



**THIRD DIVISION LEAGUE  
COMPETITION REGULATIONS  
Season 2022-2023**

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## 1. Definitions

Unless the context otherwise requires, the following words and terms in these Regulations shall have the meaning assigned to each of them:

- Country: United Arab Emirates
- FIFA: The Fédération Internationale de Football Association
- UAE FA: United Arab Emirates Football Association
- Board of Directors: UAE FA Board of Directors
- Committee: The Competitions Committee
- General Secretariat: UAE FA General Secretariat
- Regulations: Third Division League Regulations.
- Clubs: Clubs Affiliated to UAE FA
- Committees: UAE FA Committees
- Department: Competitions Department.
- Official Match: Match organized by UAE FA for participating teams.
- Friendly Match: Match organized by sports authority specialized in football.
- Prior to the Match: The Duration from the arrival of teams at the venue to match kick-off.
- During the Match: The duration from Match kick-off to final whistle.
- Post-Match: The Duration from final whistle until teams' departure from field of play.
- Inside the Stadium: The area that includes the pitch, the surrounding areas and substitutes bench.
- Outside the Stadium: The area from fans seating area till the outer stadium fences.
- UAE FA Regulations: Statutes, regulations and instructions issued by UAE FA.
- Participating Clubs: Clubs participating in the competition.
- Circulars: Instructions or amendments related to these Regulations, notified to the Participating teams by the UAE FA.
- League: Third Division League.
- Host Club: the club first mentioned in the match schedule.
- Hosting Club: The team whose stadium is selected to host a match as neutral venue.
- Match Schedule: Official competition's match schedule as decided by Competitions Committee.
- Participating Bodies: Bodies contribute to preparation and staging of matches organized by UAE FA and comply with the application of its regulations and circulars.
- Match Officials: Match coordinator, referees, referees' assessor, sports events organizers, safety officer and any other officials appointed by UAE FA.
- Referees: any referee or assistant referee appointed to officiate a match, provided that he is officially recognized by UAE FA.
- Players: Players who are registered to participate in the competition.
- Broadcast Affiliate: any entity acquires broadcasting rights from UAE FA.
- UAE FA Logo: The Official Logo of UAE FA.
- Third Division League Logo: The competition's official logo as decided by UAE FA.
- Laws of the Game: The rules which are authorized and published by the International Football Association Board (IFAB).
- Official Count Down: the list which contains the events and activities approved by UAE FA.
- Prohibited Items List: the list of items which spectators are prohibited from taking into any stadia.

- Sports Season: The period starts from the first football match organized under the auspices of the UAE FA and ends with the last match.
- Starting List: The list containing the line-up, substitute players and technical and administrative staff.
- Media: press, audio, visual, social media or any other media.
- Annual Circular: The annual circular no. 1 of Players' Status Committee for the sports season 2022/2023.

## 2. General Provisions

- 2.1 These regulations shall have the statutory authority of the Competitions Regulations.
- 2.2 All matches shall be played in accordance with the laws of the game.
- 2.3 These Regulations regulates the rights, obligations and responsibilities of participating clubs.
- 2.4 All bodies participating in the preparation and staging of matches shall comply with UAE FA regulations and the circulars passed by the committee during the season.
- 2.5 Any rights associated with the Competition, that are not granted to the clubs by these Regulations and/or specific agreements belong to UAE FA.

## 3. Committees' Functions

- 3.1 The committee is responsible for applying These regulations and the circulars passed during the season and it has the sole right to interpret the provisions of these regulations and take decisions and recommendations on any matter not provided for herein.
- 3.2 Supervise the organization and management of the competition.
- 3.3 Approve match schedule.
- 3.4 Develop proposals for the launch of new competitions.
- 3.5 Set proposals on the change of competitions' names without prejudice to UAE FA Statutes and submit them to Board of Directors for approval.

## 4. Change of Match Venue, Time or Date

- 4.1 When necessary or if public interest so requires, the committee may change the match venue, time or date, provided that the participating clubs shall be notified at least 72 hours prior to the match. In urgent circumstances, the committee may shorten such notification period.

## 5. Participating Clubs

- 5.1 Sixteen clubs recognized by Board of Directors shall take part in the league.
- 5.2 For the purpose of participation in this competition, clubs shall fulfill all requirements provided for in these regulations. The clubs shall be selected based on criteria approved by Board of Directors.
- 5.3 In case one club or more unable to participate in the competition due to reasons beyond control (for example the club has been dissolved or merged with another team), the committee shall select the substitute in accordance with the provisions of these regulations, provided that it shall fulfill the requirements of participation or the satisfaction with the number of participating teams.

## 6. Obligations of Participating Clubs

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

- 6.1 To observe UAE FA Statutes, regulations, these regulations, the circulars issued by the committee and other committees and any agreements entered into with the UAE FA throughout the season.
- 6.2 To comply with the Laws of the Game issued by IFAB.
- 6.3 To accept that all the administrative, disciplinary and refereeing matters connected with the Competition shall be settled by the UAE FA according to these Regulations or the decisions of relevant UAE FA Committees;

- 6.4 To recognize the jurisdiction of the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne;
- 6.5 To observe the principles of Fair Play;
- 6.6 To comply with and adhere strictly to the Official Match Countdown;
- 6.7 To undertake procedures and arrangements necessary for staging of matches in its venue.
- 6.8 To ensure safety of match officials and delegation of visiting team, before, during and after the match staged in its venue.
- 6.9 To be responsible for the behavior of their players, officials, members, spectators and any person carrying out duties on their behalf throughout all Competition Matches.
- 6.10 To accept all the arrangements made by the Host Club in accordance with the requirements provided for in these regulations.
- 6.11 To attend and participate in all official activities and events, including but not limited to Technical Meeting, Broadcast Meeting, match organizational meeting, press conferences, other media activities, etc.).
- 6.12 To have a minimum of 14 registered players.
- 6.13 to provide security guards.
- 6.14 To ensure that unauthorized persons are not allowed to enter the pitch, its surrounding areas and the dressing rooms.
- 6.15 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.
- 6.16 To cooperate with UAE FA at any time – and in particular at the end of matches – in the collection of items of the game and players’ personal items that could be used by UAE FA to create a memorabilia collection to demonstrate the heritage of the competition, to the exclusion of any commercial use.
- 6.17 Any violations to the above provisions shall be referred to Disciplinary Committee.

## 7. Match Kit

- 7.1 The team which was mentioned first in the match schedule shall wear the official kit, while the opponent team shall wear the (official or reserve kit) if its colors are different from that of the other team, as entered in FA-Net system. If colors of both teams are similar and the opponent team failed to bring the reserve kit, the referee shall wait for 15 minutes after which the opponent team shall be considered lost the match with 0 – 3 score. In addition, a fine shall be imposed pursuant to Disciplinary Regulations.
- 7.2 In case the official kit of the first party is similar to both official and reserve kits of the second party, the Competitions Department may replace the official kit of the first party with the reserve kit.
- 7.3 In case the official kits of both team are similar and the teams fails to bring their reserve kits, the referee shall wait for 15 minutes, after which the match shall be ended and team whose name mentioned second in the match schedule, shall be deemed to have lost the match (0/3). In addition, a fine shall be imposed on the offending team in accordance with the provision of Disciplinary Code.
- 7.4 Participating teams shall bring both official and reserve kits for outfield players as well as goalkeeper for each match, as entered in FA-Net system, in order to avoid a clash with the colors of the other team.

