



**OFC**

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*championship*

## **REGULATIONS**

# **OFC U-19 Men's Championship 2024**

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## DEFINITIONS

In these Regulations:

**Broadcast Rights** refer to the right to broadcast, cause to be broadcast, record, film, photograph, process or transmit the tournament in any form by radio, television, internet and/or any other form of transmission of text, still image, audio and/or video signals currently known or developed hereafter, that is delivered or transmitted wirelessly [e.g. by microwave links, satellite, mobile devices], via fixed line [e.g. wire, closed circuits, online communication such as web casting], or otherwise, live or deferred, in colour or monochrome;

**Competition** means the OFC U-19 Men's Championship 2024 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, official activities, meetings and events such as match coordination meeting, press conferences, and other media and marketing activities organised by OFC and/or the Host Association;

**Qualifying Competition** means the qualifying stage of the Competition as per Article 13.1 of these Regulations.

**Championship Competition** means the qualifying stage of the Competition as per Article 13.2 of these Regulations.

**Commencement of the Competition** means

- For the Qualifying Competition: the first match of the Qualifying stage of the Competition as set out in the Match Schedule;
- For the Championship Competition: the first match of the Championship stage of the Competition as set out in the Match Schedule.

**Competition Data** means any and all information related to the Competition, including fixture lists, image rights, information and/or statistics about the Participating Member 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;

**Delegation Member** means any Player or Team Official included in the Official Team List;

**Force Majeure** means any event affecting the performance of any provision of these Regulations arising from or attributable to acts, events, omissions or accidents which are beyond the reasonable control of the party, and shall include but not be limited to abnormally inclement weather, flood, lightning, storm, fire, explosion, earthquake, structural damage, 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; but not including events arising as a consequence of failing to action a requirement under these Regulations including but not limited to a delay in obtaining, or failing to obtain, any necessary official document required for international travel;

**Host Association** means an Ordinary Member Association that has been appointed to host a stage (Qualifying stage or Championship stage) and/or a match of the Competition by the OFC Executive Committee;

**Hosting Letter of Appointment** means the letter of appointment whereby the Ordinary Member Association received the right to host;

**Marketing Rights** means all rights of commercial exploitation relating to the Competition by any means and in whatever form, currently known or developed hereafter, including, in particular but not limited to, by means of advertising, promotion, marketing, merchandising (including but not limited to publications, musical compositions, coins, stamps, DVDs, videos, apparel and electronic games of any nature), licensing any other rights and/or commercial opportunities relating to, or in connection with, the Competition, including any and all sale and concession rights, displays, sampling and hospitality at any venue of the Competition;

**Match Officials** means any individual appointed to officiate in the Competition in the role of Referee, Assistant Referee, Fourth Official, Fifth Official and any other Match Official stipulated in the Laws of the Game;

**Media Rights** means 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 programme 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.

**OFC** means Oceania Football Confederation Incorporated;

**OFC Competitions** means the OFC Competitions Department;

**Official Competition Period** means the period commencing three days before the opening match of each stage of the Competition (Qualifying Competition or

Regulations for the OFC Men's U-19 National Team Championship 2024

Championship Competition) and one day after the final match of each stage of the Competition.

**Ordinary Member Association** means an OFC Ordinary Member Association as defined in the OFC Statutes;

**Participating Association** means an Ordinary Member Association that has been accepted for entry into the Competition by OFC;

**Regulations** means this document and any amendments to it notified to the Ordinary Member Associations; and

**Team** means the final-registered Players and Team Officials of a Participating Association for each match of the relevant stage of the Competition;

**Tournament Health Protocol** means the OFC Tournament Health Protocol (THP) for the Competition.

**Tournament Period** means the period commencing three days before the opening match until one day after the final match, of the Qualifying Stage, or the Championship Stage of the Competition.

## GENERAL PROVISIONS

### **1. The OFC U-19 Men's Championship 2024**

- 1.1. The FIFA U-20 World Cup is held every two years.
- 1.2. The OFC U-19 Men's Championship 2024 is a preliminary competition for the above event played under the authority given by FIFA pursuant to its Statutes and Regulations which permit Confederations to organise a preliminary competition.
- 1.3. These Regulations regulate the rights, duties and responsibilities of the Host Association and all Ordinary Member Associations taking part in the Competition. The Regulations and all guidelines and circulars issued by OFC are binding for all parties participating and involved in the preparation, organisation and hosting of the Competition.
- 1.4. The OFC Statutes and all OFC regulations in force shall apply. Any reference in these Regulations to the OFC Statutes and regulations refers to the Statutes and regulations valid at the time of application.
- 1.5. By entering the Competition, the Ordinary Member Associations undertake to accept all the obligations on them and the authority of OFC as set out in these Regulations.
- 1.6. Any rights not ceded by these Regulations to the Ordinary Member Associations in the Competition shall remain with OFC.
- 1.7. The Ordinary Member Association must oblige their partners and sponsors to use the correct terminology. On entering this Competition, the Participating Associations guarantee to use and promote the following List of Official Terms in all official publications, promotional materials, websites, social media and both within the respective Ordinary Member Association and when communicating with the media and other external stakeholders.
- 1.8. The Official Terms for this Competition are as follows:
  - 1.8.1. OFC U-19 Men's Championship 2024; and
  - 1.8.2. OFC U-19 Men's ChampionshipOFC U-19 Men's Championship The Participating Associations must oblige their players, team officials and partners to use the correct terminology.
- 1.9. The winner and the runner up of the Competition will qualify directly for the FIFA U-20 World Cup 2025.

### **2. Organisation of the OFC U-19 Men's Championship 2024;**

- 2.1. The OFC Executive Committee has appointed the OFC Competitions Department to organise the Competition. OFC Competitions shall manage the Competition and have the right to decide on all matters.
- 2.2. The OFC Executive Committee has appointed the Vanuatu Football Federation as the Host Association of the Qualifying Competition and Football Regulations for the OFC Men's U-19 National Team Championship 2024

Federation of Samoa as the Host Association of the Championship competition. Each Host Association shall be responsible for hosting each stage of the Competition as appointed by the OFC Executive Committee under the general supervision of OFC. They may appoint a Local Organising Committee ("LOC") to organise the Competition. All OFC Competitions decisions are final and binding.

- 2.3. OFC and the Host Association undertake to observe these regulations and to assist, where practicable, in obtaining visas, and recommending suitable accommodation for Participating Associations and OFC Match Officials.
- 2.4. The responsibilities of OFC Competitions shall include, but are not limited to:
  - 2.4.1. supervising general preparations, the draws, and the entries to the Competition;
  - 2.4.2. determining the Match Schedule, first having consulted with the Host Association;
  - 2.4.3. selecting venues for the Competition after consultation with the Host Association;
  - 2.4.4. choosing the official match ball;
  - 2.4.5. reporting cases where appropriate to the OFC Disciplinary and Ethics Committee;
  - 2.4.6. dealing with cases of cancelled Matches, unplayed or abandoned Matches;
  - 2.4.7. dealing with unforeseen events; and
  - 2.4.8. dealing with any other aspect of the Competition that is not the responsibility of any other body pursuant to these Regulations or the Hosting Letter of Appointment.
- 2.5. The OFC Referee Department are responsible for appointing Match Officials to each match.
- 2.6. If OFC and/or the Host Association do not own a venue for the Competition, the realm of responsibility must be clarified with the venue owner and clearly defined.
- 2.7. The responsibilities of the Host Association shall include but not be limited to:
  - 2.7.1. ensuring that order and safety are maintained, particularly in and around the venues;
  - 2.7.2. ensuring the presence of a sufficient number of ground staff and security stewards to guarantee safety and security;
  - 2.7.3. drafting, implementing and disseminating the Tournament Health Protocol for the Competition in accordance with their national health requirements and with the approval of OFC;
  - 2.7.4. ensuring that both the match and training venues are in a good condition to host an OFC competition, including but not limited to the pitch quality, markings and all of the equipment for the field, i.e. goals, nets, corner flags, and covered benches for the teams and fourth official at the match venue;



- 2.7.5. concluding suitable insurance policies against possible spectator accidents or deaths;
- 2.7.6. concluding suitable insurance policies to cover all risks relating to the organisation of the Competition;
- 2.7.7. providing an adequate number of seats and the necessary installations for media representatives [television, press, radio, and internet];
- 2.7.8. ensuring that order and safety is maintained around the accommodation and training sites of the participating teams;
- 2.7.9. staging the Competition in a professional manner overall;
- 2.7.10. assigning a dedicated individual for the duration of the event (arrival to departure), who shall be responsible for assisting in the coordination of local transportation, changes to hotel/meal arrangements, baggage collection and any other needs as they arise for:
  - 2.7.10.1. Each of the Participating Associations. The liaison must be fluent in the primary language of the country assigned, wherever possible;
  - 2.7.10.2. The match officials, including referees, referee assessors, fitness instructors;
  - 2.7.10.3. OFC Executive Committee Members and their guests;
- 2.7.11. Assigning a dedicated individual responsible for local/national media relations and coordinating media activities prior to and during the Competition in conjunction with OFC Media Department; and
- 2.7.12. Assigning a dedicated individual responsible for local/national TV and broadcast relations and coordinating TV and broadcast activities prior to and during the Competition in conjunction with OFC TV Department.

