

ADIB CUP COMPETITION REGULATIONS

SEASON 2023-2024



رابطة المحترفين الإماراتية
UAE PRO LEAGUE

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Preamble

Having perused:

- The ministerial Decision no. (17) for 1972 on the registration of the UAE Football Association (UAEFA);
- The minutes of meeting of the general assembly on 17/9/2007, on the approval of the Statutes of the UAE Football Association (UAEFA) and the amendments thereto;
- The statutes of The Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA);
- The statutes of The Asian Football Confederation (AFC);
- The statutes of The International Football Association Board (IFAB);
- The decree under federal law no. (7), 2008, on the General Authority of Youth and Sports Welfare and other concerned bodies;
- The decree under federal law no. (60), 2009, on the UAE joining the International Convention against Doping in Sport;
- The decree under federal law no. (119), 2009, on the UAE joining the International Convention against Doping in Sport;
- The Internal Statue of the UAE PL issued by virtue of resolution No. 34 of 2011 of the UAE FA Board of Directors.
- The statute of the Federal Law No.8 of the year 2014 on the Security of Sports Facilities and Sports Events,
- And based on the proposal made by the UAE PL, approved by the Board of Directors of the UAE FA,

We have issued the regulations of the ADIB Cup Competition for the sports season 2023/2024, as follows:

Section (1):

Article (1): Definitions

Unless the context otherwise requires, the following words and terms in these Regulations shall have the same meaning set for them in the Statutes and General Rules of UAE FA, and the following words and terms shall have the meaning assigned to each of them:

Country: United Arab Emirates

FIFA: The Fédération Internationale de Football Association

AFC: The Asian Football Confederation

IFAB: The International Football Association Board

WADA: World Anti-Doping Agency.

NADO: National Anti-Doping Organization

UAE FA: UAE Football Association

UAE PL: UAE Professional League

Quality Control Procedures: The procedures that clubs must follow during the season regarding the competition, matches, events, and associated activities or events related to the competitions, as specified in the Competition Regulations or any of the UAE PL regulations, circulars, and decisions, for which a financial penalty is imposed for non-compliance.

Trademark Guidelines: guidelines governing the proper use of competition trademarks and sponsors' logos.

Technical Meeting: the meeting held prior to any League matches (when required), and attended by the appointed match officers and team managers of the participating clubs.

Accreditation Card: any form of authorization issued by the UAE PL which grants its holder the right to be present in the access control areas (or parts of thereof

Authorized person: the person authorized to carry out certain activities within the official areas as per the accreditation card.

Member Club: the club having membership in the UAEFA as per the Statutes.

Club: the commercial body or football companies entitled to participate in the UAE PL's competition on behalf of the member club according to a written agreement between the parties thereto.

Participating Clubs: teams participating in the competition under the authority of the Club and the UAE PL.

Circulars: Instructions or amendments related to these Regulations, notified to the Participating Clubs in the forms of official letters before or during the season, by the UAE PL.

Commercial Affiliates: anybody obtaining any right of the commercial rights from the UAE PL.

Commercial Rights: all utilization rights of The League, including but not limited to broadcasting, concession, hosting, photography, trading, promotional, sponsoring, travel, tour, new media, video registration, and/or commercial utilization using any other means according to the Statutes of the Association.

Referees: the match officers appointed by the Referees Committee according to these Regulations.

League: ADNOC Pro League.

First Round: This refers to the period starting from the first official match in the first match week of the ADNOC Pro and continuing until the completion of the matches in the thirteenth week of the same competition.

Second Round: This refers to the period starting from the first official match in the fourteenth match week of the ADNOC Pro and continuing until the completion of the matches in the twentieth week of the same competition.

Medical Team: All medical officers working for the clubs, including physicians, nurses, specialists of natural treatment, professional massagers, pharmacists, other medical practitioners and all other persons authorized by the concerned Health Authority in each emirate according to the rules and regulations governing health care and medical responsibility in UAE.

Force Majeure or Sudden Incidents: any unexpected incident that may not be avoided arising from a foreign cause that has no relation to the parties and which affects or could affect the enforcement of any articles herein, including but not limited to storms, floods, lightening, fire, explosions, earthquakes, structural damages, epidemic catastrophe, or any other natural disaster, wars, terrorist attacks or military actions, riot, chaos, strike, lockouts, industrial procedures or civil disobedience.

UAE Professional League (UAE PL) is the body formed by virtue of the decision of the General Authority for Sports No. (1) of 2019, and consists of the Professional Clubs eligible to participate for the sports season 2023-2024, and is responsible for the organization, marketing and investment of the competitions thereof.

UAE PL Board of Directors: it is the body elected by the UAE PL chaired by the UAE PL Chairman (FA vice-chairman) to perform the functions entrusted to him under the UAE PL Statutes.

The Technical Committee: the committee constituted by virtue of the resolution of the UAE PL Board of Directors, and which undertakes the tasks stipulated for herein in this regulations in accordance with the decision of its formation, and in coordination with the Competitions Committee in the UAE FA with regards to mutual matters.

The Executive Department of the UAE PL: is the administrative sections in charge of the implementation of the regulations and the resolutions issued by the UAE PL Board of Directors and to supervise the organization of competitions and to coordinate among the subcommittees and the professional clubs.

Participating Player: the player registered with a Participating Club in the association and participating in the competition as well as any other player under the authority of the UAE PL.

Regulations: all regulations and/or policies controlled and published by the UAE PL and/or the UAE FA in connection with the Competition, including but not limited to the UAE FA Statutes, UAE PL Statutes, Disciplinary Code, the Competition Regulations, UAE PL Stadia Regulations, UAE PL Equipment Regulations, UAE PL Youth Programme Regulations, UAE PL Accreditation Regulation, UAE PL Media Regulations, UAE PL Marketing Regulations, Safety and Security Manual, and the circulars issued by the UAE PL

Matches: All football matches held in the framework of the ADIB Cup competition including deferred or repeated matches.

Facilities: the official areas and press centers/facilities, tickets kiosks and hosting areas used in relation to the competition matches held by the UAE PL.

Competition: the ADIB Cup competition including the matches registered in the match schedule and the activities held on the field (in addition to matches) such as celebrations, media conferences, or other relative official activities.

General Coordinator: the match officer appointed by the host club according to these Regulations.

Host club: the club first-mentioned in in any of the Competition matches registered in the match schedule.

Match Schedule: the official fixture list as defined by the UAE PL.

Broadcast Affiliates: any entity(ies) including without limitation the Host Broadcaster, that have acquired from the UAE PL any rights in relation to the Broadcast Rights.

Host Broadcaster: the party assigned by the UAE PL to provide a specific scope of services in relation to the production of basic audio-visual broadcasting materials (or any other materials) related to any Match or any official event.

Broadcasting Rights: the right to broadcast the competition matches and entering the stadium for purposes of TV live broadcasting and/or radio broadcast and/or voice recording and/or audio-visual media recording in addition to obtaining licenses for live broadcast and/or recording and/or any of these matters in any form whatsoever or all forms of TV broadcast and/or radio or any other media existing nowadays or might exist in the future including all forms of land, wired and satellite TV broadcast, the internet, TV broadband (fixed and/or wireless), internet, interactive televisions, broadcasting by phone and any other electronic applications or other means and tools.

ADNOC Pro League: the professional league organized by the UAE PL participated by the first team of Clubs.

Pro League Under 21: the league competition organized by the UAE PL participated by the under 21 team of the Clubs.

UAE PL Logo: the official logo for the UAE PL and/or other official logos that are only used by the UAE PL except as agreed upon between the concerned parties.

Match Officials: the referees appointed by the UAE FA and/or the UAE PL in accordance with these Regulations.

Laws of the Game: the codified rules which are authorized and published by the International Football Association Board

Official Match Countdown: the list containing UAE PL approved activities and events starting three hours before the match and ending at least one hour after the match, this list includes the activities as well as the time these activities should take place.

Prohibited Items List: the list of items which spectators are prohibited from taking into any stadia used for any Competition Match, which shall be periodically communicated to Participating Clubs.

Ground Roles: the Roles imposed by the UAE PI in Appendix (9) of its Stadia Regulations.

ADIB Cup Competition: an annual competition organized by the UAE PL among its professional clubs.

Disciplinary Committee: a semi-judicial committee of the association.

Dispute Settlement Chamber: an arbitration body specialized in settling disputes between players and clubs.

Appeal Committee: a semi-judicial committee of the association specialized in reviewing the appealed decisions issued by the disciplinary committee or chamber of disputes settlement.

Cassation Committee: a semi-judicial committee of the UAE FA specialized in the settlement of the decisions of the Appeal Committee and the committees of arbitration in their appellate capacity.

Referee Committee: the committee formed by the association responsible for all matters related to referees including the appointment of referees and appraisers for all competition matches.

Appeal Regulations: the regulations issued by the association on organizing the process of appealing decisions by the members and clubs.

Stadium Regulations: the regulations specifying the requirements to be fulfilled in the stadiums of clubs participating in competitions organized by the UAE PL.

Disciplinary Regulations: the regulations specifying the violations under the association rules and regulations, and the regulations of the UAE PL, which do not fall under the jurisdiction of any other bodies of the UAE FA or any other jurisdictions as stipulated for in the Disciplinary Regulations.

Arbitration Panel Regulations: the regulations issued by the UAE FA to regulate the appeal process in the settlement of the decisions of the Appeal Committee and the Arbitration Committees in their appellate capacity by the members and the clubs.

UAE FA Regulations of Players' Transfer and Status: the binding rules regulating the status of players and their eligibility to participate in the organized football competitions, and their transfer from and to the clubs of the UAE FA.

FIFA Regulations for Players' Status and Transfers: the international binding rules regulating the players' conditions and qualification for participating in the organized football competitions as well as their transfers between clubs from different leagues and associations.

Equipment Regulations: the regulations governing the equipment and clothes used by players and teams officers in the Competitions Matches organized by the UAE PL.

Safety and Security Manual: the Manual which sets out the organizational procedures aiming at ensuring safety and security at the stadiums where UAE PL Competitions are held.

Operations Manual: A booklet containing all the materials related to matchday operations in accordance with the Competition Regulations. In the event of any conflict with the Competition Regulations, the Competition Regulations shall prevail.

Youth Program Regulations: the Regulations delineating the roles and responsibilities of Ball Boys, Flag Bearers, and Players Escorts in all competitions organized by the UAE PL.

Accreditation Regulations: the Regulations that govern the enforcement of the Accreditation System in the Restricted Areas of the stadiums and their facilities.

Match Commissioner: the match officer appointed by the UAE PL in accordance with these Regulations and other relative UAE PL regulations.

Access Control Officer: the person appointed by the UAE PL to control the enforcement of the UAE PL accreditation system and the security arrangements related to the Competition Matches according to these Regulations.

Media Officer: the person appointed by the UAE PL to control the enforcement of the UAE PL Media Regulations as well as the TV Production and Broadcast of the UAE PL.

Doping Control Officer: the representative of NADO in accordance to these Regulations.

Referees Assessor: the match officer appointed by the referees committee in accordance to these Regulations.

Access Control Areas: the locations of the Matches and other events, such as (without limitation) Stadium and their fences and perimeters, the aerial space above the stadium, and all other locations associated with the Competition, including the Facility Areas, media centers, hospitality and VIP areas and facilities, other areas to which admission is regulation by the UAE PL Accreditation Regulations.

