any obligations arising from any applicable national laws (whether in a host country, a Stakeholder or Individual's home country, any transit country or otherwise) and the relevant Stakeholder or Individual (as appropriate) shall be solely responsible for complying with all applicable laws and protocols.

2. Temperature Checks and Entry to the Stadium

- 2.1. All Individuals shall be subject to a temperature check prior to entering a Stadium.
- 2.2. Any Individual re-entering a Stadium for any reason shall be subject to another temperature check.
- 2.3. In case the measurement of a temperature check is higher than 37.5°C (or the temperature required by the host country, whichever is lower), the relevant Individual will be subject to a second temperature check which shall take place approximately ten (10) minutes after the first temperature check.
- 2.4. In case the measurement of a second temperature check is still higher than 37.5°C (or the temperature required by the host country, whichever is lower), the relevant Individual shall not be allowed to enter and shall be escorted to an isolation room/area. The relevant Individual shall be referred to the AFC Medical Officer or (if the AFC Medical Officer is not present in the Stadium) the LOC Medical Officer who will take the final decision on any further action(s). Individuals and Stakeholders must comply with all directions of the AFC Medical Officer or LOC Medical Officer (as appropriate) in this regard.
- 2.5. In case any Individual is not allowed entry to a Stadium as a result of the operation of Articles 2.3 and 2.4, the relevant Stakeholder shall be responsible for replacing such Individual and for ensuring that the delivery of the Match is not affected (subject to any applicable rules regarding registration).

3. Testing and Eligibility

- 3.1. Only Participating Players, Participating Officials and Match Officials who have tested negative for COVID-19 in accordance with the testing requirements set out by the AFC and the relevant authorities of the host country shall be able to participate in a Match.
- 3.2. Any Individual who travels to the host country of a Match or Competition and tests positive for COVID-19 at any time after his/her arrival to the host country shall immediately be quarantined by the relevant Stakeholder. This requirement also applies to any Individual who tests positive but is already present in the host country of a Match or Competition (i.e. an Individual who does not need to travel). The relevant Stakeholder shall also immediately report the positive test to the AFC and comply with all reporting obligations required under the national law and/or protocol of the host country, maintaining strict confidentiality. The relevant Individual shall be subject to the medical protocol of the host country. Any such Individual who subsequently tests negative for COVID-19 shall only be allowed to participate in a Match after providing such medical and other supporting documents as are required by the AFC and the relevant authorities of the host country (e.g. a negative test result from an approved and validly authorised testing facility), and any such participation shall always be subject to the prior written approval of the AFC (to be granted or withheld at the AFC's sole discretion).
- 3.3. Any Individual who has been tested positive for COVID-19 at any time prior to their arrival to the host country of a Match or Competition (whether such Individual has recovered or otherwise) shall provide such medical and other supporting documents as are required by the AFC and the relevant authorities of the host country. This requirement also applies to any Individual who has tested positive in the past but is already present in the host country of a Match or Competition (i.e. an Individual who does not need to travel). Individuals covered by this Article 3.3 shall only be allowed to participate in any Match with the prior written approval of the AFC (to be granted or withheld at the AFC's sole discretion).
- 3.4. The relevant Participating Team/Participating Club shall be fully responsible for all of its Participating Players who return to play after recovering from COVID-19 and neither the AFC nor any other Stakeholder shall be liable for any medical complication that may develop as a result of or in connection with any Participating Player's return to play in a Match and/or participation in a Competition (whether from the after effects of COVID-19 or otherwise) or for any other liability (whether financial or otherwise) connected with their return to play. The AFC may request the relevant Participating Team/Participating Club and/or the relevant Participating Player to sign a declaration that the relevant Participating Player is medically fit to participate in a Match and/or Competition.