- 7.5 colors of kit (jersey, short and socks) may be repeated or combined.
- 7.6 No kit shall be recognized unless approved by the committee. Participating team that wears a kit not approved in the electronic system, may not take part in the match.
- 7.7 It is compulsory for the team to enter colors (official and reserve kit) in FA-Net system prior to the match. The system shall be closed 24 hours prior to the match and any team that fails shall be fined with AED 500.

## 8. Participating Clubs Stadiums

- 8.1 Each participating club shall designate one stadium fulfilling all requirements, at least three months prior to the first match in the competition.
- 8.2 The committee may inspect the stadium at any time during the competition to check compliance with required standards. Any team may request a change of the stadium based on justifiable reasons and the committee may the decision deem appropriate.
- 8.3 No event shall be held in the stadium before or during the match or at the interval, except after obtaining the approval of UAE FA. Failure to comply with this provision, shall be referred to Disciplinary Committee.
- 8.4 Participating clubs shall ensure readiness of their stadiums and facilities reasonable time prior to commencement of the season. If the club wishes to carry out any maintenance works on the pitch or the stands, an approval shall be obtained from the committee, at least before two weeks from the date of maintenance. Failure to comply with this provision, shall be referred to Disciplinary Committee.
- 8.5 Matches shall be held in a pitch that meets the international dimensions (the length: 100-110 m, the width: 64 – 75 m).
- 8.6 if the proposed stadium is not approved, the club shall secure an alternative stadium at least one week before the date of the match, otherwise the match shall be transferred to the venue of the Second Party, without transferring the match of Second Round to the venue of the First Party. When applying tie breaking procedure, such a match shall be deemed to have been played at the venue of the First Party.

## 9. Registration of players (Citizens, Foreigners and Expats born in UAE)

- 9.1 Registrations and transfer of players shall be in accordance with the provisions of these regulations and the Annual Circular No. 1 of Players' Status Committee for the Sport Season 2022/2023, for all matters not provided for in this article.
- 9.2 Each team may register maximum of 30 players from the following categories:
  - 9.2.1 A maximum of 30 players from the category of expats born in UAE or residents born in 2002, 2003 and 2004 (reaches 18 years at the date of registration) this apply to residents who will be registered for the first time, while the resident player who was previously registered in UAE FA may be re-registered regardless of the age. The club may substitute 5 players of this category during the season.
  - 9.2.2 A maximum of 30 players from the category of citizens, holders of UAE passports and players born to UAE women. Those players must be born in or before 2006. The club may substitute 5 players of this category during the season.

- 9.2.3 A maximum of 18 players from the category of foreigners born in or after 2000 up to 30 August 2004 and after (reaches 18 years at the date of registration). The club may substitute 5 players of this category during the season.
- 9.2.4 A maximum of 10 players from the category of foreigners, born on or before 1999. The club may substitute 3 players of this category during the season.
- 9.3 The eligible players shall be as follows:
  - 9.3.1 All players registered pursuant to article (9.2).
  - 9.3.2 There are no requirements regarding the number of players registered in the match list of participating in it from all the categories mentioned in Article (9:2) and its subsections.
- 9.4 Match officials shall check players' data in FA-Net system. In case match officials are unable to check the data due to system failure, the club shall submit the players' data by hand, and bear full responsibility for data provided.
- 9.5 All registration forms provided for in the Annual Circular No. 1 of Players' Status Committee for the Sport Season 2022/2023, should be submitted.
- 9.6 All transactions of registration, replacement, loan, or transfer should take place during the two registration periods, as fixed in the regulations.

## **10. Technical, Administrative and Medical Staff**

- 10.1 The UAE FA shall keep and maintain a register of Team Officials and administrators employed or engaged by any Club, including:
  - 10.1.1 The administrative staff;
  - 10.1.2 The technical staff; and
  - 10.1.3 The medical staff.
- 10.2 At a minimum, the following officials must be registered by each Participating Club:
  - 10.2.1 Team manager or team administrator.
  - 10.2.2 Technical Manager, Head coach, or Assistant Coach
  - 10.2.3 Doctor or Physiotherapist
  - 10.2.4 Any other individuals who are either technical coaching staff, or medical staff or translator.
- 10.3 Participating Clubs must abide by the registration procedure communicated to them prior to the commencement of the League Season for issuing Accreditation Cards in accordance with these regulations and other relevant regulations.
- 10.4 Head coach and Assistant Coach of each Participating Club must have at least 'C Coaching certificate approved by the AFC or has submitted a request of recognition of experience and current at the AFC (B) level. Coaches may be exempted from this provision through coordination with UAE FA Technical Department to grant them temporary registration cards till the end of the season.
- 10.5 An exception may be made to register team manager or team administrator who is not a citizen, provided that other conditions stipulated in the Annual Circular No. 1 of Players' Status Committee for the Sport Season 2021/2022, are met.
- 10.6 Any changes to any of the staff listed in Article 10.2 must be officially communicated to the UAE FA after successful registration according to the UAE FA regulations, by submitting an application through the Online Accreditation System before the scheduled match for the team in the competition. No accreditation cards will be issued outside official UAE FA working hours. Accreditation cards will be given to clubs after the UAE FA reviews the documents submitted by the club and ensuring that the submitted documents meet all the requirements.

- 10.7 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 their professions as a Medical Health practitioner. Furthermore, in accordance with the laws and regulations governing health care and medical responsibility in their relevant Emirate, each member of a clubs' medical staff shall not be entitled to perform his or her functions before obtaining license from the relevant Health Authority.

## 11. Players' Registration and Rules of Transfer and Loan

- 11.1 The player shall be registered through FA-Net system.
- 11.2 Players shall be registered during the two registration periods, where the first period extends from 13 July 2022 until Tuesday 4 October 2022, 5:00 pm, while the second period starts on 11 January 2023 and ends on Wednesday 8 February 2023, 5:00 pm.
- 11.3 To ensure continuity of competition, the committee may take any action deems appropriate in respect to players' registration, conditions, and timeline.
- 11.4 Transfer and loan of players may only be possible during the above-mentioned registration period; and the conditions of transfer and loan of players of First Division League as outlined in the annual circular shall apply.
- 11.5 Otherwise, teams shall comply with all items provided for in the annual circular.

