

Competition Regulations

76th National Football Championship for Hero Santosh Trophy 2022-23



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DEFINITIONS

In these Competition Regulations, the capitalised terms shall have the following meanings, unless the context specifically indicates otherwise:

Accommodation	Any location providing accommodation to the Team Official Delegation of any of the Participating Teams.
Accreditation Card	Any physical item which is issued by the AIFF and/or the LOC which provides the recipient the right to access a Controlled Access Area (or part thereof) where the Controlled Access Area is under the control of the AIFF or the LOC.
Advertising Rights	The right to promote brand and/or corporate names and/or products and/or services at and/or in relation to the Competition by whatever means available, whether existing now or to be developed in the future, whether at the Stadium or Facility Areas or within the Controlled Access Areas, in association with the Competition Marks and/or the AIFF Marks, by Stadium perimeter signage and other advertising, digital signage and screens, closed circuit television, equipment usage or other methods and through printed matter (including digitally delivered printed matter) such as programmes, posters, letterheads, press releases, newsletters and Tickets, and subject to any AIFF regulations, the right to display such advertising on the clothing or footwear worn, or on any equipment used, carried or transported by the AIFF Delegation (including for the avoidance of doubt Match Officials), medical and security staff, ball boys, Player escorts, flag bearers and/or photographers. The display of the name and/or logo of the bona fide supplier of clothing on the strip of the uniforms of the AIFF Delegation (including for the avoidance of doubt Match Officials) are also included. For the avoidance of doubt, advertising on the strip of Participating Players is excluded, other than where it is the trademark of the bona fide manufacturer and is in accordance with FIFA and/or AIFF regulations. Similarly, branding on any equipment, goods and/or services used in connection with the Competition, save where supplied by a Licensee, may only include customary branding of the bona fide manufacturer and may not be associated in any way with the Commercial Rights.

AFC	The Asian Football Confederation.
AIFF	The All India Football Federation.
AIFF CRS	Competition Registration System - the online player registration system of the AIFF.
AIFF CMS	The online Competition Management System of the AIFF.
AIFF Commercial Rights Partner	The entity appointed by the AIFF as the sole and exclusive representative of the AIFF with regard to the sale of the Commercial Rights (or any part thereof) and the provision of services in relation thereto.
AIFF Delegation	(i) AIFF staff; (ii) Match Officials; (iii) other officials appointed by the AIFF; (iv) The AIFF's Committee members; and (iv) AIFF guests.
AIFF Marks	All design marks, slogans, designations, names, logos, insignia, emblems or devices (in any application) owned and/or controlled by the AIFF (in any language) relating to the AIFF itself, but excluding the Competition Marks.
AIFF Official Merchandise	Official merchandise of the Competition to which the AIFF Marks and the Competition Marks may be applied at the sole discretion of the AIFF.
Broadcast Licensee	Any entity, including the Host Broadcaster, which has been granted the Media Rights from the AIFF or the AIFF Commercial Rights Partner for the Competition.
Winner	The Participating Team that wins the final Match of the Final Round.
Clean Stadium	A Stadium or Official Training Site whether inside, in the air space above or the outer perimeter, delivered to the AIFF at a prescribed time, that is free from: (i) any advertising and commercial signage of any kind, whether on any Stadium infrastructure, staff uniforms, accreditations, fences, equipment or elsewhere; (ii) third party agreements relating to the use and operation of the Stadium (or part thereof;) and/or

	(iii) Stadium or venue naming rights.
Commercial Rights	Advertising Rights, Concession Rights, Hospitality Rights, Image Rights, Media Rights, Merchandising Rights, Promotional Rights, Sponsorship Rights, and Travel and Tour Rights.
Competition	NFC for the Hero Santosh Trophy 2022-23, which includes without limitation, all Matches as set out in the Match Schedule, all qualifying Matches, all activities on the Field of Play (other than Matches), opening ceremonies, presentation or closing ceremonies, press conferences or Official Functions connected therewith.
Commencement of Competition	The Competition shall be deemed to have commenced from such date as officially notified by the AIFF and shall remain operative till presentation or closing ceremony as be scheduled.
Competition Data	Any and all information related to the Competition, including fixture lists, Image Rights, information and/or statistics about the Participating Teams and/or Participating Players, information and/or statistics about their participation and/or performance in the Competition, Match analysis, Referee decisions, and any other information in relation to the Competition.
Competition Marks	<p>Either cumulatively or individually:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the Competition logo officially adopted by the AIFF as a visual design symbol of the Competition; (ii) any mascot officially adopted by the AIFF for the Competition; (iii) any two-dimensional representation of the Competition trophy; (iv) the official name of the Competition (in any language); and/or (v) any and all current and future trademarks, and/or logos, and/or copyrights and/or designs whether or not registered or applied for and whether registered in part or in whole including any present and/or future names, designations, symbols, logos or

	identifying music or sounds of the AIFF or the Competition, the AIFF Fair Play name and device mark, and other artistic and auto-graphic representations in one, two or three dimensional proportions used by or in association with the Competition.
Competition Website	The official website in relation to a Competition operated exclusively by the AIFF secretariat with a dedicated URL registered, owned and maintained by the AIFF, at the Competition's sole expense, for use exclusively by the Competition.
Controlled Access Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) any Stadium; (ii) any Official Training Site; (iii) any official hotel (public areas being excepted), subject to and to the extent agreed in an executed hotel agreement; (iv) any official exclusion zone encircling a Stadium on any Match day; (v) any official parking area, accreditation centre, International Broadcast Compound, and/or hospitality area; (vi) the venue of any Official Function; (vii) any official AIFF fan park; (viii) Facility Areas; and/or (ix) any other location and/or facility designated by the AIFF as a Controlled Access Area and to which access is permitted only to those in possession of an Accreditation Card, Ticket, and/or other officially-sanctioned entry permit.
Digital Media	Any digitalised media (including the AIFF Website and any related Competition website) created by AIFF in relation to the Competition, including but not limited to any mobile website, mobile application (app), online video channel, data product, photo-sharing account, social media account, and any further form of digital media developed herewith.

Facility Areas	The location of Official Functions, ceremonies, press centres, ticket offices, competition hotels, media areas (including without limitation areas used for viewing of any public exhibition), sponsor village areas (including without limitation “AIFF fan park” areas, and areas used for the activation of the Commercial Rights), official hospitality areas (including without limitation areas used for the exploitation of the Hospitality Rights), and information centres controlled by or on behalf of the AIFF and used in connection with the Competition at the Stadium.
FIFA	The Federation Internationale de Football Association.
Fixed Media	Any magnetic, electronic or digital storage device or method including without limitation DVD, VHS or CD-ROM.
Football Association	The controlling body for football within a territory of India as recognised by the AIFF.
Force Majeure	Any event affecting the performance or any provision of these Regulations arising from or attributable to acts, events, omissions or accidents which are beyond the reasonable control of a party, and shall include but not be limited to abnormally inclement weather, flood, lightning, storm, fire, explosion, earthquake, structural damage, pandemic, epidemic or other natural disaster, failure or shortage of power supplies, war, terrorist action, military operations, riot, crowd disorder, strike, lock-outs or other industrial action, or civil commotion.
Laws of the Game	The FIFA Laws of the Game as amended till date
Hospitality Rights	The opportunity to offer and sell hospitality and entertainment facilities at the Venues or within the Controlled Access Areas in combination with Tickets as may be purchased from the Organising Member Association whether such facilities are in boxes, marquees or otherwise, but excluding those private facilities reserved for AIFF officials and its guests not forming part of the Commercial Rights.
Host Broadcaster	The organisation appointed by the AIFF to ensure and provide the production of broadcast signals of the Matches and other events of the Competition, and the provision of all related services in accordance with the Media Rights granted to it.

Host City	Any city and/or identifiable metropolitan area in which the Matches of the Competition are staged.
Host State	The State or territory of the hosting Member Association.
AIFF Secretariat	The administrative body of the AIFF.
Image Rights	The right to use still and/or moving images and/or representations of images of Participating Teams and Participating Players participating in the Competition, and including, for the avoidance of doubt, images of Participating Officials, Match Officials, and other officials forming part of the Competition.
LOC	The Local Organising Committee. The committee constituted by the host Member Association through which the AIFF executes Competition activities and other Match related activities.
Stadium	<p>The venue at which a Match is played. For the avoidance of doubt, this includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the entire premises (to the extent that a valid Accreditation Card or Ticket is required in order to gain access) of a Stadium and (on Match days and any day on which any official practice session takes place within the Stadium), the aerial space above such Stadium; (ii) parking facilities; (iii) VIP and hospitality areas (including any hospitality village); (iv) the media tribune; (v) concessions areas; (vi) commercial display areas; (vii) buildings; (viii) the Field of Play; (ix) any broadcast compound or Stadium media centre; (x) any stands; and (xi) any areas beneath the stands.
Match	A Football match in its entirety (including a replayed

	<p>and/or deferred Football match, extra time and kicks from the penalty mark) which takes place as part of the Competition in accordance with the Match Schedule.</p> <p>For the avoidance of doubt, a Match formally commences when the Stadium is officially opened to spectators and formally concludes when the Stadium is officially closed to spectators.</p>
Match Officials	Any individual appointed to officiate a Match in the Competition in the role of referee, Asst. referee 1, Asst. referee 2, fourth official, match commissioner, referee assessor.
Match Schedule	The official schedule which sets out, without limitation, the dates and times on which Matches will be played, the Stadium at which the Matches will be played, and the names of the Participating Teams.
Media	Any individual granted a media Accreditation Card by the AIFF.
Media Rights	The right and license to produce, edit, and transmit, for intelligible reception throughout the world in any language and in any format, and on any platform including film, fixed media, digital media, games, internet, public exhibition, radio, mobile, and television, a visual, audio-visual, and/or audio signal and/or image or recording (including without limitation the basic feed, multi feeds, additional feeds, audio feeds, a feed incorporating Competition Data, world feed, and unilateral feeds) of the Competition, and all interview activities and action during and forming part of the Competition including Official Functions and the Image Rights by any and all means of transmission distribution, exhibition and reception, now existing or hereinafter developed including but not limited to analogue, digital, satellite cable and interactive communication systems, on a live, delayed, and unlimited repeat basis, in full or in part (including without limitation by way of clips and/or highlights and/or support programmes and/or magazine shows and/or news access), and all rights to exploit any and all commercial opportunities (including for example broadcast sponsorship and commercial airtime opportunities) arising from and/or in connection with such rights.
Member Association/ host Member Association	A Football Association which is a member of the AIFF. A 'host' Member Association is a Member Association of

	the AIFF trusted with hosting and organising the Competition under the supervision of the AIFF.
Merchandise Rights	The right to exploit the Competition Marks and/or Official Status in the manufacture, packaging, distribution and sale of goods and services of all kinds, including items of equipment (i.e. footballs), clothing, coins, medals, games (electronic or otherwise), other collectibles and Premiums related to the Competition.
Team Official	Any member of a Participating Team's without limitation, any coaching staff, assisting staff, team doctor, team physiotherapist or any other person registered by the Participating Team to accompany its Participating Players for the Competition in its Team's Official Delegation.
Official Function	Any event which is officially organised or sanctioned by the AIFF in connection with the Competition. For the avoidance of doubt, this expressly includes, without limitation, all matches and/or events held at Official Training Sites, the opening ceremony, the closing ceremony, any AIFF gala dinner, lunch, or banquet, cultural events, official press conferences and launch events.
Official Licensee	Any entity to which the AIFF and the AIFF Commercial Rights Partner has granted the right to exercise and exploit the Commercial Rights (or any part thereof) in respect of the Competition.
Official Training Site	Any site designated by the host Member Association and approved by the AIFF for use by the Participating Teams throughout the duration of the Competition for training purposes.
Participating Official	Any official who is registered to participate in the Competition.
Participating Player	Any player who is registered or in process of being registered to participate in the Competition.
Participating Team	A team which represents the territory of a Member Association of the AIFF, which has been sent by the Member Association to take part in the Competition.
Premiums	Any promotional item (including packaging, labelling, and/or containers thereof) which incorporates a mark and/or logo of the AIFF and/or the Competition, and which is distributed free of charge or via prize competitions.