- 3.5. Any withholding of information or failure to provide supporting documents by a Stakeholder, or the making of false or misleading statements by a Stakeholder, may result in the initiation of disciplinary proceedings in accordance with the relevant Competition regulations and the AFC Disciplinary and Ethics Code (as applicable), and/or legal action being initiated by the relevant authorities of the host country.
- 3.6. No media releases or public announcements (including any social media posting) regarding test results (positive or negative) or otherwise relating to AFC protocol or procedure shall be made by any Stakeholder and/or Individual without the AFC's prior written approval.
- 3.7. In case any Individual is not allowed to participate in a Match due to a confirmed case of COVID-19, the relevant Stakeholder shall be responsible for replacing such Individual and for ensuring that the delivery of the Match is not affected (subject to any applicable rules regarding registration).
- 3.8. For the avoidance of doubt, save to the extent expressly provided in these Special Rules or otherwise by application of the relevant Competition regulations, the existence of any confirmed COVID-19 case(s) for any Individual(s) shall not impact on the scheduling of any Match or Competition.

4. Determining the Result of a Match that cannot be Played

- 4.1. If a Participating Team/Participating Club has less than thirteen (13) Participating Players (including one [1] goalkeeper) available for a Match for any reason (whether or not relating to COVID-19), the relevant Participating Team/Participating Club shall not be able to participate in the Match. Such Participating Team/Participating Club shall be held responsible for the Match not taking place and shall be considered to have withdrawn from the relevant Competition. The relevant Participating Team/Participating Club and its affiliated Member Association shall be subject to the provisions of the relevant Competition regulations regarding the consequences of withdrawal, as applicable.

In exceptional circumstances and provided that any rescheduling will not affect the Match Schedule determined by the AFC General Secretariat, the AFC Competitions Committee (or any sub-committee carrying out duties on its behalf) may grant an exception to the foregoing and allow the relevant Match to be rescheduled.

Competitions (or parts thereof) to be played in a centralised format (including, for example, centralised Matches in the Group Stage of AFC Club Competitions)

- 4.2. In case a Participating Team/Participating Club cannot travel to the host country and/or Venue due to any travel or other restriction relating to COVID-

19, the Participating Team/Participating Club shall be considered to have withdrawn from the relevant Competition. The relevant Participating Team/Participating Club and its affiliated Member Association shall be subject to the provisions of the relevant Competition regulations regarding the consequences of withdrawal, as applicable.

- 4.3. Subject to Article 4.1, all Matches shall take place in accordance with the Match Schedule determined by the AFC General Secretariat.

Competitions (or parts thereof) to be played in a home and away format (including any single-leg Match which is not to be played as part of a centralised format)

- 4.4. Host Organisations shall cooperate with the relevant authorities of the host country and use their best endeavours to obtain exemptions from any travel and/or other restrictions relating to COVID-19 which may impact on the relevant Match(es). In particular, Host Organisations shall ensure that:

4.4.1. the away Participating Team/Participating Club is allowed to travel into the host country and/or Venue of the Match (i.e. borders open);

4.4.2. if a full exemption cannot be obtained, the away Participating Team/Participating Club will serve a quarantine period of no more than two (2) days (unless otherwise mutually agreed between the Participating Team/Participating Clubs and/or as instructed by the AFC) upon their arrival to the host country and/or Venue of the Match; and

4.4.3. the away Participating Team/Participating Club will be provided with an Official Training Site and be allowed to conduct training sessions during its quarantine period, if any.

- 4.5. In case the Host Organisation is not able to comply with the requirements set out in Article 4.4, it shall propose an alternative neutral venue for the relevant Match that would ensure the requirements set out therein are met. Such proposal shall be submitted by no later than thirty (30) days prior to the relevant Match or as otherwise instructed by the AFC for the AFC's written approval (to be granted or withheld at the AFC's sole discretion). The Host Organisation will remain responsible for the organisation of the Match at the neutral venue and all related costs. In case the Host Organisation fails to propose an alternative neutral venue in accordance with the applicable deadline, its Participating Team/Participating Club shall be considered to have withdrawn from the relevant Competition. The relevant Participating Team/Participating Club and its affiliated Member Association shall be subject to the provisions of the relevant Competition regulations regarding the consequences of withdrawal, as applicable.