### **3. Participating Associations**

- 3.1. Participation in the Competition is subject to the confirmation of OFC Competitions.
- 3.2. A total of eleven Ordinary Member Associations shall participate across the Competition.
- 3.3. OFC Ordinary Member Associations are entitled to be represented in this Competition by nominating their U-19 Men's national team.
- 3.4. Entry into the Competition is free of charge.
- 3.5. On entering the Competition, the Participating Associations automatically undertake to:
  - 3.5.1. observe these regulations, the Laws of the Game, OFC's statutes and regulations, guidelines, circulars, directives, decisions, stipulations, protocols and requirements;

- 3.5.2. take all necessary actions for their players and officials to understand and comply with all the OFC statutes, regulations, guidelines, circulars, directives, decisions,
- 3.5.3. accept and obey the decisions passed by OFC under the terms of these Regulations;
- 3.5.4. ensure that its Delegation Members (not only its players) observe the principles of fair play;
- 3.5.5. participate with their best available Team in all matches of the Competition in which their team is scheduled to take part;
- 3.5.6. refrain from any illegal, immoral or unethical behaviour that damages, or could damage the integrity and reputation of football and must always cooperate fully with OFC in its efforts to prevent, investigate and sanction such behaviour;
- 3.5.7. ensure that they have consent of every person:
  - 3.5.7.1. to transfer their personal information to OFC to use for the Competition purposes;
  - 3.5.7.2. to transfer to third parties such as FIFA, the relevant Host Association, travel agents, hotels, airlines etc;
  - 3.5.7.3. to transfer the Competition Data to third parties; and
  - 3.5.7.4. to post any Competition Data, images, player profile information and statistics on any website;
- 3.5.8. accept that all the administrative, disciplinary and refereeing matters related to the Competition shall be dealt with by OFC;
- 3.5.9. accept all the arrangements made by OFC and/ or the Host Association;
- 3.5.10. submit to OFC Competitions all the required information and/or documentation no later than as prescribed by the relevant issued Circular. Ordinary Member Associations that fail to provide OFC Competitions with all requested information and/or documentation by a stipulated deadline shall be fined NZ\$ 500 by the OFC General Secretariat for each occasion, except in cases of Force Majeure; and
- 3.5.11. accept the usage by OFC and/ or sublicense by OFC to third parties, as well as the recordings and broadcast of the images, names and records of Delegation Members that may appear at or in connection with the Competition.
- 3.6. In addition, each Participating Association shall be responsible for:
  - 3.6.1. the behaviour of their players, officials, members, supporters and any person carrying out duties on their behalf throughout the Competition, either at home or from their arrival in the host country until their departure;
  - 3.6.2. confirming the necessary travel and accommodation arrangements for all Delegation Members in good time;
  - 3.6.3. applying for passports and visas in good time from the relevant authorities, and covering all costs involved [if necessary];

- 3.6.4. arranging compulsory health, accident and travel insurance cover for all of its Delegation Members prior to departure from their home country;
- 3.6.5. paying for incidental costs and expenses incurred by its Delegation Members during the course of their stay in the host country and for any costs incurred by any persons carrying out duties on its behalf, all of which must be paid in full prior to departure from the host country;
- 3.6.6. paying for any costs of extending the stay of any Delegation Member or any persons carrying out duties on its behalf;
- 3.6.7. attending and participating in all official activities, meetings and events such as team workshops, Match Coordination Meeting, press conferences, welcome function and other media and marketing activities, etc. organised by OFC and/or the Host Association. Participating Associations that fail to attend any official activity, meeting, event and other official functions in the Competition shall be fined NZ\$ 500 by the OFC General Secretariat for each occasion; and
- 3.6.8. Complying with and implementing (where applicable) the measures identified in the relevant Tournament Healthcare Protocol ('THP') established by the Host Association.

#### **4. Integrity of the Competition and match-fixing**

- 4.1. All persons bound by OFC's rules and regulations, guidelines, circulars, directives, decisions, stipulations, protocols and requirements must refrain from any behaviour that damages or could damage the integrity of matches and the Competition and must always cooperate fully with OFC in its efforts to combat such behaviour.
- 4.2. The integrity of matches and the Competitions is violated, for example but not limited to, by anyone:
  - 4.2.1. who acts in a manner that is likely to exert an unlawful or undue influence on the course and/or result of a match or Competition with a view to gaining an advantage for themselves or a third party;
  - 4.2.2. who participates directly or indirectly in betting or similar activities relating to competition matches or who has a direct or indirect financial interest in such activities;
  - 4.2.3. who uses or provides others with information, which is not publicly available, which is obtained through their position in football, and damages or could damage the integrity of a match or Competition;
  - 4.2.4. who does not immediately and voluntarily inform OFC if approached in connection with activities aimed at influencing in an unlawful or undue manner the course and/or result of a match or the Competition; and

- 4.2.5. who does not immediately and voluntarily report to OFC any behaviour they are aware of that may fall within the scope of this Article.
- 4.3. Concerns or complaints of match-fixing must be reported immediately to the OFC Integrity Officer by email to [integrity@oceaniafootball.com](mailto:integrity@oceaniafootball.com).
- 4.4. If filed after the relevant Competition stage has finished, complaints regarding match-fixing can have no impact on the sporting result of the Competition or match in question and, therefore, the match cannot be replayed.
- 4.5. If OFC concludes to its reasonable satisfaction that a Participating Association has been directly and/or indirectly involved in any activity aimed at arranging or influencing the outcome of a match at domestic or international level, such Participating Association will be declared ineligible to enter in the Competition.

## **5. Insurance**

- 5.1. The OFC shall provide the OFC Delegation, including match officials, travel insurance cover in accordance with OFC's policies from the time of their departure from home to the time of arrival. If they are not travelling internationally, no travel insurance cover will be provided. Match officials who are not travelling internationally, if injured while officiating at a match or during other official duties, OFC will pay the reasonable medical costs of emergency treatment.
- 5.2. Each Host Association must have public liability and indemnity insurance cover. Such insurance cover must involve an appropriate sum for injury and damage to persons and property and correspond to the specific responsibilities, circumstances of the Host Association. The policies must fully cover all risks concerned with staging of the Competition. Each Host Association must provide to OFC certificates of insurance one month before the Competition commences.
- 5.3. If Vanuatu Football Federation is the Host Association, OFC must be named as an insured party on their policies.
- 5.4. The Participating Associations have insurance cover (including travel, medical and public liability) for their delegation, including players and officials, at their own expense, at an adequate level to cover the Competition. Claims for damages against OFC are expressly excluded, and the Participating Associations shall hold OFC harmless against any such claims.
- 5.5. Each Participating Association must provide to OFC, before each Competition commences, a certificate of insurance of the insurance policies.
- 5.6. Each Participating Association and each Host Association shall discharge OFC and hold it harmless from all responsibility and relinquish any claim against OFC and the members of its delegation for any damages resulting from any act or omission relating to the organisation of the Competition other than damages as a result of the negligence of OFC or members of its delegation.

- 5.7. OFC maintains subrogation rights against the Participating Associations for any liability arising from their participation in the Competition.

## **6. Withdrawal prior to commencement of the competition (Qualifying stage and/or Championship stage)**

- 6.1. All Participating Associations undertake to play all of their matches in the Competition until eliminated.
- 6.2. Any Participating Association that:
- 6.2.1. withdraws from the Competition prior to its commencement; or
  - 6.2.2. is excluded from the Competition prior to its commencement; or
  - 6.2.3. fails to submit the Official Team List by the deadlines prescribed in Article 20.1; or
  - 6.2.4. fails to arrive in the host country with a minimum of 16 Players and 3 Team Officials prior to the Commencement of the Competition;
- will be considered to have withdrawn from the Competition prior to its commencement.
- 6.3. In the case of a Participating Association withdrawing prior to the Commencement of the Competition, the OFC shall be responsible for making any decisions, including but not limited to:
- 6.3.1.1. replacing the Participating Association;
  - 6.3.1.2. changing the Match Schedule (cf. Article 18).
- 6.4. Any Participating Association that withdraws prior to the Commencement of the Competition will be liable for disciplinary action by the OFC Disciplinary and Ethics Committee and shall be fined NZ\$ 40,000.
- 6.5. Furthermore, any Participating Association that withdraws may be ordered to reimburse OFC and/ or the Host Association for any costs and expenses already incurred as a result of its involvement in the Competition and may also be obliged to pay compensation for any damages or losses incurred.
- 6.6. The OFC Disciplinary and Ethics Committee may also impose additional sanctions, including the right to ban the Ordinary Member Association from any other OFC Competition and/ or competition.
- 6.7. The OFC Disciplinary and Ethics committee shall determine the amount of damages for financial loss upon receipt of a substantiated and documented request from OFC and/ or the Host Association.
- 6.8. OFC shall take whatever action is deemed necessary in the case of Force Majeure.

