



اتحاد الإمارات العربية المتحدة لكرة القدم

UAE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

# UAE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION COMPETITIONS REGULATIONS 2024 - 2025



## Table of Content

Article		Page/s
1	Definitions	3-5
2	Objectives	6
3	Tasks of Competitions Department	6
4	Obligations of Participating Clubs	6-7
5	Participation in Competitions (Domestic & External)	7
6	Host or Hosting Club	7
7	Match Organization	8
8	Participating Club Stadiums	8
9	Change of Venue	9
10	Suitability of Venue	9
11	Change of Match Venue, Time or Date	10
12	Fees of Change	10
13	Watering of Pitch	10-11
14	Match Kit	11
15	Players Equipment	11-12
16	Official Countdown	13
17	Match Starting List	13-14
18	Substitute Players	14
19	Actual Participation	14-15
20	Officials Authorized to Sit on the Team Bench	15
21	Rules Governing Matches	15-16
22	Kick-Off Time	16
23	Teams Ranking	16-17
24	Team Bench & Technical Area	17
25	Warming Up	18
26	Match Balls	18
27	Conduct of Team Officials & Players	18
28	Allocation of Tickets	19
29	Cancellation of Competition	19
30	Suspension of Matches	19
31	Abandonment of Matches Due to Emergency Conditions	20
32	Matches Abandoned Due to Power Failure	20-21
33	Non-completed Match	21



34	Withdrawal from Competition	21-22
35	Filming of Matches	22
36	Cooling Break	23
37	Medical Requirements and Services	23-24
38	Safety & Security	24-26
39	Press Conferences	26
40	Coaching Licenses	26-27
41	Public Address Systems, Announcers and Announcement	27
42	Giant Screen	28
43	Creation of Logos	28
44	Loudspeakers	28
45	Paper Launchers	29
46	Laser Pointers	29
47	Flags	29
48	Supporting Banners (Tifo)	29
49	Smoke Machines	29
50	Accreditation	29-30
51	Protocol	30
52	Insurance	30-31
53	Match Supervisor	31
54	Appointment of Referees	31
55	Referee Report	31
56	Match Commissioner	31-32
57	Security Coordinator	32-33
58	Public Relations Officer	33
59	Media Officer	33
60	Caution, Expulsion and Suspension	34
61	Coronation of Champion	35
62	Complaints	35
63	Appeals	35
64	Fines	36
65	Final Provisions	36
66	Matters Not Provided For	36
67	Ratification	36



## 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: Fédération Internationale de Football Association
- UAE FA: United Arab Emirates Football Association
- Board of Directors: UAE FA Board of Directors
- Committee: Competitions Committee
- General Secretariat: UAE FA General Secretariat
- Regulations: Competitions Regulations.
- Club: The football club registered by General Authority of Sports, including its affiliated football company.
- Private Football Company: The Company licensed by competent authorities to practice football, and not affiliated to any club.
- Committees: UAE FA standing and judicial committees.
- Department: Competitions Department.
- Official Match: Match organized by UAE FA for participating teams.
- 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.
- Technical Area: the substitutes bench as specified in the Law of the Game.
- 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.
- Clubs: teams participating in UAE FA competitions.
- UAE FA Regulations: Statutes, regulations and instructions issued by UAE FA.
- Technical Meeting: the coordination meeting held prior to the match.
- Circulars: Instructions or amendments related to these Regulations, notified to the Participating teams by the UAE FA.



- League: 1<sup>st</sup> division, 2<sup>nd</sup> division, 3<sup>rd</sup> division and age groups competitions.
- Neutral Venue: the venue chosen by the Competitions Department to host a match. It is not mandatory to be in the middle of the distance between the venues of the competing teams.
- 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 commissioner, security coordinator, referees, referees' assessor and any other officials appointed 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.
- Competition 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 stadium.
- Force Majeure or Emergency 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.
- Sports Season: The period starts from the first football match organized under the auspices of the UAE FA and ends with the last match.



- Press Conference: the pre-match or post-match press conference.
- Means of Media: press, radio, TV, social media and any other means of media.
- Quality Control Procedures: List of procedures and sanctions for non-compliance with organizational matters of the match and the provisions of these regulations.
- Starting List: The list containing the line-up, substitute players and technical and administrative staff.
- Annual Circular: The circular which contains the rules and conditions related to the competitions organized by UAE FA, as well as the participation fee ...etc.
- Accreditation Card: The Card issued by UAE FA for the relevant sports season.



## 2. Objectives

- 2.1 Establishing the regulatory foundations for all competitions organized by UAE FA.
- 2.2 Setting the rules, conditions and terms to stage the competitions organized by UAE FA.
- 2.3 Determining all the necessary requirements for match organization.

## 3. Tasks of Competitions Department

- 3.1 The department is responsible for applying These regulations and the related circulars.
- 3.2 Supervise the organization and management of the competitions.
- 3.3 Approve match schedule.
- 3.4 Develop proposals for launching new competitions.
- 3.5 Make proposals to change the names of the competitions, when necessary, and submit them to the board of directors for approval, without prejudice to the statutes.

## 4. Obligations of Participating Clubs

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

- 4.1 To comply with UAE FA statutes, rules and these regulations as well as circulars passed by the committee and other committees.
- 4.2 To comply with the Laws of the Game issued by IFAB.
- 4.3 To comply with and adhere strictly to the Official Match Countdown.
- 4.4 To observe the principles of Fair Play.
- 4.5 To carry out all necessary arrangements to stage the matches in its stadium.
- 4.6 To provide security to match officials, technical and administrative staff and players of visiting teams, before, during and after the match.
- 4.7 To ensure that unauthorized persons are not allowed to enter the pitch area, its surrounding areas and the dressing rooms.
- 4.8 To approve the match starting list in the electronic system (FA-Net), no later than 90 minutes before the match kick off.