- 4.6. If the Host Organisation has complied with the requirements set out in Article 4.4 but an away Participating Team/Participating Club cannot travel to the

host country and/or Venue of a Match due to any travel and/or other restriction relating to COVID-19 imposed by its home country and/or any transit country (e.g. due to travel restrictions imposed by the relevant authorities of its home country), such away Participating Team/Participating Club shall be held responsible for the Match not taking place and shall be considered to have withdrawn from the relevant Competition. The relevant Participating Team/Participating Club and its affiliated Member Association shall be subject to the provisions of the relevant Competition regulations regarding the consequences of withdrawal, as applicable.

- 4.7. Subject to Article 4.1, all Matches shall take place in accordance with the Match Schedule determined by the AFC General Secretariat.

5. Financial Responsibilities

- 5.1. Subject to Article 5.2, the Host Organisation shall be responsible for:
- 5.1.1. implementing preventative measures in all Controlled Access Areas in compliance with the medical protocol set by the AFC and the relevant authorities of the host country, at its own cost; and
 - 5.1.2. organising and covering the cost of the COVID-19 testing process for the AFC Delegation and Participating Teams/Participating Clubs upon their arrival to the host country and (if required) on an ongoing basis, as well as for organising and covering the cost of the COVID-19 testing process for Participating Teams/Participating Clubs already based in the host country. This shall include, without limitation, the purchase of testing kits, the delivery of testing, the analysis of samples and the results management process. The Host Organisation shall ensure that these obligations are discharged using appropriately skilled personnel and in a timely manner, in the utmost confidence.
- 5.2. The relevant Stakeholder shall be responsible for any and all costs and/or expenses (unless agreed otherwise with any relevant Individual) incurred by all Individuals affiliated to it and/or carrying out duties on its behalf in connection with their involvement in any Match or Competition, including, but not limited to, any insurance coverage, hospitalisation, medical and quarantine costs.

6. Decisions

- 6.1. All decisions made by the AFC Competitions Committee (or any sub-committee carrying out duties on its behalf) in accordance with these Special Rules, except where expressly identified otherwise, are final and binding and not appealable.

7. Enforcement

- 7.1. These Special Rules were ratified by the AFC Executive Committee on 10 September 2020 and came into force immediately.
- 7.2. These Special Rules were amended by the AFC Executive Committee on 17 March 2021 and came into force immediately. The relevant amendments are highlighted in these Special Rules.
- 7.3. These Special Rules shall continue to remain in force until such time as the AFC Executive Committee decides otherwise.
- 7.4. The AFC Executive Committee may amend these Special Rules at any time.

For the AFC Executive Committee

Shaikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa
President

Dato' Windsor John
General Secretary



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GUIDELINES FOR PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF COVID-19

This is the basic guideline, prepared for the club to undergo league competition for the season 2020-21 during the COVID-19 pandemic. The role of the team doctor will be needed and is responsible for preparing the technical health protocol in the club regarding COVID-19 in accordance with instructions of Bangladesh government, FIFA, AFC and WHO.

I. General Guidelines

1. Monitoring participants closely for any flu-like symptoms, and isolating affected individuals and contacting a healthcare provider immediately if any respiratory illness is noted.
2. Implementing recommended protective measures, including daily health checks (ranging from the monitoring of respiratory signs/symptoms to body-temperature checks and specific COVID-19 laboratory testing).
3. All players returning to professional football to be tested for COVID-19 as a safeguard and to build psychological confidence within the team and surroundings:
 - a. The first test to be conducted 72 (seventy two) hours before resuming any football activities.
 - b. Football participants then to be under supervision of team doctors following recommended hygiene and protective procedures.
 - c. Football participants who test positive will not be allowed to participate in any footballing activities and will be under supervision of team doctors.
 - d. Only football participants who test negative will be allowed to participate in footballing activities.
4. Require that all players and team officials use masks in the training environment, on their way to and from the training ground, and when each person leaves the training venue.
5. In certain conditions if needed, the club can facilitate quarantine / self-isolation.
6. Guests / visitors / media crews will be examined by special officers and if they do not meet health requirements it is not permitted to enter the training area.
7. Players and officials are encouraged to minimize the time of stay in the dressing room before and after the training session.
8. During training, it is best not to allow audience / fans to attend.
9. Common areas such as multipurpose rooms that are shared, should be used for things that are important only.