## **7. Withdrawal after commencement of the competition (Qualifying stage and/or Championship stage)**

- 7.1. Any Participating Association that:
- 7.1.1. withdraws from the Competition after it has commenced; or
  - 7.1.2. does not report for a Match; or

- 7.1.3. refuses to play or continue a Match; or
- 7.1.4. leaves the match venue prior to the completion of a Match, will be considered to have withdrawn from the Competition after its commencement.
- 7.2. A Participating Association that withdraws from the Competition after it has commenced shall:
  - 7.2.1. be disqualified from participating in the Competition;
  - 7.2.2. have all its matches cancelled and considered null and void. OFC will award victory and the resultant three points to the opposing team as well as the score of 3-0;
  - 7.2.3. be disqualified from participating in the next OFC Competition;
  - 7.2.4. be ordered to reimburse OFC, the Host Association or any other Participating Association for any expenses incurred as a result of its behaviour;
  - 7.2.5. where applicable, be required to pay compensation for any damages incurred by OFC, the Host Association or any other Participating Association. The association in question will also forfeit any claim to financial remuneration from OFC;
  - 7.2.6. be referred to the OFC Disciplinary and Ethics Committee which may impose further sanctions at its discretion, including the right to ban the Ordinary Member Association from any other OFC Competition and/or competition.
- 7.3. Where a claim of damages for financial loss is made, the OFC Disciplinary and Ethics Committee will determine the amount upon receipt of a substantiated and documented request from OFC and/or the Host Association.
- 7.4. Articles 7.1., 7.2. and 7.3. are not applicable in cases of Force Majeure.
- 7.5. OFC shall take whatever action is deemed necessary in the case of Force Majeure.

## **8. Cancellation or abandonment of a match**

- 8.1. If the match is stopped by the Referee before the end of normal time or during any extra time because of any Force Majeure or any other incidents such as, but not limited to, the field is not fit for play, weather conditions, floodlight failure, etc. the following procedures must be followed:
  - 8.1.1. The match is automatically suspended for the duration of 30 minutes to allow conditions to improve sufficiently to restart the match, unless the referee decides that the match can be resumed earlier.
  - 8.1.2. At the discretion of the Referee, another suspension of a maximum of 30 minutes shall be allowed if in his/her opinion this extra period of suspension will allow the match to be resumed. Otherwise, at the end of this second 30-minute period, the Referee must declare the match to have been abandoned.

- 8.1.3. In the case of an abandoned match, OFC shall decide within two hours of the Referee's decision to abandon the match whether the match result at the time of abandonment is valid or whether a replay shall be organised, taking sporting and organisational considerations into account.
- 8.2. If the match cannot commence on time due to Force Majeure or any other incidents such as, but not limited to, the field is not fit for play, weather conditions, floodlight failure, etc. the following procedures must be followed:
  - 8.2.1. The match must first be delayed for a minimum of 30 minutes, unless the Referee decides that the match can commence earlier, before a decision to reschedule the match is taken.
  - 8.2.2. At the discretion of the Referee, another delay of a maximum of 30 minutes shall be allowed if in their opinion this extra period of delay will allow the match to commence. Otherwise, at the end of this second 30-minute period, the Referee must declare the match to have been cancelled.
  - 8.2.3. In the case of a cancelled match, OFC shall decide within two hours of the Referee's decision to cancel the match whether the match can be rescheduled, taking sporting and organisational considerations into account, or whether any other action and decision is needed to continue with the competition. Any disciplinary sanctions resulting from the cancelled match shall remain in force.
- 8.3. No appeals may be lodged against decisions stated in Art 8.1 and 8.2 above.
- 8.4. In the case a match is abandoned as a result of Force Majeure for any reason after it has already kicked off, the match shall recommence with the same score at the minute at which play was interrupted, including penalty shoot-out, rather than being replayed in full. The following principles shall apply to the recommencement of the match:
  - 8.4.1. Any recommencement of play must be scheduled so as to comply with the health testing requirements as mandated in the THP. In general, the match shall recommence with the same players on the pitch and substitutes available as when the match was abandoned. However, if a player who was on the pitch when the match was abandoned cannot participate in the recommenced match based on the requirements under the THP, they may be replaced with a substitute player from the Official Start List.
  - 8.4.2. The recommencement of play must be scheduled so as to comply with the health testing requirements as mandated in the THP. In general, no additional substitutes may be added to the list of players on the team sheet. However, if a player who was a substitute in the abandoned match cannot participate in the recommenced match based on the requirements under the THP, they may be replaced with a player from the provisional list, as defined at paragraph 20.6.1.

- 8.4.3. The teams can make only the number of substitutions to which they were still entitled when the match was abandoned;
- 8.4.4. Players sent off during the abandoned match cannot be replaced;
- 8.4.5. Any sanctions imposed before the match was abandoned remain valid for the remainder of the match;
- 8.4.6. The kick-off time, date (foreseen for the following day) and location shall be decided by OFC Competitions;
- 8.4.7. Any matters requiring further decision shall be treated by the OFC.
- 8.5. The COVID-19 pandemic and related circumstances are not, in and of themselves, considered cases of Force Majeure. However, examples of circumstances resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic that may be submitted to OFC for consideration as cases of Force Majeure include the following:
  - 8.5.1. A host association's country's national authorities announce just before a match is scheduled to be played restrictions that prevent the match from being staged;
  - 8.5.2. A visiting team is not permitted to leave the country from which it is due to fly out as a result of closed borders;
  - 8.5.3. A visiting team travelling to the country where a match is scheduled to be played is refused entry and returned to its country of origin;
  - 8.5.4. There is an insufficient number of match officials available to referee the match.
- 8.6. OFC has sole discretion to determine cases of Force Majeure resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.



## **DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES**

### **9. Disciplinary matters**

- 9.1. Disciplinary incidents during the Competition are dealt with in compliance with the OFC Disciplinary Code in force as well as with the relevant circulars and directives, with which the Participating Associations undertake to comply.
- 9.2. OFC may introduce new disciplinary rules and sanctions for the duration of the Competition. Such rules shall be communicated to the Participating Associations at least two weeks before the Commencement of the Competition (Qualifying and/or Championship).
- 9.3. The Participating Associations and their Delegation Members agree to comply with the Laws of the Game and with the OFC Statutes and regulations, guidelines, circulars, directives, decisions, stipulations, protocols and requirements in particular the OFC Disciplinary Code, the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations and the FIFA Equipment Regulations, as well as with all directives and decisions of OFC. The players and team officials agree to comply with all further OFC guidelines, circulars and decisions that have any significance regarding the Competition.
- 9.4. In addition, the players agree notably to:
  - 9.4.1. respect the spirit of fair play and non-violence;
  - 9.4.2. behave accordingly;
  - 9.4.3. refrain from doping as defined by the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations.

### **10. Disputes**

- 10.1. All disputes in connection with the Competition shall be promptly settled by arbitration.
- 10.2. In compliance with the OFC Statutes [Art.40], Participating Associations and their Delegation Members may not take disputes to an ordinary court of law but to the exclusive jurisdiction of OFC and/ or FIFA.
- 10.3. The Participating Associations and their Delegation Members acknowledge and accept that, once all stages of appeal have been exhausted at OFC and/ or FIFA their sole recourse shall be to the Court of Arbitration for Sport ["CAS"]. Any such arbitration proceedings shall be governed by the CAS Code of Sports-related Arbitration.