- 4.9 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.
- 4.10 To attend and participate in technical meetings, organizational meetings, press conferences, media activities, organized by UAE FA.
- 4.11 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.
- 4.12 To carry out the necessary arrangements for match organization, in compliance with UAE FA rules, these regulations and relevant circulars.
- 4.13 To provide security personnel.
- 4.14 To always cooperate with UAE FA representatives.
- 4.15 To commit to any agreement concluded by UAE FA, including sponsorship agreements related to matches.

## **5. Participation in Competitions (Domestic & External)**

- 5.1 A decision is taken by the board of directors to determine the mechanism for selecting clubs to participate in external competitions, without violating the regulations of AFC, FIFA or any regional association.
- 5.1 If a club requests to participate with the first team for the first time (if the club did not participate last season), such a club shall take part in the lower tier.

## **6. Host or Hosting Club**

- 6.1 The club shall maintain the field of play in optimum condition to ensure protection of players during the match. If the field of play is unfit, the department has the right to select an alternative venue, and the club shall bear all related costs.
- 6.2 The club shall ensure that no activities may be staged in the field of play as of 24 hours prior to the match.
- 6.3 All teams shall abide by the approved dimensions of pitch throughout the season.
- 6.4 The club shall ensure that the markings of the field of play follow law (1) of the Laws of the Game, or as decided by the department.



## 7. Match Organization

The host club shall provide the following:

- 7.1 appointment of general coordinator to assist in carrying out necessary arrangements in coordination with match commissioner and match coordinator. He must make himself available at least three hours before the match kickoff.
- 7.2 Prepare all facilities well before the match.
- 7.3 Ensure proper parking and access to the stadium for Participating Teams, match officials, sponsors, media and spectators.
- 7.4 Provide ice, water, refreshment, fruits and sandwiches in teams dressing rooms, referees room, office of match commissioner and coordinator and media center.
- 7.5 Provide an office for match commissioner equipped with computer, internet and printer machine.
- 7.6 Ensure the necessary match day personnel are present at the stadium at least three hours before match kick-off.
- 7.7 Provide (3) wireless communication devices for match officials appointed by UAE FA. They shall be fully charged at any match.
- 7.8 Provide security before, during and after the match.
- 7.9 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.

## 8. Participating Clubs Stadiums

- 8.1 The clubs shall host the matches in their stadiums as per the approved match schedule; and provide all requirements provided for in these regulations.
- 8.2 The stadium and its facilities shall meet the necessary requirements to host matches, by 1<sup>st</sup> August 2024.
- 8.3 In case the stadium is not ready to host the match by 1<sup>st</sup> August 2024, the matches will be moved to the second party's stadium until the stadium is approved, according to the quality control regulations, and the club will be penalized accordingly.



- 8.4 If a stadium is not available to host the matches by 1<sup>st</sup> August 2024, the department will transfer all matches to the second party's stadium. If the second party's stadium is not available, the host club must provide a stadium to hold the match.
- 8.5 The club must obtain UAE FA approval at least two weeks in advance if it wishes to conduct maintenance, whether inside the stadium or in the stands, during the season.
- 8.6 Clubs are required to make their stadiums available to UAE FA whenever requested. They will be notified of the match schedule well in advance. In emergency situations, UAE FA may shorten the notice period and notify the club 24 hours before the match.
- 8.7 The club must not hold any events before, during halftime, or during the match without obtaining UAE FA approval.

## **9. Change of Venue**

- 9.1 No team may request the change of venue approved by the department, whether as host club venue or neutral venue, for any reasons.

## **10. Suitability of Venue**

- 10.1 Neither of the competing clubs may object the suitability of the venue if the referee decides that the venue is fit.
- 10.2 If the venue is unfit, the referee may, in coordination with the match commissioner, transfer the match to another approved venue within the club with the same dimensions approved for the competition.
- 10.3 In case the stadium and its facilities are not ready to host the match, the referee and the observer must wait for 15 minutes from the scheduled kickoff time of the match. If the stadium is still not ready after this period, the match will be terminated, and the host club will be considered to have lost with a score of 0-3. The matter will then be referred to the Disciplinary Committee. However, if the stadium and its facilities become ready before the 15 minutes expire, the referee should start the match immediately.



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

11.1 When necessary or if public interest so requires, the department may change the match venue, time or date, provided that the participating clubs shall be notified at least 48 hours prior to the match. In urgent circumstances, the committee may shorten such notification period.

## 12. Fees of Change

12.1 No fee is imposed on the club if it requests to move a match to another stadium that belongs to it.

12.2 The host club has the right to submit a request of change via the electronic system (FA-Net) at least 72 hours before match, in the following cases:

12.2.1 change of match date.

12.2.2 change of match time.

12.2.3 transfer the match to the venue of another club, after providing written approval.

12.3 The change is not considered effective until it is approved by the department.

12.4 The following fees are imposed for the request of change:

12.4.1 First Division League Clubs : AED 8000.

12.4.2 Second Division League Clubs : AED 5000.

12.4.3 Third Division League Clubs : AED 5000.

12.4.4 Age Groups Competitions : AED 5000.

12.5 The approval of the visiting club is not required for the host club's request to change the stadium, date, or time of the match.