League Season: the period from the first football match organized under the auspices of the UAE PL (either in the UAE Super Cup, ADIB Cup or the ADNOC Pro League) until the last football match organized by the UAE PL (either in the ADIB Cup or the ADNOC Pro League or the Pro League Under 21).

Health Authority: the Ministry of Health or any other governmental federal or local authority working in the health sector inside UAE.

Media: all personnel working in the printed media, direct editors, photographers, TV staffs, representatives of parties owning the broadcasting rights and those entitled to obtain a media authorization card as specified by the UAE PL.

Starting List: the list, prepared by the participating club and is approved by the Match Commissioner or any person tasked to do so by the UAE PL, consisting of a maximum of (11) players who will start the match in addition to a maximum of (9) substitute players.

Section (2): General Provisions

Article (2): Introduction

- 2.1 This regulation regulates the rights, obligations and responsibilities of clubs participating in the competition.
- 2.2 All participating clubs should prepare, organize and host the competition matches according to the association statute, the executive regulation as well as regulations, directions and circulations issued by the UAE PL.
- 2.3 The clubs must not work against the public interest in developing and improving the level of UAE football and/or association and/or UAE PL.
- 2.4 Any rights associated with the Competition, that are not granted to the Clubs by these Regulations and/or specific agreements belong to the UAE PL.

Article (3): The Board of Directors of the UAE PL

- 3.1 The Board of Directors of the UAE PL is the direct authority responsible for executing the provisions contained in the Regulations and has the right to interpret the provisions at its own discretion as well as has the right to issue decisions on matters not provided for in the conditions and terms of this Regulation.

Article (4): Technical Committee and the Executive Department of the UAE PL

- 4.1 The Technical Committee: is the committee formed by virtue of the decision issued by the Board of Directors of the UAE PL to:

- 4.1.1 Supervision of the organization and management of competitions,
- 4.1.2 Develop the principles of Match agenda.
- 4.1.3 Approve the current season's Agenda.
- 4.1.4 Approve competition's fixtures.
- 4.1.5 Deal with appeals arising from the Quality Control Procedures;
- 4.1.6 Approve proposed competitions' Regulations,
- 4.1.7 Approve development project plans.
- 4.1.8 Approve annual rewards selection mechanism.
- 4.2 In the event of the dissolution of the Technical Committee and/or in case it was not constituted, the Board of Directors shall assume the responsibilities thereof.
- 4.3 The Executive Department: is in charge of controlling competitions and operations under governing regulations as follows:

- 4.3.1 Manage the competitions it organizes.
- 4.3.2 Develop principles of Match agenda.
- 4.3.3 Set match fixtures and the seasons Agenda.
- 4.3.4 Amend match agenda in accordance with competitions' regulations.
- 4.3.5 Develop competitions regulations.
- 4.3.6 Appoint and prepare match officials, and control proposals for external participations.
- 4.3.7 Study proposals to develop the competitions and prepare a final draft to be presented to the Technical Committee.
- 4.3.8 Put selection mechanisms for awards' nominees and prepare a final list of nominees.
- 4.3.9 Organize technical workshops for relative competitions.
- 4.3.10 Any other responsibilities stipulated for in other relative regulations, or as assigned to it by the UAE PL Board of Directors or the Technical Committee.

Article (5): Participation in Other Competitions

- 5.1 Clubs are not authorized to represent UAE PL or the Competition without prior written approval from the Board of Directors of the UAE PL
- 5.2 If for any reason the Competition shall be cancelled before the end of the First Round, the club ranking from the last season shall be consulted to choose clubs that will represent the country in any local, continental and international competitions, provided that such club shall have qualified for participation in such competitions in accordance with the provision of Article 6 of this Regulation.
- 5.3 Participation in foreign competitions for the Clubs shall be decided by the UAE FA Board of Directors upon the recommendation of the Board of Members of the UAE PL without conflict with the Regulations of the AFC, FIFA or the association organizing the competition. This decision shall determine which clubs shall participate in the next edition of the relevant continental or regional competitions.

5.4 So long as it does not contravene the Statutes, Rules and Regulations of the UAE Football Association (hereinafter known as the "Football Association" or the "UAE FA"), the UAE PL may organize any new competition, which should be notified to the Clubs with reasonable notice, and the UAE PL may change the titles of the championships.

Section (3): Participating Clubs

Article (6): Eligibility / Admission Criteria

- 6.1 All the fourteen (14) clubs participating in the ADNOC Pro League season 2023/2024 must take part in this Competition.
- 6.2 Eligible Clubs willing to become a member of the League must adhere to the procedures as and directives stated in these Regulations, and any other related regulations.
- 6.3 In case one or more clubs were unable to participate in the competition due to a force majeure (for example the club has been dissolved or merged with another club), the Board of Directors names the substitute clubs in accordance with the provisions of this regulation, provided that such clubs fulfill the requirements of participation in the UAE PL competitions.
- 6.4 The final decision on whether to complete or cancel the Competition lays with UAE PL Board of Directors, and the UAE PL assumes no responsibility for any financial loss resulting from such cancellation.
- 6.5 In the event UAE PL Board of Directors decides to cancel the Competition, all match results shall be void, while keeping disciplinary penalties and fines which had been imposed throughout the season.
- 6.6 All the Clubs shall abide by the business sponsorship contracts related to the matches and signed by the UAE PL.

Article (7): Obligations of Participating Clubs

Upon participating in the competition, the clubs must undertake to:

- 7.1 To observe any agreements entered into with the UAE PL as well as Regulations, policies, decisions, guidelines and circulars issued by the Board of Directors and/ or the Football Association and the applicable national laws;
- 7.2 To comply with the Laws of the Game issued by the IFAB;
- 7.3 To accept that all the administrative, disciplinary and refereeing matters connected with the Competition shall be settled by the UAE PL and/or the UAE FA in compliance with these Regulations or the decisions of relevant UAE PL and/or UAE FA Committee(s);

- 7.4 To recognize the jurisdiction of the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne;
- 7.5 To field their strongest team throughout the Competition;
- 7.6 To observe the principles of Fair Play;
- 7.7 To comply with and adhere strictly to the Official Match Countdown;
- 7.8 To be responsible for the behavior of their players, officials, members, supporters and any person carrying out duties on their behalf throughout all Competition Matches.
- 7.9 To accept all the arrangements made by the Host Club in agreement with the UAE PL.
- 7.10 To attend and participate in all official activities and events such as, but not limited to Technical Meeting, Workshops, Broadcast Meeting, match organizational meeting, press conferences, other media activities, etc. organized by the UAE PL in accordance with guidelines and/or instructions in circulars issued by the UAE PL.
- 7.11 To ensure that unauthorized persons are not allowed to enter the pitch area, its surrounding areas and the dressing rooms.
- 7.12 To ensure that all players and officials do not engage in any activities that will bring the game into disrepute and/or damage the integrity of the game.
- 7.13 Players/ clubs are committed to participate in all activities and events the UAE PL requests. In case the club/ player refuses to participate, this violation will be referred to the Disciplinary Committee and a fine of 30,000 AED is imposed.
- 7.14 To cooperate with UAE PL at any time – and in particular at the end of matches – in the collection of items from the game and players' personal items that could be used by UAE PL to create a memorabilia collection to illustrate the heritage of the competition, to the exclusion of any commercial use.
- 7.15 The club may use its name and/or logo provided all the following requirements are satisfied:
 - 7.15.1 The name is mentioned in the statutes of the club;
 - 7.15.2 The name is registered with the chamber of commerce or equivalent body;
 - 7.15.3 It is registered at the UAE FA and used all other national competitions;
 - 7.15.4 The name and logo do not refer to the name of a commercial partner.

If so requested, the club must provide UAE PL with the necessary documents and evidence.

- 7.16 Engage in professional contracts with the number of players set for in the Club Licensing Regulations.
- 7.17 All professional contracts signed with players in any of the club's registration lists shall be submitted to the Licensing Administration of the UAE PL within 10 business days of closing the transfer windows during the season, or within 10 business days of the concluding such contracts in case the registration was concluded outside the transfer windows.

Article (8): Players' Registration and Participation in the Competition

- 8.1 Registering and transfer of players of the clubs participating in the competition shall be in accordance with the regulations of players' movements and the annual circular No. (1) of the committee concerned with conditions and movements of players for the League Season 2023/202.
- 8.2 For this Competition, each club is entitled to participate with the following players:
- 8.2.1 All players registered in the club lists in the UAE FA provided that such players have completed 16 years old in the participation date.
- 8.2.2 The number of players registered in the match list of the following categories "Foreign players, born in the UAE, and UAE residence shall not exceed 10 players of which, a maximum of 7 players to be fielded in the match.
- 8.2.3 Goalkeeper registered in the team lists shall be Emirati or son of Emirati Mother or UAE Passport Holder throughout the entire match time. In case the goalkeeper was sent off during the match, or left the match for any other reason, he cannot be replaced by any foreign player or UAE Residence or players Born in the UAE, registered in the match list
- 8.3 Match Officials will check players' details through the FANET. In case the system was down and officials were unable to check players' details, the club shall provide such details manually, and is help responsible for the accuracy of such details.

Article (9): Team Officials' Registration

- 9.1 The UAE PL shall keep and maintain a register of Team Officials and management employed or engaged by any Club, including:

- 9.1.1 The management staff;
 - 9.1.2 The technical staff; and
 - 9.1.3 The medical staff.
- 9.2 At a minimum, the following officials must be registered in the list of each Participating Club, of which, those registered in the match will be chosen:
- 9.2.1 Team manager or Team Administrator
 - 9.2.2 Head coach
 - 9.2.3 Assistant coach
 - 9.2.4 Goalkeeper coach
 - 9.2.5 Fitness coach
 - 9.2.6 Doctor
 - 9.2.7 Physiotherapist
 - 9.2.8 Any other individuals who are either technical coaching staff, or medical staff or translator.
- 9.3 Member Clubs must abide by the registration procedure determined by the Board of Directors and communicated to them prior to the commencement of the League Season for issuing Accreditation Cards in accordance with Accreditation Regulations.
- 9.4 Head coach of each Participating Club must have at least the AFC 'Pro' Coaching certificate. In case the Head coach does not have a coaching certificate issued by the AFC, the head coach and the Participating Club are obliged to obtain the AFC recognition of competence in order for a Head coach to be approved for the Competition. When the coach is approved and registered by the UAE FA, he will be given a temporary card until his status is modified. Head Coach who has a minimum experience of five (5) years with the First Team is eligible to apply for the Certificate of Competence. This certificate will be valid for life. However, it is only valid within the territory to which that the Member Association belongs. Therefore, in case this Head Coach moved to a new Member Association, he should apply for a new Certificate of Competence.