### **11. Protests**

- 11.1. For the purpose of these Regulations, protests are objections of any kind related to events or matters that directly affect matches, including but not limited to the state of and markings on the pitch, accessory match equipment, eligibility of players, venue installations and match balls.
- 11.2. Unless otherwise stipulated in this Article, protests shall be:

- 11.2.1. Submitted in writing to the OFC General Coordinator within two hours of the conclusion of the match in question: and
- 11.2.2. Followed up within 24 hours by a full written report, sent via email to [competitions@oceaniafootball.com](mailto:competitions@oceaniafootball.com) including a copy of the original protest, and accompanied by a fee of NZ\$ 500 to the OFC General Secretariat. No fee is required to lodge a protest to the Referee under Article 11.4 and 11.6.
- 11.2.3. Protests shall be sent by the specified deadline, otherwise they will be disregarded.
- 11.3. Protests regarding the eligibility of Players nominated for matches shall be submitted in writing to OFC Competitions no later than five working days from distribution of the Official List of Players, accompanied by a fee of NZ\$ 500 to the OFC General Secretariat, otherwise they will be disregarded.
- 11.4. Protests regarding the state of the pitch, its surroundings, markings or accessory items shall be made in writing to the Referee before the start of the match by the Head of Delegation of the team lodging the protest.
- 11.5. If the state of the pitch becomes unplayable during a match, the captain of the protesting Participating Association shall immediately lodge a protest with the Referee in the presence of the captain of the opposing Participating Association. The protest shall then be confirmed in writing to OFC General Coordinator by the Head of Delegation no later than two hours after the match.
- 11.6. Protests regarding any incidents during the course of a match shall be directed to the Referee by the captain immediately after the disputed incident and before play has restarted.
- 11.7. No protests may be made about the Referee's decisions regarding facts connected with play, such decisions being final.
- 11.8. A protest against a caution or expulsion from the field of play after two yellow cards is admissible only if the Referee's error was to mistake the identity of the Player.
- 11.9. If an unfounded or irresponsible protest is lodged, the OFC Disciplinary and Ethics Committee may impose a fine.
- 11.10. In compliance with Art. 40 of the OFC Statutes, Participating Associations may not take disputes to a civil court. If decisions are subject to appeal, the associations shall undertake to submit any such disputes to the jurisdiction of OFC, and, should the need arise, to FIFA and/ or CAS.
- 11.11. Once each stage of the Competition has finished, any protests regarding the sporting procedure during that stage of the Competition shall be disregarded.

## **12. Yellow and Red Cards**

- 12.1. If a Player and/or team official receives two yellow cards in two different matches in the same stage (Qualifying competition or Championship

competition), they will be suspended from their team's next match in the Competition.

- 12.2. If a Player and/or team official is sent-off as a result of a direct red card or two yellow cards during the same match, they will be automatically suspended from their team's next match in the Competition (Qualifying competition and/or Championship competition). In addition, further sanctions can be imposed in line with the OFC Disciplinary Code in force at the time of the Competition.
- 12.3. Pending suspensions from the Qualifying competitions are always carried forward to the Championship Competition.
- 12.4. Single cautions from the Qualifying Competition that have not resulted in a suspension expire on completion of the Qualifying Competition.
- 12.5. Should a Player or Official finish the group matches of the Championship having received one caution, this caution shall not be carried forward to the knockout stage.
- 12.6. Cautions and pending yellow card suspensions from the Championship Competition expire at the end of the Championship Competition.
- 12.7. Red card suspensions from the Competition carry through to the next OFC Competitions, or to the FIFA U-20 World Cup 2025 if the Player or Official is from the team qualified for such FIFA competition and according to FIFA regulations and instructions.

## COMPETITION FORMAT

### 13. Competition format

The Competition shall be organised according to a Qualifying Competition and Championship Competition.

#### 13.1 Qualifying Competition

13.1.1 Four (4) teams, American Samoa, Cook Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu shall compete in the Qualifying Competition in Vanuatu from 9 – 15 April 2024.

13.1.2 The Qualifying competition will be played based on a round-robin, league system where each Participating Associations play once against each other, with three points for a win, one point for a draw, and none for a defeat. The Qualifying Competition will be played following the schedule below, based on OFC draw :

<b>Match Day 1</b>	<b>Match Day 2</b>	<b>Match Day 3</b>
Team 3 – Team 4	Team 4 – Team 2	Team 2 – Team 3
Team 1 – Team 2	Team 1 – Team 3	Team 4 – Team 1

13.1.3 The winner of the Qualifying Competition will qualify for the Championship Competition as the Qualifying Competition winner.

#### 13.2 Championship Competition

13.2.1 Eight (8) teams shall participate in the Championship Competition:

Fiji, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tahiti, and Qualifying Competition Winner. The Championship Competition shall be played in Samoa from 5 – 20 July 2024.

13.2.2 The Championship competition will be played in a group stage, followed by a knockout stage consisting of the semi-final, playoff for the third, fifth and seventh places and a final.

13.2.3 The OFC Competitions will divide the teams into two groups by ranking and drawing lots in public at the Official Draw. The teams will be designated as follows:

<b>Group A</b>	<b>Group B</b>
A1	B1
A2	B2
A3	B3
A4	B4

13.2.4 The group matches will be played following the schedule below. Each team will play one match against each of the other teams in the same group, according to a league system (with three points for a win, one

point for a draw and none for a defeat) The Championship Competition will be played following the schedule below, based on OFC draw:

<b>Match Day 1</b>	<b>Match Day 2</b>	<b>Match Day 3</b>
A1 v. A2	A1 v. A3	A4 v. A1
A3 v. A4	A4 v. A2	A2 v. A3
B1 v. B2	B1 v. B3	B4 v. B1
B3 v. B4	B4 v. B2	B2 v. B3

13.2.5 the two group winners and runners up will advance to two single match semi-finals and the two semi-final winners will advance to a single match final, with the two semi-final losers playing in the 3rd/4th play-off match. The two groups ranked 3rd places will play in the 5th/6th play-off match the two groups ranked 4<sup>th</sup> places will play in the 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> play-off match ("the knockout stage").

13.2.6 The knockout stage will be played following the schedule below:

Semi Final 1: Winner Group A - Runner Up Group B

Semi Final 2: Winner Group B – Runner Up Group A

3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> play-off match: Runner Up Semi Final 1 – Runner Up Semi Final 2

5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> play-off match: 3<sup>rd</sup> place Group A - 3<sup>rd</sup> place Group B

7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> play-off match: 4<sup>th</sup> place Group A - 4<sup>th</sup> place Group B

Final – Winner Semi Final 1 – Winner Semi Final 2

13.2.7 In the semi-finals, final, if the result stands as a draw at the end of normal playing time, two 15-minute periods of extra time are played. If the two teams are still equal after extra time, the winner is determined by kicks from the penalty mark, which shall take place in accordance with the procedure laid down in the IFAB Laws of the Game.

13.2.8 If extra time is required, there is a five-minute break between the end of normal time and the start of extra time. As a rule, the players remain on the field of play during this five-minute break, at the discretion of the referee.

13.2.9 In all other play-off matches, if the result stands as a draw at the end of normal playing time, no extra time shall be played and the winner is determined by kicks from the penalty mark, which shall take place in accordance with the procedure laid down in the IFAB Laws of the Game.

## **14. The draw**

14.1. The Official Draw for each Competition will take place at least one month prior to the Commencement of each Competition.

14.1.1. The seeding for the Official Draw of the Championship Competition shall be based on the final ranking of the teams from the Previous Competition, being:

Participating Member Association	Ranking
New Zealand	1

Fiji	2
New Caledonia	3
Tahiti	4
Solomon Islands	5
Samoa	6
Papua New Guinea	7
Qualifying Competition winner	8

14.1.2. The draw shall be conducted so that each group shall be composed of:

14.1.2.1. 1 of the teams ranked 1-2; and

14.1.2.2. 2 of the teams ranked 3-6 and

14.1.2.3. 1 of the teams ranked 7-8.

## **15. Determination of the winner**

15.1. Once the format has been confirmed and Competition has started, any change of format must be approved by the OFC Executive Committee. The ranking in each group is determined as stated in the paragraphs below.

15.2. The ranking of each team in the Qualifying Competition and in the Championship Competition shall be determined as follows:

15.2.1. greater number of points obtained in all round-robin matches;

15.2.2. superior goal difference in all around-robin matches;

15.2.3. greater number of goals scored in all round-robin matches.

15.3. If two or more teams are equal on the basis of the above three criteria, their rankings shall be determined as follows:

15.3.1. greater number of points obtained in the group matches between the teams concerned;

15.3.2. superior goal difference resulting from the group matches between the teams concerned;

15.3.3. greater number of goals scored in all the group matches between the teams concerned;

15.3.4. highest team conduct score relating to the number of yellow and red cards obtained:

- yellow card: minus 1 point
- indirect red card (as a result of two yellow cards): minus 3 points
- direct red card: minus 4 points
- yellow card and direct red card: minus 5 points

Only one of the above deductions shall be applied to a player in a single match. The team with the highest number of points shall be ranked highest.;

15.3.5. coin toss (or drawing of lots by OFC Competitions).