## 12. Match Starting List

- 12.1 The match starting list shall comprise a maximum of 18 players.
- 12.2 The team manager of each participating Club is responsible for approving the duly completed 'Player Selection List' on the FA NET during the period extended from 24 hours up ninety (90) minutes prior to kick off. The list shall include the following:
- 12.2.1 The (11) Players starting the match,
- 12.2.2 The (7) substitute players,
- 12.2.3 The Team Captain and Goalkeeper should be identified in the list.
- 12.2.4 A list of maximum 6 team officials who will sit on the team bench. It should include:
- 12.2.4.1 Team manager/team supervisor/team administrator – maximum one official from them.
- 12.2.4.2 Head Coach.
- 12.2.4.3 Assistant Coach.
- 12.2.4.4 Team Doctor or Physiotherapist
- 12.2.5 The team official is not obliged to approve the list if it was approved electronically.
- 12.2.6 Match Commissioner and Fourth Official shall verify the list during inspection of players' equipment prior to the match, using the player's data report available at FA-Net system.
- 12.2.7 The club shall bring copies of the card issued by Registration Department in case the match officials are unable to verify the players' data due to failure of electronic system. If the team fails to bring the card, the referee shall wait for 15 minutes, after which the team in default shall be considered losing the match with 0 – 3 score.
- 12.2.8 The match starting list shall be distributed to participating teams, media and broadcasters.

## 13. Substitute Players

- 13.1 Upon completion of players selection list and before kickoff of the match, the Match Commissioner is the sole authorized person to make change on the list at the desire of participating team from 90 minutes prior to the match until kickoff, in the following cases:
- 13.1.1 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) or failure to report at the stadium, He may only be replaced by any of the seven substitutes listed in the player selection list. The substitute(s) in question may then only be replaced by a registered player(s) not listed on the player selection list, so that the quota of substitutes is not reduced. During the match, three (3) players may still be substituted; This injured substituted player may not take part in the match or sit on the substitutes bench
- 13.1.2 If any of the seven (7) 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 in the player selection list;
- 13.1.3 The Club concerned must, upon request, provide the UAE FA with the necessary medical certificates and reports.

## 14. Actual Participation

- 14.1 The player who is registered in the match report shall not be deemed as an actual participant unless he has taken part in a match at any time, either as starting player or substitute.

## 15. Officials Authorized to sit on the Team Bench

- 15.1 Six team officials may sit on the team bench during the match.
- 15.2 All team officials and players seated on the bench must wear kits that are contrasting with the colors of the players and Referees on the pitch, and must wear bibs when instructed by the Referees.
- 15.3 The players shall be directed by one technical official during the match, while the coach and other people sitting in the bench shall act in an official manner through the technical area which cover the length of the bench in addition to one meter in either side and one meter from the touchline.
- 15.4 Following approval of the referee, a maximum of two persons may enter the field of play when a player is injured during the match.

## 16. Competition Format

- 16.1 As approved by Board of Directors, sixteen teams shall take part in the Competition.
- 16.2 The participating teams are divided into two groups of eight teams each.
- 16.3 The first round shall be played in league format (home and away). Each match shall be played in the venue of the team mentioned first. The top three teams shall qualify to the second round.
- 16.4 The second round which features 6 teams shall be played in league format (home & away) on the venue of team mentioned first.
- 16.5 The top four teams shall qualify to Second Division League, provided that they fulfilled UAE FA requirements and paid participation fees.

- 16.6 In case one or more of the top four teams are not able to meet the UAE FA requirements stated in article (16.5) or to participate due to any reason, the committee shall submit recommendation to the Board of Directors on the qualification of the fifth and /or the sixth team in the table, provided that they fulfilled UAE FA requirements and paid participation fees.

## 17. Rules Governing Matches

- 17.1 For each match, three points shall be awarded for the win, one point for the draw and zero point of the loss.
- 17.2 The matches shall be played as per the match schedule.
- 17.3 Match kickoff times shall be as per match schedule.
- 17.4 All matches shall be played as per schedules approved by the committee. However, the committee may change the match venue, date or kickoff time, as it deems appropriate for public interest.
- 17.5 If necessary, the matches of the last two rounds shall be played on the same day and simultaneous kick-off time shall apply.
- 17.6 In the event that the match is rescheduled to a new venue, the home club shall be considered the host club and shall be responsible for all match organization related matters.

## 18. Teams Ranking

- 18.1 The Clubs ranking shall be organized in a league table after end of round one and two of the competition in descending order according to the number of points obtained by each team as displayed in UAE FA website and the electronic system, FA-NET. At the end of each match, 3 (three) points are granted for the win, 1 (one) point for the draw and 0 (zero) point for the loss. The champion and runners-up from each shall qualify to the semi-final.
- 18.2 If two (2) or more Clubs are equal in number of points, their position in the table shall be determined in accordance with Article (19).

## 19. Tie breaking procedure

- 19.1 If two or more clubs are equal in the number of points, their positions in the table shall be determined as follows:
- 19.1.1 The club who has the highest number of points from matches held between the clubs in question.
- 19.1.2 The club who has the highest goal difference in the matches between the clubs in question.
- 19.1.3 The club scoring the highest number of goals in matches between the clubs in question.
- 19.1.4 The club scoring the highest number of away goals in matches between the clubs in question.
- 19.1.5 If, after having applied criteria 19.1.1) to 19.1.4), there are still teams having an equal ranking, criteria 19.1.1 to 19.1.4 are reapplied exclusively to the matches between the teams in question to determine their final rankings. If this procedure does not lead to a decision, criteria 19.1.6) to 19.1.10 apply.
- 19.1.6 The club who has the highest goal difference in all Competition Matches,
- 19.1.7 The club scoring the highest number of goals in all Competition Matches,
- 19.1.8 The club scoring the highest number of away goals in the Competition,

19.1.9 The club with the least number of points for receiving yellow and red cards in all competition where one point is awarded for each yellow card, three points for each direct red card and/or each red card as a consequent of two yellow cards, and four points for a yellow card followed by a red card.

19.1.10 Draw of lot.

## 20. Cancellation of the Competitions

If the competitions is canceled or terminated due to force majeure or any unforeseen reasons, the matter shall be referred to the Board of Directors to take the decision it deems appropriate.

## 21. Creation of Logos

21.1 The teams may not create any logos associated with the competition name “Third Division League”.

## 22. Kickoff Time

22.1 The committee shall approve kickoff time.

22.2 Each participating club shall adhere to kickoff time.

22.3 If the club delays the kickoff or the second half, the matter shall be referred to Disciplinary Committee.

22.4 If the club fails to report to the match on time, the referee may wait for 15 minutes after which the other club shall be declared winner of the match with 3 – 0 score.

## 23. Duration of Match and Number of Substitute

23.1 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.

23.2 The amendments related to number of substitutes shall apply where each team may substitute five players in only three windows during the game.

23.3 One or more substitution may be made during half-time interval. In this case, such substitution shall not affect the three windows referred to in article (23.2) above.

23.4 If both teams make substitution at the same window, such window shall be considered one of the three windows available for each team.

## 24. Suspension of Matches

24.1 If any Competition Match is stopped by the Referee before the end of normal playing time because of any force majeure or any other incidents; or if the field of play not fit to play; or if the match is stopped due to weather conditions, etc., the following procedures must be followed:

24.1.1 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.

24.1.2 In the event that the Referee decides to restart the match in accordance with Article 24.1.1 above, the participating clubs have the right to request for an additional five (5) minutes for preparation and warm-up.