Promotional Rights	Any rights to official publications, official suppliers, official products, sales promotion including but not limited to the right to organise promotional competitions (including without limitation any sweepstakes or lotteries) and to make awards and give prizes, official music rights, the right to use an Official Designation and all other rights of commercial value in regard to the Competition.
Proprietary Interests	Without limitation, intellectual property, copyright and analogous rights, trademark rights, moral rights, performing rights, personality rights, and all remedies available under the applicable laws of unfair competition comprised in the Commercial Rights.
Regulations	These Competition Regulations.
Sponsorship Rights	The right, in any and all media, throughout the world, and in all languages, to promote an association between the Competition and certain products, services, and/or brands, and shall include (by way of illustration only) the exclusive right to exercise rights of association with the Competition, including without limitation the right to (a) use an official designation; (b) use the AIFF Marks and/or applicable Competition Marks on branded products and/or product packaging (including Premiums, and in relation to the Competition Marks only on items for retail sale) and/or advertising; (c) receive commercial programme Tickets, and (d) receive broadcast sponsorship opportunities in connections with broadcasts of a Match or Official Function.
Team Official Delegation	The final-registered delegation of a Participating Team for the Competition subject to the limits set out in the Competition Regulations.
Venue	Includes without limitation, the Stadium and structures within the Stadium premises, Controlled Access Areas, field of play, Official Training Sites, warm up sites, team benches and the technical area.

For the purposes of these Regulations, and provided the context so permits:

- (a) the singular shall include the plural and vice-versa;
- (b) the masculine gender shall include the feminine and vice-versa;

- (c) reference to natural persons shall include any legal person or corporation;
- (d) references to the AIFF shall include its successors and permitted assigns and in relation to the availability of the Commercial Rights, its respective Member Associations, and the AIFF Committees;
- (e) reference to the AIFF Commercial Rights Partner or Official Licensees shall include where advised by the AIFF, its successors, and permitted assigns and, in relation to the exercise and exploitation of the Commercial Rights; and
- (f) all defined terms, unless otherwise stated herein shall bear the same meaning as ascribed in the AIFF Statutes, unless the context indicates otherwise.

SECTION 1: NATIONAL FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP FOR HERO SANTOSH TROPHY 2021-22

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The AIFF National Football Championship (the “NFC”) for Santosh Trophy (referred to as the “Competition”) comprises of six (6) groups of six (6) teams each (“Group Stage”) and two (2) groups of six (6) teams each, total twelve (12) teams (“Final Round”) conducted annually for Member Associations.
- 1.2. The NFC for Santosh Trophy 2022-23 will be called “*76th National Football Championship for Hero Santosh Trophy 2022-23*”
- 1.3. Any right associated with the Competition which has not already been granted by these Regulations and/or by any agreement and/or by operation of law and/or by operation of any applicable law to a Member Association (sending its Participating Team) in the Competition shall belong to the AIFF.
- 1.4. These Regulations set out the rights, duties, and responsibilities of the AIFF, the host Member Association, all the Participating Teams, their Players and Officials taking part in the Competition and form an integral part of the host Member Association’s agreement with the AIFF, its annexes, amendments and any future addendums and modifications if any.
- 1.5. The current NFC for the Santosh Trophy 2022-23 regulations (the “Regulations”), guidelines, circulars and codes shall be binding on all Participating Teams, their Officials, Participating Players, support staff and supporters and others and involved in the preparation, organisation and hosting of the Competition.
- 1.6. The host Member Association of the Competition is subject to the control and supervision of the AIFF, which has the last word on all matters relevant to the Competition. Any recommendation/suggestion made by AIFF in matters related to this Competition shall be final and binding.
- 1.7. The AIFF will appoint Match Officials including but not limited to Match Commissioner, Referees, Referee Assessor for each Match of the Competition.
- 1.8. Any reference to the AIFF Constitution and to any of the AIFF, AFC and FIFA regulations refer to those valid at the time of application.

SECTION 2: RESPONSIBILITIES

2. The All India Football Federation

- 2.1. The AIFF shall be responsible for ensuring that the host Member Association organises the Competition in accordance with the AIFF Constitution and other AIFF

regulations. The AIFF General Secretariat (the "AIFF Secretariat/ AIFF General Secretariat") shall carry out the necessary administrative work in conducting the Competition.

- 2.2. The responsibilities of the AIFF shall include, but are not limited to:
 - 2.2.1. supervising general preparations and deciding on the Competition format, the draws, and the entries to the Competition;
 - 2.2.2. determining the Match Schedule;
 - 2.2.3. appointing the Match Officials for each Match;
 - 2.2.4. choosing the official ball and the stipulated technical material;
 - 2.2.5. reporting cases where appropriate, to the AIFF Disciplinary Committee;
 - 2.2.6. dealing with cases of abandoned Matches or cancelled Matches;
 - 2.2.7. dealing with cases of Force Majeure;
 - 2.2.8. dealing with any other aspect of the Competition that is not the responsibility of any other body of the AIFF pursuant to these Regulations or the AIFF Constitution or any other AIFF regulation or code.
- 2.3. All decisions made by the AIFF General Secretariat in connection with the Competition are final and binding and not appealable.
- 2.4. All decisions made by the AIFF Disciplinary Committee in relation to the Competition are subject to the operation of the AIFF Disciplinary Code.

3. Participating Teams

- 3.1. Participation in the Competition is obligatory for the Member Associations of the AIFF and as prescribed in the AIFF Constitution, all permanent, associate and provisional Members shall take part in the Competition by sending a representative team for the Competition. The participation of teams is subject to the successful fulfilment of the ENTRY FORM through the AIFF CMS and receipt of the same by the AIFF on or before the timeline provided to the Member Associations by the AIFF.
- 3.2. Each Participating Team is obligated to ensure faithful compliances of, amongst others, these Regulations and other Competition guidelines and circulars, and any other agreements reached between the AIFF and the Participating Teams or their Member Associations, all directives and instructions issued by the AIFF, and any other relevant regulations of the AIFF, AFC and FIFA (the "Entire Regulations").
- 3.3. Only the entry forms submitted to the AIFF Secretariat by having been uploaded

on the AIFF CMS within the time provided by the AIFF will be considered to be a valid submission and hence taken into consideration.

- 3.4. The Participating Team agrees and undertakes to participate in the entire Competition till its elimination/conclusion from the Competition and will not miss any Match which it is required to play in the Competition as per the fixtures/schedule finalized by AIFF. If any Match is so missed, the Member Association of that Participating Team may be sanctioned by the AIFF Disciplinary Committee as per its discretion and/or appropriate measures under these Regulations may be taken by the AIFF against such Member Association.
- 3.5. In addition to or in consonance with the terms of the entry form, each Participating Team shall be automatically deemed to have undertaken the below:
 - 3.5.1. to have accepted all the AIFF regulations, including these Regulations, any Standard Operating Protocol (SOP) guidelines (which may include the Covid-19 guidelines), any other circulars, codes, policies, guidelines or directives issued by the AIFF, by whatever name called or described as well as the AIFF, AFC and FIFA regulations and to comply with, observe and perform all obligations, duties and responsibilities and abide by all decisions that may be issued, passed or imposed by the AIFF's bodies and Committees;
 - 3.5.2. to comply with the Football Laws of the Game;
 - 3.5.3. to accept that all the administrative, disciplinary and refereeing matters connected with the Competition shall be settled by the AIFF in compliance with these Regulations and/or all other AIFF regulations, directives, guidelines and circulars issued from time to time;
 - 3.5.4. to field their strongest team throughout the Competition;
 - 3.5.5. to observe the principles of Fair Play;
 - 3.5.6. to be solely responsible for fielding eligible Participating Players and Officials for the Matches of the Competition;
 - 3.5.7. to ensure the good conduct of the members of its Team's Official Delegation and of any person carrying out duties on its behalf throughout the Competition;
 - 3.5.8. To ensure and confirm to the AIFF that its Participating Players undergo a pre-competition medical assessment prior to the start of the Competition by submitting the "Medical Fitness Certificate" attached with these Regulations as "**Annexure I**" duly endorsed by a doctor holding an MBBS degree along with a valid Medical Practitioner License under the Indian Law;

- 3.5.9. to accept all the arrangements made by the host Member Association in agreement with the AIFF Secretariat;
 - 3.5.10. to attend and participate in all Official Functions along with all official activities and events, including without limitation any team arrival meeting, match coordination meeting, press conferences, and other media and marketing activities in accordance with the instructions issued by the AIFF;
 - 3.5.11. to accept the use of records and broadcast of the images of their Participating Players and Officials that may appear or be generated in connection with the participation of the Participating Team in the Competition;
 - 3.5.12. to accept the AIFF's right to use and/or sub-license, names and images of the Participating Teams, its Participating Players and Officials and the same shall be exclusive in respect of, or in connection with, without limitation, the filming, recording, broadcasting and any other forms of transmission, broadcast in connection with this Competition;
 - 3.5.13. to be held responsible for any damage caused by their respective Participating Players, Officials, members, fans, supporters and any other person carrying out duties on their behalf throughout the Competition;
 - 3.5.14. to provide requisite insurance cover to their Participating Players and Officials, including injury, accident and health during the Competition and the team's travel;
 - 3.5.15. to keep records of the cautions and the expulsions issued to their Participating Players and Officials and make sure that the suspensions are served, even if officially not communicated by the host MA or the Match Commissioner; and
 - 3.5.16. provide to the AIFF, prior to the Competition, statistics and photographs of their Participating Players and any further data as requested and in accordance with instructions issued by the AIFF;
- 3.6. Participating Teams/ their Member Associations are not authorised to represent the AIFF or the Competition without the prior written approval of the AIFF.
 - 3.7. Each Participating Team/ their Member Association shall ensure that any decision(s) made by the AIFF relating to its duties and responsibilities is enforced immediately.

4. The Host Member Association

- 4.1. The AIFF entrusts host Member Associations (affiliated units of the AIFF) to

organise the Competition. The host Member Association(s) may form a Local Organizing Committee (“LOC”) for the smooth operations of the Match -related activities during the Competition.