- 9.5 For the avoidance of doubt, the Head coach will not be eligible for accreditation if documents in Article 9.4 are not submitted to the UAE PL. Subsequently, he will not be allowed to sit on the team bench and/or be in the team dressing room.
- 9.6 At least one of the assistant coach of the Participating Club must have at least the AFC 'A' Coaching certificate. In case the assistant coach does not have a coaching certificate issued by the AFC, the assistant coach and the Participating Club are obliged to obtain the AFC recognition of competence in order for an assistant coach to be registered in the Competition. When the coach is approved and registered by the UAE FA, he will be given a temporary card until his status is modified.
- 9.7 For the avoidance of doubt, the assistant coach will not be eligible for accreditation if documents in Article 9.6 are not submitted to the UAE PL. Subsequently, he will not be allowed to sit on the team bench and/or be in the team dressing room.
- 9.8 Participating Clubs must register at least one (1) goalkeeping coach who must have at least the AFC 'Level 3' Goalkeeping certificate. In case the goalkeeping coach does not have a coaching certificate issued by the AFC, the goalkeeping coach and the Participating Club are obliged to obtain the AFC recognition of competence in order for a goalkeeping coach to be registered in the Competition. When the coach is approved and registered by the UAE FA, he will be given a temporary card until his status is modified.
- 9.9 For the avoidance of doubt, the goalkeeping coach will not be eligible for accreditation if documents in Article 9.8 are not submitted to the UAE PL. Subsequently, he will not be allowed to sit on the team bench and/or be in the team dressing room.
- 9.10 Participating Clubs must register at least one (1) fitness coach who must have at least the AFC 'Level 2' Coaching certificate. In case the fitness coach does not have a coaching certificate issued by the AFC, the fitness coach and the Participating Club are obliged to obtain the AFC recognition of competence in order for an fitness coach to be registered in the Competition. When the coach is approved and registered by the UAE FA, he will be given a temporary card until his status is modified.

- 9.11 For the avoidance of doubt, the fitness coach will not be eligible for accreditation if documents in Article 9.10 are not submitted to the UAE PL. Subsequently, he will not be allowed to sit on the team bench and/or be in the team dressing room.
- 9.12 Any changes to any of the staff listed in Article 9.2 must be officially communicated to the UAE PL after successful registration according to the UAE FA regulations, by submitting an application through the Online Accreditation System before the scheduled match for the team in the competition. No accreditation cards will be issued outside official UAE PL working hours. Accreditation cards will be given to clubs after the UAE PL reviews the documents submitted by the club and ensuring that the submitted documents meet all the requirements as per the Licensing Regulations.
- 9.13 All participating clubs shall abide by the UAE FA registration procedure with regards to team officials, whereby all club medical staff must have a valid license (from the relevant Emirate) in order to practice as a Medical Health practitioner. Furthermore, in accordance with the laws and regulations governing health care and medical responsibility in their relevant Emirate, no member of a clubs' medical staff shall not be entitled to perform his or her functions before they are licensed by the relevant Health Authority.

Article (10): Teams Arrival & Player Selection List

- 10.1 Teams (players and team officials) must arrive at the stadium no later than ninety (90) minutes prior to the scheduled kick-off time for each Competition Match. Teams which fail to comply with this arrival deadline shall be penalized for failing to comply with the official match countdown in accordance with the Quality Control Procedure (QCP).
- 10.2 Match list consists of a maximum of (20) players,
- 10.3 The team manager of each participating Club is responsible for approving the 'Player Selection List' on the FA Net no later than ninety (90) minutes prior to kick off. The list shall indicate the following:

- 10.3.1 The (11) Players starting the match,
- 10.3.2 The (9) replacement players,
- 10.3.3 Team Captain,
- 10.3.4 Team Goalkeeper (starting and substitute)
- 10.3.5 A list of maximum ten team officials who shall be seated on the team bench, and
- 10.3.6 If the list was electronically approved, there is no need to have it signed by the team manager.

Article (11): Starting List

- 11.1 The participating club shall enter and approve the starting list in the period between 24 hours to 90 minutes prior to the match, provided that the starting list is verified by both the Match Commissioner and the Fourth Referee during a check of player jerseys prior to kick-off.
- 11.2 If the club wishes to make any changes to the starting list in the period between 90 minutes prior to kick-off until kick-off time, the Match Commissioner is the only person authorized to perform such change.
- 11.3 The finalized Starting List shall be distributed to participating teams, the media broadcasters, and LED personnel. In the event the List is changed in cases other than those permitted in Article 11.4 below, the club will be penalized in accordance QCP.
- 11.4 After the player list is completed, and if the match has not yet kicked-off, no replacement is allowed except in the following cases:

11.4.1 If any of the eleven (11) players indicated on the Starting list is not able to participate in the match due to unexpected physical incapacity (physical injury), they may only be replaced by any of the nine substitutes listed on the initial player selection list. The substitute(s) in question may then only be replaced by a registered player(s) not listed on the initial player selection list, so that the quota of substitutes is not reduced. This substituted player cannot take any part in the match and must not sit on the substitute bench.

11.4.2 If any of the nine (9) substitutes listed on the player selection list is not able to be fielded due to unexpected physical incapacity, they may only be replaced by a registered player not listed on the initial player selection list;

11.4.3 The Club concerned must, upon request, provide the UAE PL with the necessary medical certificates and reports.

11.4.4 In any case, registering a person who is not actually present in the stadium is not permitted. Violation of this article will lead to a penalty on the club in accordance QCP.

11.5 A player must have played in a match in order to be considered as having participated in that match.

Article (12): Officials Authorized to sit on the Team Bench

12.1 Ten individuals of the team officials may sit on the team bench.

12.2 The team officials registered for the match must wear their valid accreditation cards in the official areas in the stadium.

12.3 The list of officials approved on the FA Net must include the following:

12.3.1 Team manager/ Team Supervisor/ Team Administrator (Only one of them)

12.3.2 Head Coach

12.3.3 Doctor

12.3.4 Physiotherapist

12.3.5 Assistant Coach / physical fitness coach / Goalkeeper Coach

12.4 For the avoidance of doubt, for positions listed in Articles 12.3.3 to 12.3.5, only those who have submitted their qualifications as indicated in Articles 9.4 to 9.13, and approved by the UAE PL are eligible to be seated on the team bench. Further, for every match in the Competition, it is compulsory for officials listed in Articles 12.3.1 to 12.3.5 to be on the bench, unless due to decision of the UAE FA Disciplinary Committee.

Section (4): Technical Regulations

Article (13): Laws of the Game

- 13.1 All Competition Matches shall be held according to the Laws of the Game as laid down by the IFAB
- 13.2 Each team shall consist of eleven (11) starting players including the goalkeeper and no more than nine (9) substitute players.
- 13.3 If the number of the players on any team becomes less than seven (7) before or during any Competition Match then the Match will be dealt with in accordance with Article 23.
- 13.4 According to the Laws of the Game in relation to the permitted number of player substitutions during matches, each club has the right to substitute up to five players from the listed substitute players in starting list, with a maximum of three chances during the match. The substitutions made during the halftime interval are not included in these changes. If both teams make substitutions at the same time during the match, this substitution counts as one of the three allowed chances for each team.

Article (14): Competition Format

- 14.1 The competition matches will be played in a knock-out format in a Home and Away matches for Round (1), R8, and R4. The Final will be a single match played on neutral grounds decided by the Executive Department of the UAE PL. Teams competing in all Elimination Rounds as well as the stadiums hosting Home and Away matches will be decided by one official draw according to the draw mechanism approved by the Technical Committee.
- 14.2 In the Final, winner of First Semifinal will be Team (A) and will enjoy the benefits of the Hosting Team in terms of stadium facilities, priority to choose team colors, official training timing and pre-match press conference. Winner of the Second Semifinal will be Team (B).
- 14.3 ADNOC League Champion and ADIB Cup Champion for the past season automatically qualify for the Quarterfinal without participating in the Round (1) matches.
- 14.4 In the event where the same club is both the ADNOC League champion and the ADIB Cup champion for the past season, or if the ADNOC Pro League champion for the past season was relegated to the First Division, ADIB Cup Runner-up from the past season qualifies directly to the quarterfinal.

If the Runner-up also relegated to First Division, ADNOC League Runner-up from the past season qualifies directly to the quarterfinal.

Article (15): Tie breaking procedure

15.1 The procedure to determine clubs qualifying to the next round are as follows:

15.1.1 The club who has the highest number of points from matches held between the two competing clubs,

15.1.2 The club scoring the highest number of goals in matches between the two competing clubs,

15.1.3 If the two clubs are equal in goals scored in the home and away games after the end of the original time of the away match, points there will be no overtime sessions, and penalty kicks shall be taken to determine the winner in accordance with the procedures described in the Laws of the Game. No extra time will be played. Each team will have five (5) penalty kicks from the penalty point. If after five (5) penalty kicks there is no winner, sudden death penalty kicks is played until a team wins.

15.2 The Final:

15.2.1 If the match ends in a draw after the original time, there will be no extra time (additional periods). Instead, the winner will be determined through a penalty shootout according to the procedures outlined in the Law of the Game. Each team will take five penalty kicks from the penalty area, and if the teams remain tied in the shootout, the winner will be determined by each team taking one penalty kick at a time until one team wins.

Article (16): Match Duration

16.1 Each Competition Match shall last 90 minutes, comprising two (2) periods of 45 minutes, with an interval of fifteen (15) minutes in between from the whistle ending the first period to the whistle starting the second period.

16.2 The cooling break is implemented in the competition matches according to the weather conditions and whenever necessary, based on a decision issued by the executive management, according to the following procedures:

16.2.1 In the first half of the match: At approximately the 30th minute and when the ball is out of play, the referee will signal for the start of the cooling break. Players will gather at the front of their team bench, but while still within the field of play, to cool themselves with sponge soaked with icy water, ice and cool drinking water. This break will last approximately two (2) minutes and will end when the referee signals through his whistle. Players are not allowed to leave the field of play.

16.2.2 In the second half of the match: At approximately the 75th minute and when the ball is out of play, the referee will signal for the start of the cooling break. Players will gather at the front of their team bench, but while still within the field of play, to cool themselves with sponge soaked with icy water, ice and cool drinking water. This break will last approximately two (2) minutes and will end when the referee signals through his whistle. Players are not allowed to leave the field of play.

Article (17): Kick-Off Time

17.1 The after securing the approval of The Executive Department the Technical Committee shall determine kick-off times for all Competition Matches.

17.2 Each Club participating in a Competition Match shall adhere to the kick-off time.

17.3 Any Club which delays the kick-off of a Competition Match either at the start of the match or the re-start after the fifteen (15) minute half-time interval (as per Law 7 of the Laws of the Game) shall be fined in accordance with the Quality Control Procedure.

Article (18): Match Schedule

18.1 The Executive Department shall determine the schedule for Competition Matches. All matches must be played as per the schedule decided. Notwithstanding, the date or venue of any Competition Match can be changed as may be required by public interest.

- 18.2 In case a club wishes to change the time or date of the match, the club must submit its application for the change to the Executive Department, at least one week prior to the Competition Match. The application for change must include the proposed new time and date, the reason for the change, and the approval of the other club. The final decision will be at the discretion of the Executive Department.
- 18.3 In the case of a Competition Match being rescheduled to a new venue, the Home Club will be considered the Host Club and shall be responsible for all matters in accordance with relative clauses of the UAE PL regulations.

Article (19): Rest Days due to Participation in Other Competitions

- 19.1 If a Member Club plays a match within a Gulf, Arab or AFC Competition then the club shall be given a minimum of two (2) days rest and its next Competition match shall be played on the third day.
- 19.2 Article 19.1 is applied to periods of time preceding and following participation of the team in the external championships (Gulf, Arab and AFC Competitions).

Article (20): Suspension of Matches

- 20.1 If any Competition Match is stopped by the Referee before the end of normal time because of any force majeure or any other incidents such as, but not limited to, the field of play not fit to play, weather conditions, etc, the following procedures must be followed:
- 20.1.1 The match is automatically suspended for the duration of thirty (30) minutes to allow conditions to improve sufficiently to restart the match, unless the Referee decides that the match can be resumed earlier.
- 20.1.2 In the event that the Referee decides to restart the match in accordance with Article 20.1.1 above, the participating clubs have the right to request for an additional five (5) minutes preparation and warm-up time; and
- 20.1.3 In the event that the Referee cannot restart the match after the thirty (30) minute delay the match is abandoned in accordance with Article 21.