24.1.3 In the event that the Referee cannot restart the match after the thirty (30) minute delay, the match is abandoned in accordance with Article 25.

## 25. Abandonment of Matches Due to Force Majeure or Emergency Conditions

25.1 If the referee decides to end the match before lapse of normal playing time due to emergency conditions that cannot be addressed, the match shall be replayed in full irrespective of the score and the time remaining from normal playing time.

25.2 The committee shall determine the date and venue of the replayed match.

25.3 The committee has the right to abandon or postpone a match due to force majeure or any emergency incidents from 24 hours and until 3 hours prior to the kickoff time. The referee and match commissioner decision to abandon or postpone the match shall be in the period of 3 hours prior to the kickoff time until kick off time. The referee shall wait for a maximum of 30 minutes from the kickoff time before taking a final decision to abandon the match.

25.4 In agreement with the referee, the match commissioner may postpone the match for an hour in case the decision was taken more than an hour prior to kickoff time.

25.5 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.

25.6 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 Committee. The whole match will be replayed regardless of the result and remaining time. All yellow and red cards during the match shall be cancelled, while any sanctions passed by Disciplinary Committee based on referee's or match commissioner's report shall be effective. 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).

25.7 in case the match was not played on the next day, the committee shall determine the date, time and venue of replayed match.

25.8 No challenge or appeal may be made against the decisions provided for in the above paragraphs.

## 26. Matches abandoned due to Power Failure

26.1 In case of power failure in the stadium before or during the match, the following procedures shall apply:

26.1.1 If the power/floodlight failure takes place before the kickoff and it could not be returned after 30 minutes, the match shall be postponed and rescheduled at neutral stadium to be decided by the committee. In addition, further decision may be taken.

- 26.1.2 In case the power/floodlight failure takes place during the match and it could not be returned after 30 minutes and the visiting team is winning at that time, the referee shall end the match and the visiting team shall be declared winner with 3 – 0 score, unless the actual score is greater than this. Otherwise, the match shall be replayed in full irrespective of its result at the time of abandonment or replayed for the period remaining from playing time as decided by the committee based on reports from relevant bodies.
- 26.1.3 Except cases of force majeure, the host club shall be responsible for the cost incurred by UAE FA due to abandonment or postponement of the match or floodlight failure.
- 26.1.4 In case the power failure takes place during the match played in neutral venue, the referee shall declare the match abandoned and it shall be replayed in full irrespective of the scores at the time of abandonment.

## 27. Non-completed Match

- 27.1 If a Match played in neutral venue is abandoned before completion of its normal playing time due to reasons that could not be identified by the referee, the match shall be replayed in full irrespective of the score or the period remaining from normal playing time.

## 28. Abandonment of Match prior to Its Completion

- 28.1 Notwithstanding the Laws of the Game, If a Match is abandoned before completion of normal playing time for any reasons not provided for in these regulations or other UAE FA regulations, the committee shall study the case and submit its recommendation to the Board of Directors.

## 29. Reduction in Number of Players

- 29.1 The match may not be kicked-off with less than seven players in each team.
- 29.2 The number of players during the match may not be reduced to less than seven. If the number of players becomes less than seven, the referee shall end the match and the procedure provided for in Disciplinary Regulations shall apply.

## 30. Withdrawal and Penalty for Failing to Play

- 30.1 Each team shall play all its matches in the competition.
- 30.2 Any team withdraws from the competition for any reason other than force majeure shall be subject to the below procedures:
- 30.2.1 withdrawal before 30 days or more from commencement of competition – UAE FA shall retain the deposit paid for the participation, i.e. AED 20.000.
- 30.2.2 withdrawal before less than 30 days from commencement of competition – the below penalties apply:
- 30.2.3 a fine of AED 30.000.
- 30.2.4 ban from taking part in the competition in the next season.
- 30.3 withdrawal during the first round of the competition:
- 30.3.1 The club shall be banned from taking part in the competition for two consecutive seasons.
- 30.3.2 a fine of AED 80.000.

- 30.3.3 bear all loss arising from commercial activities, broadcasting contracts and other expenses related to participation in matches prior to the withdrawal.
- 30.3.4 All its matches shall be null and void (all points, goals scored, goals conceded shall not be taken into account when determine the teams ranking), however sanctions imposed by Disciplinary committee as well as cautions and expulsions received by its players and officials are still effective.
- 30.4 Withdrawal During the second round of the competition:
  - 30.4.1 The club shall be banned from taking part in the competition for two consecutive seasons.
  - 30.4.2 a fine of AED 100.000.
  - 30.4.3 bear all loss arising from commercial activities, broadcasting contracts and other expenses related to participation in matches prior to the withdrawal.
  - 30.4.4 All points, goals scored, goals conceded during the first round shall be considered when determining the teams ranking. The sanctions imposed by Disciplinary committee as well as cautions and expulsions received by its players and officials are still effective. All its matches in the second round shall be null and void (all points, goals scored, goals conceded shall not be considered when determine the teams ranking), however sanctions imposed by Disciplinary committee as well as cautions and expulsions received by its players and officials are still effective.
- 30.5 UAE FA shall take decisions on cases of club's withdrawal due to force majeure and unforeseen incidents.

## 31. Replacing the Withdrawing Club

- 31.1 If any club withdraws from the competition pursuant to article (30), UAE FA shall decide on an alternative club to participate in the Competition, or satisfy with existing number of participating clubs.

## 32. Change of Venue

- 32.1 No team may request the change of venue approved by the committee the neutral venue or home venue to host the matches for any reasons.

## 33. Suitability of Venue

- 33.1 The host club may not object the suitability of the venue if the referee decides that the venue is fit. Further, the host club may not leave the venue as long as the referee has not taken his final decision in respect to the match.

## 34. Watering of Pitch

- 34.1 The host club is entitled to water the pitch in the following times:
  - 34.1.1 Before warm-up until one hour prior to kickoff time.
  - 34.1.2 Immediately after the end of warm-up, i.e. 20 minutes before kickoff time; and for a maximum of 5 minutes.
  - 34.1.3 In the half-time interval for a maximum of five (5) minutes provided that watering the pitch starts only after all players have left the field of play. In all cases, the Host Club shall inform match commissioner about watering times 3 hours before the match. In case the Host Club watered the pitch without informing the match commissioner, a fine of AED 1.000 shall be imposed.

34.1.4 The Host Club shall ensure that watering of the pitch does not affect the LED systems and/or broadcast equipment. Should the LED system and/or broadcast equipment malfunction due to the watering of the pitch, the Host Club is responsible for the financial costs of repairing such equipment.

## 35. Host or Hosting Club

35.1 The host club shall maintain the field of play is in optimum condition to ensure protection of players during the match. If the field of play deems unfit, the committee change the match venue and the host club shall bear all related costs.