- 4.2. The principal obligations and responsibilities of the host Member Association are regulated through the agreement signed between the AIFF and the host Member Association, its annexes and amendments, these Regulations, all the directives, decisions, guidelines, and circulars issued by the AIFF, as well as the AIFF Constitution and any other relevant AIFF regulations and such other applicable laws.
- 4.3. The host Member Association shall provide adequate facilities to the Match Commissioner, Referees and any other Officials appointed by the AIFF to discharge their duties.
- 4.4. The host Member Association shall conduct periodical safety checks on the stadium in terms of applicable laws and directions and recommendations as may be provided by AIFF and shall provide the AIFF with a safety certificate at least fifteen (15) days before the Competition starts. In the event that any changes are recommended by AIFF in relation to safety within the Stadium and other Match related facilities, then in such case the host Member Association shall endeavour to take all steps to comply with such requirements.
- 4.5. The host Member Association must provide the marketing agents and the sponsors all facilities to display their advertising boards within the Stadium premises and facility areas.
- 4.6. The host Member Association shall ensure that all agreements entered into by the AIFF regarding broadcast, TV coverage, sponsorships, copy rights, intellectual property rights (“IPR”) and other rights, are fully protected and there are no infringements thereof.
- 4.7. The host Member Association shall ensure that sufficient security is provided to the visiting Participating Teams and to all the members of the visiting Participating Teams and all the officials appointed by the AIFF.
- 4.8. The host Member Association shall inform the team manager, as soon as the Participating Team’s Team Official Delegation arrives, of the exact kick-off time and the schedule of the managers’ meeting.
- 4.9. The host Member Association shall see that the infrastructure at the Stadium and its premises is insured.
- 4.10. The host Member Association shall provide local transport for training and Matches to the Match Commissioner, Referees Assessor, the Referees and any other official deputed by AIFF.

- 4.11. The host Member Association shall assist the Participating Teams in securing accommodation at the Host City of the Competition if requested.
- 4.12. The host Member Association is fully responsible for the safety and security of without limits the Participating Players, Participating Teams, their Officials, AIFF officials, TV crew, media, agents of sponsors and telecast rights holders, spectators, etc., at the Stadium premises.
- 4.13. The host Member Association shall provide the facility areas, corridors, staircases free from all advertisements and ensure that the Stadium is available exclusively for the Competition's Matches during the time of Competition.
- 4.14. The host Member Association shall have a medical team, headed by a qualified doctor for first aid and other emergency duty during the Matches and such other facilities as may be prescribed by AIFF. The medical team shall be equipped for emergencies, including automated external defibrillator (AED).
- 4.15. The host Member Association shall completely indemnify the AIFF and hold it harmless against all responsibility and relinquish any claim against the AIFF and the AIFF Delegation for any damages resulting from any act or omission relating to the organisation of the Competition to the exclusion of damages caused by the AIFF or the members of the AIFF Delegation acting with intent or gross negligence.
- 4.16. The host Member Association shall ensure that any decision made by the AIFF judicial bodies or the AIFF Executive Committee relating to its duties and responsibilities is enforced immediately.

5. Security and Safety

- 5.1. The security and safety for the Competition at every Competition related location (covering all Controlled Access Areas and Stadium premises) shall be handled by the host Member Association as per the terms of the agreement between the AIFF and the host Member Association. Any decision or arrangements made by the AIFF or the host Member Association or the local authorities in this regard shall not be open to an appeal or protest of any kind.

6. Insurance

- 6.1. The Participating Teams may conclude the necessary insurance policies (including but not limited to Travel insurance, Medical insurance etc.) with a reputable insurance company (ies), including but not limited to insurance against any third-party liability. Such insurance must involve a notified guaranteed sum for injury and damage to persons, objects and property, and correspond to the specific circumstances of the associations concerned. Likewise, the policies must fully cover all risks connected with the staging of the Competition and exempt the AIFF from

all claims and liabilities whatsoever (even if arising from third parties), and further name the AIFF as a co-insured party in all the policies.

- 6.2. For the Competition, the Participating Teams may conclude the following insurance coverage through their insurance agreement(s):
- i. Insurance against liability for pecuniary loss
 - ii. Accident insurance
 - iii. Legal expenses insurance
 - iv. Travel luggage insurance
 - v. Electronic equipment insurance
 - vi. Robbery insurance
 - vii. Fidelity insurance
 - viii. Cup insurance
 - ix. Accidental and Medical insurance
 - x. Travel insurance for Participating Team's entire Delegation.
- 6.3. All insurance contracts entered into by the respective Participating Teams, are at their own risk. The AIFF must be notified of any additional insurance coverage. The AIFF may further request copies of the policies concerned.
- 6.4. The Participating Teams are responsible for the insurance coverage (including hospitalization and surgical operations) of their Team's Official Delegation, including for their Participating Players and Officials, at their own expense, for the duration of the Competition. Claims for damages against the AIFF must be expressly excluded, and the Participating Teams shall hold AIFF harmless against any such claims.
- 6.5. The AIFF shall be responsible for taking an appropriate insurance cover for the circumstances of event cancellation which will cover solely the actual cost/expenses incurred only by the AIFF. Further as per the terms of the agreement between the AIFF and the host Member Association wherever necessary, shall take an insurance for any other purpose with no expenses being chargeable or accruing to the AIFF.

7. Indemnity

- 7.1. The Participating Teams and their Member Associations shall discharge the AIFF and hold it harmless from all responsibility and relinquish any claim against the AIFF and the members of its delegation for any damages resulting from any act or omission relating to the organization during the course of the Competition, to the exclusion of damages caused by the AIFF itself or the members of its delegation acting with intent or gross negligence.
- 7.2. The Participating Teams and their Member Associations shall exempt (indemnify and hold harmless) the AIFF from all third party claims for damages relating to Match organisation, regardless of whether individual Matches in question take place or not.

SECTION 3: ENTRY, WITHDRAWAL, MATCH SCHEDULE AND COMPETITION SYSTEM

8. Admission Criteria

- 8.1. All the Member Associations of the AIFF shall send its representative Participating Team to enter the Competition.
- 8.2. The Participating Teams of the respective Member Association are required to send their entries through the AIFF CMS system on or before the given deadline.
- 8.3. Only Member Associations who have sent their entry forms on or before the deadline provided by the AIFF are eligible to have their representative Participating Teams participate in the Competition. All the decisions by the AIFF regarding entries in the Competition are final and not subject to appeal by any party.

If any information which is provided by a Member Association to the AIFF during the entry form process is found to be misrepresented, false or inaccurate at any point of time, the AIFF may revoke the permission to participate granted to the Participating Team of that Member Association anytime thereafter and subsequently remove that Participating Team from the Competition.

- 8.4. If there has been a change subsequently in relation to any information provided by a Member Association during its entry form process, the said Member Association is under a duty to immediately inform the AIFF of such change(s) for its approval. In the event that no such prior approval is sought from the AIFF for the change(s) by the Member Association, the AIFF reserves the right to cancel the permission granted to that Member Association's Participating Team for participating in the Competition and subsequently remove that Participating Team from the Competition at any point of time.

9. Withdrawal Prior to Commencement of the Competition

- 9.1. Any Participating Team that enters the Competition undertakes that it shall play all of its Matches as set out in the Match Schedule. A Participating Team would have officially entered the Competition upon submission of the entry form in the AIFF CMS.
- 9.2. The Participating Team that withdraws prior to commencement of the Competition as notified by the AIFF (i.e. after submitting entry form and prior to the start of zonal qualifying round), or is ineligible or excluded from playing in the Competition will be sanctioned with a fine of INR 50,000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand) except in cases of Force Majeure, which will be decided at the sole discretion of the AIFF.
- 9.3. The AIFF may at its discretion introduce changes, including a change in the Competition system and technical rules for the Competition, if necessary.

9.4. All decisions of the AIFF in this regard are final and binding and not appealable.

10. Withdrawal after Commencement of the Competition

10.1. If a Participating Team withdraws from the Competition after the Commencement Date of the Competition or does not report for a Match at any stage of the Competition, except in cases of a Force-Majeure situation, recognized by the Match Commissioner and the AIFF, or if it refuses to continue to play or leaves the field of play before the end of the Match despite the Referee and/or the Match Referee's decision to continue to play, or the Match cannot be continued due to the behaviour of a particular Participating Team or any member of its Team Official Delegation or for any other behaviour for which the Participating Team is liable to be held responsible, the Participating Team/ its Member Association shall:

10.1.1. be considered to have withdrawn wilfully from the Competition amounting to refusal;

10.1.2. have all its Matches cancelled and considered null and void. For the avoidance of doubt, all points and goals in those Matches shall not be taken into consideration when determining the rankings in the Group Stage and the Final Round of the Competition;

10.1.3. be sanctioned with a fine of INR 1,00,000/- (Rupees One Lakh) and be required to pay compensation for any and all damages or losses suffered by, wherever applicable, the other Participating Teams, the AIFF, the AIFF Commercial Rights Partner, Licensees, Broadcast Licensees, and any other Member Association(s). The amount of compensation shall be determined by the AIFF Executive Committee;

10.1.4. be automatically and forthwith disqualified from taking part in the continued edition or any future edition of the Competition notwithstanding any penal action otherwise provided in any other code or regulation of the AIFF. The AIFF may however extend the suspension for next two (2) editions of the Competition depending on the gravity of the situation and/or quantum of damages;

10.1.5. be referred to the AIFF Disciplinary Committee for additional and further sanctions and fines depending on the gravity of the situation;

10.1.6. return to the AIFF, any financial stipends/ assistance/ subsidy that had been paid to the Participating Team/ its Member Association by the AIFF throughout the Competition or forfeit the right to claim the same; and

10.2. The above Article 10.1 is not applicable in cases of Force Majeure recognised by the AIFF.

10.3. Any aggrieved Participating Team/ Member Association may notwithstanding

anything contained in the Disciplinary Code or contrary thereto, prefer an appeal before the Executive Committee of the AIFF whose decision shall be final and binding.

10.4. The AIFF shall take whatever action it deems necessary in cases of Force Majeure.

11. Match Schedule

11.1. All Matches shall be played according to the dates, kick-off times, and in the Stadium as determined by the host Member Association in consultation with the AIFF and notified to the Participating Teams prior to the scheduled official Date of Commencement of the Competition.

11.2. The dates and timings of the Matches and the grouping of the Participating Teams shall be determined by and notified by the AIFF from time to time. Depending upon the number of entries received from each zone, the AIFF shall form the groups of the respective zones.

11.3. The AIFF retains final discretion to amend the Match Schedule and other Match related factors including without limits the Stadium, the other Venues and the kick-off times and any decision taken to that effect is final and binding and non-appealable.

12. Competition System

12.1. The Competition shall consist of two (2) stages:

12.1.1. Group Stage; and

12.1.2. The Final Round

12.2. The AIFF shall decide upon the format of the Competition system.

12.3. The Group Stage will consist of six (6) groups of six (6) teams each. The Railways and the Services teams will be seeded directly into the Final Round of the competition. The Host Association will play at the Group Stage, however not for qualification, as they automatically qualify to play in the Final Round.

12.4. Each group topper (6 teams) and three (3) second best teams from all the groups will qualify to play in the Final Round. The host teams ranking shall not be considered, whilst deciding the top or second best teams from the group, as the host team automatically qualifies to play in the final round.

12.5. Whilst deciding the second best teams from all the groups, head to head criteria shall not be applicable, all other procedure shall be followed as mentioned in Article 13.

12.6. There will be twelve teams in the Final Round. Nine (9) teams qualified from the Group stage and three (3) teams seeded directly (Railways, Services & Host of the

Final Round).

12.7. The Matches shall be played on a single leg round robin league basis in each group.

13. Group Stage

13.1. The Group Stage matches shall be conducted in accordance with the Match Schedule and the Competition system set by the AIFF.

13.2. At the conclusion of each Match:

13.2.1. three (3) points shall be awarded to the winner;

13.2.2. one (1) point shall be awarded to each Participating Team for a draw;

13.2.3. zero (0) points shall be awarded to the loser.