## 13. Watering of Pitch

13.1 The field of play may be watered in the following times:

13.1.1 75 minutes prior to kickoff time. Watering must not exceed 10 minutes.

13.1.2 immediately after the end of warm-up. Watering must not exceed 5 minutes.

13.1.3 the match commissioner may cancel the watering, if necessary.



13.2 The host club shall ensure the safety of advertising boards and TV cameras during watering. The host club shall be responsible for any financial costs resulting from any damage to the equipment.

#### **14. Match Kit**

14.1 The host team shall wear the official kit, while the visiting 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 and with the agreement of referee and match commissioner.

14.2 Participating team shall bring both official and reserve kits for outfield players as well as goalkeeper for each match, as entered in (FA-Net) system.

14.3 colors of kit (jersey, short and socks) may be repeated or combined.

14.4 It is compulsory for the team to enter colors (official or reserve kit) in (FA-Net) system, latest 48 hours prior to the match.

14.5 The referees and/or match commissioner shall approve the match kit in (FA-Net) system, and they may make amendments in case the colors are similar.

14.6 If colors of both teams are similar and the visiting team failed to bring the reserve kit, the referee shall wait for 15 minutes after which the visiting team shall be considered to have lost the match with 0 – 3 score.

#### **15. Players Equipment**

15.1 Match officials must check players' equipment before the match.

15.2 The player's name and number shall be placed on the back of the shirt as per the below specifications:

15.2.1 The number shall be legible for referees, spectators and TV viewers.

15.2.2 colors of name and number shall be noticeably different from the colors of player kit (dark versus light or vice versa).

15.2.3 The player shall wear the same name and number for the entire season. 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.
- 15.2.4 The Players shall be allocated the numbers 1 – 99.
  - 15.2.5 The number must be printed in English.
  - 15.2.6 The names may be printed in Arabic or English and they must be approved in the (FA-Net) system.
  - 15.2.7 The names and numbers on the shirts shall be in English. The popular name (abbreviated name) may be approved in (FA-Net), provided it is composed of two or three syllables.
- 15.3 Participating team shall affix the competition 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 and the elbow.
- 15.4 UAE FA may display other badge in the free space of the left sleeve. Such badges shall be distributed to participating clubs.
- 15.5 The club logo shall be placed in the front of the shirt at chest level, left side (in both official and reserve kit).
- 15.6 Numbers:
- 15.6.1 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.
  - 15.6.2 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.
  - 15.6.3 The number shall appear in the front side of the short on any of the legs with a height of 10 – 15 cm.
  - 15.6.4 The number shall be the same in all attire of the player, as allocated in match starting list.
- 15.7 If the team requests to amend the player’s number after its approval, a fee of AED 500 shall apply.
- 15.8 All teams shall commit to display UAE flag in the middle of the front side of the shirt above the number.
- 15.9 No flag or logo may be displayed unless approved by UAE FA.



## 16. Official Countdown

- 16.1 Clubs shall commit to the match official countdown as approved in (FA-Net) System.

## 17. Match Starting List

- 17.1 The team manager of each participating Club is responsible for entering and approving the duly completed 'Match Starting List' on the FA NET as of 24 hours until (90) minutes prior to kick off. The list shall include the following:
  - 17.1.1 The match starter players.
  - 17.1.2 The substitute players,
  - 17.1.3 Team Captain and goalkeeper.
  - 17.1.4 A list of team officials (technical, administrative and medical staff) who are registered in UAE FA.
- 17.2 In the event that the team official does not approve or wishes to modify the starting list after the closure of the electronic system (Net-FA), the list must be signed by the official.
- 17.3 The match commissioner and the refereeing team shall verify the list during the inspection of the players' equipment before the start of the match through the player data report on (FA-Net) System.
- 17.4 Clubs must bring copies of the cards issued by the Registration Department for verification of the match list in case of a malfunction in the electronic system and the inability of the match officials to view the player data through the system. If copies of the cards are not brought, the match will be postponed until the start of the match whistle. The referee waits for 15 minutes and then ends the match, and the team that did not bring the card copies is considered to have lost the match with 0-3 score.
- 17.5 The starting list is distributed to the participating teams, media, and broadcasting entities during the verification process.
- 17.6 No player who is not actually present shall be kept on the match list.
- 17.7 No technical, administrative, or medical staff who are not actually present shall be kept on the match list before the start of the match.



17.8 The abbreviated name of the player in the electronic system must contain two or three syllables, and a single abbreviated name is not accepted.

## 18. Substitute Players

18.1 Upon completion and approval of players 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, in the following cases:

18.1.1 If any of the eleven (11) players indicated on the starting list is not able to start the match due to unexpected physical incapacity (physical injury), He may only be replaced by any of the substitutes listed in the list. The substitute(s) in question may then only be replaced by a registered player(s) not listed on the player 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

18.1.2 If any of the seven substitutes listed on the player 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 list.

## 19. Actual Participation

19.1 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.

19.2 In the event that any unregistered player participates in the match, his participation is considered illegal, and his team is considered to have lost the match with 0-3 score, unless the actual result of the match is greater.

19.3 If the team receives (6) cautions or more during the match, a fine is imposed.



19.4 If any player transferred or loaned to another club, any administrative or disciplinary sanction shall be carried over with him.

## **20. Officials Authorized to sit on the Team Bench**

20.1 The technical, administrative, medical staff, and players are required to wear their accreditation cards issued by UAE FA on their chests before entering and while being inside the stadium and official areas, to facilitate the mission of security officials in identifying them.

