

**PRO LEAGUE UNDER 21 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 (UAE FA);
- The minutes of meeting of the general assembly on 17/9/2007, on the approval of the Statutes of the UAE Football Association (UAE FA);
- 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 statutes of the UAE Pro League,
- The decree under federal law no. (--), 2016, on the General Authority for Sports 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 Executive Regulations of 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 UAE FA Board of Directors;

We have issued the regulations of the Pro League Under 21 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

**NADO:** National Anti-Doping Organization

**UAE FA:** UAE Football Association

**UAE PL:** UAE Pro 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 of the competition 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 UAE FA as per the Statutes.

**Club:** the commercial body and/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 Teams:** 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 Competition, 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:** Pro League Under 21.

**First Round:** This refers to the period starting from the first official match in the first match week of the Under 21 Pro league 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 Under 21 Pro league 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, the relevant regulations of the UAE FA.

**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 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 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 policy, 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 Pro League Under 21 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 Pro League Under 21 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.

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

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

**UAE Pro League Logo:** the official logo for the UAE Pro League and/or other official logos that are only used by the UAE PL and/or authorized 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 PL in Appendix (9) of its Stadia Regulations.

**Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank (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.

**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.

**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.

**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 centres, 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 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 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, and the UAE PL statutes the executive regulation as well as regulations, directions and circulars 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 All rights associated with the Competition belong to the UAE PL unless otherwise granted to the Clubs by these Regulations and/or specific agreements.

### **Article (3): The Board of Directors of the UAE Pro League**

- 3.1 The Board of Directors of the UAE Pro League 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 those matters not covered through the conditions and terms of the Regulations.

#### **Article (4): Technical Committee and the Executive Department**

- 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, 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 Directors 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 When necessary, The UAE PL in accordance with its statutes and the statutes of the UAE FA, may organize any new competition and/or change the titles of the championships, which should be notified to the Clubs with reasonable notice.

### **Section (3): Participating Clubs**

#### **Article (6): Eligibility / Admission Criteria**

- 6.1 All fourteen (14) Clubs participating in the ADNOC Pro League for the season 2023/2024 shall participate in this Competition.
- 6.2 Eligible Clubs willing to become a member of the League must adhere to the procedures and directives stated in these Regulations.
- 6.3 In case one or more clubs were unable to participate in the competition due to force majeure (for example the club has been dissolved or merged with another club), the Board of Directors names the substitute clubs provided that such clubs fulfill the requirements of participation in the UAE PL competitions.
- 6.4 All the Clubs shall abide by the business sponsorship contracts related to the matches and signed by the UAE PL and/ or the Executive Department.
- 6.5 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.
- 6.6 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.

#### **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/ or 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, Broadcast Meeting, workshops, 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.

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

7.16 Conclude professional contracts with players according to the number referred to in the 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 Adding, 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 2023/2024.

8.2 For this Competition, each club is entitled to participate with a maximum of thirty six (36) players as follows:

8.2.1 (26) players born in 2003/ 2004 or later provided that the player has completed 16 years of age, under the categories: UAE Nationals, Holders of UAE passport, Sons of UAE National Mothers, provided that the number of players under the category "UAE Nationals" does not exceed 22 players,

8.2.2 A maximum of Four (4) Emirati players born on 2002, who hold the UAE nationality and are eligible to participate with National Teams.

8.2.3 A maximum of six (6) players under the categories: Born in the UAE, and/ or UAE Resident, under the following conditions:

8.2.3.1 Born in 2003/2004, or later provided that the player has completed 16 years of age,

8.2.3.2 Players registered under the category "UAE Residents" shall be born in or after 2003, and that he holds a valid UAE residency, taking into consideration the conditions stipulated for in the Annual Circular of Players Status and Transfer Committee for the season 2023/ 2024 and any amendments thereto.

8.2.3.3 The player registered under the category "UAE Resident" shall be registered as a "Professional Player" not an "Amateur Player"

8.2.3.4 Players registered under the category "UAE Resident" or "Born in the UAE" shall not have represented the First Team of any other country in any other official international football competition (in a match or parts thereto),

8.2.4 In all cases, and bearing in mind the total number of players in the registration list, the club may register one or two players under the categories "UAE Nationals", "Holders of UAE Passport", and "Sons of UAE National Mothers" instead of the player(s) under the categories "UAE Residents" or "Born in the UAE"

8.3 The total number of players eligible to participate in this Competition are as follows:

8.3.1 All players registered as per Articles (8.2);

8.3.2 All players registered in the first team list, and any of the club's lists of players with the UAE FA provided that these players are 16 years old or older at the age of participation,

8.3.3 In any case, the number of players registered in the match list from the first team players, and players under the categories: UAE Resident, and Born in the UAE, in any of the club's other lists shall not exceed 6 players, in addition to a goalkeeper from the categories (UAE National, UAE Passport Holder, and Children of Emirati Mother registered in the first team, or a goalkeeper from the categories UAE Resident or Born in the UAE, registered in the club lists, provided that they were born in 2005 or later.