13.3. Notwithstanding anything contained in Article 13.3, the rankings in each Group of the Competition shall be determined in descending order as follows:

13.3.1. higher number of points obtained in all group stage Matches;

13.3.2. Should there be a situation where at the end of the group stage matches, two (2) or more Participating Teams are on equal points based on the above criterion, their ranking in the groups shall be determined in the following order:

Head to Head Criteria

(a) Higher number of points obtained in the group Matches played among the Participating Teams in question;

(b) Superior goal difference from the group Matches played among the Participating Teams in question;

(c) Higher number of goals scored in the group Matches played among the Participating teams in question;

13.4. If, after having applied the Head-to-Head criteria, two (2) or more Participating Teams still have an equal ranking, the above (head-to-head) criteria shall be re-applied exclusively to the Matches between the Participating Teams in question to determine their final rankings. If this procedure does not lead to a decision, the following Group Results Criteria shall apply:

Group Results Criteria

(a) Superior goal difference from all group Matches played;

(b) Higher number of goals scored from all group Matches played;

(c) Kicks from the Penalty Mark if only two (2) Teams still have an equal ranking and have played their last group Match against each other (not

applicable in deciding the 2nd best team); or

(d) Drawing of lots

- 13.5. The criteria mentioned in Article 13.2, 13.3 & 13.4 above shall be applicable to the Participating Teams in Final Round of the Competition as well, especially in the case where at the end of the group stage of the Final round, two (2) or more Participating Teams secure equal number of points in their respective groups. However, in the semi-final and final stages, winners will be decided through playing of extra time and penalty kicks as per the Laws of the Game in the event of a tie after normal playing time and injury time.

14. Final Round

- 14.1. The Final Round will consist of three (3) stages:

- i. Quarter Final Round;
- ii. Semi Final Round;
- iii. Final

14.2. Quarter Final Round

14.2.1. Will consist of twelve (12) Teams. Nine (9) qualified from the group stage and three (3) seeded directly;

14.2.2. The Participating Teams shall be divided into two (2) groups of six (6) Teams each;

14.2.3. Matches shall be played on a single leg round robin league basis;

14.2.4. Winner and the Runner Up teams from each group will qualify for the Semi-Finals. (i.e. a total of 4 Participating Teams)

14.3. Semi Final Round

14.3.1. Semi-Finals shall be played between the four (4) Participating Teams that have qualified from the quarter final round of the Competition as winners and runners up from their respective groups therein;

14.3.2. Matches shall be played on a knock-out system and as per the below format:

Winner of Group A Team	V/s	Runner-Up of Group B team
Winner of Group B Team	V/s	Runner-Up of Group A team

- 14.4. The duration of the Matches played in the Final Round shall be in accordance with Article 17.

15. The Final

- 15.1. The winners of the Semi-Final Matches shall play the Final. In case no winner emerges after normal playing time and injury time, the winner of the Final (which will be the winner of the Competition) shall be determined through a knock-out system involving extra time and penalty kicks, as the case may be, as per the Laws of the Game.

SECTION 4: TECHNICAL REGULATIONS

16. Matches Played in Accordance with the Laws of the Game

- 16.1. All the Matches shall be played in accordance with the latest Laws of the Game laid down by the International Football Association Board (IFAB) and published by FIFA. In case of any discrepancy in the interpretation of the Laws of the Game, the English version shall prevail and is authoritative.
- 16.2. If, in accordance with the provisions of these Regulations, extra time is to be played as a result of a draw at the end of the normal playing time including injury time as provided by the Match Officials, it shall always consist of two (2) periods of fifteen (15) minutes each, with an interval of five (5) minutes at the end of normal playing time, but not between the two periods of extra time.
- 16.3. If the score is still level after extra time, kicks from the penalty mark shall be taken to determine the winner in accordance with the procedure described in the Laws of the Game.
- 16.4. If kicks from the penalty mark cannot be taken or completed for any reason, then the result shall be decided by drawing lots.
- 16.5. At any stage of a Match, if a Participating Team is only able to field fewer than seven (7) Participating Players for any reason, the Match shall be declared abandoned. The Participating Team shall be held responsible for the Match not taking place and shall be considered to have withdrawn from the relevant Match. The Participating Team which is able to field seven or more than seven (7) Participating Players shall be declared the winner by the score of 3-0, or the score at the time of abandonment, whichever is higher and will be awarded three (3) points.
- 16.6. In exceptional circumstances and provided that any rescheduling will not affect the Match Schedule determined by the AIFF secretariat, the AIFF may grant an exception to the foregoing and allow the relevant Match to be rescheduled at a Stadium or venue and time of its discretion. The said decision of the AIFF shall be final, binding and non-appealable by the Participating Teams.

17. Duration of Matches

- 17.1. Each Match shall last ninety (90) minutes, comprising two (2) periods of forty-five

(45) minutes each, with an interval of fifteen (15) minutes in between from the whistle ending the first period to the whistle starting the second period.

- 17.2. Both Participating Teams shall walk to the field as per the laid down protocols of AIFF, from their dressing rooms.
- 17.3. Once the Kick off time is decided, it can be changed by the AIFF for any reason whatsoever. The new kick off time shall be immediately informed to the manager/captain of both the Participating Teams.
- 17.4. A Participating Team (through its Participating Players/ Officials) that causes a delay in the commencement of the first period of the Match and/or the second period of the Match may be sanctioned by the AIFF Disciplinary Committee in accordance with the AIFF Disciplinary Code.

18. Cancellation of Matches

- 18.1. If the Match cannot commence on time due to Force Majeure or any other incidents such as, but not limited to, the field not being fit for play, extreme weather conditions or floodlight failure or for any other reason the following procedures must be followed:
 - 18.1.1. the Match must be delayed for a minimum of thirty (30) minutes. During this delay, the Referee may decide that the Match can commence prior to the completion of the delay period, before a decision to reschedule the Match may be taken;
 - 18.1.2. following the first delay, either:
 - 18.1.2.1. an additional delay of thirty (30) minutes shall occur if at the discretion of the Referee, this second delay may allow the Match to commence; or
 - 18.1.2.2. the Match is declared cancelled by the Referee;
 - 18.1.3. Following the second delay of thirty (30) minutes, if allowed by the Referee, the Referee must declare the Match as cancelled.
 - 18.1.4. In the case of a cancelled Match, the Match Commissioner in consultation with the AIFF shall decide within two (2) hours of the Referee's decision to cancel the Match whether the Match can be rescheduled, taking sporting and organizational considerations into account, or whether any other action and decision is to be obtained.
 - 18.1.5. For any Match which is cancelled as a result of Force Majeure, the AIFF shall decide on the matter at its sole discretion and take whatever action is deemed necessary.

18.1.6. Any Match which is cancelled, except in cases of Force Majeure recognised by the AIFF, may lead to the imposition of sanctions by the AIFF Disciplinary Committee against the relevant Participating Team or the party that has caused the cancellation in accordance with the AIFF Disciplinary Code. In case a Participating Team willfully fails to show up for a Match, the provisions concerning withdrawal of such Participating Team as per Article 10 shall be applicable.

18.1.7. No appeal shall be lodged against decisions stated in Article 18.

19. Abandonment of Matches

19.1. If the Match is stopped by the Referee before the end of normal time or during any injury time, extra time or penalty kicks because of any Force Majeure event or any other field/playing condition related incidents such as, but not limited to, the field not being fit for play, weather conditions or floodlight failure or for any other reason, the following procedures must be followed:

19.1.1. 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. Any on field decision of the Referee shall be final and non-appealable.;

19.1.2. subsequent to the first stoppage, either:

- 19.1.2.1. at the discretion of the Referee, another extension of a maximum of thirty (30) minutes may be allowed if in his opinion this extra period of suspension will allow the Match to be resumed; or
- 19.1.2.2. the Match is declared abandoned by the Referee;

19.2. Following the second stoppage of thirty (30) minutes, the Referee must declare the Match as abandoned.

19.3. In the case of an abandoned Match, the AIFF shall decide within two (2) hours of the Referees decision to abandon the Match whether to order only the part of the Match , which has not been completed to be played, provided this can be done on the next day of the day the Match was abandoned or whether a replay of the entire Match shall be organized and whether the Match result at the time of abandonment would be considered to be valid, taking sporting and organizational considerations into account.

19.4. For any Match which is abandoned as a result of Force Majeure, the AIFF shall decide on the matter at its sole discretion and take whatever action is deemed necessary.

19.5. Any Match which is abandoned, except in cases of Force Majeure as recognised the AIFF, may lead to the imposition of sanctions by the AIFF Disciplinary Committee against the relevant Participating Team or the party that has caused the

abandonment in accordance with the AIFF Disciplinary Code.

- 19.6. Should the AIFF, pursuant to Article 19.3, determine that an abandoned Match should be rescheduled and completed, the following principles shall apply:
- 19.6.1. the Match shall recommence with the same score at the minute and seconds at which play was interrupted rather than being replayed in full;
 - 19.6.2. the Match shall recommence with the same Participating Players on the field of play and the same substitutes at the time it was initially abandoned;
 - 19.6.3. no additional substitutes may be added to the Player Selection List or Match Starting List;
 - 19.6.4. any Participating Player sent off during the abandoned Match cannot be replaced;
 - 19.6.5. The kick-off time, date and location shall be decided by the AIFF with the concerned authorities;
 - 19.6.6. any sanction imposed before the Match was abandoned shall remain valid for the remainder of the recommenced Match; and
 - 19.6.7. any other matters not set out above shall be decided by the AIFF in its sole discretion.
- 19.7. If a Match is stopped by the Referee before the end of normal playing time as a result of a Participating Team being able to only field fewer than seven (7) Participating Players, the Match shall be declared abandoned and the Participating Team which is able to field more than seven (7) Participating Players shall be declared the winner by the score of 3-0, or the score at the time of abandonment, whichever is higher.
- 19.8. No appeal shall be lodged against decisions stated in Article 19.

20. Stadiums

- 20.1. The Matches shall be played only at the Stadium(s) decided by the host Member Association in consultation with the AIFF, which have the following facilities:
- i. minimum two/four (2/4) players changing rooms with attached toilets, urinals, and bathrooms;
 - ii. rooms for referees/MC/RA, with attached toilets, urinals and bathrooms;
 - iii. Minimum three (3) practice grounds, well maintained and in good condition with toilets, urinals and bath facilities; and

- iv. All other facilities required to conduct the Competition as approved by the AIFF.
- 20.2. Matches shall not be played at the Stadiums, where the above facilities are not available or at any temporarily erected infrastructure (tents & movable toilets), such as changing rooms, toilets etc.
- 20.3. If there is any doubt regarding the condition of the field of play, the Referee shall decide whether the field of play is playable or not. If the Referee declares that the Match cannot commence because of the field not being fit for play, or for any other Force Majeure incidents such as, but not limited to, extreme weather conditions or floodlight failures, the procedure to be followed is described in Article 18 & 19 above.
- 20.4. If, at any time during the Competition, the AIFF Secretariat deems that, for any reason, the Stadium is not fit for staging a Match; the AIFF may consult with the host Member Association and propose an alternate Stadium, in accordance with the standards required by the AIFF.

21. Team Bench and Technical Area

- 21.1. A maximum of four (4) Participating Team's Officials and a maximum of eleven (11) substitute Participating Players are permitted to sit on the team bench during a Match. If at least one (1) of the Officials is not registered as a doctor or a physiotherapist of the Team, then only two (2) Officials shall be allowed to sit on the bench.
- 21.2. All individuals on the team bench must wear a kit that contrasts with the kit of the Participating Players and the Match Officials present on the Field of Play. This kit must comply with the equipment requirements as per these Regulations.
- 21.3. A suspended Participating Player/Official shall not be allowed in the substitution bench area, the technical area, or in any other place inside the field/perimeter fence and the dressing room or the adjoining area of the dressing rooms or any other Competition area/Controlled Access Area (CAA).