Article (21): Abandoning/ Postponing Matches or competitions due to Force Majeure or a state of emergency

21.1 Abandoning/ Postponing Matches.

21.1.1 The Executive Department has the right to abandon or postpone a match due to force majeure or any emergency incidents from 24 hours and until 3 hours prior to the kick off time.

21.1.2 During the period of 3 hours prior to the kick off time until kick off time, the referee or the match commissioner may cancel or postpone the match. The referee shall wait for a maximum of 30 minutes from the kick-off time before taking a final decision to abandon the match.

21.1.3 In agreement with the Match Referee, the Match Commissioner may delay the match for one hour, in case the decision was taken before no less than one hour prior to the match kick-off time.

21.1.4 In case the emergency happened again after the match kick-off, the referee may wait for an additional 30 minutes based on the evaluation of the emergency, before taking a final decision to abandon the match.

21.1.5 In case of an abandoned or postponed match due to force majeure, this match will be played the next day, unless otherwise decided by the Executive Department. The whole match will be replayed regardless of the result and remaining time. All yellow and red cards given during the match shall be cancelled. Nonetheless, any offence committed which is due in front of the Disciplinary Committee and/or any additional reports from the referee and/or match commissioner arising from this match shall be maintained and implemented. Further, any player who was not fielded in this match due to suspension, is considered not to have served his suspension (i.e. as if the match had not been played at all).

21.1.6 In case the match was not played on the next day The Executive Department will determine the date, time and place of the replayed match.

21.2 Abandoning/ not continuing of competitions

21.2.1 The decision to abandon/ not continue the season due to a force majeure or a state of emergency shall be taken by the board of directors following official announcements of competent authorities in the UAE.

21.2.2 In the event the decision to abandon/ not continue the season was before the end of Round 1, the entire season shall be abandoned without crowning a champion, and without any relegation to First Division, and teams ranking shall not be considered for any reason.

21.2.3 In the event the decision to abandon/ not continue the season was after the end of all Round 1 matches, the final ranking will be according to the ranking when the competition was suspended/ canceled if all teams played the same number of matches. However, if the number of matches was not the same, the final ranking will be according to the results of the last Match Day where all teams played the same number of matches; this result will also determine the champion, the teams that will be relegated, the teams participating in ACL and all other consequences be it financial, administrative or any other consequences. For the avoidance of doubt, an incomplete match day will not be considered for the final ranking.

21.3 Decisions issued under this article are final and unappealable before any judicial or arbitrary bodies or entities.

Article (22): Matches Suspended and/or abandoned due to Power Failure and/or Floodlight

Failure

22.1 Where a Competition Match is suspended or abandoned by the Referee due to a power disconnection affecting the floodlights the following procedures must be followed:

22.1.1 In the case of a power and/or floodlight failure taking place before the kickoff which cannot be solved within 30 minutes after the scheduled kick-off time, the match shall be postponed and re-arranged at a stadium to be decided by the Executive Department;

22.1.2 In the case of a power and/or floodlight failure taking place during any stage of a Competition Match which has started and it cannot be solved within 30 minutes:

22.1.2.1 If the visiting Club is winning, the Referee shall end the match and the result shall be decided in favour of the visiting Club (0-3) or if the score is greater, the greater score shall prevail); or

22.1.2.2 If the match is tied or the visiting Club is not winning, the match shall be replayed irrespective of the result and the time of abandonment.

22.1.2.3 In the case of another power failure during the match, the final decision in this case will be for the match referee and match commissioner.

22.2 Notwithstanding Article 22.1.1 and 22.1.2 above, if the power and/or floodlight is disconnected during any stage of a Competition Match played at a neutral stadium or at a match organized by the UAE PL, the Referee shall declare the match to be abandoned and the results of the match will be null and void. Article 21 shall apply.

22.3 Except in cases of Force Majeure, the Host Club shall be responsible for any costs incurred by the UAE PL in case of match cancellation and/or postponement due to power and/or floodlight failure.

Article (23): Abandoned Matches due to Player Expulsion

23.1 If the number of players of any of the Participating Teams becomes less than (7) players during any of the competition matches, the referee must end the match and procedures in accordance to the UAE FA Disciplinary Regulations.

Article (24): Withdrawal & Penalty for Failing to Play

24.1 Clubs shall play in all Competition Matches.

- 24.2 If a Club withdraws from the Competition for any reason other than Force Majeure before the beginning of the season, the UAE PL Board of Directors shall take the necessary steps to replace the withdrawn club.
- 24.3 Any Club that withdraws from the Competition for any reason other than Force Majeure shall be subject to the following actions:
- 24.3.1 More than 45 days before the beginning of the Competition:
- 24.3.1.1 Shall be relegated to the lower division.
- 24.3.2 45 days or less before the beginning of the Competition:
- 24.3.2.1 Shall be relegated to the lower division;
- 24.3.2.2 Shall pay a fine of AED 1,000,000;
- 24.3.2.3 Shall be prevented from participating in the Competition for the next season.
- 24.3.3 During the First Round:
- 24.3.3.1 The Club shall be relegated to the lower division for the following season and be disqualified from participating in the Competition for the next two (2) consecutive seasons;
- 24.3.3.2 Shall pay a fine of AED 2,000,000; and
- 24.3.3.3 Shall bear the losses resulting from the forfeiture of the income expected from the commercial contracts, TV transmission contracts and all other expenses resulting from participating in the competition matches before withdrawal.
- 24.3.3.4 Have all its matches cancelled and considered null and void (all points, goals scored and goals against will not be counted and taken into consideration when deciding the Competition ranking). Nonetheless, any sanctions passed down from the Disciplinary Committee shall remain as well as any Yellow or Red cards recorded during the above cancelled matches.

24.3.4 During Final Stages:

- 24.3.4.1 If, for any reason, the club withdraws during the Final Stages, the club shall pay a fine of 500,000 AED in addition to any incurring losses as per article (24.3.3.3). The Group shall be restructured after removing the withdrawn club if the withdrawal was before the quarterfinal.
- 24.3.4.2 If the withdrawal was after the quarterfinal, the match result will be (3-0) with the withdrawn team as the loser.
- 24.3.4.3 In addition to the fines stipulated for in articles (24.3.4.1) and (24.3.4.2) herein above, the club will be relegated to First Division, and will be denied participation in the competition for the next two seasons.

24.4 The Board of Directors of the UAE PL shall take decisions in cases where Participating Club withdraws from the competition due to force majeure and exceptional circumstances.

Article (25): Replacing the Withdrawing Club

25.1 If any club withdraws from the competition pursuant to article 24, the Board of Directors of the UAE PL shall decide on an alternative club to participate in the Competition provided that such club fulfills all requirements of Participating Clubs.

Article (26): Article (26) - Playing Field

26.1 Clubs are responsible for ensuring that their field of play is maintained in good condition in order to help facilitate the playing of Competition Matches to the highest quality to enhance the technical standard of play. If the field of play is not in the best condition, or in a condition that may affect the quality of TV production and broadcast of the match, and the quality of viewership, the club shall, on the request of the Executive Department, provide an alternative stadium. In the even where the club does not provide an alternative stadium at least one week prior to the match day, the Technical Committee reserves the right to change the venue for the match. In such cases, the Host Club is responsible for all related costs as a result of the match being moved to the new venue.

- 26.2 If the club does not perform the required maintenance of the field of play, the UAE PL may appoint a company to perform the needed maintenance at the expense of the club. In all cases, the UAE PL has the right to deduct the maintenance costs from the club dues.
- 26.3 The Host Club shall ensure that no activities are held on the field of play from forty-eight (48) hours prior to the kick-off of the match. In case of non-adherence to this, a QCP shall be imposed on the club.
- 26.4 In case the club holds any activities in the stadium outside the period mentioned in Article 26.3 herein above, the club shall notify the Executive Department with this, and shall ensure that such activities and events will in no form affect the pitch and/ or the stadium facilities. In case of non-adherence to this, a QCP shall be imposed on the club.
- 26.5 Field of play markings must be in accordance with Law 1 of the Laws of the Game (including all its appendices). It is the responsibility of the Club to ensure that field of play is marked according to the Laws of the Game. After the markings are approved, the club may not change the markings unless it secures the written approval of the Executive Department of the UAE PL.
- 26.6 Upon arrival at the stadium, the Match Commissioner and the Referees shall inspect the stadium and field of play and ensure that all arrangements are in accordance with the Laws of the Game and all of UAE PL's relevant regulations. If the conditions of the Field of Play (including goal dimensions and the pitch) do not comply with the Laws of the Game and/ or all of UAE PL's relevant regulations, the Match Commissioner and/or the Referees shall immediately issue relevant instructions to the Host Club to rectify the situation.
- 26.7 If fifty (50) minutes prior to the kick-off, Article 26.5 is not complied, a fine will be imposed on the club according to the Quality Control Procedures (QCP). In case the necessary amendment was not implied until 15 minutes prior to kick-off time, the match will be abandoned and the Away team wins (3-0)

- 26.8 The Host Club shall ensure that watering of the pitch does not affect the LED systems and/or broadcast equipment. Should the LED system and/or broadcast equipment malfunction due to the watering of the pitch, the Host Club is responsible for the financial costs of repairing these equipment. The Host Club may water the pitch on the following times:
- 26.8.1 Before warm-up time until 60 minutes before kick-off time.
- 26.8.2 After warm-up time has finished (i.e. 20 minutes prior to kick-off time) for a maximum of five (5) minutes
- 26.8.3 26.7.3. In the half-time for a maximum of 5 minutes, provided that all players have left the field of play.
- 26.9 the Host Club must water the turf in the period from -1 hour of the match kick-off as per Article 26.8.1 above, until no less than 5 minutes before the match kick-off. However, depending on the weather conditions, the referee and the match commissioner will decide on whether to cancel the compulsory watering or not.
- 26.10 In all cases, the club shall inform the match commissioner about watering times during the organizational meeting of the match held 3 hours before the match.
- 26.11 In case the Host Club watered the pitch without informing the match commissioner, or if the club wishes to water the turf before the arrival of match officials, the club shall inform the TV Broadcast company and the LED officer before watering the turf. In the event of non-adherence, a fine will be imposed on the Host club in accordance with the Quality Control Procedures. In addition, the Host Club bears all costs related to any damages to the service providers, upon a report on such damages, approved by the UAE PL.
- 26.12 In case the club wishes to change the turf approved by the UAE PL or perform any maintenance to the turf, the club must notify the Executive Department at least one month prior to starting the maintenance. In addition, if any of the club home matches of the completions organized by the Executive Department fall within the maintenance period, the club must notify the UAE PL with the alternative venue, provided that the nominated venue is among the stadia approved by the UAE PL.