35.2 The host club shall ensure that no activities may be staged in the field of play as of 48 hours prior to the match.

35.3 All teams shall abide by the dimensions of pitch as provided for in article (8.5), throughout the season.

35.4 The host club shall ensure that the markings of field of play follow law (1) of the Laws of the Game.

35.5 The match commissioner and the referee shall inspect the stadium prior to the match and ensure that all arrangements are in accordance with the Laws of the Game. If the conditions of field of play are not in accordance with law (1) of the Laws of the Game, the match commissioner and/or referee shall issue instructions for the host club to ensure rectification.

35.6 If the host club fails to make the rectification provided for in article (35.5) until 50 minutes before kickoff time, a fine of AED 5.000 shall be imposed. In case the rectification is not made until 15 minutes before kickoff time, the match shall be abandoned; and the visiting shall be considered the winner of the match with 3 – 0 score.

## 36. Team Bench & Technical Area

36.1 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.

36.2 Each technical area must have direct access to the pitch and shall be located equidistant from the halfway line.

36.3 Team bench must contain a minimum of thirteen (13) full size seats, which are affixed to the bench and have backrests. Benches must be covered to be protected against bad weather and spectator misbehavior.

36.4 A maximum of six (6) team officials and a maximum of seven (7) substitutes are allowed to sit on the team bench, provided they are in possession of the appropriate accreditation card.

36.5 During matches, players and team officials 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. unless the electronic device is used for technical purposes only and is not connected to the internet and/or to any other device. The match commissioner shall have the right to confiscate any of this electronic equipment in case of violation of this article.

36.6 If at any time the number of the persons sitting on the bench exceeds that allowed under Article 23.4 above, the offence shall be referred to Disciplinary Committee.

36.7 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 0-3 in favor of the other team.

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

- 36.8 All team officials and players seated on the bench must wear kits that are contrasting with the colors of the players and Referees on the pitch and must wear bibs when instructed by the Referees.
- 36.9 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 neutral 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.

## 37. Distribution of Stadium Facilities

- 37.1.1 Team benches and spectators' seats on the left side of the grandstand are designated for the club whose name mentioned first in the match schedule, while team benches and spectators' seats on the right side are designated for the other club. 30% of the stadium capacity (all stands) shall be designated for the visiting club.

## 38. Warming Up

- 38.1 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 kick-off.
- 38.2 The match commissioner may determine the area of warming-up, if there are renovations at the field of play.
- 38.3 Any team fails to comply with the pre-match warm up timing as provided for in article 38.1, shall be referred to Disciplinary Committee.
- 38.4 The teams may decide not to warm up if they wish.
- 38.5 During the match, (6) 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. If there is limited space behind the goal, the General Coordinator 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).

## 39. Match Balls

- 39.1 Host Club shall provide (10) balls for the match.
- 39.2 The referees shall check the pressure of balls before the match.
- 39.3 Participating teams must use the balls approved by the committee for all matches.

## 40. Players Equipment

- 40.1 Match officials are entitled to check players' equipment before the match.
- 40.2 The player's name and number shall be placed on the back of the shirt as per the below specifications:
- 40.2.1 The number shall be legible for referees, spectators and TV audience.
- 40.2.2 colors of name and number shall be noticeably different from the colors of players' kit or they shall be printed on a patch with a different color (dark versus light or vice versa).

- 40.2.3 The player shall wear the same name and number for the entire season. The player shall wear the allocated number in all other competitions organized by the committee. If the player transfers to another club, his number may be allocated to another player who has no number with the same team during the season.
- 40.2.4 The Players shall be allocated the numbers 1 – 99.
- 40.3 Participating team shall affix the league badge on the vacant space in the right sleeve in an area of 12 cm in length and 8 cm in width, in the middle between the shoulder the elbow.
- 40.4 UAE FA may display other badge in the free space of the left sleeve. Such badges shall be distributed to participating teams.
- 40.5 The club logo shall be placed in the front of the shirt at chest level, left side (in both official and reserve kit).
- 40.6 Numbers:
- 40.6.1 The number shall be legibly displayed in the back of the shirt with a height of 25 – 35 cm and a width of 3 – 5 cm.
- 40.6.2 the number shall also be displayed in the front of the shirt in any space at chest level with a height of 10 – 15 cm. It shall be in same color with the number in the back of the shirt.
- 40.6.3 the number shall appear in the front side of the short on any of the legs with a height of 10 – 15 cm.
- 40.6.4 The number shall be the same in all attire of the player, as allocated in match starting list.
- 40.6.5 If the team requests to amend player's number after its approval, a fee of AED 500 shall apply.
- 40.7 Players shall comply with the Laws of the Game in respect to mandatory basic equipment, including shirt, short, socks, Shin guard and shoes. The socks shall cover shin guard and player may wear compression short, provided that it shall be in the same color of basic short.
- 40.8 Goalkeeper may wear pants instead of short. Like the shorts, such pants must bear numbers. If the goalkeeper is to be substituted with outfield player, the referee must be informed with the number of the player who will substitute the goalkeeper.
- 40.9 All teams shall commit to display UAE flag in the middle of the front side of the shirt above the number.
- 40.10 All violations to this article shall be referred to Disciplinary Committee.

## 41. Conduct of Team Officials & Players

- 41.1 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 FA activities.
- 41.2 A player who takes off his shirt in celebration with a goal shall receive a caution for unsporting behavior.
- 41.3 Players may not display in advertisement, logos or photos in their underwear. Any player takes off his shirt to display such advertising shall be punished.
- 41.4 in application of fair play, players must shake hands with each other following the end of the match.
- 41.5 Players are strictly prohibited for making any practice or gesture contradicts with customs and traditions, before, during or after the game or during celebration of goals.
- 41.6 Players shall abide by general appearance and they must not deviate from customs and traditions of Arab and Islamic society.

- 41.7 Players may not take self-portrait photo (Selfie) when celebrating goals and any player commits such an offence shall receive a caution. The team shall comply with article 41.1 above, otherwise the matter shall be referred to Disciplinary Committee.
- 41.8 Smoking is strictly prohibited on the field of play, media/broadcast areas and all official areas within the stadium (dressing rooms, players' tunnel etc.).
- 41.9 Disciplinary Committee is competent to deal with misconduct of players and officials pursuant to Disciplinary Regulations.

## 42. Filming of Matches

- 42.1 For Disciplinary cases where the referee was not able to assess the case or in case of any doubt about player's identity, audio and video recordings of neutral body may be relied upon to assess the case.
- 42.2 Teams are permitted to record their matches with one camera (video or photographic) placed in a designated position in the stadium with the knowledge of match commissioner. The recordings of this camera shall not be considered as additional evidence by Disciplinary Committee.

## 43. Stadium

- 43.1 The stadium must fulfill all requirements necessary for hosting the matches at least two weeks before the start of the first match in the Competition.
- 43.2 In the event that the renovations cannot be completed, the club shall provide UAE FA with the name of an alternative stadium after obtaining written approval from the stadium owner.
- 43.3 If UAE FA is not provided with the name of the alternative stadium before one week from the date of the match, the match shall be relocated to the stadium of the other club (the second party) without relocating its match in the second round to the stadium of the first party. When applying procedures in case both clubs are equal in number of points, the match shall be considered as if it was played in the stadium of the first party.