22. Warming up

- 22.1. The Participating Teams shall be entitled to warm up on the main field of play before the Match subject to the ground conditions as ascertained by the AIFF Match Commissioner.
- 22.2. During the Match, a maximum of six (6) named substitutes from each Participating Team may warm up at the same time but without a ball (except for the goalkeeper), behind the goal closest to their substitutes bench or in a space determined by the Match Commissioner. The Participating Players may be accompanied by a maximum of two (2) Officials from the team bench.

- 22.3. The Participating Teams shall adhere to guidelines as shared by the AIFF Match Commissioner. Any violation of such guidelines/ directives may result in sanctions being imposed by the Disciplinary Committee.

23. Official Training Sites

- 23.1. Official Training Sites, in good condition shall be made available to the Participating Teams by the host Member Association.
- 23.2. The Official Training Sites will be provided by the host Member Association and approved by the AIFF.
- 23.3. The Participating Teams will need to adhere to the training schedule as provided by the AIFF/ host Member Association.

24. Footballs

- 24.1. All matches of the competition shall be played by the footballs selected and supplied by the AIFF.

SECTION 5: TEAM OFFICIAL DELEGATION

25. Team Official Delegation

- 25.1. The Team Official Delegation shall be granted full access to all official Competition areas, including the field of play and other necessary Controlled Accessed Areas, as determined by the AIFF.
- 25.2. The Participating Teams shall ensure that no unauthorized persons are permitted entry into the team bus, team dressing room, field of play, or any other Controlled Access Area without authorisation.

26. Eligibility of Players

- 26.1. Each Participating Team shall ensure that all its Participating Players:
- 26.1.1. are fully vaccinated (both the doses) prior to the participation in the Competition and upload the final vaccination certificate for Covid-19 Vaccination at the time of registration in the AIFF CRS/CMS;
 - 26.1.2. are duly registered with the respective Member Association before the announcement of the Championship dates. The native players can also play for their respective State irrespective of their place of registration;
 - 26.1.3. have a status which is not in conflict with the AIFF RSTP;
 - 26.1.4. are duly registered to participate in this Competition in accordance with these Regulations;

- 26.1.5. are citizens of India holding an Indian passport including Non-Resident Indian (“NRI”) holding Indian passport and are registered with a Member Association after following the relevant rules and procedures set out in AIFF Regulations on the Status and Transfers of Players;
 - 26.1.6. are not holding foreign passport or any proof of Permanent Residence (PR) of another country;
 - 26.1.7. submit the “Certificate of Medical Fitness” of each registered player as per the prescribed format (attached as Annexure I) duly endorsed by a Medical Officer holding MBBS degree from a recognised university;
 - 26.1.8. are not registered with any I-League or ISL clubs at the time of registration.
- 26.2. Notwithstanding anything mentioned above, each Participating Team is allowed to include a maximum of two (2) Participating Players holding OCI (Overseas Citizen of India) cards in the Team’s squad for the Competition, provided they obtain the necessary clearance from FIFA.
- 26.3. Individuals who meet the criteria set out in Article 26.1 and if applicable 26.2 are eligible to participate in the Competition, subject to the provisions of the AIFF Disciplinary Code.
- 26.4. The approval of the registration of a Participating Player by the AIFF Secretariat does not automatically provide for the eligibility of the Participating Player. Each Participating Team is responsible for and bears the onus of fielding only eligible Participating Players in a Match. Failure to do so shall lead to the consequences stipulated in the AIFF Disciplinary Code.
- 26.4.1. The AIFF General Secretariat makes all decisions regarding the Participating Players’ final registration.
- 26.5. A Participating Player shall be deemed ineligible, without limitation, if:
- 26.5.1. there is a violation of Article 26.1 and/or 26.2 or
 - 26.5.2. he participates in a Match contrary to a decision of the AIFF Secretariat, Disciplinary Committee, these Regulations, or the operation of the AIFF Disciplinary Code;
 - 26.5.3. he is fielded despite being suspended (accumulation of yellow & red cards or as per decision of the AIFF Disciplinary/Appeal Committee);
 - 26.5.4. the AIFF determines that any document submitted for any Participating Player during registration is false, falsified and/or forged;
 - 26.5.5. he fails a doping test;

26.5.6. for any other reason, the AIFF secretariat or any of the AIFF committees deems the Participating Player ineligible to participate at any time.

26.6. A Participating Team which gives a walkover without sufficient cause to the satisfaction of the AIFF or fields an ineligible Participating Player, anytime during the Competition, shall forfeit the Match and the opponent Participating Team shall be declared the winner of that Match and awarded with three (3) points in addition to award of three (3) goal difference, or the actual score of the Match, whichever is higher.

26.7. Any Participating Team found guilty of fielding an ineligible Participating Player, as determined by the competent judicial body of the AIFF, shall suffer the forfeiture of the Match in terms of 26.5 above. The guilty Participating Team, its Officials and their Participating Players, in such an event, if the case may be, will have their medals and title stripped and if qualification has been made to any future competitions, such qualification will be annulled. The guilty Participating Team, the Officials and/or the Participating Players involved, may also be subject to further fines and sanctions as may be determined by the AIFF Disciplinary Committee and the AIFF Secretariat.

27. Registration of Players

27.1. There are four (4) stages of a Participating Player's registration:

- 27.1.1. CMS Registration;
- 27.1.2. Final Registration;
- 27.1.3. Player Selection List; and
- 27.1.4. Start List

27.1.5. **CMS:** Each Participating Team shall register a maximum of forty (40) Participating Players on or before their first match in the Championship, out of which, four (4) should be goalkeepers.

27.2. Final Registration

27.3.1. Out of the forty (40) players registered in AIFF CMS system on or before the given timeline, the Participating Teams have to make a final selection of twenty-two (22) Participating Players, two (2) days prior to their departure to the host city of the respective groups, but not later than seventy-two (72) hours prior to the teams first match in the Championship.

27.3.2. A Participating Team is required to select and register two (2) goalkeepers in the final selection of twenty-two (22) players, however it is advised to select and register three (3) goalkeepers in the final selection/registration as a replacement will not be allowed for injured Participating Players once the final selection/registration is completed;

- 27.3.3. Participating Teams, who do not complete the registration process on or before the given deadline, shall be considered as withdrawn as per Article 9.

27.3. **Player Selection List**

- 27.4.1. For all Matches of the Competition, each Participating Team will receive a “Player Selection List” on which the jersey numbers and the full names of the Participating Players are listed as per the final selection/registration of twenty-two (22) Participating Players in the AIFF CMS system by the respective Participating Teams;
- 27.4.2. Each Participating Team must indicate on the “Players Selection List” the eleven (11) Participating Players, including the goalkeepers and captain, who will start the Match and the Participating Players who are designated as substitutes.
- 27.4.3. Each Participating Team must hand over their “Player Selection List” together with the “Officials on the team Bench” List with the names of the Participating Officials, who shall be entitled to sit on the bench, to the AIFF Match Commissioner at latest ninety (90) minutes prior to the commencement of each Match.

27.4. **Start List**

- 27.5.1. Upon receipt of the Player Selection List, the AIFF Match Commissioner will check through AIFF “CMS” system and produce a final “Start List”.
- 27.5.2. The Start List must be signed by the Head Coach and team Manager of each Participating Team and returned to the AIFF Match Commissioner, whose signature will make it an official document.
- 27.5.3. After the “Start List” has been completed and signed by both the Participating Teams and returned to the Match Commissioner, and if the Match has not yet kicked-off, and if any of the eleven (11) Participating Player(s) selected to start the Match are unable to start for any reason, the following instructions apply:
- 27.5.4. The team manager for the Participating Team shall immediately notify the Referees and the AIFF Match Commissioner of the change to the Start List.
- 27.5.5. He/They may be replaced by any of the substitutes listed on the “Start List”
- 27.5.6. During the Match, five (5) Participating Players may still be substituted;

however, the Participating Team's substitute's quota will be reduced accordingly.

27.5.7. The Participating Player(s) so replaced cannot be named as substitute player and sit on the substitute bench.

27.5.8. A suspended Participating Player or Official shall not be allowed to sit on the substitute bench.

27.5.9. The use of any electronic communication equipment and/or system between and/or amongst Participating Players and/or technical staff is not permitted.

28. Documents for Registration of Players

28.1. For the registration of Participating Players for the Competition, the Participating Players must be registered using the AIFF Competition Management System (hereinafter referred as "CMS") after completing due process in the AIFF Central Registration System (the "AIFF CRS").

28.2. Participating Players must be registered in the CRS with the supporting documents set out below:

28.2.1. Proof of Nationality (i.e. original scan copy of Indian Passport (preferred) or any other Indian Government issued document proving the Indian nationality of the player;

28.2.2. one (1) passport-size colour photo;

28.2.3. Declaration by the respective Member Association that the Participating Player(s) are representing the state team;

28.2.4. OCI card along with a copy of the FIFA Clearance and passport (in case if the Participating Player is an OCI card holder) wherever applicable.;

28.3. Participating Players must be registered in the CMS (after being approved in CRS) with the supporting documents set out below:

28.3.1. Medical Fitness Certificate as per Annexure I;

28.4. The AIFF reserves the right to request additional documents in all cases.

28.5. For Participating Players holding OCI card, a copy of Passport and OCI card (attested by a Class I or Class II Gazetted Officer) along with address proof and proof of residential status in India (authorized by government of India), along with the FIFA

Clearance must be provided to the AIFF as evidence.

29. Replacement of Players for Final Round

- 29.1. A team can replace any number of players for the Final Round only from the remaining eighteen (18) players listed in the initial registration of forty (40) Players in the CMS.
- 29.2. Participating Teams registering less than forty (40) Players in the CMS will not be allowed to replace or add any Participating Players for the Final Round, even in case of injury.
- 29.3. Replacement is not allowed for the suspended Players (if any Player is suspended due to red card, double cautions or any disciplinary matter during the group stage of the competition).

30. Substitutions

- 30.1. Five (5) of the substitutes listed on the 'Start List' may take part in the Match. Any Participating Player who has been substituted may take no further part in that Match.
- 30.2. To reduce disruption, each Participating Team has a maximum of three (3) opportunities to make substitutions during a game. In addition, substitutions may also be made at half-time (and, where extra time is played, in the interval between full time and the start of extra time, and during half-time in extra time). If both Participating Teams make a substitution at the same time, this counts as one of the three opportunities for each Team.
- 30.3. If a Match goes to extra time, any unused substitutions and opportunities are carried forward and can be used during extra time.

31. Registration of Officials

- 31.1. Each Participating Team shall register its Participating Officials via the AIFF CMS along with the supporting documents within the time notified by the AIFF.
- 31.2. Each Participating Team may register maximum of four (4) Officials by registering them on AIFF CMS. Among these Officials, compulsorily, one (1) should be a Doctor (with MBBS Degree) or one (1) Physiotherapist with a degree certificate in Physiotherapy.
- 31.3. Should the AIFF not receive the "Official Registration for Officials" via the AIFF CMS with all required documents by the stipulated deadline, the Participating Team shall be considered to have withdrawn from the Competition in accordance with Article 9. Proof of submission by facsimile, courier and/or email or by any other means will not be accepted.

31.4. Once the registration of Participating Officials has been received by the AIFF, the Participating Teams may replace any of the listed Officials at any stage of the Competition with forty-eight (48) hours' notice to the AIFF.