20.2 The technical, administrative, medical staff, and players must wear sports attire in a different color from that worn by the players and referees on the field of play, and wear training shirts when receiving instructions from the referees.

20.3 Players are to be directed by one person from the technical and administrative staff during the match, from the technical area which covers the length of the substitutes bench.

20.4 No more than two people from the team are allowed to enter the field of play when a player is injured during the match, and only after the referee's approval.

20.5 Only three people authorized by the accreditation cards are allowed to enter the field of play and dressing rooms before the match, during halftime, and after the end of the match, provided they hold the following positions:

20.5.1 Club Chairman.

20.5.2 Club Deputy Chairman.

20.5.3 Chairman of Football Company.

20.5.4 Deputy Chairman of Football Company.

20.5.5 General Secretary/CEO.

## **21. Rules Governing Matches**

21.1 For each match, three points shall be awarded for the win, one point for the draw and zero points for the loss.

21.2 The matches shall be played as per the match schedule.

21.3 Match venue, date or kickoff times may be changed, as deemed appropriate by UAE FA.



21.4 If necessary, simultaneous kickoff time shall apply for the matches of the last three rounds of the competition.

## 22. Kickoff Time

- 22.1 The department 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 for not more than (15) minutes, Quality Control Fines shall apply
- 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 a 3 – 0 score.

## 23. Teams Ranking

- 23.1 The Clubs ranking shall be organized in a league table 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). The club with the greater number of points, shall be the champion of the competition.
- 23.2 If two (2) or more Clubs are equal in number of points, their position in the table shall be determined as follows:
  - 23.2.1 The club who has the highest number of points from matches held between the clubs equal in points.
  - 23.2.2 The club who has the highest goal difference in the matches between the clubs equal in points.
  - 23.2.3 The club scoring the highest number of goals in matches between the clubs equal in points.
  - 23.2.4 The club who has the highest goal difference in all Competition Matches.
  - 23.2.5 The club scoring the highest number of goals in all Competition Matches.
  - 23.2.6 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, two points for each indirect red card as a consequent of two yellow cards, and three points for direct red card

23.2.7 Draw of lot.

## **24. Team Bench & Technical Area**

- 24.1 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.
- 24.2 Each technical area must have direct access to the pitch and shall be located equidistant from the halfway line.
- 24.3 Team bench must contain reasonable number of seats for members of technical, administrative, medical staff and substitute players. Seats must be affixed to the bench and have backrests. Moveable chairs are not allowed.
- 24.4 Team officials and substitutes are allowed to sit on the team bench, provided they are in possession of the appropriate accreditation cards.
- 24.5 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.
- 24.6 Number of people in substitute bench must be in line with these regulations.
- 24.7 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, Quality Control provisions shall apply.
- 24.8 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. The department may change this arrangement.



## 25. Warming Up

- 25.1 Teams shall be entitled to warm up on the field of play before the match according to the countdown.
- 25.2 The match commissioner may determine the area of warming-up.
- 25.3 Clubs must comply with the timings of warming-up.
- 25.4 The teams may decide not to warm up if they wish.
- 25.5 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.
- 25.6 If there is limited space behind the goal, a maximum of three (3) players from each team will be allowed to warm-up at the same time.

## 26. Match Balls

- 26.1 Host Club shall provide (10) balls for the match.
- 26.2 The pressure of the balls shall be set at 0.8 to 0.10 bar. The ball shall be kept in the referee's room two hours before the match.
- 26.3 The referees shall check the pressure of balls before the match.
- 26.4 Participating teams must use the balls approved by the UAE FA for all matches.

## 27. Conduct of Team Officials & Players

- 27.1 All players and team officials participating in the Competition shall strictly abide by the principles of sportsmanship and Fair Play in all matches.
- 27.2 Players shall abide by general appearance, and they must not deviate from customs and traditions of Arab and Islamic society.
- 27.3 Smoking is strictly prohibited on the field of play, media/broadcast areas and all official areas within the stadium (dressing rooms, players' tunnel etc.).



## **28. Allocation of Tickets**

- 28.1 30% of seats shall be allocated to the visiting team's supporters (excluding the grandstand), while 70% shall be allocated for the supporters of host team.
- 28.2 The Host Club shall allocate at least (10) seats in the grandstand to the visiting team.
- 28.3 For matches held on neutral venues, the available seats are divided 50% for each team, with the supporters of each team being seated behind their respective benches.

## **29. Cancellation of Competition**

- 29.1 If, for any reason, it is decided to cancel or not complete the competition due to force majeure or unexpected incidents, the decision to cancel or not complete the sports season and determine the mechanism for promotion and relegation will be made by a decision of Board of Directors.

## **30. Suspension of Matches**

- 30.1 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, the following procedures must be followed:
  - 30.1.1 The match is automatically suspended for the duration of thirty (30) minutes, unless the Referee decides that the match can be resumed earlier.
  - 30.1.2 In the event that the Referee decides to restart the match, the participating clubs have the right to request for an additional five (5) minutes preparation and warm-up time; and
  - 30.1.3 In the event that the Referee cannot restart the match after the thirty (30) minute delay, the match is abandoned in accordance with the relevant articles in these regulations.