10. Team meetings should take place in a room with adequate space.

II. Recommendations for Hotel Accommodation

1. Team officials can first travel to the hotel to prepare the sterilization procedures and coordinate with the hotel before the entire team arrives at the hotel.
2. It is recommended to bring as few official personnel as possible (essential team members only), not bring high-risk people (old people, have chronic diseases).
3. The place to stay for the hotel for players and team officials must be in a special / exclusive area or at least on the same floor to minimize contact with other hotel visitors.
4. It is recommended not to use hotel facilities such as spa, gym, swimming pool. This is done to minimize interactions with other hotel visitors.
5. Rooms are not cleaned by the hotel cleaning service during the players and officials are still in the hotel. If the team only stays 1-2 days at the hotel it is recommended not to be cleaned. Sanitary needs while at the hotel can be provided for 2 days from the start before the team enters the hotel in order to minimize contact with the hotel staff.
6. The team official in charge of the sterilization/manager must ensure that the hotel rooms to be used have been disinfected before the team arrives at the hotel.

III. Guidelines for Environmental Hygiene and Cleanliness

1. Hand sanitizers are available at the front door of each room if possible, this will be used before people will enter the room.
2. Perform procedures for disinfection of rooms, hallways, entrances / exits, and other areas that are routinely passed by people routinely after training ends.
3. Improve ventilation of each room in the training building / mess player.
4. Implementing a Clean Healthy Lifestyle in the training area and the player's mess;
 - a. Wash your hands with soap and running water.
 - b. Use your elbows to open the door and push the elevator button.
 - c. Do not crowd and keep a distance on the elevator with their backs to each other. Maintain distance when sitting eating together.
 - d. Try not to touch the facilities / equipment that are shared in the training area, use a hand sanitizer.
 - e. Get used to not shaking hands.
5. Sports equipment, eating and drinking equipment do not share between players and officials.
6. After using sports equipment / machines users must wash their hands.

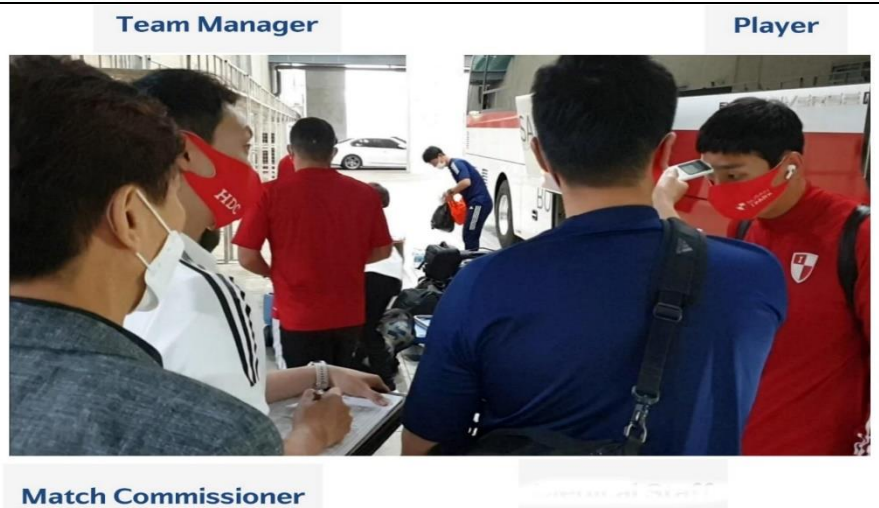
7. Team personnel from the club's medical department (doctors, physiotherapists, masseurs, etc.) at work must always use medical masks, always be consistent to wash their hands after interacting with players while doing therapy and others. Another alternative is to use disposable medical gloves when handling players.
8. Medical equipment used for doctors and therapists must be cleaned with disinfectants before and after use.
9. The door to the room should be kept open to minimize contact between the door handle and the person.

IV. Guidelines for Competitions

Separate time for the team arrivals into the stadium (minimum 5 minutes gap).



Fever test / hand sanitizing at the stadium entrance point (distancing).