Article (27): Team Bench & Technical Area

- 27.1 Dedicated team benches shall be provided directly adjacent to the pitch for each team for the sole use of Team Officials, medical staff and substitute players.
- 27.2 Each technical area shall be located equidistant from the halfway line. The location of technical areas will be determined during the field visits to the stadium that the UAE PL representatives perform before the season.
- 27.3 Team benches must contain a minimum of twenty (20) full size seats, which are affixed to the bench and have backrests. Moveable chairs are not allowed. Benches must be covered to protect against bad weather and spectator misbehavior.
- 27.4 A maximum of ten (10) team officials and nine (9) substitutes are allowed to sit on the team bench, provided they are in possession of the appropriate accreditation card.
- 27.5 During matches, players on the team bench are not allowed access to any TV footage of the match and/or electronic communication tools, including but not limited to telephone tablets, walkie talkie, etc. The match commissioner have the right to confiscate any of these electronic equipment in case of violation of this article.
- 27.6 Match officials on the team bench are not allowed to access any TV footage of the match and/ or use the electronic communication tools for the same purpose. However, and for purposes related to the safety and security of players and/or tactical or coaching purposes only, match officials are allowed to use mobile phones, tablets and walkie-talkies. The match commissioner have the right to confiscate any of this electronic equipment in case of any misuse. In addition, the Match Referee has the right to take further actions.
- 27.7 If at any time the number of the persons sitting on the bench exceeds that allowed under Article 27.4 above, then the responsible Club shall be fined in accordance with the Quality Control Procedure (QCP).
- 27.8 If at any stage during a Competition Match one or more people related to one of the participating Clubs who are not registered on the team officials list refuse to leave the field of play (pitch area, team benches, technical area or any other place around the field of play) after instructions from the Referee, the result of the match shall be considered as 3-0 in favour of the other team or if the score is greater, the greater score shall

prevail. Moreover, the Referee shall abandon the Match and the responsible Club shall be fined in accordance with the decision of the Disciplinary Committee.

- 27.9 As soon as they arrive to the stadium, all team officials shall wear the club official kit or the official kit. In case of non-adherence, the club shall be penalized in accordance with QCP.
- 27.10 All officials and players seated on the bench must wear club official kits that are contrasting with the colours of the players and Referees on the pitch, except for the Head Coach and the administrative team. In case of non-adherence, a penalty will be imposed in accordance with QCP. In addition, team officials and players seated on the bench must wear bibs when instructed by the Referees.
- 27.11 Team benches on the left side (when facing the pitch) are designated for the Host Team while the team benches on the right side (when facing the pitch) are designated for the Away Team. If the match is played on a third party stadium, the team benches on the left side are designated for the team first mentioned in the Match Schedule while the team benches on the right side are designated for the second mentioned team.

Article (28): Official Training Sessions

- 28.1 For the final match of the Competition, the two participating clubs are obliged to have an official training session for one hour, one (1) day prior to the final match on the match venue decided by the Technical Committee. In the event where the club does not play the official training session before the match day, a fine of fifty thousand Dirhams (50,000) AED will be imposed on the club in accordance with Quality Control Procedures
- 28.2 If the team requested that official training is to be closed, the first fifteen (15) minutes of the official training must be kept open to the media, while allowing the Media team of the club to be present at all times.
- 28.3 If the official training was open, the Media can attend the training from the allocated areas for each category according to the Media Regulations.
- 28.4 The exact timing of the official training session will be decided by the Technical Committee.
- 28.5 If the field of play is not in good condition and/or if weather does not permit, the Technical Committee shall have the right to shorten and/or cancel the official training.

Article (29): Warming Up

- 29.1 Teams shall be entitled to warm up on the field of play before the match if the weather permits (as determined by the Match Commissioner). The warm up shall start from 50 minutes before kick-off of the match and shall end at the latest 20 minutes before the match starts.
- 29.2 In case of any renovations or modification on the pitch, the match commissioner shall specify warm-up location.
- 29.3 Teams are not allowed to warm up earlier and/or later than the above-mentioned times. Teams which fail to comply with the official pre-match warm up timings in Article 29.1 above, shall be penalized for failing to comply with the official match countdown in accordance with the Quality Control Procedure (QCP). The teams may decide not to warm up if they wish.
- 29.4 During the match, all substitutes from each team may warm up at the same time assisted by one (1) official, 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 prior to kick-off. In the event that there is limited space behind the goal, the Match Commissioner may determine a space next to the team's team bench. In this case, only a maximum of three (3) players from each team will be allowed to warm-up at the same time (without a ball). The three (3) players may be assisted by one (1) official.

Article (30): Match & Training Balls

- 30.1 The company approved by the UAE PL is the official provider for training balls and the balls used in matches.
- 30.2 The Host Club must utilize the footballs provided by the Executive Department for the ADIB Cup competition. For each home match, the Host Club must provide ten (10) match balls. For the final match of the Competition, the UAE PL will provide ten (10) footballs to be used for the match
- 30.3 The pressure of the footballs shall be set between 0.8 bar to 1.0 bar. The footballs shall be placed in the referee's room at least 120 minutes before the start of the match. The referees shall ensure that this procedure is completed.

- 30.4 Participating Clubs shall only use footballs approved by the Board of Directors in all official functions, including but not limited to training sessions, press conferences, photo shoots, etc.

Article (31): Stadium

- 31.1 The stadium shall be inside the UAE and it should be one of the stadia already approved by the UAE PL. In addition, the stadium shall meet the requirements as per criterion (I.01) of the UAE Club Licensing Regulations, and any other relative regulations of the UAE PL. All Participating Clubs must name at least one stadium that fulfills all requirements set forth in the UAE PL Stadia Regulations at least ninety days before the start of the first match in the Competition. Any renovations on the nominated stadium must be finished at least thirty days before the first match in the Competition. Stadia may only be used if approved by the Executive Department of the UAE PL.
- 31.2 The Board of Directors may grant an exception to a specific structural criteria in the UAE PL Stadia Regulations in cases of particular hardship or structural impossibility to meet the required criteria; and upon reasoned request
- 31.3 In the event that renovations cannot be completed thirty days before the first match of the Competition and/or if the home stadium of the Participating Club does not meet the UAE PL Stadia Regulations, the Participating Club shall nominate an alternative Stadium where it shall play all its home matches. The nomination shall be submitted together with a written agreement from the stadium owner clearly indicating the name of stadium and the matches for which the stadium will be used for.
- 31.4 The club must play all its home matches at the same stadium. In the event where the club's home stadium is not ready before the beginning of the season and the club is unable to play its home matches on this stadium, the club must notify the Executive Department no later than 15 days prior to the beginning of the season. The notification must include the alternative venue, a copy of the written agreement with the venue owner, and the reason for this change. In addition, the nominated venue must be among the stadia approved by the Executive Department of the UAE PL, and the final

decision with this regard will be upon the sole discretion of the Board of Directors of the UAE PL.

- 31.5 If a Participating Club decides to change its stadium once the League Season has started, it shall notify the Executive Department of the UAE PL at least one week before the intended match day to be hosted at the new stadium. The application for change must include the name of proposed new venue, the reason for the change as well as agreement from the stadium owner. In case of change of venue, the proposed venue should be from the list of stadia already approved by the Technical Committee. In addition, all costs related to changing the stadium shall be borne by the Participating Club.
- 31.6 In case of any force majeure or for any other reason that prevents the club from playing its home matches on its own stadium, the club shall inform the Executive Department of the UAE PL immediately. The application for change must include the name of proposed new venue, the reason for the change as well as agreement from the stadium owner. In case of change of venue, the proposed venue should be from the list of stadia already approved by the Executive Department of the UAE PL. In addition, all costs related to changing the stadium shall be borne by the Participating Club.
- 31.7 Each club must make its stadium and fields available to the Executive Department of the UAE PL when requested at no extra costs other than those related to the match operations, provided that the application is sent by the Executive Department of the UAE PL at least seven days before the day when the UAE PL requires the stadium. The notice period may be reduced may the need arise, at the sole discretion of the Executive Department of the UAE PL.
- 31.8 In case the club does not own its Home Stadium, the club shall guarantee the application of the provisions of article 31.5 hereinabove, in the contractual relation between the club and the owner of the stadium. The UAE PL bears no extra costs other than those related to the match operations.
- 31.9 In the event of any violation of articles 31.7 and 31.8, a fine of 100,000 AED will be imposed on the club, as well as indemnification for any damages and losses that may occur as decided by the UAE PL Board of Directors.

31.10 The Executive Department may carry out stadium inspections at any time before and/or during the competition to check whether the stadium meets the criteria in the UAE PL Stadia Regulations.

Article (32): Players' Equipment

- 32.1 Participating Clubs must comply with the Board of Directors of the UAE PL and the UAE FA Board of Directors Equipment Regulations, which govern the apparel and equipment worn by players and officials in Competition Matches. The said Equipment Regulations are in force from the time the Participating Club's Official Delegation arrive at a Stadium until the time the Participating Club's Official Delegation depart from the stadium.
- 32.2 Each Club shall submit a sample of their primary and secondary kit colours (shirt, shorts and socks) for both outfield players and goalkeepers to the UAE PL, at a date determined by the Executive Department of the UAE PL, provided that one of the team kit is of bright colors and other is of dark colors. All items to be used by a Participating Club within the Stadium during the Competition Matches shall be subjected to the approval of the Executive Department in accordance to the procedures set by the Equipment Regulations and any other instructions related thereto.
- 32.3 The Match Officials and/or the Match Commissioner and / or the Executive Department of the UAE PL Marketing personnel has / have the right and duty to check kit items at the match venue and are entitled to send such items to the UAE PL Headquarters for further control after the match.
- 32.4 Decisions regarding the approval of kits and other items mentioned in the UAE PL Equipment Regulations are final. UAE PL declines all responsibility and authority in the event of conflicts arising from contract between a Participating Club and its sponsor(s) on account of the advertising provisions of the UAE PL Equipment Regulations. The Participating Club agrees to hold UAE PL harmless from any and all damages which may arise from decisions regarding kits.
- 32.5 Any players participating in Competition Matches must have their name and shirt number appearing on the back of their playing shirt, ensuring the following:

32.5.1 The number must be legible to the match officials and spectators in the stadium from a considerable distance, as well as to the TV audience;

32.5.2 The colour of these names and numbers must be noticeably different from that of the players' kit and must either be a contrast colour or appear on a signed – coloured patch. It must contrast (light on dark or vice versa) with the colour of the shirt;

32.5.3 After their first official participation, all players must maintain the same shirt number and name for all UAE PL Competitions throughout the entire season. Numbers allocated to a player registered in any other UAE PL Competitions, who have participated in any of the UAE PL competitions, cannot be used again for any other player at the same season, even if he was removed from the team list for any reason. Numbers are from 1 to 99 with number 1 reserved for the goalkeeper.

32.6 The Executive Department shall determine the kit colours (outfield players and goalkeepers) for each Competition match and the Host and/ or Visiting team may change the kit colours to any other kit after addressing the Executive Department in writing at least 24 hours upon receipt of the kit colours sheet of the concerned match. The selection of colours will be based on each team's colours approved by the Executive Department of the UAE PL, with preference given as follows in the event of clash of colours:

32.6.1 Outfield players of home team;

32.6.2 Outfield players of away team;

32.6.3 Goalkeeper of home team;

32.6.4 Goalkeeper of away team.

The away team may be asked to play using combined kit from its first registered colours, and its second or third registered colours.

When, and only when, the above preferences and procedure still fails to produce a distinctive difference in the colours of the two teams, the home team may be required to wear a combination of its home and away kit or its full away kit, while

the away team maintains its home kit. The decision of the referee in this regard is final.