## **31. Abandonment of Matches Due to Emergency Conditions**

- 31.1 The committee has the right to abandon or postpone a match due to force majeure or any emergency incidents until 3 hours prior to the kickoff time.
- 31.2 The referee and match commissioner's 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.
- 31.3 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.
- 31.4 In case of an abandoned or postponed match due to force majeure, the whole match will be replayed regardless of the result and remaining time. The department shall decide the date and venue of the replayed match.
- 31.5 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.
- 31.6 The abandoned match shall not be counted for purposes of serving match suspension.
- 31.7 No challenge or appeal may be made against the decisions provided for in the above articles.

## **32. Matches Abandoned Due to Power Failure**

- 32.1 In case of power failure in the stadium before or during the match, the following procedures shall apply:
  - 32.1.1 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 venue to be decided by the department, without any commitment that such a venue be in the same area of the host club. In addition, further decisions may be taken.
  - 32.1.2 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.

- 32.2 In case the power failure takes place during the match played in neutral venue and it could not be returned after 30 minutes, the referee shall declare the match abandoned and it shall be replayed in full irrespective of the scores at the time of abandonment.
- 32.3 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.
- 32.4 The host club shall provide a generator to be used in case of a power failure in the field of play. The match commissioner must verify its presence and readiness upon arrival at the stadium. If it is not provided, quality control procedures shall apply.

### 33. Non-completed Match

- 33.1 If a match played in neutral venue or a venue of participating club is abandoned before completion of its normal playing time due to reasons beyond the referee's control, the match shall be replayed in full irrespective of the score or the period remaining from normal playing time.

### 34. Withdrawal from Competition

- 34.1 Each team shall play all its matches in the competition.
- 34.2 Any team withdraws from the competition for any reason shall be subject to the below procedures:

#### 34.2.1 Fines:

No.	Competition	Withdrawal	
		Before 45 days	During competition
1	1 <sup>st</sup> Division	100,000	300,000
2	2 <sup>nd</sup> Division	50,000	150,000
3	3 <sup>rd</sup> Division	50,000	150,000
4	Age Groups (League)	50,000	150,000
5	Age groups (Cup)	25,000	



### **34.2.2 Other Sanctions:**

#### **34.2.2.1 Clubs of First, Second and Third Divisions**

34.2.2.1.1 Cancellation of the results of all matches of the withdrawing club (points and goals).

34.2.2.1.2 Deletion of the remaining matches of the withdrawing club from the match schedule.

34.2.2.1.3 Relegation of the withdrawing club to the lower division and be among the relegated clubs in the same season.

34.2.2.1.4 Any administrative and disciplinary penalties imposed on the players and officials of the withdrawing club remain in effect.

#### **34.2.2.2 Age Groups League**

34.2.2.2.1 Cancellation of the results of all matches of the withdrawing club (points and goals).

34.2.2.2.2 Deletion of the remaining matches of the withdrawing club from the match schedule.

34.2.2.2.3 Any administrative and disciplinary penalties imposed on the players and officials of the withdrawing club remain in effect.

#### **34.2.2.3 Age Groups Cup**

34.2.2.3.1 In case of withdrawal from knockout match or competition, the withdrawing club is considered to have lost the match with (0-3) score. In addition, the above fines shall apply.

## **35. Filming of Matches**

35.1 For matters related to disciplinary cases, audio and video recordings conducted by an official entity shall be recognized.

35.2 Teams are permitted to record their matches with one camera to be placed in a designated area identified by the match commissioner. Such recordings shall not be recognized as additional evidence.

35.3 UAE FA may request such match recordings from clubs.



## 36. Cooling Break

36.1 UAE FA shall inform participating teams that cooling breaks will be granted during the match when necessary – according to the below conditions:

36.1.1 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.

36.1.2 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.

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

## 37. Medical Requirements and Services

37.1 For each Competition Match, the Host Club shall provide the requirements and medical services provided for in the regulations, as follows:

37.1.1 Ambulance Service

37.1.1.1 Ambulance vehicles licensed by governmental or private hospital or ambulance services company, supplied with all necessary equipment and devices in addition to first-aid specialists recognized by Ministry of Health or relevant medical authority. Such services shall be made available as of two hours prior to kick-off, until the end of the match.



- 37.1.2 Ambulance and first-aid specialists shall be made available for each match. If the ambulance does not arrive or is delayed for 15 minutes after the kickoff time, the referee shall end the match and the visiting team shall be deemed the winner for the match with 3-0 score. In addition, disciplinary sanctions shall apply.
- 37.1.3 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 stop for 20 minutes from the time in which the ambulance is left. 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 referee shall end the match and the visiting club shall be deemed winner for the match with (3-0) score, unless the score of the match is greater.
- 37.1.2 Medical Services
- 37.1.2.1 A doctor trained to provide medical emergency services/paramedic/nurse licensed by relevant authorities.
- 37.1.2.2 Two golf carts or two sets of stretcher bearers, each set consists of 4 members.
- 37.1.2.3 If there is no golf cart, one set of stretcher bearers shall be made available.
- 37.1.3 Medical Clinic
- 37.1.3.1 A fully equipped medical clinic in the official area of the stadium, near the dressing rooms and/or the pitch, equipped with all necessary medical equipment.
- 37.1.4 Doping Control Room
- 37.1.4.1 A doping control room equipped according to the specifications of the National Anti-Doping Agency, in the official area of the stadium, near the dressing rooms and/or the pitch.

## 38. Safety & Security

- 38.1 In coordination with relevant security authorities, The Host team undertakes to prepare and implement appropriate security plan inside and around the stadium in all Competition Matches. Such a plan shall be sent to UAE FA 72 hours before the match. The plan shall include players

and officials of both teams, match officials, media representatives, commercial partners, sponsors and spectators.