## 44. Stadium Requirements

- 44.1 The host club is responsible for providing facilities necessary for the match, including the stadium and the surrounding areas. The match commissioner shall check the stadium readiness two day prior to the match, otherwise he shall be liable before Disciplinary Committee for any failure.

## 45. Changes Fees

- 45.1 No fees shall be imposed on the club if it requests the relocation of a match to another stadium or other club stadium or the change of kickoff time or the change of its time from night to day; provided the approval of competitions department and not more than three times during the whole season , In addition, no fees shall be imposed on the request of change of stadium or match jersey colors, if such request is submitted to UAE FA at least 10 days before the date of the match. If the request is submitted after the deadline, the following fees shall apply:

- 45.1.1 First Time : AED 1.000  
45.1.2 Second Time : AED 2.000  
45.1.3 Third Time : AED 3.000

- 45.2 The changes provided for in article 45.1 above shall be conducted at FA-Net and the change shall not be valid except after approval of the administration.
- 45.3 In all cases, the request of the changing of the venue will not be acceptable before less than 72 hours of the date of match.

## 46. Match Organization

- 46.1 Following conduct of the draw and selection match venues, the host club shall provide the following:
- 46.1.1 appointment of general coordinator to assist in carrying out necessary arrangements in coordination with match commissioner and match coordinator.
- 46.1.2 Prepare all facilities well before the match.
- 46.1.3 Ensure proper parking and access to the stadium for Participating Teams, match officials, sponsors, media and spectators.
- 46.1.4 provide ice, water, refreshment, fruits and sandwiches in teams dressing rooms, referees room, office of match commissioner and coordinator and media center.
- 46.1.5 provide an office for match officials equipped with computer, internet and printer machine.
- 46.1.6 ensure the necessary match day personnel are present at the stadium at least 4 hours before match kickoff.
- 46.1.7 ensure availability of qualified personnel to carry out all arrangements before, during and after the match.
- 46.1.8 stage the match in accordance with the regulations and relevant circulars.
- 46.1.9 The host club shall provide three walkie talkies devices for use of match officials appointed by UAE FA. In each match, these devices shall be fully charged and connected to the club's officials who are responsible for match organization.
- 46.1.10 UAE FA shall not bear any liability towards any claim from any party in respect to loss arising from the organization of the match, whether such a match is staged or not.
- 46.1.11 In the match during which the cup and medals will be presented to the winner, UAE FA shall be responsible for the match organization in respect to protocol, allocation of VIP invitation, tickets, safety arrangements and awards ceremony. The host club shall bear all costs related to safety and security.

## 47. Cooling Break

- 47.1 UAE FA shall inform participating that cooling breaks will be granted during the match when necessary – according to the below conditions:
- 47.1.1 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.
- 47.1.2 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.

- 47.1.3 The host club shall provide all items necessary for cooling break for both teams and match officials.

## 48. Press Conferences

- 48.1 Pre-match and post-match press conferences shall be organized as per Media Regulations, if so approved at any time during the season.
- 48.2 Violations to the above provisions shall be referred to Disciplinary Committee.

## 49. Ball Kids

- 49.1 The host club shall provide ball kids and flag bearers, as per the following procedures:
- 49.1.1 Coordinator and ball kids shall be available in the stadium before the match and remain at the stadium until 10 minutes following the end of the match.
- 49.1.2 There shall be minimum four (4) ball kids for each match.
- 49.1.3 The host club shall appoint a person to be responsible for ball kids.
- 49.1.4 Ball kids shall wear uniform contrast in colors with the players' and match officials' attire.

## 50. Public Address Systems, Announcers and Announcements

- 50.1 The public address system shall be able to deliver message with a good voice clearly heard inside and outside the stadium and louder than the noise even in cases drastic increase in number of spectators.
- 50.2 Provide well trained announcers able to deliver the messages in both English and Arabic, at the request of the committee.
- 50.3 The announcer shall be neutral and must not disseminate any political message to support the home team, or demonstrate any form of discrimination against the visiting team.
- 50.4 Host Clubs are entitled to play music until fifteen (15) minutes before kick-off and during half time in accordance with UAE FA's Official Match Countdown, but volume levels must be managed appropriately during player warm up times and specified intervals for on-field Broadcast interviews.
- 50.5 No music may be played during the Match, except 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.
- 50.6 Violations to this article shall be referred to Disciplinary Committee.

## 51. Giant Screen

- 51.1 Unless otherwise stated by UAE FA, the giant screen may not be used for commercial purposes and internal announcements on the day of the match.
- 51.2 UAE FA 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.
- 51.3 Displaying of results or video footage of other Competition Matches either on the giant screen or the public address system is strictly prohibited.

51.4 Violations to this article shall be referred to Disciplinary Committee.

## 52. Safety & Security

52.1 The Host team undertakes to prepare, plan and implement the appropriate security measures inside and around the stadium in all Competition Matches. Those include players and officials of both teams, match officials, media representatives, commercial partners, sponsors and spectators.

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

52.2.1 Each club should appoint Security Officer responsible for a prescribed tasks and duties, including but not limited to organizing meetings with local police and private security companies before, during and after the season and each match to discuss procedures and issues related to match organization.

52.2.2 Provide adequate number of guards to provide security during the match. At kick-off time, if security guards are not present, the referee may wait for 15 minutes after which the match shall be abandoned, and the visiting team shall be deemed winning the match with 3-0 score. In addition, a fine may be imposed.

52.2.3 Set a plan for spectators' security and monitoring.

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

52.2.5 Assembly points must be designated for emergency evacuation situations;

52.2.6 Signage must be in place;

52.2.7 Evacuation doors must be in operation;

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

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

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

52.2.11 Spectator access to the field of play must always be prevented;

52.2.12 Entertainment events must follow national laws;

52.2.13 Spectator medical services must be available; and

52.2.14 An operation plan for lost children.

52.2.15 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.

52.2.16 Spectators are strictly forbidden from entering stadiums with items listed on the Prohibited Items List.

52.2.17 Spectators shall abide by sportsmanship and may not use any abusive, discriminatory or sexual language or gesture.

52.2.18 The club is liable for the misconduct of its spectators.

52.2.19 The committee may select neutral venue if Disciplinary Committee decides to stage a match in another stadium.

52.2.20 If the facilities and buildings of the Host Club are destroyed by the spectators, the affected Club shall communicate such damages and the costs thereof to UAE FA through a security report. UAE FA may appoint any party to inspect the damages and losses and then claim the necessary compensation from the club found guilty. The Committee may draft a report in coordination with the Disciplinary Committee to take further actions.

## 53. Loudspeakers

- 53.1 Fans of Participating Clubs may bring into the stadium only one loudspeaker (no more than 45 Watt) and any other drums for cheering their team.
- 53.2 The loudspeaker and/or the drums may not be attached to any electronic devices and the sounds produced must not be amplified.
- 53.3 The loudspeaker and drums may only be used in the stands for second category ticket holders only. In case of any violation, the matter shall be referred to Disciplinary Committee.
- 53.4 The Committee 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 measures in the stadium, or may affect the comfort of patients in the nearby hospitals and medical centers .
- 53.5 Notwithstanding the above, UAE FA or the police or the private security personnel have the right to unilaterally confiscate any of the loudspeaker and/or drums if the sounds or noises made are affecting referees' performance or safety and security measures.
- 53.6 Spectators shall abide by sportsmanship and may not use any abusive, discriminatory or sexual language or gesture.