- 32.7 Member Clubs shall bring both their primary and secondary kits (players and goalkeepers) to each Competition match and ensure that neither of the uniform is similar to the other. If the selection of kit is restricted due to the team not bringing both of its kits, the respective club will be fined AED10,000 in accordance to the Quality Control Procedure (QCP).
- 32.8 Notwithstanding the above mentioned articles, the priority in deciding the team colors for the final match will be in considering team (A) as the Host Club and team (B) as the Away club.
- 32.9 In case all options referred to in article (32-6) hereinabove have been exhausted, the Away club will be given until fifteen (15) minutes before match kick-off, the match will be abandoned and the Home team wins (3-0).

Article (33): Conduct of Team Officials & Players

- 33.1 All players and team officials participating in the Competition shall strictly abide by the principles of sportsmanship and Fair Play in all matches and other UAE PL activities.
- 33.2 Instances of player or team official misconduct are dealt with by the Disciplinary Committee and are punished in accordance with the Disciplinary Regulations.
- 33.3 Smoking is strictly prohibited on the field of play, media/broadcast areas and all official areas within the stadium (dressing rooms, players' tunnel and coaches' rooms available in the official zone, etc). Violations of this Article shall be dealt with in accordance with the Disciplinary Regulations.

Article (34): Filming of Matches

- 34.1 Teams are permitted to record their matches with one or more technical cameras (video) provided that the number and location of these cameras is pre-determined in each stadium which shall be identified by the Media Officer of the UAE PL. The footage of these cameras is for the sole purpose of technical issues only, and are not permitted to be used for media, promotional or marketing purposes. Videographers shall be approved by the UAE PL and shall hold special ID cards made for this purpose.

Section (5): Host clubs

Article (35): Stadium Requirements

- 35.1 Host Clubs shall undertake to provide all the necessary facilities listed in the UAE PL Stadia Regulations for each Competition Match. Non-compliance with these requirements will result in Host Clubs being fined in accordance with the Quality Control Procedure (QCP).
- 35.2 Once a facility have been determined by the Executive Department of the UAE PL (i.e. media centre, press conference room, UAE PL officials office, medical room, doping control room, etc.), Host Clubs are not allowed to change this facility to another location unless otherwise approved by the Executive Department of the UAE PL. Request to change an approved facility to another location must be made at least one (1) week prior to the match. In case of non-adherence, the call will be penalized in accordance with QCP.

Article (36): Match Organisation

- 36.1 For each Competition Match, except the final match of the Competition where the Executive Department of the UAE PL is the direct organizer of this match, the Club whose name is mentioned first on the Match Schedule shall be considered as the Host Club, and shall be responsible (at its own cost) for the following, but not limited to:

- 36.1.1 Make appropriate arrangements for the staging of their matches in accordance with the Regulations;
- 36.1.2 Ensure that a Host Club General Coordinator who is registered and approved by the Executive Department of the UAE PL is appointed for every home match of the game;
- 36.1.3 Ensure all facilities listed in the Stadia Regulations are provided for and properly equipped well in advance of each Competition Match;
- 36.1.4 Ensure proper parking and access to the stadium for all match stakeholders including but not limited to Participating Teams, match officials (those described in Chapter 6 of this regulations), Commercial Affiliates, Media and fans;
- 36.1.5 Ensuring there is an ample amount of ice, water and refreshments (at a minimum, Host Club should supply, as refreshments, fruits and sandwiches) in the team dressing rooms, the Referees dressing room, the doping control room, the office of the Executive Department and the media centre;
- 36.1.6 Ensure, for each half's cooling break, there are twenty (20) new clean sponges or towels soaked in icy water (to be provided in cooling box), 10kg ice, twenty-two (22) bottles (500ml) for each team;
- 36.1.7 Ensure, for each half's cooling break, there are ten (10) new clean sponges or towels soaked in icy water (to be provided in cooling box), 5kg ice, fourteen (14) bottles (500ml) for the referees team;
- 36.1.8 Ensure the necessary match day personnel are present at the stadium well in advance of spectator entry to perform their relevant duties (i.e. at least four hours before the start of the match);
- 36.1.9 Ensure a Ball Kid Coordinator and twelve (12) ball kids are available from two and a half hours before the match until ten (10) minutes after the match. Please refer to the UAE PL Youth Programme regulations for more details;

- 36.1.10 Ensure that enough and sufficient volunteers and staff members are available in order for the Host Club to fulfill its obligations as indicated in these Regulations and other UAE PL Regulations;
- 36.1.11 Guarantee that access to the stadium will be granted to the Match Officials, officials and players of the visiting Club, sponsors, spectators, broadcasters and the media without any discrimination of gender, race, color, religion or ancestry;
- 36.1.12 Be responsible for order and security before, during and after the match. The Host Club may be called to account for incidents of any kind and may be disciplined;
- 36.1.13 For a smoother coordination and safety and security reasons, players of the Home team or the Away team shall arrive and depart in the team bus.
- 36.1.14 Provide the UAE PL with at least five (5) fully charged walkie-talkie that is connected to Host Club officials who are responsible for match organization.
- 36.2 UAE PL declines all responsibility in the event of conflicts arising from contracts between a club or any of its players, officials, employees, representatives or intermediaries and any third party (including, without limitation, their sponsors, suppliers, manufacturers, broadcasters, intermediaries and players) on account of the provisions of these regulations and/or any other UAE PL regulations and such persons' obligations thereunder.
- 36.3 The Host Club indemnifies, defends and holds the UAE PL, its subsidiaries and all of their officers, directors, employees, representatives, agents and other auxiliary persons free and harmless against any and all liabilities, obligations, losses, damages, penalties, claims, actions, fines and expenses (including reasonable legal expenses) of whatsoever kind or nature resulting from, arising out of, or attributable to any non-compliance by the club or any of its players, officials, employees, representatives or agents with the present regulations.
- 36.4 Notwithstanding Article 36.1, the Executive Department shall be responsible to host the final match of the Competition.

Article (37): Public Address Systems, Announcers and Announcements

- 37.1 The stadium's public address system must be capable of being heard clearly both inside and outside the stadium, above the crowd noise, even in the case of a sudden upsurge in spectator and noise levels. The public address system must have outputs for the TV broadcast purposes, and if the club doesn't provide such requirement, a fine will be imposed in accordance with the QCP.
- 37.2 Trained announcer who is capable of addressing spectators in Arabic and English must be made available. The Board of Directors of the UAE PL will provide Host Clubs with an announcer's script which must be used for each Competition Match.
- 37.3 The public address system must not be used for the dissemination of political messages, to support the home team or for any form of discrimination against the visiting team.
- 37.4 Host Clubs are entitled to play music until twenty (20) minutes before kick-off and during half time in accordance with UAE PL's Official Match Countdown, but volume levels must be managed appropriately during player warm up times and specified intervals for on-field Broadcast interviews.
- 37.5 No music may be played during the Match, with the exception of after the goals, whereby the music may be played for a maximum of ten (10) seconds and must cease immediately prior to the recommencement of play.

Article (38): Giant Screen

- 38.1 The use of the giant screen will be to display match result and time, as well as the logos of both clubs and the competition logo in accordance with other relative Regulations. In case the Giant screen was not operated or stopped during the match for any reason, the club will be subject to a penalty in accordance with QCP.
- 38.2 Host Clubs may screen a live broadcast feed of the match on a giant screen inside the stadium (if applicable), however all replays are strictly prohibited without exception.
- 38.3 Screening of results or video footage of other Competition Matches either on the giant screen or the public address system is strictly prohibited.

Article (39): Safety & Security

39.1 Before the start of each sports season, the Host team undertakes to coordinate with the competent local authorities to specify and approve all necessary security requirements for their stadium, whether in terms of equipment or security tools, to prepare, plan and implement the appropriate security measures inside and around the stadium in all Competition Matches. Those include all appointed persons including:

players and officials of both teams, match officials (as specified under Chapter 6), media representatives, commercial partners, sponsors (UAE PL and Clubs) and the public.

39.2 Host Clubs are responsible for ensuring that their safety and security plans address the following:

39.2.1 Each club should appoint a licensed Security Officer (Facility Security Officer) responsible for a prescribed list of duties; as per the Executive Regulation of the Federal Law NO.8 of 2014 on the Security of Sports Facilities and Events and the UAE PL Safety and Security Manual including but not limited to organizing meetings with local police and private security companies before, during and after the season and each match to discuss procedures and issues related to match organization;

39.2.2 The clubs should provide sufficient number of personnel from security companies (male and mother, with a sufficient number of Arabic speakers). In case there is no private security personnel at the time of kick-off, the referee must wait for 15 minutes and if they are still not present during that period, the match will be cancelled and the host club will be the loser in match by result (3-0).

39.2.3 The UAE PL Accreditation System and safety management plan must be in place to control its Home supporters;

39.2.4 The access to/ or movement on the field of play must be restricted;

39.2.5 Assembly points must be designated for emergency evacuation situations;

39.2.6 Signage must be in place;

39.2.7 Evacuation doors must be operational;

39.2.8 An Operations Centre must be designated as the primary point for security management;

39.2.9 Traffic flows must be properly determined for all stakeholder groups;

39.2.10 The Match Officials are protected from the time of their arrival at the stadium until the time they depart the stadium after the match;

- 39.2.11 Spectator access to the field of play must be prevented at all times;
 - 39.2.12 Parades and entertainment must be in compliance with national laws;
 - 39.2.13 Spectator medical services must be available; and
 - 39.2.14 An operation plan for lost children.
- 39.3 All reasonable security measures must be put in place, at the cost of the Host Club, to protect the commentary area, camera positions, the OB van area and the equipment of the broadcasters.
- 39.4 Spectators are strictly forbidden from entering stadiums with items listed on the Prohibited Items List according to Appendix (b) of the Safety and Security Manual.
- 39.5 Fans of participating clubs are allowed to use percussion instruments and loudspeakers into the stadium according to the mechanism approved by the Executive Department as circulated and/or updated before or during the sports season. The loudspeaker and/or the instruments may not be attached to any electronic devices and the sounds produced must not be amplified (no more than 45 Watt). These loudspeaker and percussion instruments may only be used in the stands for second category ticket holders only. In case of any violation, a fine will be imposed on the club in accordance with the Quality Control Procedures. Further, the Executive Department of the UAE PL has the right to refuse the use of loudspeaker at a certain stadium if the hosting club provides an independent report or document that proves that the use of loudspeaker(s) will affect the safety and security organization of the stadium, or may affect the comfort of patients in the nearby hospitals and medical centers . Notwithstanding the above, UAE PL or the police or the private security personnel have the right to unilaterally prohibit the use of any of the loudspeaker if the sounds or noises made are affecting referees' performance or safety and security organization.
- 39.6 Fans who shall adhere to the spirit of fair play. Participating Clubs, its players, officials and fans are further prohibited to make any offense or use any racist or sexual words, logos, acts or language.
- 39.7 Each club is responsible for the behavior of their fans and/ or spectators.

- 39.8 Breaches (and corresponding sanctions) in spectator conduct are listed in accordance with the Disciplinary Regulations.
- 39.9 If the Disciplinary Committee takes a decision to move the match of one of the teams in the competition, the Executive Department shall determine neutral stadium for the match provided that the selected venue does not contradict the decision of the Disciplinary Committee.
- 39.10 If the facilities and buildings of the Host Club are destroyed by the spectators of the Visiting Club, the affected Club shall, within a maximum of 24 hours of the match kick-off time, communicate such damages to the Executive Department of the UAE PL through a security report supported by photos of such damages. The Executive Department of the UAE PL may appoint any party to inspect the damages and losses and then claim the necessary compensation from the visiting club. In addition, the Executive Department may, in coordination with the Disciplinary Committee prepare a report to take further actions.