8.3.4 In addition to the numbers referred to above, clubs can register 2 players in the match list who are born in or after 2001 (from the players registered in the first team) who hold the Emirati nationality and are eligible to participate with the national teams. These 2 players do not count against the numbers referred to in Article (8.3.3).

8.3.5 If the club fields more players than the numbers referred to in article (8.3), the extra players' participation is illegal, and the club will be considered as losing the match (3-0) or if the score is greater, the greater score shall prevail.

8.3.6 In case the goalkeeper was sent off during the match, or left the match for any other reason, he cannot be replaced by any "UAE Resident", "Born in the UAE", or Foreign players who are registered in the match list, except for players registered in the match list as a goalkeeper from the categories UAE Resident or Born in the UAE

- 8.4 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
  - 9.1.3 The medical staff.
- 9.2 Member Clubs must abide by the registration procedure communicated to them prior to the commencement of the League Season to have their accreditations issued in accordance with the Accreditation Regulations.
- 9.3 Head coach of each Participating Club must have at least the AFC 'A' 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 for the Head Coach to be approved for the Competition. If the Head Coach was approved and registered by the FA, he will be given a temporary Card until his status is rectified.
- 9.4 For the avoidance of doubt, the Head coach will not be approved for registration if documents requested in Article 9.3 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.
- 9.5 At least one Assistant coach of each Participating Club must have at least the AFC 'B' 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 for the Assistant Coach to be approved for the Competition. If

the Assistant Coach was approved and registered by the FA, he will be given a temporary Card until his status is rectified.

- 9.6 For the avoidance of doubt, the Assistant Coach will not be approved for registration if documents requested in Article 9.5 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.
- 9.7 Goalkeeper Coach of each Participating Club must have at least the AFC Level '1' Goalkeeper Coaching certificate. In case the Goalkeeper coach does not have a coaching certificate issued by the AFC, the goalkeeper coach and the Participating Club are obliged to obtain the AFC recognition of competence for the Goalkeeper Coach to be approved for the Competition. If the Goalkeeper Coach was approved and registered by the FA, he will be given a temporary Card until his status is rectified.
- 9.8 For the avoidance of doubt, the Goalkeeper Coach will not be approved for registration if documents requested in Article 9.7 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.
- 9.9 If the club registered a Fitness Coach, he must have at least the AFC Level '1' 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 for the Fitness Coach to be approved for the Competition. If the Fitness Coach was approved and registered by the FA, he will be given a temporary Card until his status is rectified.
- 9.10 For the avoidance of doubt, the Fitness Coach will not be approved for registration if documents requested in Article 9.9 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.
- 9.11 Changes to Head Coach and Team Manager through the course of the season must be officially communicated to the UAE PL after successful registration according to the UAE FA regulations, via the online accreditation system prior to any Competition Match kick-off time to ensure their eligibility, bearing in mind that no accreditation cards will be issued outside the official working hours of the UAE PL. The email must include completed registration form, as well as copy of his qualification as indicated above. Verbal notification

of changes or emails sent to other email addresses will result in ineligibility of the new staff. The club can receive the accreditation cards after the Licensing Administration reviews the documents submitted to the UAE PL and verifies that all criteria mentioned in the accreditation regulations are fulfilled.

- 9.12 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 duly completed '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 A maximum of (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, and 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.

11.3 The finalized Starting List shall be distributed to participating teams, the media and broadcasters.

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 player selection list is not able to start 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 injured 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 administration 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 in the match must wear their valid accreditation cards in the official areas in the stadium.

12.3 The list of officers 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 (at least one of them)
- 12.3.6 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 (9.6), 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 and published thereof.
- 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) during or before 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 shall be played in accordance with the league format, whereby each Club shall play two (2) Competition Matches against each of the other Participating Clubs during the league season, being the Host Club in one of the two matches and being the visiting club in the other match.
- 14.2 The following points will be awarded for Matches in the League format:
  - Win = 3 points
  - Draw (Tie) = one point
  - Loss = nothing
- 14.3 The Clubs ranking shall be organized in a League table in descending order according to the number of points acquired by each of them, whereupon at the end of the league season, the club with the highest number of points shall be considered the champion of the League.

- 14.4 If any two (2) or more Clubs have scored the same number of points, their position in the table shall be determined in accordance with Article (15).