32. Documents for Registration of Officials

32.1. Officials of the Participating Teams must be registered on the AIFF Coaching Portal, with the supporting documents set out below:

32.1.1. a colour copy of a verifiable government issued national identification card of any country;

32.1.2. one (1) passport-size colour photo;

32.1.3. evidence of their qualification based upon their function:

32.1.3.1. Head Coach: Minimum AFC "B" License certificate or any higher certificate along with a confirmation/ appointment letter from the respective Member Association;

32.1.3.2. Manager: confirmation/ appointment Letter from the respective Member Association;

32.1.3.3. Team Doctor/ Physio: Degree from a recognized University and confirmation/appointment letter from the respective Member Association.

32.2. All Participating Team's Officials, including but not limited to the coach, physio, doctor and team manager, need to be registered on the AIFF CMS system as well, with their respective credentials. Participating Teams must mandatorily register the following officials: -

- i. Team Manager;
- ii. Head coach;
- iii. Doctor or Physiotherapist

32.3. The AIFF General Secretariat has a right to ask further documentations for the clarification of the eligibility of the Officials other than documentations listed above.

SECTION 6: LOGISTICAL ARRANGEMENTS

33. Participating Team's Travel

33.1. Participating Teams shall be reimbursed 3tier A/c rail fare to and fro for twenty-six (26) persons (22 Participating Players and 4 Officials), bus fare, where bus journey

is involved on production of actual tickets and reservation slip.

- 33.2. For Jammu and Kashmir, bus fare shall be paid from Srinagar to Jammu and back (on production of actual tickets) and train fare from Jammu to the Competition Venue. For Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Lakshadweep, travel fare shall be paid according to their mode of travel to the Venue (Ferry, boat, bus or train).
- 33.3. Rail fare/bus fare reimbursement shall be paid only for the actual number of Players and Officials accompanying the Participating Team, subject to a maximum of twenty-six (26) persons. (twenty-two (22) Players and four (4) Officials).
- 33.4. Journey allowances of rupees four hundred (Rs.400/-) per person per day shall be paid during train/bus journey (if the team's travel is more than twelve (12) hours).
- 33.5. Each Participating Team shall arrive at the Host City of the Competition within the time as notified by the AIFF and shall upon arrival, immediately report to the person designated by the AIFF for that Participating Team.
- 33.6. The host Member Association's Participating Team is not entitled to receive any expenses towards travelling.

34. Allowances, Boarding & Lodging of Participating Teams

- 34.1. AIFF/Host Member Association will provide boarding and lodging to all the Participating Teams, starting two (2) days before the Participating Team's first match and ending on the day of their last match of the competition. For North East Teams, boarding and lodging shall be provided as per their arrival date (maximum three (3) days before). Participating Teams and their accompanying Officials shall have to make their own arrangements for stay beyond the days allocated by the AIFF. All the Participating Teams shall travel by the shortest routes
- 34.2. Where, lodging and boarding is not provided by the AIFF/Host Member Association, each participating team shall be paid a daily allowance of Rs. 1,440/- per head per day for twenty-six (26) persons only.

35. Allowances to AIFF Match Officials

- 35.1. The AIFF Official Delegation and the Match Officials shall be entitled to receive the following from the host Member Association under directions from the AIFF:
 - i. AC 2-tier rail fare/luxury bus to and fro from the city hosting the Competition;
 - ii. INR 300/- during journey, per day;
 - iii. INR 2000/- daily allowance for Referees, Match Commissioners and Referee Assessors or any other AIFF Official;

- iv. INR 1000/- incidental charges - lump sum reimbursement upon submission of actual receipts;
- v. INR 1000/- for officiating every extra match
- vi. Free accommodation different from the Participating Players and Team's Officials at the Host City;
- vii. Free medical facilities throughout the duration of the Competition;
- viii. Appropriate local transport for the duration of the Competition.

35.2. The allowances to be paid to the Match Officials, starting two (2) days before the start of the Competition and one (1) day after the last Match, subject to actual arrival and departure of the Officials.

36. Host Member Association's Obligations

36.1. The host Member Association should provide free of cost, the following to the Participating Teams:

- i. Local transport for the duration of the Competition;
- ii. Railway/Bus/Airport reception upon arrival/departure of the Teams;
- iii. Free Local transport from Railway/Bus/Airport to the place of lodging and back;
- iv. Free local transport for matches and practice sessions;
- v. Practice ground facilities;
- vi. Potable drinking water at the practice grounds and the main Venue;
- vii. Provision of ambulances on Match days.

SECTION 7: MEDIA

37. General

37.1. The host Member Association shall remain responsible to ensure that all media requirements and facilities are met at their own cost.

38. Media Access Areas

38.1. Representatives of the written press and radio journalists are not permitted on the field of play or the area between the boundaries of the field of play and the spectators.

38.2. Only photographers (as accredited by the AIFF), TV cameramen of the host broadcaster and the main visiting broadcast licensee and the personnel required

to operate the electronic television cameras of the host broadcaster are allowed in the area between the boundaries of the field of play and the spectators, where they will carry out their work in the specific locations assigned to them.

- 38.3. No Media representatives are permitted to enter any team dressing room at any stage of any Match.
- 38.4. The host Member Association shall ensure that the officials of AIFF, FSDL, the Host Broadcaster and Broadcast Affiliates have free access to the Stadium premises from three (3) days prior to Match day until one (1) day after the Match, in order to access the technical issues of each and to assemble and construct the relevant infrastructure as communicated by AIFF Secretariat required for the execution of the Broadcast Rights.
- 38.5. The host Member Association is responsible for ensuring that the Media Rights are protected and that no unofficial or unauthorised broadcaster and/or video or ENG camera crews are permitted access to the Stadium premises without the prior written permission of the concerned AIFF official.

39. Accreditation

- 39.1. The AIFF secretariat will issue the media accreditation if and when deemed necessary.
- 39.2. Final issuing authority for all Media Accreditation is AIFF.

40. Press Conferences

- 40.1. The AIFF will organize a pre Match press conference one (1) day prior to each Match of the Competition and a post-Match press conference after each Match.
- 40.2. Head Coaches of the Participating Teams and one (1) starting Participating Player from each Participating Team must attend and participate in that. The Participating Team media officer must try to ensure the attendance of the Head Coach and at least one (1) starting Participating Player.
- 40.3. Each Participating Team is responsible (if applicable) for the interpretation of its Head Coach and relevant Participating Players words into English. Interpretation into the local language (if applicable) shall be the responsibility of the respective Member Associations.
- 40.4. Non-compliance with Article 40.2 will result in disciplinary action which may include a fine of a minimum of INR 20,000 (Rupees Twenty Thousand).
- 40.5. For the avoidance of doubt, the relevant Participating Team shall also be held liable for any breach of Article 40.2. The AIFF Disciplinary Committee may issue further sanctions at its discretion.

41. Interviews

- 41.1. If requested by AIFF Secretariat and/or the AIFF's Commercial Rights partner, both Participating Teams should have their head coach and one(1) Participating Player available for the day before each Match and/or the Match day for an interview of up to ten (10) minutes, to be recorded by the main TV rights-holding broadcaster (or local TV rights-holding broadcaster) in the territory of the relevant MA and/or the Competition's official media partners, for the purpose of continental news-exchange distribution to all Competition Right holders and the Competition's official social media handles.
- 41.2. Participating Players and Officials of Participating Teams are not permitted to give interviews during the Match on the field of play or in its immediate vicinity. However, a designated area can be identified by the AIFF between the substitute's benches and dressing rooms in which (flash) interviews for the host television broadcaster, including the visiting TV rights-holding broadcaster, can take place at the end of the Match.
- 41.3. For the (flash) interviews, the head coach and at least one (1) key Participating Player from both Participating Teams must be available for the host broadcaster and the visiting TV rights-holding broadcaster upon their request. All the required Participating Players and the head coach of each group must be briefed by their respective team media officer prior to the Match so they are aware of their responsibilities in this regard.
- 41.4. Any individual who fails to conduct an interview when requested shall be fined at least INR 20,000. The AIFF Disciplinary Committee may issue further sanctions in its discretion.

SECTION 8: TICKETING

42. Ticketing Policy

- 42.1. The host Member Association shall provide free of cost to the AIFF/ Participating Teams/sponsors, the following complimentary tickets/passes for each Match:
- i. For Participating Member Associations: Four (4) VVIP Match passes and thirty (30) best category tickets. (On the day of their Match only)
 - ii. For the AIFF/ Persons authorised by the AIFF/ Sponsors:
 - 35% of the VVIP passes;
 - 50 VIP passes ;
 - 300 passes for best category seats ; and
 - 150 passes for other category seats

- 42.2. AIFF may ask for necessary documents to identify any authorised individuals mentioned in Article 42.1.
- 42.3. Passes are specifically for the Matches issued for.
- 42.4. Car passes in the numbers as requested to be issued by the AIFF, shall be issued by the host Member Association in the timeline provided by the AIFF.
- 42.5. Failure of the host Member Association to adhere to the above shall attract appropriate disciplinary measures from the AIFF.

SECTION 9: EQUIPMENT

43. Basic Equipment

- 43.1. The basic compulsory outfits of a Participating Player shall consist of a jersey or shirts, shorts, stockings, shinguards and footwear. Shinguards, which must be covered entirely by the stockings shall be made of a suitable material (rubber, plastic, polyurethane or similar substance) and shall afford a reasonable degree of protection.
- 43.2. A Participating Player must not use equipment or wear anything that is dangerous to himself or another Participating Player (including any kind of jewellery).
- 43.3. Undershirts must be the same colour as the main colour of the shirt sleeve, undershorts/tights must be the same colour as the main colour of the shorts or the lowest part of the shorts – Participating Players of the same Participating Team must wear the same colours.
- 43.4. If any kinesiology/BB tape is used, the colour of the tape must be of the same main colour of the outfits.

44. Use of slogans

- 44.1. The basic compulsory equipment must not have any political, religious or personal slogans, statements or images.
- 44.2. Participating Players must not reveal undergarments that show political, religious or personal slogans, statements or images, or advertising other than the manufacturer logo.
- 44.3. The Participating Team's Player whose basic compulsory equipment or the undergarments has political, religious, personal slogans, statements, images or advertising other than the manufacturer logo will be sanctioned by the AIFF.

45. Jersey Colours, Numbers, Players Equipment

- 45.1. It is compulsory for the numbers on the attire of the Participating Players to range from one (1) to hundred (100) with number 1 reserved for goalkeeper.
- 45.2. The Participating Teams must declare their first and second colours along with the entry form in AIFF CMS and use these colours for all Matches. Participating Players shall wear the same numbers declared in the entry form submitted via the AIFF CMS, throughout the Competition.
- 45.3. Participating Players shall wear registered numbers on their jersey (back and front) and shorts. Number on jerseys, in contrasting colours shall be between twenty-five (25) to thirty-five (35) cm high at the back and ten (10) to fifteen (15) cm high in front. The number on the shorts (below right) shall be ten (10) to fifteen (15) cm high in contrasting colours. The numbers on the jerseys and shorts shall be clearly visible. Goalkeepers shall wear colours contrasting with those of the two teams and the Referee.
- 45.4. The Participating Teams are obliged to bring along their first and second colours kits to the Stadium and its premises.
- 45.5. Any Participating Team found guilty of allowing its Participating Players to play in jerseys with numbers other than those registered, shall be subject to disciplinary action, including fines.
- 45.6. The Participating Team designated as Team “A” will always have the 1st preference to choose the jersey colour. Team “B” will have to use their alternate colour, in the event of clash of colours. In this matter the Referee’s decision shall be final and non-appealable.
- 45.7. If in the opinion of the Match Commissioner or the Match Referee, the colours of two opposing teams might lead to confusion, or prove unsuitable for television, they shall be changed.
- 45.8. The Match Commissioner, or anyone duly appointed by him shall have the right and duty to check kit items at the Stadium premises and are entitled to confiscate and send any unacceptable items to the AIFF for further inspection after the Match, as they see fit. The same would not be appealable.