Article (40): Ambulances & Medical Facilities

- 40.1 For each Competition Match the Host Club, at its own cost is responsible for providing the following medial facilities and personnel which must be in place at the stadium as indicated below:

40.1.1 Two ambulances supplied with all necessary advanced medical equipment and devices in addition to one first-aid specialist and one driver for each ambulance, provided that the first-aid specialist is licensed and approved by the Ministry of Health or by a concerned governmental health body . There must be one ambulance available two hours before the match start till its end (and the all audience and match organizers leaving the stadium) whereas the other ambulance shall be at the stadium at least one hour before the match start till its end (and the all players leaving the stadium). The following will apply:

- 40.1.1.1 If the ambulances and/ or the first-aid specialists and drivers are not present at the stadium at the designated time, the Host Club will be fined according to disciplinary committee decision.
- 40.1.1.2 If the ambulances and/ or the first-aid specialists and drivers are still not present at the stadium by the designated kick-off, the match shall not start and will be delayed for a maximum of fifteen (15) minutes to allow for ambulances to arrive.

40.1.1.3 If the ambulances and/ or the first-aid specialists and drivers do not arrive by the end of the fifteen (15) minute delay period, the host club shall be considered to have forfeited the match 3-0; and

40.1.1.4 If at any time during a Competition match either of the ambulances is required to leave the stadium (for any reason other than a player, spectator or match organizer injury), the host club shall immediately inform the UAE PL Match Officials, and in any case the Host Club shall be fined in accordance with the Quality Control Procedure (QCP) and the Disciplinary Regulations.

40.1.2 The paths and parking of the ambulance cars must be void of any hindrances throughout the entire match time. Non adherence to this article will result in a QCP fine imposed on the non-adherent club.

40.1.3 A medical emergency room dedicated for players and officials must be provided near the dressing room and/or field of play and must be fully equipped with all emergency medical fittings pursuant to the UAE PL Stadia Regulations.

40.1.4 An air-conditioned, well-lighted and ventilated room for doping control shall be provided with all its requirements as per the UAE PL Stadia Regulations. This room must also be connected to the internet.

40.1.5 The host club is host club is committed to enhancing the medical services provided, including ambulances and medical units, for matches expected to have a large attendance, in accordance with the decisions made by the UAEPL.

40.1.6 The following medical services shall be provided on the field:

40.1.6.1 A doctor trained to provide medical emergency services

40.1.6.2 Either two (2) fully charged and operational golf carts – each cart to be operated by one (1) driver and one (1) assistant; or two (2) set of stretcher bearers - each stretcher to be operated by a

minimum of four (4) persons, provided that those people are fit and are wearing the same sports uniform.

- 40.1.6.3 In case one golf cart was available, the club shall also ensure that there are be two stretchers with two (2) set of stretcher bearers - each staff consists of 4 persons in minimum in addition to the staff of golf cart. In the event that there are two (2) injured players on the field of play at the same time, the stretcher bearers shall be used instead of the golf cart.

Article (41): Access Control (Accreditation)

- 41.1 An accreditation card is physical proof of access entitlements to a Controlled Access Area. It is personal and non-transferable and does not grant the pass holder access to a viewing seat. Any person using another person's accreditation card will result in both the offender and the owner of the accreditation card losing the privileges of this card throughout the season. . In addition, Quality Control Procedures apply.
- 41.2 The UAE PL Accreditation System for the Competition will be adopted and implemented by all Clubs on match day with the full accreditation system implemented no later than 3 hours prior to the scheduled kick-off time of the match.
- 41.3 When the accreditation system is in place (no later than 3 hours prior to the scheduled kick-off time), accreditation card must be worn at all times in a manner that is clearly visible to other persons, particularly security personnel and UAE PL Officials.
- 41.4 The accreditation system is to remain in place until teams and Match Officials have left the Controlled Access Area and at least 1 hour after the end of any Competition Match.
- 41.5 The Executive Department of the UAE PL will be solely responsible for issuing Club and specific season accreditations as well as match day passes. All relevant personal data from each accredited party shall be retained by the UAE PL.
- 41.6 All players registered to play in the competitions organized by the UAE PL in accordance with Article 8, team officials, members of the Club and Participating Teams must apply for an accreditation to access the Controlled Access Area.
- 41.7 Application for accreditation must be made in accordance with the provisions of the Accreditation Regulations.

- 41.8 Should any accreditation be misplaced or lost, the Club shall be required to pay a AED 500 (Five Hundred Dirham) production fee for every card lost, to replace it.

Article (42): Protocol

- 42.1 Host Clubs shall ensure the following protocols are observed at all Competition Matches as follows:

- 42.1.1 Ensuring that the following flags are flown in a visible location at least two (2) hours prior to kickoff:

42.1.1.1 National flag of United Arab Emirates (dimensions 1.5×2.25m)

42.1.1.2 UAEFA Flag (dimensions 1.5×2.25m)

42.1.1.3 UAE PL Flag (dimensions 1.5×2.25m)

- 42.1.2 The FIFA Living Football Flag shall be marched onto the pitch prior to kick-off, followed by the teams whilst the UAE PL Anthem is played. Procedures for FIFA Fair Play flag march-in is as per the UAE PL Youth Programme Regulations.

Article (43): Insurance

- 43.1 Host Clubs are responsible for concluding and maintaining insurance coverage for the risks in connection with staging and organizing its home Competition Matches providing for appropriate guaranteed sums for damages to persons, objects and property, as well as for pure economic losses corresponding to the specific circumstances of the Club and associations concerned. Insurance coverage must include, without limitation:

- 43.1.1 Third-party liability insurance (for all third parties participating in matches or attending the relevant venue);

- 43.1.2 Spectator accident insurance; and

- 43.1.3 Stadium insurance.

- 43.2 Host Clubs release the UAE PL of any liability whatsoever in regards to the insured matters in Article 43.1.

- 43.3 Clubs are responsible for the insurance coverage (including hospitalization and surgical operations) of their team, including players and officials, at their own expense, for all Competition Matches. Claims for damages against the UAE PL are expressly excluded, and the participating Clubs shall hold the UAE PL harmless against any such claims.

Article (44):

- 44.1 Without prejudice to the insurance coverage of the UAE PL provided in article (43) above, the participating clubs should bear the insurance responsibility on its own expense with a known insurance company against the following risks:
- 44.1.1 Insurance against all types of risks related to participating in the UAE PL competitions.
- 44.1.2 Insurance against all risks related to shows and organizing the team matches which must include for example insurance against third party liability (for all parties participating in matches or present in field or stadium) by ensuring reasonable amounts in return for accidents occurring to individuals or for any deaths, tools and assets, in addition to commercial losses related to special circumstances of relative participating clubs.
- 44.2 If the participating club is not the owner of the used stadium, it must provide a proper insurance which includes insurance against third party liability and loss of assets incurred to the owner or lessee of stadium.
- 44.3 The participating club must ensure that the UAE PL is included in all insurance policies – as defined in this regulation and the UAE PL shall be released from all claims and liabilities incurred or related to shows and match organization. In all cases, the UAE PL may request any participating party to make a written commitment (free of charges) on liability release or protection from damage and/or warranties and/or copying relative insurance policies.

Article (45): Liability & Indemnity

- 45.1 The UAE PL and/or the Board of Directors and/ or the Executive Department may appoint a third party to work as a broker, representative or services provider in relation to carrying out the UAE PL's obligations set forth in the Regulations.

- 45.2 The UAE PL its employees and its agents shall not be liable in case of dispute about contracts arising between the Participating Club and players, officials, employees, representatives, agents or third parties (including but not limited to guarantors, providers, manufacturers, media, agents and players) in relation to this regulation and/or any other regulations of the UAE PL and the other obligations of the concerned person under the same.
- 45.3 The Participating Clubs should indemnify, release and defend the UAE PL and its agents, guarantors and/or any third party working as a services provider and/or on behalf of the UAE PL and all its employees, managers, workers/representatives, agents and all persons related to the UAE PL for any damages, responsibilities, liabilities, losses, indemnities, penalties, lawsuits, fines, or expenses (including reasonable legal expenses) of any kind or nature whatsoever arising from or in relation to the non-compliance of the Participating Club, players, officials, workers, representatives or agents to this regulation and/or any other regulation issued by the UAE PL.

Section (6): Match Officials

Article (46): Referees

- 46.1 The FA Referees Committee shall appoint the required number of Referees for each Competition Match. The required number shall be as follows:
- 46.1.1 Referee
 - 46.1.2 First Assistant Referee
 - 46.1.3 Second Assistant Referee
 - 46.1.4 Fourth Official
 - 46.1.5 VAR Referee
 - 46.1.6 Assistant VAR Referee
- 46.2 In the event where additional referees are requested other than those referred to in Article 46.1 above, the Executive Department of the UAE PL shall be addressed for approval.
- 46.3 Clubs may not request to appoint or not to appoint certain Referees for their matches nor shall they request to change a Referee who is already appointed.
- 46.4 The match referee shall, within a maximum of 8 hours of the match kick-off time, submit the match report into the System.
- 46.5 Referees appointed in ADIB Cup matches shall either be experienced international referees or experienced Level (1) referees only.
- 46.6 The VAR technology and the communication technologies among the referees, are no more than supportive technologies to assist the match referee. Therefore, in case VAR or any of the communication technologies among the referees are not operated or has stopped working at any time due to a technical error or problems in the electrical cabling or for any reason that falls under 'the force majeure' or any accidents, the fourth referee informs team managers that the VAR technology will not be used, but the match will not be stopped or cancelled.

Article (47): Match Commissioner

- 47.1 For each Competition Matches, the Executive Department of the UAE PL shall appoint a Match Commissioner, whose primary role is to ensure that each Competition Match is conducted in accordance with the Competition Regulations.
- 47.2 The Match Commissioner acts as the UAE PL's official representative at a match and is the authority responsible for ensuring that the match is properly organized and runs smoothly.
- 47.3 The Match Commissioner shall be absolutely objective and his behaviour invariably reflects this principle. He shall constantly be alert to all incidents concerning the match itself.
- 47.4 The Match Commissioner shall submit a match report in the FA Net immediately after each match within a maximum of (8) hours of the match kick-off.
- 47.5 The Match Commissioner shall be given a seat in the stadium, as designated by the Executive Department of the UAE PL, with the best overall view of the entire stadium, which has quick and easy access to the field of play (he shall have a TV set before him).

Article (48): Referees Assessor

- 48.1 The FA Referees Committee shall appoint a Referee Assessor for each Competition Match whose primary role is to evaluate the performance of all Referees (utilizing both live and video reviews) appointed to a particular Match and report back to the Referees' Committee.
- 48.2 International referee assessors (football) are only appointed in ADIB Cup matches.
- 48.3 The Referee Assessor shall be given a seat in the stadium, as designated by the UAE PL, with the best overall view of the entire stadium, which has quick and easy access to the field of play, he shall have a TV set before him, which displays the same match using the Host Broadcaster signal, and including replays, but not the live feed only as broadcasted by the OB Van.

Article (49): Access Control Officer

- 49.1 For each Competition Matches, the Technical Committee shall appoint an Access Control Officer, whose primary role will be to ensure proper implementation of the UAE PL Accreditation Cards.
- 49.2 Additionally, the Access Control Officer shall coordinate with the Host Club and Local Emergency Services to ensure that all security and safety precautions have been taken in relation to a particular Competition Match.