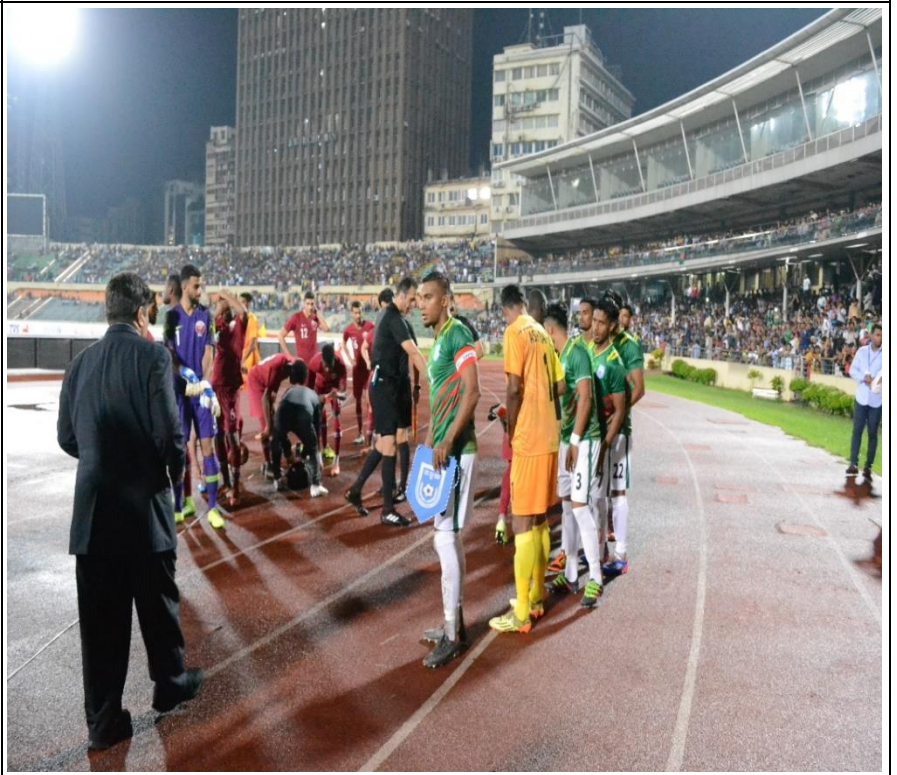
Mandatory possession of wearing of a mask.



Team check by MC and 4th Official shall be conducted in the team technical area once players come out for pre match warm-up (before start of the warm-up) not in the dressing rooms.



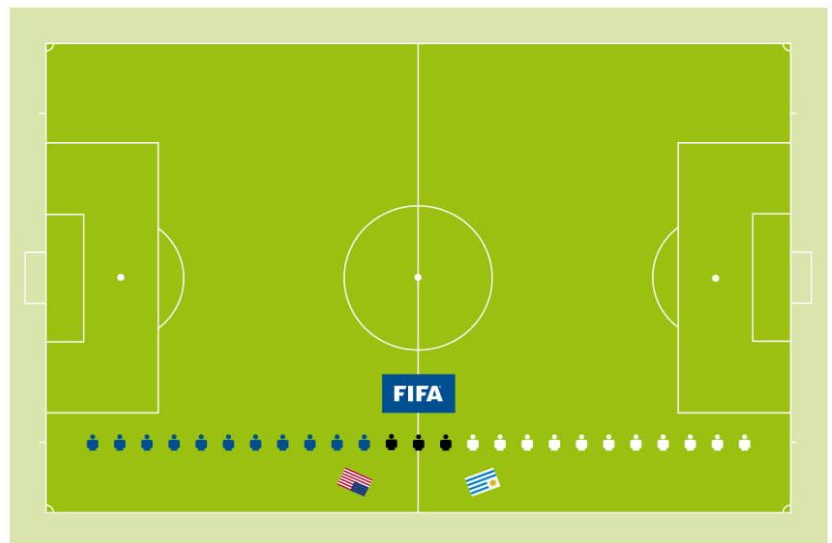
Final check by referee before march-in (in the gathering area).



March-in (distancing).



New line up:
Players and match officials should keep the physical distance (no VIP handshakes, no handshakes between teams).



No cheering scrum before kick off.