46. Responsibility

- 46.1. The AIFF would decide finally regarding equipment items. The AIFF declines all responsibility and authority in the event of conflicts arising from these Regulations upon contracts being entered into between a Participating Team’s Member Association and its sponsor(s).
- 46.2. Each Member Association and the Participating Teams agree to hold the AIFF

harmless from any and all damages which may arise from decisions regarding kits and equipment's.

SECTION 10: MEDICAL & ANTI-DOPING

47. Medical Facilities, Staff and Treatment

- 47.1. Participating Teams must pay for any and all costs of hospitalization, surgical operation and specialized investigative procedures for all members of its Team's Official Delegation.
- 47.2. The host Member Association will provide an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) for all Matches. This is mandatory at all Matches and must be placed next to the 4th Official's seat or at the medical bench, if any.
- 47.3. All Participating Teams shall provide ample insurance cover to their Participating Players and Officials, including injury, accident and health during the Competition along with travel insurance. In the event of any injury to a Participating Player or an Official during a Match, the responsibility of the host Member Association will be to take the injured Participating Player/Official to the nearest hospital as soon as possible and the entire cost of his medication/doctors fee has to be borne by the Participating Team whose Participating Player or Official is injured.
- 47.4. The hosting Member Association either by itself or through the LOC must provide the following to the Participating Teams from two (2) days before their Match day until one (1) day after the Match and to the AIFF Official Delegation from the moment they arrive at the Venue until one (1) day after the Match:
 - i. Medical treatment, including hospital facilities for injuries and emergencies related to the Match, sustained/occurring during their stay. The treatment must cover basic/primary medical care as listed below:
 - Outpatient treatment
 - Minor surgeries (suturing, etc.)
 - Radiological Investigation
 - Emergency Treatment
- 47.5. The host Member Association will provide an emergency medical room, located in close proximity to the player's dressing room/field of play, fully equipped with emergency medical supplies which includes the following:
 - Oxygen with appropriate masks/oral airway
 - Splints (Spinal injuries)
 - Stretchers preferable hard board
 - Suction machine
 - I/V drip sets with emergency injections and medication

- Minor surgery supplies and equipment
- Automated External Defibrillator

47.6. The host Member Association will also provide the following for the Matches: -

- A certified medical officer;
- A team of support Para-medical staff trained in emergency medical care (CPR/ATLS);
- Two (2) ambulances, with them having together, designated drivers equipped with oxygen, masks, defibrillator, I/V drip sets, emergency medicaments and trained medical staff.

47.6.1. The host Member Association will also provide an air-conditioned, brightly lit and well ventilated doping control room is to be made available at all times at the Stadium, equipped with facilities listed below:

- i. One (1) table with four (4) chairs;
- ii. One cabinet with a lock;
- iii. Attached bathroom and toilet equipped with washbasin, mirror and shower
- iv. Sofa for eight (8) persons;
- v. A refrigerator equipped with non-alcoholic drinks in sealed bottles
- vi. mineral water bottles and canned juices;
- vii. A television

47.7. The host Member Association will provide, at its own cost, the following medical personnel on each Match day at the Stadium where the Match is organized:

- i. Stadium emergency medical room supported by a medical officer and a trained medical staff in emergency medicine.
- ii. On-Pitch Medical Services:
 - One (1) on-pitch medical officer trained in emergency medicine;
 - Eight (8) trained stretcher bearers in good physical condition;
 - Two (2) Ambulances equipped with emergency kits.
- iii. Doping control personnel:
 - One (1) Doping Control Assistant (Medical Officer);
 - Four (4) Doping Control Chaperones; and
 - One (1) Security Officer

In the event that the host Member Association does not provide the above

mentioned requirement for the Match, the host Member Association shall forfeit any match subsidies due to the host Member Association from the AIFF.

48. Anti-Doping

- 48.1. Doping is prohibited. The NADA Anti-Doping Regulations, the AIFF Disciplinary Code, and all relevant AIFF directives in relation to anti-doping are applicable to the Competition.
- 48.2. The AIFF shall inform the host Member Association by means of a circular of the doping control procedure for the Competition.

SECTION 11: DISCIPLINARY

49. Disciplinary Measures

- 49.1. All disciplinary measures in relation to the Competition shall be undertaken in accordance with the current AIFF Constitution, AIFF Disciplinary Code and any relevant AIFF guideline, directive or circular as issued by the AIFF. The Participating Teams and their respective Member Associations without limits undertake to be bound by the relevant Constitution/Codes mentioned above.
- 49.2. The AIFF may introduce new disciplinary rules and sanctions for the duration of the Competition. Such rules may be communicated to the Member Associations prior to the date of the scheduled commencement of the Competition.
- 49.3. All Participating Players agree to:
 - 49.3.1. respect the spirit of fair play, non-violence, and the authority of the Match Officials;
 - 49.3.2. behave accordingly;
 - 49.3.3. refrain from doping; and
 - 49.3.4. refrain from indulging in Match fixing or corruption.
- 49.4. The AIFF Disciplinary Committee, based on the nature of the breach, violation or contravention or compliant, may either on its own or on the basis of any complaint received, initiate investigations and take measures for any breach, violation or non-performance or otherwise in accordance with AIFF Constitution, the AIFF Disciplinary Code, any other relevant regulations, guidelines, decisions or the relevant AIFF circular(s) or directions otherwise as per law.
- 49.5. The decisions and the report of the Match Referee and/or Match Officials regarding any act, incident or issue on or outside the field of play shall be considered to be

final, authoritative and binding and would generally not be open to appeal unless substantive incontrovertible proof of any obvious inaccuracy or error is established by authentic documentations beyond any reasonable doubt.

50. Good Conduct

- 50.1. Each Participating Team is directly liable for the improper conduct of any member of its Team's Official Delegation; and/or any person affiliated to it and/or carrying out duties on its behalf throughout the Competition.
- 50.2. Any Participating Player or Official reported for without limitation, any indiscipline or unbecoming or unsporting conduct, violence, or overt act of any nature or conduct amounting to misconduct anywhere including but not limited to the field of play, the changing rooms, at the training sites and in the hotels or otherwise reported by the Referee or the Match Commissioner or any Participating Team or any other person, shall be dealt with by the AIFF Disciplinary Committee in accordance with the applicable Regulations, Code, guidelines as may be deemed necessary.

51. Cautions and Expulsions

- 51.1. All matters relating to cautions and/or expulsions, including the carrying forward of cautions between stages of the Competition, shall be undertaken in accordance with the AIFF Disciplinary Code except where expressly set out below.
- 51.2. Cautions generally will not be carried forward from the group stage to the final round, however, the expulsions of Participating Players and Officials resulting from two (2) yellow cards in same match or a direct red card will be carried forward to each stage of the competition.
- 51.3. A Participating Player/Official who receives two (2) cautions (yellow cards) during the respective stage of the Competition shall automatically be suspended from participating in the Match following the Match in which he received the second caution unless already serving a suspension, in which case pending suspension will get carried forward to the next Match after the previous suspension has been served.
- 51.4. A Participating Player and/or Official who received a red card during the Competition shall automatically be suspended from the Match following the Match in which he received the red card. In addition, based on the gravity of the offence the AIFF Disciplinary Committee may extend the suspension and impose further additional sanction as per the Disciplinary Code. If the Participating Player and/or Official received the red card in his Team's last Match in the Competition, the suspension for the red card the suspension will be carried forward as indicated in the AIFF Disciplinary Code.
- 51.5. A suspended Participating Player and Official shall not be allowed on the substitution bench, technical area and the Dressing Room area and shall not travel

with the Team's Delegation to the Stadium itself.

- 51.6. Each Participating Team shall bear the responsibility of monitoring the cautions and/or suspensions received by its Participating Players and Officials and to ensure that all Participating Players and Officials registered and/or fielded during the Competition are eligible to play. The same can be monitored via the AIFF CMS.

52. Protest

- 52.1. Subject to the following provisions, protests are objections of any kind to occurrences that have a direct effect on Matches organized in the Competition (which may include without limitation the state and marking of the field of play, accessories, Match equipment, eligibility of Participating Players, Stadium installations and footballs) and any matters related to breach of these Regulations.

- 52.2. Unless otherwise stipulated, to be considered valid, protests shall be:

- 52.2.1. submitted in writing on the Protest Form to the AIFF Match Commissioner within two (2) hours of the end of the Match in question;
- 52.2.2. followed up with a full written report, including a copy of the original protest, sent to the AIFF General Secretariat;
- 52.2.3. accompanied by a fee of INR 10,000/- submitted within twenty-four (24) hours from the end of the Match.

- 52.3. Protests against any incidents that occur during the course of a Match shall be made to the Referee by the Participating Team's captain immediately after the disputed incident and before the play has been resumed. The protests shall be confirmed in writing to the AIFF Match Commissioner by the manager of the Team's Official Delegation no later than two (2) hours after the Match along with a fee of INR 10,000/- and followed up with a full report, including a copy of the original protest, to be sent in writing by fax or by mail to the AIFF General Secretariat within 24 hours of the end of the Match, otherwise they shall be disregarded.

- 52.4. Protest against the state of pitch, the markings, the accessory equipment or the footballs shall be made in writing to the Referee before the start of the Match by the manager of the team lodging protest. The final decision on this matter will rest with the Match Referee.

- 52.5. No protests shall lie against the Referee's decisions regarding facts connected with play. Such decisions are final and cannot be appealed unless in cases of obvious errors as per the Disciplinary Code. Should the AIFF Disciplinary Committee determine that a protest is unfounded or irresponsible, it may impose a fine and the protest fee of INR 10,000 will be forfeited.

- 52.6. If any of the formal conditions of a protest as set out in these Regulations are not met, such protest shall be disregarded. Following the completion of the final Match

of the Competition, all protests shall be disregarded.

- 52.7. Pursuant to the regulations of the AIFF, Participating Teams are prohibited from taking disputes to a Civil Court before submitting them first to the appropriate body of the AIFF for resolution and exhausting all of AIFF's internal remedies available.

53. Specific Sanctions

- 53.1. The Participating Player(s), who are not registered in AIFF CRS and fail to produce any of the required documents as specified in article 26 above shall not be allowed to take part in the Competition.
- 53.2. The Member Association(s) found guilty of fielding ineligible Participating Player(s) shall be debarred from participating in next two (2) editions of any AIFF National Football Championships and shall be fined INR 1,00,000/- under any circumstances whatsoever. The case shall immediately be referred to the AIFF Disciplinary Committee for further action.
- 53.3. All Matches involving the Participating Team in question, whether already completed or to be played, shall be cancelled and considered null and void (all points, goals scored and goals against will not be counted and taken into consideration when deciding the ranking in the group)
- 53.4. The Participating Member Association failing to comply with any provisions of these Regulations shall be sanctioned by the AIFF Disciplinary Committee in accordance with the AIFF Disciplinary Code.
- 53.5. Any Participating Team, which does not register an AFC "B" license coach, shall not be allowed to participate in the Competition.
- 53.6. Any Participating Team that does not register a qualified Physiotherapist or a Doctor with the Team, shall be paid allowances only for twenty-two (22) Participating Players' and two (2) Officials and only two (2) Officials shall be allowed to sit in the substitute's bench.