## **16. Duration of a match**

16.1. Each match shall last 90 minutes, comprising two periods of 45 minutes, with an interval of 15 minutes from whistle to whistle.

- 16.2. Extra time shall consist of two 15-minute periods, with an interval not exceeding five minutes before the first period of extra time begins and a short drinks break (interval) not exceeding one minute at half-time. The players shall remain on the pitch during both of these intervals.

## **17. Penalties (penalty shoot-out)**

- 17.1. Penalties (penalty shoot-out) shall be taken in accordance with the procedure specified in the IFAB Laws of the Game.
- 17.2. To ensure that the procedure is strictly observed, the Referee is assisted by the Assistant Referees and the Fourth Official, who also note down the numbers of the Players of each Team who take kicks from the penalty mark. The Assistant Referees position themselves according to the diagram in the Laws of the Game.
- 17.3. If, at the end of match and before penalty shoot-out begins, one Team has greater number of players than its opponents, it must reduce its numbers to equate with that of its opponents and the Team captain must inform the referee of the name and number of each player excluded. Any player thus excluded may not participate in kicks from the penalty mark.
- 17.4. Before the start of penalty shoot-out, the referee must ensure that an equal number of players from each Team remains within the centre circle, and they shall take the kicks.

## MATCH AND TRAINING VENUES

### **18. Match venues, training venues, dates and kick-off times for matches**

- 18.1. OFC Competitions shall decide the match venue[s], dates and kick-off times, The decisions are final and binding.
- 18.2. OFC Competitions shall ensure that the match venue[s] comply with the FIFA Stadium Safety Guidelines and other OFC and FIFA guidelines and instructions for international matches in force.
- 18.3. The Host Association is responsible for safety and order in and around the match venue[s] before, during and after the matches.
- 18.4. The match venue, pitch, markings, equipment and all facilities for each match shall be in optimum condition and comply with the Laws of the Game and all other relevant regulations.
- 18.5. The pitches at the match venue(s) and training venue(s) shall have the following dimensions:
  - 18.5.1. Minimum length 100m, Maximum length 110m;
  - 18.5.2. Minimum width 64m, Maximum width 75m.
  - 18.5.3. OFC's preferred dimensions are 105m x 68m.
- 18.6. In particular, the floodlighting installations at all venues must meet the minimum lighting requirements laid down by the host broadcaster in conjunction with OFC.
- 18.7. Clocks in the stadium showing the amount of time played may run during the match, provided that they are stopped at the end of normal playing time in each half, i.e., after 45 and 90 minutes respectively.
- 18.8. The Host Association shall provide a sufficient number of training venues for the teams. The training venues shall be available for at least the Official Competition Period.
- 18.9. Whenever possible, the match venue[s] and training venue[s] shall not be used for any other matches or events from at least five days prior to the Commencement of the Competition until the Competition is completed, unless OFC gives special permission.
- 18.10. Whenever possible, the match venue[s] and training venue[s] shall be available and free of all commercial activities and identifications [e.g. boards and other signage] other than those of OFC partners for at least the Official Competition Period.



## PLAYERS AND OFFICIALS LISTS

### 19. Eligibility of players

- 19.1. Each Participating Association shall ensure they comply with the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfers of Players and the FIFA Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes when selecting its representative team for the Competition.
- 19.2. Each Participating Association shall ensure that all players of its representative team meet the following age requirements:
  - 19.2.1. Upper age limit: all players must be a maximum of 19 years old by the end of the calendar year in which the competition is played (i.e. all players of the teams were born on or after 1 January 2005).
  - 19.2.2. Lower age limit: all players must be at least 15 years old by the end of the calendar year in which the competition is played (i.e. all players of the teams were born on or before 31 December 2009).
- 19.3. Only players who comply with and pass the testing requirements and timelines stipulated in the THP (negative test result where applicable) will be considered eligible players.
- 19.4. Any team that is found guilty of fielding an ineligible player shall forfeit the match or matches it has played. Victory and the resultant three points will be awarded to the opposing team as well as the score of 3-0, or greater, depending on the score of the match. OFC Disciplinary and Ethics Committee is the competent body to decide in this regard. Decisions taken by that Committee are final and binding and not subject to appeal.
- 19.5. The matter is then to be referred to the OFC Disciplinary and Ethics Committee for appropriate disciplinary action against the Ordinary Member Association.

### 20. Official Team List [General]

- 20.1. The Official Team List must be completed in COMET no later than the stipulated deadline prescribed in the relevant circular and prior to the Commencement of each Competition.
- 20.2. Should the Official Team List not be completed by the above mentioned deadline, the Participating Association will be subject to the provisions contained in Article 6.
- 20.3. Each Player and Official must be registered in COMET, with the COMET ID for each Player containing all of the following items of data;
  - 20.3.1. Surname
  - 20.3.2. First name[s]
  - 20.3.3. OFC name
  - 20.3.4. Date of birth
  - 20.3.5. Country of birth
  - 20.3.6. Passport Nationality

- 20.3.7. Valid Passport number
- 20.4. Any Participating Association that fails to provide OFC Competitions with the items of data required by Article 20.3 will be fined NZ\$ 100 by the OFC General Secretariat for each item of data not provided, and NZ\$ 200 for each item of incorrect or missing data at the proof of identity and nationality undertaken in accordance with Article 21.8.
- 20.5. Only the Players and Officials in the Official Team List will be permitted to participate in the Competition.
- 20.6. There are two (2) stages of registration of Players and Officials for the Competition:
  - 20.6.1. Preliminary Registration: each Participating Team is required to submit a provisional list, which is as extensive and realistic as possible, containing a minimum of 18 prospective players for the Competition, and the Head Coach, no later than the stipulated deadline prescribed in the relevant circular and prior to the Commencement of each Competition. Each player and coach's COMET profile shall contain the required information in art. 20.3 and 21.2. This list is not binding. Further players may be added at any time but no later than the stipulated deadline to submit the official team list.
  - 20.6.2. Final Registration: each Participating Team is required to submit the official team list of up to 23 Players and 12 Team Officials, who shall participate in the Competition, no later than the stipulated deadline prescribed in the relevant circular and prior to the Commencement of each Competition.

## **21. Official Team List [Player]**

- 21.1. Each Participating Association may nominate up to 23 Players in the Official Team List for the Competition, three of whom must be goalkeepers, regardless of the total number of Players nominated.
- 21.2. In addition to the information specified in Article 20.3, the Official Team List must also include the following items of data;
  - 21.2.1. Number on shirt
  - 21.2.2. Position
  - 21.2.3. Club
- 21.3. Any Participating Association that fails to provide OFC Competitions with the required information will be fined NZ\$ 100 by the OFC General Secretariat for each item of data not provided, and NZ\$ 200 for each item of incorrect or missing data at the proof of identity and nationality undertaken in accordance with Article 21.8.
- 21.4. Any request to change a Player on the Official Team List after the Final Registration deadline has passed, shall be made at the Match Coordination Meeting before the Commencement of each Competition at the very latest.

Only the Players on the Official Team List except in cases recognised by OFC Competitions will be permitted to participate in the Competition.

- 21.5. Following the Match Coordination Meeting prior to the Commencement of each Competition, a Player on the Official Team List may only be replaced in the event of serious injury up until 24 hours before the kick-off of his team's first match, after a detailed medical assessment in one of the two OFC official languages [English and French]) has been submitted to OFC Competitions, and only after acceptance and confirmation by a designated Medical Officer that the injury is sufficiently serious to prevent the Player from taking part in the Competition. The Participating Association shall then immediately nominate the replacement and inform OFC Competitions accordingly.
- 21.6. No further players may be added to the Official Team List after the Final Registration deadline has passed.
- 21.7. No Player may be replaced in the Official Team List during the Competition, except if it involves a goalkeeper who is injured during the Competition and can no longer take part in the remainder of the matches, and only after acceptance and confirmation by a designated Medical Officer that the injury is sufficiently serious to prevent the goalkeeper from taking part in the Competition. The Participating Association shall then immediately nominate the replacement from their provisional list as defined at paragraph 20.6.1 and inform OFC Competitions accordingly.
- 21.8. Before the Commencement of each Competition, each Player on the Official Team List must prove their identity and nationality by producing their legally valid individual passport with a photograph [stating day, month and year of birth]. Any Player who fails to present their passport will not be allowed to take part in the Competition.