No cheering scrum between players
before kick off

Avoid close contact during any goal celebration.



Referee protocol (new normal) (the referee who denied to join the hand with the player).



Team members and substitute players to wear masks at all times except those players in the FOP during training, warm up, cooling down and match.



Avoid spitting.



Avoid sharing personal properties.



Equip personal water bottles:
It is recommended that all players and officials use their personal labeled water bottle.



Avoid exchanging uniforms.

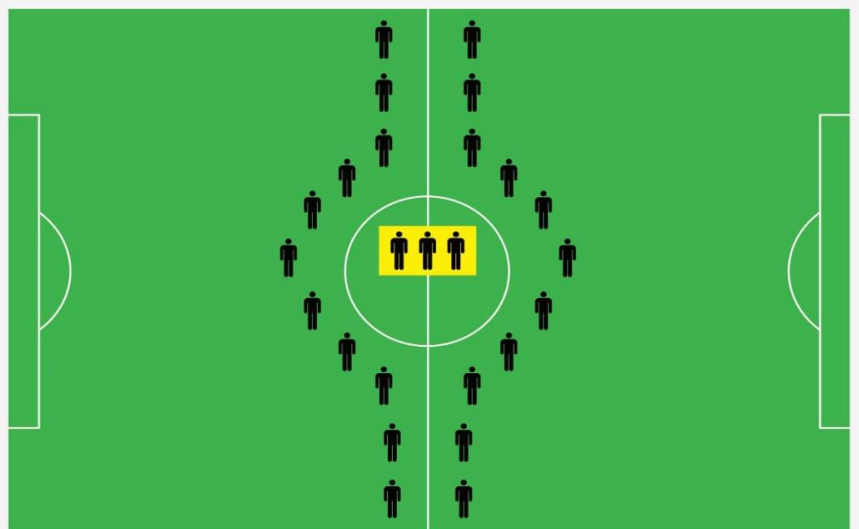
No exchanging jersey



It will be compulsory for those involved to wear face covering during press conference and at any media Interviews.



In the half time avoid communication with others, avoid team scrum (gathering in a circle) before kick off.



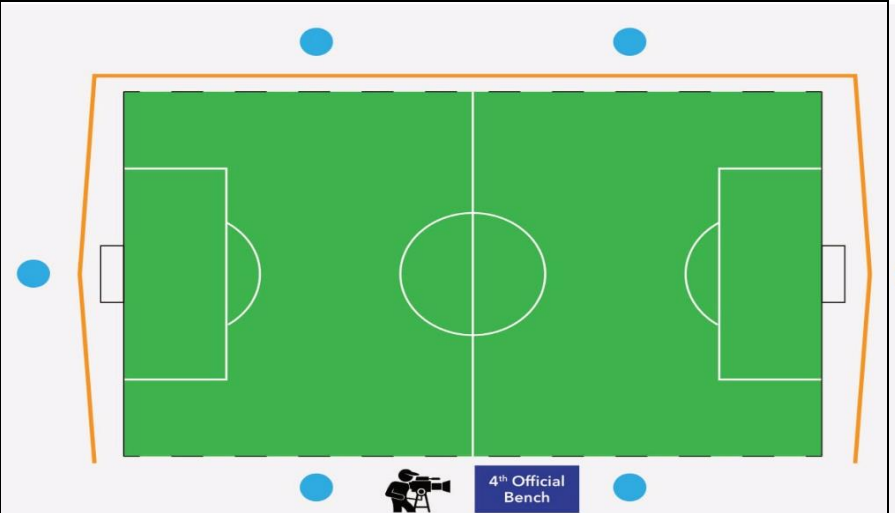
After the Match there will be no post-match handshake, Players are encouraged to leave the field without any physical contact, Teams to line up next to center circle in their own half and applaud the other team before leaving the field, Referees to remain in the center circle until players have left the field.



After the match cool down of team is subject to MC's approval, teams are recommended to leave stadium and minimize the length of stay after the match. Dressing room visit after the match by team guests shall not be allowed.



Total of 6 ball kids, with hand sanitizer, disposable gloves.



*This protocol is prepared based on various references from FIFA, AFC and WHO.