54. Dispute Resolution

- 54.1. Any dispute in connection with the Competition shall be promptly settled by negotiation.
- 54.2. In compliance with the AIFF Constitution, the Participating Teams, their Member Associations, Participating Players, and Participating Officials agree to the exclusive jurisdiction of the AIFF and exhaust all internal remedies.
- 54.3. Participating Teams, their Member Association, Participating Players, and Participating Officials acknowledge and accept that, once all internal channels have been exhausted at the AIFF, their sole recourse shall be to the Court of Arbitration

for Sport (CAS). The CAS Code of Sports-related Arbitration shall be applicable. The language of arbitration shall be English.

- 54.4. The jurisdiction of the CAS to resolve disputes is only available where it has not been expressly excluded or a decision is declared as final and binding and not appealable.
- 54.5. In the event any party after exhausting all remedies mentioned hereinabove, still decides to approach a court of law, the courts in New Delhi shall have exclusive jurisdiction over the matter.

SECTION 12: ROLE OF THE AIFF & THE DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

55. Role of the AIFF

- 55.1. AIFF shall be responsible to supervise the matters related to the organization of the Competition by the host Member Association and deal with and/or arrive in all decision making process and issues mentioned hereunder or otherwise so provided in these Regulations, unless otherwise expressly excluded.
- 55.2. AIFF shall draw the fixtures (Match Schedule); decide the televised and non-televised Venues in consultation with the Broadcasting Sponsors/Partners.
- 55.3. The AIFF shall finalise all the forms required to be filled under any Regulations in the technical conduct of this Competition and to set out where applicable, duties and powers thereof.
- 55.4. Except as expressly provided, the relevant AIFF judicial bodies shall give decisions on matters arising out of any disputes and impose sanctions on the Participating Teams, Officials and Participating Players or the Match Commissioner or Match Officials should any of them fail to comply with these Regulations or any other rules and other regulations of the AIFF or of any decisions or directives given by the AIFF.
- 55.5. Save as expressly provided in these Regulations, the AIFF may convene meetings with Participating Team's representatives to sort out any issues between Participating Teams, and/or between Participating Teams and Participating Players or any other disputes concerning the organisation of the Competition.
- 55.6. AIFF shall provide due and necessary clarifications or explanations in the event of any doubt regarding the interpretation of these Regulations or any other related matters and its decision shall be final and binding.
- 55.7. The AIFF shall coordinate the work of various Committees or agencies involved in the organisation of the Competition.
- 55.8. The AIFF shall be at liberty to add, alter, modify or change any part of these

Regulations whenever necessary.

55.9. The AIFF shall insure all the officials are deputed by the AIFF General Secretariat for conduct of the Matches.

56. Disciplinary Committee

56.1. Save as have been expressly provided in these Regulations, the AIFF Disciplinary Committee shall deal with all disciplinary matters related to the Competition in accordance with the provisions of the AIFF Disciplinary Code.

56.2. In its decisions the Disciplinary Committee shall rely upon, amongst others, the AIFF Disciplinary Code and these Regulations.

56.3. The decisions of the Disciplinary Committee shall be based, inter alia, on the written reports of the Referee, the Match commissioner and the Referees Assessor. The Committee may also, if deemed necessary, refer to and rely upon any other evidence, like television and video recordings, reports and others by whatever name called.

56.4. Appeal may be lodged with the Appeals Committee of the AIFF or any Committee duly constituted by the AIFF, against any decision of the Disciplinary Committee which is not stipulated as final under these Regulations. The procedure followed by the Appeal Committee shall be in accordance with those provided in the applicable AIFF regulations.

SECTION 13: ADMINISTRATION

57. Financial Provisions

57.1. Participating Teams will be given financial assistance for logistical arrangements as provided for under Section 6 of these Regulations for the entire Competition at the end of the Competition.

57.2. Referees and Other Match Officials: -
Match Officials will be paid as per Art. 35 of these regulations. Payments will be made to the Match Officials directly under arrangements of the AIFF.

57.3. After completion of each Match, the Referee, Fourth Official and Match Commissioner shall fill the official report form and the claim form after their last match in the zonal/Final competition in AIFF CMS.

57.4. In the event of any act of gross indiscipline by the Participating Players, Officials or organisers (host MA) the Match Commissioner shall fill up the confidential report in the AIFF CMS soon after the conclusion of the Match.

57.5. No further subsidy or allowance amounts shall be provided to the Participating

Teams for any accommodation, meals or refreshments, transport (including air and road) either prior, during or after the Competition. Arrangements for the accommodation, meals or refreshments, transport (including air and road), if any provided by the AIFF/ host Member Association shall be as notified herein in Section 6, or as further notified with changes to the Member Associations of Participating Teams via separate communication by the AIFF prior to the Participating Team's Team Official Delegation arriving in the city hosting the Competition.

58. Commercial and Marketing Rights

- 58.1. All the Commercial Rights related to the Competition including but not limited to Wireless, Broadcast, Interactive, Advertisement & Marketing rights and the title, gate decoration, decoration of stage for prize distribution, are either the property of the AIFF or its Commercial Rights partner.
- 58.2. All the perimeter boards, advertising areas at ground, first, second tier levels area are also the property of the AIFF or its Commercial Rights partner. If the host Member Association wants to put any advertisement boards, prior permission of the AIFF will have to be obtained for displaying the same. These boards should not be in conflict with any of the sponsors of AIFF and its Commercial Rights partner.
- 58.3. Advertisement rights on the Match tickets belong solely to the AIFF. The ticket design will be finalized and provided by the AIFF or its Commercial Rights partner.
- 58.4. The television, Internet rights and other media rights belong solely to the AIFF's Commercial Rights partner.
- 58.5. All the revenue from exploration of television and commercial rights for the Competition Matches belongs to the AIFF and/or its Commercial Rights partner.
- 58.6. No Commercial Rights shall accrue to the host Member Association or any other third party whatsoever, in connection to this Competition.

59. Trophies, Medals & Prizes

- 59.1. The winner of the Competition shall be awarded a replica of the rolling trophy. Cash prizes shall also be awarded.
- 59.2. Besides cash prizes the following articles shall also be awarded:
 - i. Medals for each of the registered Participating Players and Officials of the champions, runners-up and third place match winner.

60. Prize Presentation Ceremony

- 60.1. A prize presentation ceremony, managed and controlled by the host Member Association, will be held immediately after the last Match of the Competition to award the Trophy and Medals.

61. Special Provisions

- 61.1. The AIFF shall, in conjunction with the host Member Association, issue any instructions necessitated by special circumstances which might arise in the organisation of the Matches. These instructions shall form an integral part of these Regulations.
- 61.2. Jurisdiction relating to adjudication of any dispute shall, unless provided otherwise in these Regulations or under any Code or Statute of the AIFF, shall be at Delhi being the headquarter of the AIFF.

62. Fair Play

- 62.1. In every Match of the Competition, Fair Play shall be actively promoted through the FIFA Fair Play flags.

63. Intellectual Property

- 63.1. The AIFF is the exclusive owner of all intellectual property rights connected with the Competition, including any current or future rights of the Competition's name, logos, brands, medals and trophies. Any use of the aforementioned rights requires the prior written consent of the AIFF and must always conform to the instructions and guidelines on correct usage as issued by the AIFF from time to time.

64. Decisions

- 64.1. All decisions made in accordance with these Regulations, except where expressly identified otherwise, are final and binding and not appealable.

65. Amendments

- 65.1. The AIFF reserves the right to make amendments to any part of these Regulations for any reason whatsoever at any time prior to the commencement of the Competition.

SECTION 14: CODE OF CONDUCT

66. Code of Conduct

- 66.1. By agreeing to take part in the Competition, the members of the Participating Teams' Team Official Delegation agree to abide by the following code of conduct.

- 66.1.1. Be punctual on all occasion including but not limited to field of play, Press Meets, meetings, Match day countdown etc.;

- 66.1.2. Respect the decisions of the AIFF and host Member Association;
- 66.1.3. Respect the Laws of the Game, the Referee, Match Commissioner and their decisions;
- 66.1.4. Display and promote high standards of exemplary behaviour;
- 66.1.5. Promote Fair Play;
- 66.1.6. Always respect Match Officials decisions;
- 66.1.7. Never engage or participate in public criticism of the Match Officials;
- 66.1.8. Never indulge in offensive, insulting or abusive language or behaviour;
- 66.1.9. Never engage in any brawl, bullying, intimidation, and physical or verbal assault, abusing language or harassment;
- 66.1.10. Speak to team mates, officials of own team and opponent team with respect;
- 66.1.11. Win or lose with dignity;
- 66.1.12. No Participating Player/Official of a Participating Team shall make any adverse comment anytime against opponent Participating Team or the AIFF or any of its officials;
- 66.1.13. No Participating Player/Official shall make any adverse comment anytime against the host Member Association or LOC;
- 66.1.14. No Player/Official of a Participating Team shall make any adverse comment anytime against AIFF/the Competition;
- 66.1.15. Any Participating Player or Official who insults someone in any way by using offensive gestures or language or who violates the principles of fair play or whose behaviour is found to be unsporting in any other way or uses violence or threat to pressure any Match Official into taking certain action or to hinder him from acting as per free will, shall be sanctioned with severe punishment in accordance with the AIFF Disciplinary Code.

66.2. The above code of conduct is not exhaustive but indicative only.

SECTION 15: RESIDUARY

67. Force Majeure

- 67.1. The AIFF is the only body capable of declaring and accepting the existence of a Force Majeure event.

68. Matters not provided for

- 68.1. Matters not provided for in these Regulations shall be decided by the AIFF Executive Committee. Such decisions are final and binding and not appealable.

Mr. Kalyan Chaubey
President

Dr. Shaji Prabhakaran
Secretary General

ANNEXURE I: Certificate of Medical Fitness

CERTIFICATE OF MEDICAL FITNESS

To be obtained only from a Gazetted Government Medical Officer/Medical Officer of a Government Undertaking. Please note that this medical certificate in no other form will be accepted. Medical Certificates issued by private medical practitioners will not be accepted.

Name (in block letter)	
Father's name	
Address	
Age (as declared) /Sex	
Pulse: rate per minute/ regular or not	
BP: Systolic/Diastolic	
Respiratory Rate: Rate per minute, regular or not	
Heart Sound: Rate per minute, regular or not, any murmur or additional sound	
Breath sound: Types of breath sound, any additional sound (site)	
Any Organomegaly: Liver/Kidney/Spleen	
ECG : Abnormal findings if any	

The footballer has to declare the following problems in front of the certifying Doctor. Please mark "Yes" or "No" against the questions.

1. Any history of fever in the last 1 month.
2. Any history of breathlessness (normally).
3. Any history of breathlessness on exertion.
4. Any history of jaundice.
5. Any history of seizure.
6. Any history of sudden loss of consciousness.
7. Any history of head injury associated with momentary cognitive deficits (time /place person) in the last 3 months.
8. Any history of major surgery in the last 2 months.
9. Any history of major muscle or bone injury in the last 2 months.
10. Any history of heart illness in the family.
11. Any history of diabetes.
12. Any history of hypertension.

If "yes" in any of these questions, a specialist doctor of the concern problem (s) must certify separately an additional medical clearance certificate to resume training or to compete.

I certify that I have carefully examined Sh./Km./ _____
_____ son/daughter of Sh. _____,
who has signed in my presence.

He /She has no mental and physical disease and is FIT.

Signature of the Candidate

**Signature of the Medical Officer
with legible seal**

Station : _____

Date : _____