**Article (15): Tie breaking procedure**

- 15.1 If two or more clubs are equal in the points number, their positions in the table will be determined as follows:
- 15.1.1 The club that scored the highest number of points from matches held between the clubs equal in points,
  - 15.1.2 The club who has the highest goal difference in the matches between the clubs equal in points,
  - 15.1.3 The club scoring the highest number of goals in matches between the clubs equal in points,
  - 15.1.4 The club who has the highest goal difference in all held Matches,
  - 15.1.5 The club scoring the highest number of goals in all held Matches,
  - 15.1.6 The club receiving the least number of yellow and red cards in all competition matches provided that they are calculated by deducting one point for each yellow card, three points for each direct red card, No points will be deducted for a red card resulting from 2 yellow cards.
  - 15.1.7 By draw.

**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 30<sup>th</sup> 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 75<sup>th</sup> 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 Timings**

- 17.1 The Technical Committee shall determine kick-off times for all Competition Matches after it has been approved by the Board of Directors
- 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 If required, all matches of the last three rounds of the Competition will be held in one day at the same time.

18.3 In case a club wishes to change the time, date and/or venue of the match, the club must submit, at least one week prior to the Competition Match, its application for the change. 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.

- 18.4 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. However, this applies only to the matches of the ADNOC Pro League.
- 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 Management has the right to abandon or postpone a match due to force majeure or any emergency incidents from 24 hours and until at least 3 hours prior to the kick off time.
- 21.1.2 For the period from 3 hours before match kick off until match kick off time, the referee and match commissioner have the right to abandon 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 UAE PL 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 venue 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 The decisions taken under the articles hereinabove may not be objected or appealed before any judicial or arbitrary bodies.

#### **Article (22): Matches Suspended and abandoned due to Power 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): Abandonment of Matches due to Player Expulsion**

- 23.1 If the number of players of any of the Participating Club 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 Board of Directors of the UAE PL shall take the necessary steps with this regard.
- 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 Competitions organized by the UAE PL for the next season.
  - 24.3.3 During first Round of the Competition:
    - 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 the second Round of the Competition:

24.3.4.1 The Club shall be relegated to the lower division for the following season and be disqualified from participating in the League for the next two (2) consecutive seasons;

24.3.4.2 Shall pay a fine of AED 2,000,000;

24.3.4.3 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; and

24.3.4.4 All of its matches played in the first Round (all points, goals scored and goal against will be counted and taken into consideration when deciding the Competition ranking). All sanctions passed down from the Disciplinary Committee shall remain as well as any yellow or red cards recorded during the above matches; and

24.3.4.5 Have all its matches that was played in the second Round till the point of withdrawal 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.

24.4 The Board of Directors 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 board shall decide on an alternative club to participate in the Competition provided that such club fulfills all requirements of Participating Clubs.

#### **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 on 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 and the UAE PL Pitch Marking Manual approved by the UAE PL. 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 (26.6) is not complied, a fine of 50,000 AED 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 may water the pitch in the following times:
- 26.8.1 Before Warm-up time provided that the watering will finish at least one hour before the match starts.
  - 26.8.2 After the warm-up has finished, which is 20 minutes before the match starts for a maximum of 5 minutes.
  - 26.8.3 In the half time for a maximum of 5 minutes provided that watering the pitch starts only after 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 UAE PL at least one month prior to starting the maintenance. In addition, if any of the club home matches of the completions organized by the UAE PL 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 misbehaviour.
- 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 team 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 There are no official training sessions for the visiting team unless otherwise determined by the UAE PL.

#### **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 Participating Clubs shall utilized footballs provided by the Executive Department of the UAE PL to the Participating Clubs, which have already been used by the Host Club for the ADNOC Pro League.
- 30.2 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.

#### **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 less than 15 days prior to the start 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 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 UAE PL. In addition, all costs related to changing the stadium shall be borne by the Participating Club.
- 31.6 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 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 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 when requested, provided that the application is sent by the Executive Department at least three days before the day when the UAE PL requires the stadium. The notice period may be reduced in case of emergency after taking into consideration the former arrangements that must be done by the concerned club.
- 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 The Executive Department administration 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 Equipment Regulations approved by the Board of Directors and the UAE FA Board of Directors, which govern the apparel and equipment worn by players and officials in Competition Matches. The UAE PL 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 both their primary and secondary kit colours (shirt, shorts and socks) for both outfield players and goalkeepers to the Executive Department of the UAE PL, provided that one of the team kit is of bright colors and other is of dark colors, at a date determined by the Executive Department of the UAE PL. All items to be used by a Participating Club within the Stadium during the Competition Matches shall be subjected to UAE PL's approval of the Executive Department of the UAE PL in accordance

to the procedures set by the Equipment Regulations and any other instructions related thereto.