Article (50): Media Officer

- 50.1 For each Competition Match, the Technical Committee shall appoint a Media Officer, whose primary role will be to oversee the Media Regulation and UAE PL TV Broadcast and Production Manual

Article (51): Doping Control Officer

- 51.1 NADO (National Anti-Doping Organization), may appoint a Doping Control Officer for Competition Matches at their discretion.
- 51.2 The Club will be responsible for ensuring all the facilities and personal as listed in Article (15) of the Stadia Regulations are available in and place no later than two (2) hours prior to each Competition Match kick-off, Match Commissioner shall also perform an inspection to ensure that the said facilities are present and are ready as per the requirements of the Stadia Regulations.

Article (52): UAE PL Officials

- 52.1 For each Competition Match, the Technical Committee and/ or the Executive Department of the UAE PL may appoint additional officials, whose primary role is to supervise the match organization, as well as to support the Match Commissioner and help ensure that each Competition Match is held in accordance with the Competition Regulations.

Section (7): Administrative Regulations

Article (53): Disciplinary Measures

- 53.1 Disciplinary measures and appeals are dealt with in compliance with the current UAE FA regulations, UAE PL regulations, the UAE FA Disciplinary Code, the UAE PL Quality Control Procedures, the relevant Competition regulations and UAE PL Circular(s).
- 53.2 The Board of Directors of the UAE PL may initiate investigations should it suspect and / or is aware of any violations of the current UAE FA regulations, UAE PL regulations, the UAE FA Disciplinary Code, the UAE PL Quality Control Procedures, the relevant Competition regulations and UAE PL Circular(s), unless such violations do not fall under the jurisdiction of the UAE FA Disciplinary Committee.
- 53.3 The UAE FA Disciplinary Committee may impose the disciplinary measures for violations of the current UAE FA regulations, UAE PL regulations, the UAE FA Disciplinary Code, the relevant Competition regulations and UAE PL Circular(s).
- 53.4 The Technical Committee and/ or the Executive Department of the UAE PL may impose the fines for violations of the relevant Competition regulations, UAE PL regulations and UAE PL Circular(s), in accordance to the Quality Control Procedures.

Article (54): Cautions (Yellow Cards)

- 54.1 Penalties to players resulting from cautions (single yellow cards) shall result in:
- 54.1.1 Every yellow card received by a player in the Competition will result in the player being fined AED 250 for the first yellow card, AED 500 for the second and AED 750 for the third yellow card. The same will be repeated after each third yellow card.; and
- 54.1.2 If the player participated in three consecutive matches without getting any administrative penalties (yellow or red cards), the second yellow card be dropped.

- 54.1.3 If the player participated an actual participation in three matches in the same competition after the match in which he got the second yellow card (not necessarily consecutive matches) without getting any administrative penalties (yellow or red cards), or any other disciplinary penalties, the second yellow card be dropped.
- 54.1.4 As an exception to Article (54.1.2), and by the end of the matches of the semifinals, the third yellow card which leads to suspension due to accumulation of yellow cards for players participating in the Final match, will be waived.
- 54.1.5 If any of the Administrative and Technical team members gets three yellow cards in three different matches of the same competition, that member shall be suspended for one match of the same competition.
- 54.2 If the result of a Competition Match is abandoned or the Match is terminated or is not completed for any reason, the Disciplinary Regulations shall apply.
- 54.3 Each Club shall be obliged to execute such penalties either by suspension or payment of any fines and shall bear the responsibility of monitoring the cautions and/or suspensions received by its players and officials to ensure that all players and officials registered and/or fielded during the competition are eligible to play according to the final report of the match as submitted on the FA Net after being approved by the match referee and match commissioner.
- 54.4 In case a player, or any of the technical, administrative or medical team members is transferred or loaned to any of the Member Clubs within the season, he maintains his records of yellow card(s). The previous Club must inform the new Club of the yellow cards that he has collected to date and the new Club is responsible to continue the monitoring process.
- 54.5 At the end of the Competition, all cautions imposed on players shall be dropped subject to the Disciplinary Regulations.

Article (55): Expulsions (Red Cards)

- 55.1 Players who are sent off as a result of two yellow cards in a single match of the Competition shall:

- 55.1.1 Be automatically suspended in the next subsequent match in the Competition, and shall pay a fine of AED 1,500.
- 55.2 Players who are sent off for a direct red card during any Competition Match shall:
- 55.2.1 Be automatically suspended for the following next two (2) matches in the Competition. The exception to this rule is for any player who denies the opposing team of a clear goal scoring opportunity (particular by deliberately handling the ball), in which case the player shall then be automatically suspended for one (1) match in the same Competition; and
- 55.2.2 Pay a fine of AED 2,000 and the amount shall be increased by AED 1,000 for each new sending off case.
- 55.3 If one of the members of the technical or administrative team is sent off after the second yellow card, he shall be suspended for one match in the same competition.
- 55.4 If one of the members of the technical or administrative team is sent off after a direct red card, he shall be suspended for one match in the same competition.
- 55.5 At the end of the Competition, all yellow cards imposed on the technical and administrative teams shall be dropped. Red cards will be transferred to the next competition.
- 55.6 In case suspension imposed on the technical or administrative, and medical team (except for the head coach and the assistant coach) was not served, the violation shall be referred to the Disciplinary Committee which shall impose either of the following:
- 55.6.1 a fine of 100,000 AED. The suspension penalty shall be served in the following match where the penalty is servable.
- 55.7 If the head coach or the assistant coach did not serve the suspension, the penalty shall be referred to the Disciplinary Committee to impose one of the following:
- 55.7.1 The team is considered to have lost the match with a score of (3-0) or if the score is greater, the greater score shall prevail, and the suspension penalty will be imposed in the subsequent enforceable match.
- 55.8 Notwithstanding the relevant articles of the Disciplinary regulations, the Disciplinary Committee may impose additional sanctions and/or fine. The Disciplinary Committee

may also determine that the suspensions be served in other competitions.

55.9 If a player is sent off for a direct red card offence, this shall not affect the number of cautions previously received by him.

55.10 If the result of any match of the Competition has been cancelled or the match has been terminated or hasn't been completed for any reason whatsoever, then the sanction shall be served in the next match in the same Competition.

55.11 In case a player, case a player, or any of the technical, administrative or medical team members is transferred or loaned to any of the Member Clubs within the season, he maintains his records of yellow card(s) which he got until the last day before the transfer. The previous Club must inform the new Club of the yellow cards that he has collected to date and the new Club is responsible to continue the monitoring process.

Article (56): Serving of Suspension

56.1 Suspensions from participation in Competition Matches shall be served in the following manner:

56.1.1 Players shall be automatically suspended for one (1) match in the Competition after obtaining three (3) single yellow cards in the Competition;

56.1.2 Notwithstanding the Disciplinary Regulations, a match will only be calculated within a player's suspension period if the match in question has actually started. Accordingly, matches abandoned before kick-off are not calculated within a player's suspension period.

56.1.3 In the event that the suspension cannot be served in the Competition due to last match of the Competition or elimination of Club from the Competition, the suspensions shall be implemented as follows:

56.1.3.1 In case the League Season has ended, the suspension shall be implemented in the first official match in which the penalized player is eligible to participate.

56.1.3.2 In case the League Season has not ended, the suspension shall be implemented in the first official match in which the penalized

player is eligible to participate.

56.1.4 If a suspended player is transferred or loaned to any of the Member Clubs, the player must serve his suspension with his new Club. The player's previous Club shall have to inform the new Club of the penalties imposed on such player in order to be fully served according to the articles herein.

56.2 Notwithstanding Article 56.1.3, the Disciplinary Committee may determine that suspensions are to be served in the Competition and other competitions.

56.3 Access Control Areas which players and technical, administrative or medical team members are not allowed to access if they've been sent off or suspended, are illustrated in Appendix (X) of the Operation Manual

Article (57): Violence by Players and/or Officials

57.1 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 room and the surrounding areas of the Stadium, by the referee or the Match Commissioner shall be dealt with in accordance with the UAE FA Regulations, UAE PL Regulations, or any other relative regulations.

Article (58): Protests and Appeals

58.1 Judicial procedures will be taken with this regard in accordance with the relevant regulations of judicial committees in the UAE FA and/or the regulations and directives of the UAE PL.

Article (59): Trophies and Medals

59.1 The winner of the Competition shall be awarded the following:

59.1.1 The Competition trophy;

59.1.2 A replica of the original trophy;

59.1.3 Forty (45) golden medals; and

59.1.4 Prize money, as per Article 61-1

59.2 The runner-up of the Competition shall be awarded forty five (45) silver medals and prize money, as per Article 61-1

- 59.3 Players and team officials have the right to board the podium to receive the medals up to a maximum of (36) persons, including the head coach, and a minimum of (18) players and the head coach. In case of violation of the maximum or minimum numbers, a fine of one million AED (1,000,000 AED) shall be imposed on the offending club.
- 59.4 In any case, the provisions of Article (59.3) shall not apply. to Chairman of the Sports Club and/or Chairman of the Football Company.
- 59.5 The trophy shall be kept by the Champion by way of trust and should be returned to the UAE PL at least two (2) months before the date of the final match of the Competition. The Cup Champion shall be responsible for any loss or damage of the same and has to return the Cup in its same condition or otherwise pay a compensation estimated by the Executive Committee. In all cases the Club shall have to report to the UAE PL any theft, breakage or damage occurring to the Cup as soon as it takes place.
- 59.6 The Club which wins the Cup for any given season will be presented with a memorial replica of the original shield for their permanent possession. Clubs must not permit a replica trophy to be used in any context where a third party (including, without limitation, their sponsors and other commercial partners) is granted visibility or in any other way which could lead to an association between any third party and the trophy and/or the competition.
- 59.7 The trophy shall become the permanent property of the Club that wins the Competition three (3) times consecutively or four (4) times intermittently.
- 59.8 If any Club acquires the trophy in accordance with Article 61.7above, any non-consecutive League Championships by other Clubs shall be reset and will be not considered when calculating future possession of the trophy in accordance with the same Article.

Section (8): Financial Regulations

Article (60): Fines

60.1 Without prejudice to the procedures followed pursuant to article 54 & 55, all fines imposed on any club or its players or representatives should be paid and they will be automatically deducted from the money due to the Club by UAE PL at the end of the League Season.

Article (61): Prize Money

61.1 The prize money to be awarded for the Participating Clubs shall be communicated to Participating Clubs in a circular letter from the UAE PL after the conclusion of the League Season.

Section (9): Final Provisions

Article (62): Special Provisions

- 62.1 Any judgment set forth in a previous regulation or decision incompatible with this Regulation shall be deemed null and void and shall be effective as of the League Season of 2023/2024. However, in case of any conflict with the Statute of the UAE FA, the provisions set forth in the Statute of the UAE FA shall prevail.
- 62.2 The approved Match Operations Protocol, the amendments thereto, and any the decisions of competent authorities in the UAE considered an integral part of this Contract and complementary to its provision.

Article (63): Matters Not Provided for Force Majeure

- 63.1 The Board of Directors of the UAE PL has the right to make decisions on matters not provided for in these Regulations, whose decisions are final and unappealable before any judicial or arbitrary bodies or entities.
- 63.2 The Board of Directors of the UAE PL has the right to make decisions or cases of force majeure and states of emergency, and such decisions are final and unappealable before any judicial or arbitrary bodies or entities.

Article (64): Ratification and Approval

- 64.1 These regulations are prepared and set by the Executive Department of the UAE PL and ratified by the UAE PL Board on 23/06/2023.