## 54. Paper Launchers

- 54.1 Use of paper launchers is strictly prohibited in the stadium as it spoils the beauty of the stadium, and any violations shall be referred to Disciplinary Committee.

## 55. Laser Pointers

- 55.1 Use of laser pointers is strictly prohibited in the stadium as it is hazardous and may cause blindness. Close cooperation shall be made with police to prevent such conducts and violations shall be referred to Disciplinary Committee.

## 56. UAE Flag

- 56.1 Spectators may not use any flag in the stadium, except UAE flag and the flags of participating teams. Any violation shall be referred to Disciplinary Committee.

## 57. Ambulances & Medical Facilities

- 57.1 For each Competition Match, the Host Club shall provide the following medial facilities and personnel at the stadium:
  - 57.1.1 Ambulance vehicle supplied with all necessary equipment and devices in addition to one first-aid specialist. Such services shall be made available as of two hours prior to kick-off, until the end of the match.
  - 57.1.2 A medical emergency room must be provided near the dressing room and/or field of play and must be fully equipped with all emergency medical fittings.
  - 57.1.3 The following medical services shall be provided on the field:
    - 57.1.3.1 A doctor trained to provide medical emergency services.

- 57.1.3.2 In case one golf cart was available, the club shall also ensure that there are 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.
- 57.1.3.3 If there is no golf cart, two stretchers shall be made available with two set of stretcher bearers, each consists of 4 persons.
- 57.1.4 if the ambulance and/or the first-aid specialists and drivers are not present at the stadium by the designated kickoff time, the match shall not commence but it shall be delayed for a maximum of fifteen (15) minutes to allow ambulances to arrive.
- 57.1.5 In the event that the ambulance does not arrive by the end of the 15 minutes delay period, the referee shall end the match and the visiting team shall be deemed winner for the match with 3-0 score. In addition, a fine may be imposed by Disciplinary Committee.
- 57.1.6 If at any time during the match, the ambulance is required to leave the stadium to transfer an injured person (player or spectator) to a hospital, the play shall continue for 15 minutes. If the ambulance does not arrive at the stadium after the end of this period and the host club failed to provide alternative ambulance, the match shall be stopped for 15 minutes, after which the match shall be abandoned and the visiting club shall be deemed winner for the match with 3 – 0, unless the score of match is greater at that time.
- 57.1.7 If at any time during the match, the ambulance is required to leave the stadium for any reason other than to transfer an injured player or spectator, the host club shall inform the match commissioner and/or the referee. The play shall be stopped for 15 minutes for the host club to provide an alternative ambulance, after which the match shall be abandoned and the visiting club shall be deemed winner for the match with 3 – 0 score. In addition, the matter shall be referred to Disciplinary Committee.

## 58. Accreditation

- 58.1 Players and officials shall wear their accreditation cards as of 3 hours prior to kick-off time, in order to be visible by match officials and security staff until departure of the stadium.
- 58.2 The Committee is responsible for issuance of accreditation cards.
- 58.3 Teams must apply for accreditation cards, at least 15 days prior to commencement of the competition.
- 58.4 Teams shall receive the accreditation cards of officials and players registered in the FA-Net and ensure that only permissible number of persons are present in the stadium.
- 58.5 Holders of cards issued by UAE FA Departments may sit only in the designated areas.
- 58.6 Three cards shall be granted for the Board Members of each team to enabling them entering the field of play before and after the match, provided that it does not conflict with Match Operations Protocol.
- 58.7 The fee applicable to accreditation card for the categories of organizers and services is AED 250, and AED 500 for category of Board Member.
- 58.8 Should any accreditation be misplaced or lost, the Club shall be required to pay a fine of AED 500 (Five Hundred Dirhams) for every card lost or misplaced.

## 59. Protocol

- 59.1 The team shall observe the following:

- 59.1.1 Host Club shall ensure that the following flags are available, at least two hours before the match.
- 59.1.2 National flag of United Arab Emirates (dimensions 2×3m).
- 59.1.3 UAEFA Flag (dimensions 2×3m).
- 59.1.4 The participating teams and match officials shall marsh into the pitch with FIFA Live Football Logo, provided both teams shall at the disposal of the referee at least 7 minutes prior to kickoff time.
- 59.1.5 The committee may use another logo.
- 59.1.6 The match commissioner shall be allocated a seat with a good view to the whole stadium. Such a seat shall be linked to secure path to the pitch. A TV shall be made available for the match commissioner.
- 59.1.7 The referee assessor shall be allocated a seat with a good view to the whole stadium. Such a seat shall be linked to secure path to the pitch. A TV shall be made available for the referee assessor.

## 60. Insurance

- 60.1 Host Clubs are responsible for concluding and maintaining insurance coverage for the risks in connection with staging and organization its home Competition Matches.
- 60.2 Host Clubs release the UAE FA of any liability whatsoever in respect to the insured matters.
- 60.3 Clubs are responsible for the insurance coverage of their team, including players and officials for all Competition Matches and UAE FA shall not be liable for any claims.

## 61. Administrative Supervisor

- 61.1 The Committee shall appoint an administrative supervisor for the match – if necessary. He shall assist Match Commissioner and ensure that the match is staged according to applicable regulations.

## 62. Appointment of Referees

- 62.1 UAE FA shall appoint Referees for each Competition Match.
- 62.2 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.
- 62.3 Participating Clubs shall cover the fees of referees as per the amounts and mechanism approved by UAE FA.

## 63. Referee Report

- 63.1 The referee shall enter the report in the FA-Net immediately after the end of the match.
- 63.2 The referee report shall not be valid, save after being approved by Competitions Department.

## 64. Match Commissioner

- 64.1 The management shall appoint match commissioner who is responsible for organizing the match properly and smoothly.

- 64.2 The match commissioner is neutral and his behavior shall reflect his principles. He shall constantly be alert to all matters related to the match.
- 64.3 The Match Commissioner shall submit a comprehensive match report in the FA Net immediately after each match.
- 64.4 The match commissioner shall fill the report and submit it via FA-Net to the officer in charge of match commissioners and match coordinators.