## **22. Official Team List [Team Officials]**

- 22.1. Each Participating Association may nominate up to 12 Team Officials for the Competition.
- 22.2. The head coach must hold at the minimum an OFC C License (or equivalent).
- 22.3. The goalkeeper coach must hold at the minimum an MA Certificate (or equivalent).
- 22.4. Each Participating Member Association shall appoint a designated Team Safeguarding/Welfare Officer to act as a focal point for all matters related to the safeguarding and well-being of the players and team delegation. This role does not have to be exclusive and can be assigned to the medical doctor or other trained member of the accredited team delegation. It is a mandatory requirement that the designated Team Safeguarding/Welfare Officer complete the FIFA Guardians Safeguarding Essentials online course (<https://safeguardinginsport.fifa.com/>). The role of the Team Safeguarding/Welfare Officer is to:

- 22.4.1. act as the first point of contact and lead for all safeguarding matters within the team delegation during the Competition;
  - 22.4.2. take all reasonable steps to ensure that the players' mental and physical well-being is prioritised;
  - 22.4.3. liaise with the Competition Safeguarding Manager and the OFC Event Safeguarding Manager should a concern or an allegation of harassment or abuse (be it psychological, physical, or sexual, or neglect) arise; and
  - 22.4.4. know the specific safeguarding measures for the Competition and the avenues available for reporting concerns.
- 22.5. The Participating Association is entitled to register a 'Video Analyst', as one of officials who will record the Matches in the Competition while this recording shall be strictly used only for technical purpose and not interfere with match operation.
- 22.6. Each Official must be registered in COMET and the COMET ID must shall contain all of the following information for each Team Official;
- 22.6.1. Surname
  - 22.6.2. First name[s]
  - 22.6.3. OFC name
  - 22.6.4. Function
  - 22.6.5. Coaching License
  - 22.6.6. Country of Birth
  - 22.6.7. Passport Nationality
  - 22.6.8. Passport number
  - 22.6.9. FIFA Nationality
- Any Participating Association that fails to provide OFC Competitions with the required information will be fined NZ\$ 100 by the OFC General Secretariat for each item of data missing, at each deadline.
- 22.7. Each Official must be added to the Official Team List in COMET, including the function (role) they will have for the Competition.
- 22.8. Any change of Team Official from the Official Team List submitted to OFC Competitions, shall be made at the Match Coordination Meeting prior to the Commencement of each Competition. Only the Team Officials on the Official Team List will be permitted to participate in the Competition.
- 22.9. OFC Competitions shall issue each Team Official on the Official Team List with an Accreditation. The Accreditation shall always be available for inspection.

## **MATCH DAY ORGANISATION**

### **23. OFC General Coordinator**

- 23.1. An OFC General Coordinator shall be appointed for each match of the Competition. The General Coordinator will be responsible for all aspects of the match organisation.
- 23.2. The General Coordinator must complete the Competitions Report with a copy of the Official Start List and transfer them together with the Referee Report to the OFC Competitions Department at the conclusion of the match.
- 23.3. Team Arrival Meetings and Match Coordination Meetings shall take place as directed by OFC Competitions and/or the OFC General Coordinator.

### **24. Match Organisation**

- 24.1. The countdown to kick-off provided to both teams at the Match Coordination Meeting in advance of the match shall be strictly complied with by both teams.
- 24.2. The OFC, FIFA and FIFA Living Football flags must be hoisted or draped in the venue clearly visible to spectators on every Match Day. In addition, OFC Competitions retains the right to fly additional flags should the need arise.
- 24.3. The FIFA anthem shall be played while the Participating Associations are entering the field followed by the national anthems of the Participating Associations.
- 24.4. Not more than 23 people [maximum 11 Team Officials and 12 Substitutes shall be allowed to sit on the team bench in the technical area.
- 24.5. Smoking is not permitted in the technical area, in the vicinity of the field of play or within the Competition areas such as the changing rooms.
- 24.6. The use of any electronic communication equipment and/or systems is regulated by the IFAB Laws of the Game and the relevant instructions issued. Under no circumstances may any such systems be used by teams in connection with any kind of refereeing decision or matter.
- 24.7. Whenever possible, both teams will be entitled to an Official Training Session of a maximum of 45 minutes the day before the match at the venue where they are scheduled to play. Training times will be communicated by OFC Competitions. OFC Competitions reserves the right to shorten or cancel the Official Training Session.
- 24.8. Whenever possible, both teams will be entitled to warm-up on the pitch before the match. OFC Competitions reserves the right to shorten or cancel the warm-up session.

### **25. Official Start List**

- 25.1. Before the match, each team must submit the Official Start List containing the names and numbers of the 23 Players and up to 11 Team Officials on the bench on COMET.

- 25.2. The 11 selected Players must commence the match. The remaining eligible players [maximum 12] are designated as Substitutes. The numbers on the shirts must correspond with the numbers indicated on the Official Start List. The goalkeepers and team captain also must be identified.
- 25.3. The Official Start List must contain a minimum of 14 and a maximum of 23 players, one of which must be a goalkeeper. If there are fewer than 14 players available, OFC will consider the matter and may make exceptions on a case-by-case basis. The 11 first-named players must start the match, and the remaining players on the Official Start List are designated as substitutes. The numbers on the players' shirts must correspond with the numbers indicated on the start list. All goalkeepers and the captain must be identified as such. At least one player must be a goalkeeper, up to a maximum of three, with the number 1 shirt reserved for one of them.
- 25.4. Both teams must submit on COMET their Official Start List to the OFC General Coordinator at least 85 minutes before kick-off.
- 25.5. The OFC General Coordinator and/ or Referee may ask to see the accreditations and passports of the players whose names are listed on the Official Start List.
- 25.6. Each player who is named on the Official Start List must be available at the equipment check undertaken by the 4th official before every match.
- 25.7. After the Official Start List has been submitted, and if the match has not yet kicked-off, the following instructions apply:
- 25.7.1. If any of the first 11 players (starting players) named on the start list are not able to start the match for any reason, they may be replaced by any of the available substitutes. The replaced player(s) may no longer take part in the match, and the quota of substitute players shall be reduced accordingly. During the match, up to five players may still be replaced.
- 25.7.2. If any of the substitutes named on the start list are not able to be fielded for any reason, the player(s) concerned may not be replaced on the bench by an additional player, which means that the quota of substitutes shall be reduced accordingly. During the match, up to five players may still be replaced.
- 25.7.3. Further to the above, any injured or ill Player who is removed from the start list will no longer be eligible to take part in the match, and thus cannot be selected as a substitute player at any time during the game. Such a change to the start list will not reduce the number of official substitutions that may be made by a team during the match. In accordance with Law 3 of the Laws of the Game, up to a maximum of five substitutions may still be made.
- 25.7.4. Although no longer eligible to play as a substitute, the injured or ill Player who was removed from the start list may be seated on the substitutes' bench, and if so, would then also be eligible for doping control selection.

- 25.7.5. Only the players who were identified on the official start list submitted to the OFC General Coordinator, or were confirmed as a warm-up injury/illness replacement player, may start the match. In the case of any discrepancies of players on the pitch at the beginning of a match, the matter may be submitted to the OFC Disciplinary and Ethics Committee for a decision.
- 25.8. A suspended Player will not be allowed to sit on the team bench.

## **26. Substitution and Warm-up of Players**

- 26.1. The substitution of five players per team is permitted in the course of a match, in accordance with Law 3 – The Players – temporary amendment.
  - 26.1.1. During the match, each team:
    - 26.1.1.1. may use a maximum of five substitutes
    - 26.1.1.2. has a maximum of three substitution opportunities\*
    - 26.1.1.3. may additionally make substitutions at half-time
  - 26.1.2. Where extra time is played, each team:
    - 26.1.2.1. may use an additional substitute (whether or not the team has used its maximum number of substitutes)
    - 26.1.2.2. has one additional substitution opportunity\* (whether or not the team has used its maximum number of substitution opportunities)
    - 26.1.2.3. may additionally make substitutions:
      - 26.1.2.3.1.1. in the period before the start of extra time;
      - 26.1.2.3.1.2. at half-time in extra time.
  - 26.1.3. If a team has not used its maximum number of substitutes or substitution opportunities, the unused substitutions and opportunities may be used in extra time.
  - 26.1.4. \*Where both teams make a substitution at the same time, this will count as a used substitution opportunity for each team.  
NB: the use of return substitutes is not an option for senior competitions.
- 26.2. During the match, substitutes are allowed to leave the technical area to warm-up. At the Match Coordination Meeting, the OFC General Coordinator will confirm the warm-up area for substitutes. In principle, all substitutes must wear bibs and the warm-up area is behind the goal closest to the team bench. Only the goalkeeper may warm up with a ball.
- 26.3. If space permits, a maximum of six substitutes per team shall be allowed to warm-up at the same time. A maximum of two officials are permitted to accompany the Players.