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

- 38.2.1 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.
- 38.2.2 Provide adequate number of guards to provide security during the match, as provided for in the Annual Circular.
- 38.2.3 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 the winner of the match with (3-0) score.
- 38.2.4 Set a plan for spectators' security and monitoring.
- 38.2.5 The access to/ or movement on the field of play must be restricted.
- 38.2.6 Assembly points must be designated for emergency evacuation.
- 38.2.7 Signage must be in place.
- 38.2.8 Evacuation doors must be in operation.
- 38.2.9 An Operations Centre must be designated as the primary point for security management.
- 38.2.10 Traffic flows must be properly determined for all stakeholder groups.
- 38.2.11 The Match Officials are protected from the time of their arrival at the stadium until the time they depart the stadium after the match.
- 38.2.12 Spectator access to the field of play must always be prevented.
- 38.2.13 Entertainment events must follow national laws.
- 38.2.14 An operation plan for lost children.
- 38.2.15 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.
- 38.2.16 Spectators are strictly forbidden from entering stadiums with items listed on the Prohibited Items List.



- 38.2.17 Spectators shall abide by sportsmanship and may not use any abusive, discriminatory or sexual language or gesture.
- 38.2.18 The club is liable for the misconduct of its spectators.
- 38.2.19 If the facilities and buildings of the Host Club are destroyed by the spectators, the Club shall notify UAE FA with such damages and their costs. UAE FA may appoint any party to inspect the damages and losses and then claim the necessary compensation from the club found guilty.
- 38.2.20 In the event of racial or discriminatory incidents during the match, the following procedures are taken:
- 38.2.20.1 The referee asks the match commissioner to notify the public address announcer to request the spectators to stop this behavior and inform them that the match will be stopped if it continues.
- 38.2.20.2 If this behavior continues, the referee must stop the match and directly ask the spectators to cease this behavior.
- 38.2.20.3 If the behavior still does not stop, the referees must stop the match for a maximum of 15 minutes and ask both teams to leave the pitch and go to the dressing rooms; and notify the spectators of this decision.
- 38.2.20.4 If the behavior persists after resuming the match, the referee must cancel the match. Such a decision is only made after all possible measures have been exhausted and in coordination with all parties regarding safety and security. In the event of cancellation, the matter is referred to the Disciplinary Committee.

## 39. Press Conferences

- 39.1 Press conferences before and after matches are organized according to the provisions of Media Regulations, if this is decided at any time during the season.

## 40. Coaching Licenses

- 40.1 Coaches may not be registered unless they fulfill the coaching license requirements as shown in the below table:

Competition	Technical Manager	GK Coaches Supervisor	Head Coach	Assistant Coach	Fitness Coach	GK Coach
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President Cup ADNOC League	PRO	B	LEVEL 3	PRO	A	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3
1 <sup>st</sup> Division	PRO	B	LEVEL 2	PRO	A	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 2
2 <sup>nd</sup> Division	PRO	B	LEVEL 2	A	B	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 1
3 <sup>rd</sup> Division	PRO	B	LEVEL 2	B	C	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 1
U-23	PRO	B	LEVEL 2	PRO	A	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 2
U-21	PRO	B	LEVEL 2	A	B	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 2
U18, U16, U15, U14	PRO	B	LEVEL 2	A	B	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2
U13, U12, U11, U10	PRO	B	LEVEL 2	B	C	-	LEVEL 1

40.2 Clubs are allowed to retain coaches who do not have the licenses listed in the above table and whose contracts were submitted to UAE FA electronic system before 06/06/2024, until the end of their contract period, provided that they apply for and obtain the coaching license.

40.3 The translator is considered part of the team's technical staff and must have at least a C coaching certificate, a certified translator's license, or a degree in languages.

#### **41. Public Address Systems, Announcers and Announcement**

41.1 The public address system shall be made available inside the stadium.

41.2 A well trained announcers shall be made available to deliver the messages in both English and Arabic.

41.3 The announcer shall announce the starting list, goals, substitutions and additional time in each half.

41.4 Public address system may not be used for any other purposes other than what mentioned above.

41.5 Host Clubs are entitled to play music until fifteen (15) minutes before kick- off and during half time, but volume levels must be managed appropriately during player warm up.

41.6 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 restart of play.



## **42. Giant Screen**

- 42.1 UAE FA may use the giant screen on matchday for commercial and advertising purposes.
- 42.2 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.
- 42.3 Displaying of results or video footage of other Competition Matches either on the giant screen or the public address system is strictly prohibited.
- 42.4 The host clubs shall display the competition logo as well as the logos of competing teams, as provided by UAE FA, on the giant screen, during the match.
- 42.5 The host club may not use the giant screen for any other purposes on matchday.

## **43. Creation of Logos**

- 43.1 The teams may not create/use any logos not approved by UAE FA.

## **44. Loudspeakers**

- 44.1 Fans of Participating Clubs may bring into the stadium (2) loudspeakers (no more than 45 Watt) and any other drums for cheering their team.
- 44.2 The loudspeaker and/or the drums may not be attached to any electronic devices and the sounds produced must not be amplified.
- 44.3 The loudspeaker and drums may not be used in First Class Stands, VIP tribune and VIP Lounges.
- 44.4 UAE FA 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.



## **45. Paper Launchers**

45.1 Use of paper launchers is strictly prohibited in the stadium before and during the match, as it obstructs the flow of the match and spoils the beauty of the stadium.