## 65. Match Commissioner Duties

- 65.1 arrive at the stadium at least 3 hours prior to kick-off time.
- 65.2 preside the technical meeting before the match (if is to be held).
- 65.3 inspect the venue with the referees.
- 65.4 inspect match preparations, dressing rooms, referees' room, UAE FA Secretariat, anti-doping room, stadium announcement and protocol (flag bearers, ball kids, civil defense, ambulance etc.).
- 65.5 prepare match starting lists for both teams.
- 65.6 visit dressing rooms of both team 65 minutes prior to kick-off accompanied by fourth official, to inspect kit colors, players' numbers and accreditation cards.
- 65.7 ensure compliance with official countdown.
- 65.8 ensure that referee and players are present in the tunnel, and that FIFA flag, flag bearers and ball kids are in place.
- 65.9 sit in his designation area upon kick-off of the match.
- 65.10 record all data, comment in respect to incidents occurred during the match.
- 65.11 Ensure compliance of teams with anti-doping rules.
- 65.12 ensure presence of coaches during post-match press conference.
- 65.13 leave the field of play after the departure of teams and match officials.
- 65.14 prevent any minute of silence or wearing of black bands in attribute to the memory of dead.

## 66. Referee Assessor

- 66.1 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 Match, and report back to the Referees' Committee.
- 66.2 The Referee Assessor shall be given a seat in the stadium, as designated by the 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 in front of him).

## 67. Cautions (Yellow Cards)

- 67.1 The caution (single yellow card) shall result in:
  - 67.1.1 Every yellow card received by a player in the Competition will result in the player being fined AED 25 for the first yellow card, AED 50 for the second and AED 75 for the third yellow card. The same will be repeated after each three yellow cards; and
  - 67.1.2 If the player receives three (3) cautions in the Competition, he shall be suspended from participating in the match following the match in which he receives the third caution.
  - 67.1.3 If the player participated in three matches ( It does not have to be consecutive ) without getting any administrative penalties (yellow or red cards), the second yellow card shall be dropped.

- 67.2 Suspensions arising out of yellow cards or red cards shall only be served in the Competition.
- 67.3 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.
- 67.4 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 report of the match as submitted on the FA-Net after being approved by the match referee and match commissioner.
- 67.5 In case a player is transferred or loaned to any of the Member Clubs, the player will maintain his records of yellow card(s). The player's previous Club must inform the new Club of the yellow cards that the player has received to date and the new Club is responsible to continue the monitoring process as per Articles 63.4 of these Regulations.
- 67.6 At the end of the Competition, all cautions imposed on players shall be dropped subject to the Disciplinary Regulations.

## 68. Expulsions (Red Cards)

- 68.1 Players who are sent off because of two yellow cards in a single match of the Competition shall:
  - 68.1.1 Be automatically suspended in the next subsequent match in the Competition and shall pay a fine of AED 500.
- 68.2 Players who are sent off for a direct red card during any Competition Match shall:
  - 68.2.1 Be automatically suspended for the following next two (2) matches in the Competition.
  - 68.2.2 Pay a fine of AED 500 and the amount shall be increased by AED 500 for each new sending off case.
- 68.3 Notwithstanding the relevant articles of the Disciplinary regulations, the Disciplinary Committee may impose additional sanctions and/or fine. The Disciplinary Committee may also determine that the suspensions be served in other competitions.
- 68.4 If a player is sent off for a direct red card offence, this shall not affect the number of cautions previously received by him.
- 68.5 If the result of any match of the Competition has been cancelled or the match has been terminated or hasn't been completed for any reason whatsoever, then the sanction shall be served in the next match in the same Competition.
- 68.6 In case a player is transferred or loaned to any of the Member Clubs, the player will maintain his records of yellow card(s). The player's previous Club must inform the new Club of the yellow cards that the player has received to date and the new Club is responsible to continue the monitoring process as per Article 63.4 of these Regulations.

## 69. Serving of Suspension for Players

- 69.1 Suspensions from participation in Competition Matches shall be served in the following manner:
  - 69.1.1 Players shall be automatically suspended for one (1) match in the competition after obtaining three (3) single yellow cards in the Competition and this suspension shall be served in the first match following the match in which he receives the third caution in the same Competition;

- 69.1.2 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.
- 69.1.3 In the event that the suspension cannot be served in the Competition due to last match of the Competition, the suspensions shall be implemented as follows:
- 69.1.3.1 In case the League Season has ended, the suspension shall be implemented in the first official match in which the penalized player is eligible to participate.
- 69.1.3.2 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.
- 69.1.4 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.
- 69.1.5 Notwithstanding Article 69.1.3, the Disciplinary Committee may determine that suspensions are to be served in the Competition and other competitions.

## 70. Serving of Suspension for Officials

- 70.1 Official shall be suspended for one (1) match in the competition after obtaining three (3) single yellow cards at the same competition.
- 70.2 If the official is sent off because of receiving the second caution, he shall be suspended for one match at the same competition.
- 70.3 If the official received direct red card, he shall be suspended for one match at the same competition.
- 70.4 In case there is an additional report from the referee, Disciplinary Regulations shall apply to the relevant incidents.
- 70.5 At the conclusion of the competition, all cautions are cancelled and suspension shall be carried forward to the next season.
- 70.6 In case the suspension was served, the matter shall be referred to Disciplinary Committee to impose the below sanctions:
- Double the administrative sanction.
  - A fine of not less than AED 10.000 and not more than AED 50.000.

## 71. Fines

- 71.1 First Caution – AED 25
- 71.2 Second Caution – AED 50
- 71.3 Third Caution – AED 75
- 71.4 Red Card (2<sup>nd</sup> caution) – AED 500
- 71.5 Direct Red Card – AED 500. In case of repetition, the fine shall be increased by AED 500.
- 71.6 Disciplinary Committee may impose on players, officials, and spectators in accordance with the guidelines for violations and sanctions for the sport season 2021/2022.
- 71.7 All fines imposed on any club, or its players or representatives should be remitted in UAE FA bank account and receipt shall be submitted via the FA-Net.

## 72. Protests and Appeals

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

## 73. Awards

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

73.1.1 The Competition trophy.

73.1.2 A replica of the original trophy;

73.1.3 Forty-five (45) golden medals; and

73.2 A maximum of twenty-six (26) players from the winning team are allowed to be on the stage to take part in the official awards ceremony. The team must ensure that at least eighteen (18) players participate in the official awards ceremony. A fine of AED 500 per player will be imposed in case this minimum number of players are not provided.

73.3 A maximum of ten (10) team officials from the winning team are allowed to be on the stage to take part in the official awards ceremony. These team officials must be the same ones who were registered to sit on the team bench for that particular match. This article does not apply to Chairman of the Sports Club and/or Chairman of the Football Company.

73.4 In case the club did not adhere to the number referred to in hereinabove, and the people to be present on the Awards Stage as agreed during the coordination meetings of the Awards Ceremony, a fine of (5,000 AED) will be imposed.

## 74. Final Provisions

74.1 UAE FA regulations shall apply to any matters not provided for in these regulations.

74.2 These regulations supersede any other decision or provision to the contrary.

## 75. Matters Not Provided for

75.1 The Board of Directors is competent body to implement these regulations, either directly or through the Committee. It has the rights to amend, interpret these regulations or take decisions in any matters not provided for in these Regulations.

75.2 The Committee may issue any circulars or decisions in relation to any additional matters not provided for in these regulations.

## 76. Ratification

These regulations are prepared and set under the knowledge of the committee. It is approved by Board of Directors shall come into force as of 5<sup>th</sup> July 2022.