- 32.3 The Match Officials and / or the Marketing personnel has in the Executive Department of the UAE PL / 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 UAE PL takes final decisions regarding the approval of kits and other items mentioned in the UAE PL Equipment Regulations. 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 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 usually reserved for the goalkeeper.
- 32.6 The Executive Department of the UAE PL 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 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).
- 32.8 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 AED 5,000 in accordance to the Quality Control Procedure (QCP).

### **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): Match Filming**

- 34.1 Teams are permitted to record their non-broadcasted 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.

## **Section (5): Host clubs**

### **Article (35): Stadiums Requirements**

- 35.1 Host Clubs shall undertake to provide all the necessary facilities listed in the UAE PL Stadium 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 and approved by the Executive Department of the UAE PL (i.e. media centre, press conference room, UAE PL 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, 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 is appointed for every home match of the game;
- 36.1.3 Ensure all facilities listed in the UAE PL 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 Ensure 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 UAE PL office 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 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 that Ball Kid Coordinator and twelve (12) ball kids are available from two 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; and
- 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.
- 36.2 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 shall 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, with regards to the match in which the League trophy and medals will be presented to the Champion, the UAE PL shall assume total and sole responsibility for the seating and distribution of seats / tickets in the VVIP and VIP areas.

For the avoidance of doubt, the Host club bears all operational costs related to the match.

**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.
- 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 fifteen (15) 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 (Participating Committee 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 Safety and Security Manual of the UAE PL

39.2.2 The clubs should provide at least (10) individuals of private security companies based on the match importance and number of fans and the organizational matters for the match. In case less than five (10) private security members were present at the start of the match, 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; the Accreditation System shall apply 2 hours before kick-off time.

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 provide 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 Each club is be responsible for the behavior of their fans and/ or spectators.
- 39.7 Breaches (and corresponding sanctions) in spectator conduct are listed in accordance with the Disciplinary Regulations.
- 39.8 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.

- 39.9 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 one hour before the match starts till its end (and after the audience 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 players and match organizers leaving the stadium). The following will apply:

40.1.1.1 If the ambulances and/or the first-aid specialists 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 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 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);

- 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, a match organizer or a spectator 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 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 UAE PL.
- 40.1.3 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.
- 40.1.4 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.
- 40.1.5 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.
- 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 2 hours prior to the scheduled kick-off time of the match and when spectator gates are opened to the public.
- 41.3 When the accreditation system is in place (no later than 2 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.
- 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 participate 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 Accreditation Regulations
- 41.47 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 Living Football 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's 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, losses of lives, 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 necessary 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
- 46.2 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 Pro League Under 21 matches shall either be experienced international referees and/ or Level (1) and or Level (2) referees only.

### **Article (47): Match Commissioner**

- 47.1 For each Competition Matches, the Executive Department of the UAE PL may 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 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 (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 Pro League Under 21 matches.
- 48.3 The Referee Assessor shall be given a seat in the stadium, as designated by the Technical Committee, 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 (49): Access Control Officer**

- 49.1 For each Competition Matches, the UAE PL may appoint an Access Control Officer, whose primary role will be to ensure proper implementation of the UAE PL Accreditation Cards.
- 49.2 Additionally, the Safety & Security 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 Executive Department may appoint a Media Officer, whose primary role will be to oversee the UAE PL Media Regulations, and the 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 Host 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. The Match Commissioner shall carry out an

inspection on the facilities to ensure that the facilities are provided and are in accordance with the Stadia Regulations.

**Article (52): UAE Pro League Officials**

- 52.1 For each Competition Match, the Technical Committee and/ or the Executive Department of the UAE PL have the right to 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 may instruct to 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), in case 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 Technical Department 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 receives three (3) cautions in the Competition, he shall be suspended from participating in the next match in the same Competition.

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 will be dropped.

54.1.4 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, in accordance with the final match report submitted to the FA Net after being approved by the 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 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 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 net 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, the suspensions will be implemented as follows:

56.1.3.1 If the season ends, the suspension penalty is implemented in the next match of the club at the beginning of the following season 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 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) shall be imposed on the offending club.
- 59.3 In any case, the provisions of Article (59.2) shall not apply. to Chairman of the Sports Club and/or Chairman of the Football Company.
- 59.4 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 Department. 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.

- 59.5 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.
- 59.6 The trophy shall become the permanent property of the Club that wins the Competition three (3) times consecutively or four (4) times intermittently.
- 59.7 If any Club acquires the trophy in accordance with Article 59.6 above, 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 League 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 previous judgment set forth in a 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 PL, the provisions set forth in the Statute of the UAE PL 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 and Force Majeure**

- 63.1 The Board of Directors of the UAE PL has the right to decide on matters not provided for in these Regulations and cases of force majeure, whose decision 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 decision on 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.