## **46. Laser Pointers**

46.1 Use of laser pointers is strictly prohibited in the stadium during matches.

## **47. Flags**

47.1 Spectators may not use any flag in the stadium, except UAE flag and the flags of participating teams.

## **48. Supporting Banners (Tifo)**

48.1 Fans of both teams may use supporting banners (Tifo), after obtaining the approval of UAE FA on their contents, 48 hours before the match.

48.2 The banners may be installed in the stands of the host stadium, 24 hours before kickoff. UAE FA shall set the time for installing such banners.

## **49. Smoke Machines**

49.1 Fans of both teams may use smoke machines, after obtaining the approval of security authorities and UAE FA.

## **50. Accreditation**

50.1 Teams must apply for accreditation cards via accreditation system.

50.2 The department is responsible for the issuance of accreditation cards for all competitions.

50.3 The fee applicable to accreditation card for the categories of technical, administrative and medical staff as well as players is AED 50, organizers



and services is AED 350, and AED 600 for category of Board Member, General Secretary and CEO.

- 50.4 In case a club requests the issuance of an accreditation card in less than 5 days, an expedited processing fee of AED 250 shall apply, in addition to the standard fee.
- 50.5 The accreditation card must be worn upon arrival at the pitch, during, and after the match, and must remain visible to security personnel and match officials until everyone has left the stadium.
- 50.6 Cardholder shall abide by the designated areas.

## 51. Protocol

- 51.1 Host Clubs shall ensure the following protocols are observed at all matches:
  - 51.1.1 Ensure that the following flags are in visible place, at least two hours before kickoff:
    - 51.1.2 National flag of United Arab Emirates (dimensions 2×3m).
    - 51.1.3 UAEFA Flag (dimensions 2×3m).
    - 51.1.4 Flags of participating teams.
- 51.2 The participating teams and match officials shall march onto the pitch with the competition Logo, or any other logo decided by UAE FA.
- 51.3 A seat with a display screen shall be allocated for the referee assessor in the main stand. The match commissioner shall be allocated a seat in the main stand.
- 51.4 During the technical meeting prior to the match, special protocol shall be established to regulate and formalize the presence of relevant officials from both clubs during the award ceremony.

## 52. Insurance

- 52.1 Host Clubs are responsible for concluding and maintaining insurance coverage for the risks in connection with staging and organization its home Competition Matches.



52.2 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.

### **53. Match Supervisor**

53.1 The Department shall appoint an administrative supervisor for the match. He shall assist Match Commissioner and ensure that the match is staged according to applicable regulations.

### **54. Appointment of Referees**

54.1 Competition matches are officiated by referees appointed by UAE FA.

54.2 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.

54.3 In some competitions, clubs are allowed to request appointment of foreign referees according to the established procedures.

54.4 In competitions where the use of Video Assistant Referee (VAR) technology is required, if the system is found to be not operational or stops working at any time due to technical malfunction, electrical issues, or reasons classified under force majeure or emergency incidents, the managers of the participating teams are to be informed by the fourth official, and this does not constitute grounds for stopping or canceling the match.

### **55. Referee Report**

55.1 The referee shall enter the report in the FA-Net immediately after the end of the match.

### **56. Match Commissioner**

56.1 UAE FA shall appoint the match commissioner.



56.2 Clubs may not request to appoint certain match commissioner for their matches, nor shall they request to change a match commissioner who is already appointed.

56.3 The match commissioner shall carry out the following duties:

56.3.1 Submit a comprehensive match report in the (FA Net) immediately after each match.

56.3.2 Arrive at the stadium at least 3 hours prior to kick-off time.

56.3.3 Preside the technical meeting before the match (if is to be held).

56.3.4 Inspect the venue.

56.3.5 Inspect match preparations, dressing rooms, referees' room, anti-doping room, stadium announcement and protocol (flag bearers, ball kids, civil defense, ambulance etc.).

56.3.6 Prepare match starting lists for both teams.

56.3.7 Ensure compliance with official countdown.

56.3.8 Sit in his designation area upon kick-off of the match.

56.3.9 Never sit at the fourth official table.

56.3.10 Record all data, comment in respect to incidents occurred during the match.

56.3.11 Ensure compliance of teams with the procedures of National Anti-Doping Agency.

56.3.12 Ensure presence of coaches during post-match press conference.

56.3.13 Never leave the field of play until the departure of teams and match officials.

56.3.14 Prevent any minute of silence or wearing of black bands in attribute to the memory of dead, unless they are approved in advance.

## 57. Security Coordinator

57.1 The security coordinator, if appointed, shall perform the following tasks:

57.1.1 Arrive at the stadium at least three hours before kickoff.

57.1.2 Ensure the correct implementation of the accreditation system.

57.1.3 Coordinate with the host club and local emergency services to ensure security and safety precautions are taken.

57.1.4 Coordinate with the host club regarding the entry gates for the fans.



- 57.1.5 Ensure the availability of security guards according to the numbers specified in the regulations and their deployment in the designated areas.
- 57.1.6 Inform the match commissioner about the security situation of the match.
- 57.1.7 Assist the match commissioner in verifying the arrival of the teams' players and the technical, administrative, and medical staff by their designated buses and their entry into the stadium through the designated passages.
- 57.1.8 Coordinate with the host club regarding the presence of VIPs and UAE FA representatives in the VIP tribune and facilitate their access.

## **58. Public Relations Officer**

- 58.1 Ensure that the VIP tribune is equipped with all the necessary requirements.
- 58.2 Receive the VIPs and ensure they are seated in their designated places.

## **59. Media Officer**

- 59.1 Distribute the match list to the officials after approval from the match commissioner.
- 59.2 Hand over the bibs to the match photographers.
- 59.3 Ensure the OB van and broadcast cameras are in their designated locations.
- 59.4 Ensure internet access for match officials and media personnel.
- 59.5 Ensure the post-match press conference room is equipped with all necessary requirements and supplies.
- 59.6 Ensure the media center is equipped with the necessary supplies.
- 59.7 Supervise the presence of the team coaches and officials, as well as the media personnel, during the post-match press conference.
- 59.8 Ensure the preparation of the Mixed Zone and Flash Interview area.
- 59.9 Ensure the availability of public address system and the announcer in the stadium.
- 59.10 Ensure the receipt of the match DVD from the broadcasting channels and deliver it to the match commissioner.
- 59.11 Carry out any other tasks provided for in Media Regulations.

## 60. Caution, Expulsion and Suspension

60.1 The rules related to yellow cards (cautions) and red cards (expulsion) shall be as follows:

### 60.1.1 For Players

60.1.1.1 If the player receives five cautions in different matches during the same competition, he shall be suspended for one match in the same competition.

60.1.1.2 If the player receives an indirect red card (for receiving the second caution), he shall be suspended for one match in the same competition.

60.1.1.3 If the Player receives a direct red card, he shall be suspended for two matches in the same competition.

60.1.1.4 The following fines shall apply:

No.	Competition	caution					Expulsion		
		First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth	Direct	Indirect (2 cautions)	Repetition
1	Preliminary competition	250	500	750	1,000	1,250	700	500	In case of repetition, the amount will be increased AED 100
2	1 <sup>st</sup> Division	250	500	750	1,000	1,250	700	500	
3	2 <sup>nd</sup> Division	150	300	450	600	750	300	200	
4	Third Division	150	300	450	600	750	300	200	
5	U21, U18, U16	150	300	450	600	750	500	300	
6	U15, U14, U13, U12, U11, U10	100	200	300	400	500	400	200	

### 60.1.2 For Technical and Administrative Staff (Officials)

60.1.2.1 If the official receives three cautions in different matches during the same competition, he shall be suspended for one match in the same competition.

60.1.2.2 If the official receives an indirect red card (for receiving the second caution), he shall be suspended for one match in the same competition.

60.1.2.3 If the official receives a direct red card, he shall be suspended for one match in the same competition.

60.1.2.4 The following fines shall apply:

No	Competition	Caution			Expulsion		Repetition
		First	Second	Third	Direct	Indirect	
1	Preliminary competition	250	500	750	3,000	2,000	In case of repetition, the amount will be increased AED 1000
2	1 <sup>st</sup> Division	250	500	750	3,000	2,000	
3	2 <sup>nd</sup> Division	150	300	500	1,500	1,000	
4	Third Division	150	300	500	1,500	1,000	
5	U21, U18, U16	150	300	500	1,500	1,000	
6	U15, U14, U13, U12, U11, U10	100	250	350	1,000	750	



- 60.2 If there are additional reports from the referee or match commissioner, the provisions of Disciplinary Regulations shall apply to the incident mentioned in the report.
- 60.3 At the end of the competition, all cautions are cancelled, and suspensions shall be served in the competitions in which the player or official is eligible to participate.
- 60.4 The club is responsible for monitoring, reviewing, and implementing penalties imposed on players, coaching, administrative, and medical staff inside and outside the stadium, which prevent their participation in matches. The (FA-Net) electronic system is advisory.
- 60.5 If the club's players receive (6) cautions or more during the same match, a fine shall be imposed on each caution as follows:

Competition	1 <sup>st</sup> Division	2 <sup>nd</sup> Division	3 <sup>rd</sup> Division	Age Groups
Fine	2500	1500	1500	1000

## 61. Coronation of Champion

- 61.1 The champion club shall be crowned in the final weeks of the league competition according to the procedure decided by UAE FA.
- 61.2 Gold and/or silver medals are awarded to the coaching, administrative, and medical staff, as well as the players registered on the match starting list only.
- 61.3 One representative from the club is allowed to stand in the coronation podium.

## 62. Complaints

- 62.1 Complaints shall be submitted as per UAE FA Regulations.

## 63. Appeals

- 63.1 Decisions may be appealed in accordance with Appeal Regulations.



## 64. Fines

- 64.1 Clubs must pay all fines and fees from the previous season before the start of the current season.
- 64.2 All fees and fines imposed on any club, its players, or its representatives must be deposited into UAE FA account, with a copy of the receipt attached through (FA-Net) electronic system.

## 65. Final Provisions

- 65.1 All arising violations are referred to the Disciplinary Committee or the Quality Control Officer, as the case may be.
- 65.2 UAE FA regulations shall apply to any matters not provided for in these regulations.
- 65.3 These Regulations shall have legal authority.
- 65.4 All competitions shall be played according to the laws of the game.
- 65.5 These regulations govern the rights, duties, and responsibilities of the clubs participating in the competitions.
- 65.6 All parties involved in the preparation, organization, and hosting of the matches organized by UAE FA must comply with its regulations and circulars.
- 65.7 All rights related to the competitions belong to UAE FA.

## 66. Matters Not Provided For

- 66.1 The Board of Directors has the right to amend and interpret these regulations as well as to take decisions on any matters not provided for in these regulations. The Competition Department is the competent authority to implement these regulations.

## 67. Enforcement

- 67.1 These regulations were approved by Board of Directors on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024 and come into force immediately.