## **27. Media and TV**

- 27.1. Amendments to media provisions may be necessary in accordance with the requirements of the confederation, the guidelines in the THP or the directives issued by the competent local authority.
- 27.2. OFC will set up and manage a media accreditation programme to manage access and privileges of all media personnel and agencies.
- 27.3. No representatives of the written press or radio journalists are allowed in the playing area or the area between the boundaries of the field and the spectators.
- 27.4. Only a limited number of photographers, TV cameramen and technicians of the host broadcaster – all equipped with special permits for the event – are allowed in the area between the boundaries of the field and the spectators, where they will carry out their work in the specific locations assigned to them.
- 27.5. A post-match press conference or mixed zone may be conducted at the venue and must start 15 minutes after the final whistle. At least the coach and captain of the Participating Association must be available for the press conference or mixed zone.
- 27.6. The team dressing-rooms are off-limits to representatives of the media before, during and after the match.
- 27.7. If Participating Teams wish to engage their respective recording(s) and/or media person(s) to record any part of the match and/or training session, such filming and/or recording shall only be done with the prior written approval of OFC and that such recording shall only be used for non-commercial and/or technical analysis purposes for their teams own match and training session.
- 27.8. OFC will provide the Participating Associations with video footage of matches involving their team with the sole purpose of technical analysis only. Any Participating Associations found to have violated and abused the use of this video footage will be sanctioned by OFC Disciplinary and Ethics Committee. Video footage of the matches not involving their team will only be distributed upon the agreement by the majority of the Participating Associations at the Technical Coordination Meeting prior to the Competition.
- 27.9. OFC may issue additional Media and Marketing Regulations specifying the media requirements. All Participating Associations shall fully comply with these Regulations and ensure that their Delegation Members and any other persons acting on behalf of the Participating Association also comply.



## PLAYERS KIT AND TEAM EQUIPMENT

### 28. Equipment and team colours

- 28.1. The Participating Association shall comply with the FIFA Equipment Regulations in force unless otherwise specified in these Regulations. The display of political, religious, or personal messages or slogans in any language or form by players and officials on their playing or team kits, equipment (including kit bags, beverage containers, medical bags, etc.) or body is prohibited. The similar display of commercial messages and slogans in any language or form by players and officials is not allowed for the duration of their time at any official activity organised or recognised by OFC (including in the stadiums for official matches and training sessions, as well as during official media conferences and mixed-zone activities).
- 28.2. Any Participating Association that does not comply with Article 28.1 shall be fined a minimum of NZ\$ 2000 by the OFC Disciplinary and Ethics Committee.
- 28.3. Each Participating Association shall inform OFC Competitions of two different and contrasting colours [one predominantly dark and one predominantly light] for its first-choice and alternative player kits. In addition, each Participating Association shall select at least three contrasting colours for its goalkeeper kits. These three goalkeeper kits must be different and contrasting from each other as well as different from the first-choice and alternative player kits.
- 28.4. This information, supported by photos or samples of their first-choice and alternative player kits, shall be sent to OFC Competitions on the official form and no later than as prescribed by the relevant issued Circular. Only these colours may be worn during matches. Any Participating Association that does not comply with this Article shall be fined NZ\$ 500 by the OFC General Secretariat.
- 28.5. OFC Competitions will inform the Participating Association of the playing colours before the start of each match. The colours decided by OFC Competitions, in consultation with the Match Officials, is final.
- 28.6. As far as possible, each team shall wear its first-choice colours as submitted by the teams prior to the competition. If the two teams' colours and the match officials' colour might cause confusion, the following principles shall be applied by OFC Competitions to allocate the match colours:
  - 28.6.1. Order of priority from 1 to 5:
    - 28.6.1.1. Team A playing kit
    - 28.6.1.2. Team B playing kit
    - 28.6.1.3. Team A goalkeeper kit
    - 28.6.1.4. Team B goalkeeper kit
    - 28.6.1.5. Match officials (referees) kit

28.6.2. If the above order of priority does not produce a clear colour contrast of the kits, the allocation shall continue step by step in reverse order (5-1) until an acceptable colour contrast is confirmed.

28.6.3. If necessary, one or both teams may have to wear a combination of their first-choice and alternative player or goalkeeper kits.

In principle, OFC Competitions shall also consider the option of dark-kit and light-kit colour-contrast assignments in the interests of accommodating individuals with a colour vision deficiency whenever reasonably practicable.

28.7. The playing jerseys must use numbers between 1 and 23. The number 1 shall be reserved exclusively for one of the goalkeepers. The numbers on the playing jerseys shall correspond with the numbers indicated on the Official Team List. The number must be displayed on the back of the playing shirt and on the front of the shorts. The same number may, at the Participating Association's discretion, be displayed on the front of the shirt. In the event of a goalkeeper being replaced by an outfield Player, each Participating Association shall provide a goalkeeper kit without a number displayed on the back of the shirt in order to distinguish this replacement goalkeeper from other Players.

28.8. Throughout all stages of the Competition, each Player shall wear the number assigned to them on the Official Team List.

28.9. The first-choice and alternative team playing kits and all goalkeeper kits (including the goalkeeper shirts without names and numbers) shall be taken to every match.

28.10. In the event of a Player's shirt needing replacement during a match, each Participating Association shall provide at least three "Blood Shirts" in each first-choice and alternative player kit colours without a number displayed on the back of the shirt in order to distinguish a Player should they need to change their shirt.

28.11. OFC Competitions reserves the right to request any FIFA or OFC logo to appear on the right sleeve of the shirt during matches, between the shoulder seam and the elbow. OFC Competitions will provide each Participating Association with sufficient temporary sleeve patches to cover their needs throughout the Competition.

28.12. OFC Competitions will determine the Official Match Ball of the Competition and each Participating Association will receive a minimum of twenty Official Match Balls for training purposes prior to, or on arrival in the host country.

## REFEREEING

### 29. OFC Referee Assessor

- 29.1. The OFC Referee Department will appoint a Referees Assessor for each match of the Competition. The Referee Assessor will be responsible for the match officials for each match of the Competition.
- 29.2. The OFC Referee Assessor must complete the Referee Assessor Report and transfer them together with the Referee Report to the General Coordinator at the conclusion of the match.

### 30. Match Officials

- 30.1. Five match officials [one Referee, plus two Assistant Referees, one Fourth Official and one Fifth Official] will be appointed for each match by the OFC Referee Department. Whenever possible, they shall be selected from the FIFA International Refereeing List in force. They shall be neutral and not a citizen of a country or member of a Participating Association whose team is playing in the match in question.
- 30.2. The OFC Referee Department may decide to appoint a match official not on the FIFA International Refereeing List in force, but who have the necessary experience to officiate at the Competition.
- 30.3. All match officials appointed to the Competition may be required to pass the FIFA Referees Fitness Test upon arrival in the host country and before the Commencement of each Competition.
- 30.4. If a match official proves to be unfit or fails the FIFA Referees Fitness Test they will be sent home and the costs of their international air travel, accommodation, meals and other incidental costs and expenses will be reimbursed to OFC by their Ordinary Member Association.
- 30.5. The match officials shall receive their Official Referee Uniform upon arrival in the host country. They shall wear only the Official Referee Uniform while representing OFC.
- 30.6. The match officials shall be given the opportunity to use the training site[s].
- 30.7. If one of the match officials is prevented from carrying out their duties, such match official shall be replaced by the Fourth Official or Fifth Official. The OFC Referee Department shall be informed immediately.
- 30.8. A minimum of three match officials are needed to referee the match.
- 30.9. After each match the lead match official shall complete and signs the Referee Report. The lead match official shall hand it to the OFC General Coordinator at the venue immediately after the match. On the Referee Report the lead referee shall note all occurrences of significance, such as misconduct of players leading to caution or expulsion, unsporting behaviour by supporters and/ or officials or any other person acting on behalf of an association at the

match and any other incident happening before, during and after the match in as much detail as possible.

- 30.10. The decisions of the OFC Referee Department are final and not subject to appeal.

### **31. Laws of the Game**

All matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game in force at the time of the Competition and as laid down by the International Football Association Board. In the case of any discrepancy in the interpretation of the translations of the Laws of the Game, the English version shall be authoritative.

## FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

### 32. Financial provisions [OFC]

- 32.1. OFC shall bear the costs of the following in relation to the Competition:
  - 32.1.1. costs related to equipment;
    - 32.1.1.1. Official match balls (minimum 20 per team).
  - 32.1.2. costs related to the OFC Delegation and OFC Match Officials;
    - 32.1.2.1. international air travel (including domestic connections);
    - 32.1.2.2. the daily allowances;
    - 32.1.2.3. accommodation and meals [minimum three [3] per day];
    - 32.1.2.4. travel insurance for overseas-based match officials; and
    - 32.1.2.5. All health testing as required under the THP of the OFC delegation members, including match officials.
  - 32.1.3. miscellaneous costs;
    - 32.1.3.1. Broadcast costs of the Competition as determined by OFC;
    - 32.1.3.2. Production of OFC signage; and
    - 32.1.3.3. Medals, awards and trophy for the Competition.

### 33. Financial provisions [Host Association]

- 33.1. The Host Association shall bear the costs of the following in relation to the Competition:
  - 33.1.1. costs related to internal arrangements;
  - 33.1.2. All internal transport [maximum of thirty-one [31] people for the duration of the Official Competition Period] including:
    - 33.1.2.1. return transfers from the airport;
    - 33.1.2.2. return transfers to any official activity, meeting or event;
    - 33.1.2.3. return transfers for the training sessions [one [1] per day for the duration of the Official Competition Period]; and
    - 33.1.2.4. return transfers for the match days.
  - 33.1.3. all match venue[s] and training venue[s] costs;
  - 33.1.4. the provision of adequate safety and security measures at the venue[s];
  - 33.1.5. all costs related to all health measures required under the THP at the match stadium;
  - 33.1.6. suitable insurance policies to cover all risks relating to the organisation of the Competition;
  - 33.1.7. suitable insurance policies against spectator accidents or deaths;
  - 33.1.8. VIP Hospitality on the match days;
  - 33.1.9. Any official events, such as opening and closing ceremonies;
  - 33.1.10. doping control [if required]; and
  - 33.1.11. any additional internal costs not outlined above.
  - 33.1.12. costs related to Participating Associations;

- 33.1.12.1. water [minimum 2 litres per Player, per match];
- 33.1.12.2. ice [minimum 5kg] per team, per match.
- 33.1.13. costs related to the OFC Delegation and OFC Match Officials;
  - 33.1.13.1. all internal transport specifically;
    - 33.1.13.1.1. return transfers from the airport;
    - 33.1.13.1.2. return transfers for training sessions [one [1] per day for the Official Competition Period]; and
    - 33.1.13.1.3. return transfers for match days.
  - 33.1.13.2. water during the match officials' stay at the hotel and training sessions;
  - 33.1.13.3. water for the duration of their stay and per match [minimum 2 litres per match official, per match]; and
  - 33.1.13.4. ice [minimum 5kg] per match.
- 33.1.14. insurance
  - 33.1.14.1. policy to cover all risks relating to the organisation of the Competition; and
  - 33.1.14.2. policies against spectator accidents and/or death.

### **34. Financial provisions [Participating Associations]**

- 34.1. The Participating Associations shall bear the costs and expenses of the following in relation to the Competition;
  - 34.1.1. International air travel for 31 Delegation Members (not including the host) based on a cost equalisation model calculated on the most direct route to the Host Country;
  - 34.1.2. full costs of international air travel for any additional Delegation Members;
  - 34.1.3. full costs incurred by any flight changes, cancellations, name changes and excess luggage relating to flights which is no fault of OFC;
  - 34.1.4. cost of accommodation and meals for all Delegation Members, including transit stops;
  - 34.1.5. laundry for all Delegation Members in the host country;
  - 34.1.6. visas and/ or taxes for all Delegation Members to and from the host country;
  - 34.1.7. transit costs for all Delegation Members incurred to and from the host country;
  - 34.1.8. medical costs outside the matches;
  - 34.1.9. all costs related to testing and documentation required under the THP shall be borne by the association or team in question;
  - 34.1.10. health, accident and travel insurance cover for all Delegation Members;
  - 34.1.11. Public Liability policy at an adequate level to cover the Competition including the entire stay in the host country;

- 34.1.12. incidental costs and expenses incurred by all Delegation Members during the course of their stay in the host country, and any costs incurred by any persons carrying out duties on its behalf;
- 34.1.13. any costs of extending the stay of any Delegation Member, and for any persons carrying out duties on its behalf;
- 34.1.14. miscellaneous costs, including but not limited to return transport for additional training sessions or team functions and team-related activities;
- 34.1.15. additional water and ice for non-match days; and
- 34.1.16. any costs for all Delegation Members outside the Official Competition Period.

## **35. Ticketing**

- 35.1. Where possible, each Participating Association in the Competition is entitled to receive the following minimum number of complimentary tickets:
  - 35.1.1. At least 15 complimentary tickets for each of the team's matches at the Competition;
  - 35.1.2. At least three tickets in the VIP area for each of the team's matches at the Competition.
- 35.2. OFC shall receive the following minimum number of complimentary tickets:
  - 35.2.1. At least 50 complimentary tickets for each match day of the Competition;
  - 35.2.2. At least 12 tickets in the VIP area for each match day of the Competition.

## MEDICAL

### **36. Medical/Doping**

- 36.1. Each Participating Association shall include a medical doctor in its delegation for each match.
- 36.2. To protect players' health, each Participating Club shall ensure that all its players undergo a pre-competition medical assessment prior to the start of the Competition, conducted by a registered medical professional who must certify that players are medically fit to play.
- 36.3. Failure to comply with the aforementioned provision shall be sanctioned by the OFC Disciplinary and Ethics Committee in accordance with the OFC Disciplinary Code.
- 36.4. All Participating Associations will be aware of the travel and entry requirements of the Host country, specifically in relation to any medical requirements, and ensure compliance is achieved with all entry and travel-related requirements.
- 36.5. All Participating Associations will be aware of the re-entry requirements for their home country in the event that any of their travellers may come into contact with a communicable disease whilst travelling and ensure that all travellers meet the respective requirements.
- 36.6. All teams must be prepared with a comprehensive first aid/medical kit which must include a thermometer and masks, and a plan for isolating any travellers who become unwell.
- 36.7. Doping is strictly prohibited. OFC will inform the Participating Associations of the doping control procedures.
- 36.8. OFC shall be responsible for deciding which laboratory among those accredited by the World Anti-Doping Agency ["WADA"] will analyse samples.
- 36.9. The OFC Disciplinary Code, the FIFA Doping Control Regulations and all other relevant OFC and/ or FIFA directives shall apply to the Competition.



## COMMERCIAL PROVISIONS

### 37. Commercial rights

- 37.1. OFC owns and controls all commercial rights in relation to the Competition.
- 37.2. All Participating Associations shall fully comply with these Regulations and ensure that their Delegation Members and any other persons acting on behalf of an association also comply.

### 38. Commercial regulations

- 38.1. OFC owns all of the rights in, and relating to, the OFC marks and the marks of the Competition, including the trademarks [and all translations thereof];
  - 38.1.1. OFC U-19 Men's Championship;
  - 38.1.2. OFC U-19 Men's Championship 2024;
  - 38.1.3. The Official Trophy;
  - 38.1.4. The Official Emblem;
  - 38.1.5. The Official Mascot [if applicable];
  - 38.1.6. The Official Music [if applicable].Only these marks may be used in connection with the Competition.
- 38.2. The only Official Emblem for the Competition is contained at Appendix A of these Regulations.
- 38.3. OFC will take all legal and any other steps it deems appropriate to prevent and prohibit unauthorised companies, including the Participating Associations own partners from commercially identifying with, or otherwise exploiting the Competition.
- 38.4. The Participating Associations shall assist OFC in resolving any intellectual property infringements or ambush activities involving the Participating Associations' own partners.
- 38.5. Participating Associations are expressly prohibited from identifying their Partners in connection with the Official Emblem or name of the Competition in any media, including official match publications, promotional materials and tickets, in such a way as may give rise to an association between the Participating Associations own Partners and the Competition, without prior written approval and/or agreement from OFC.
- 38.6. The Participating Associations shall further inform their partners in writing of the Participating Association's obligations in this respect and shall notify their partners that they may not conduct any promotional activities which involve use of the Official Emblem, the Official Mascot (if applicable) or any marks which are confusingly similar to the OFC marks relating to the Competition. In particular, not:
  - 38.6.1. Sell, offer to sell, or authorise any third party to sell any tickets over the internet, or;

- 38.6.2. Use or authorise any entity, including the Participating Associations' own partners, to use any tickets for advertising, sales promotions, or other commercial purposes, including premiums, give-aways or prizes in a tournament, contest, or sweepstake.
- 38.7. If a Participating Association fails to comply with the above obligations, it will be liable to sanctions imposed by the OFC Disciplinary and Ethics Committee.

### **39. Commercial exploitation of Marketing Rights**

- 39.1. OFC owns all rights of commercial exploitation including all Marketing Rights [as definitions], and all other rights relating to, or accruing in connection with the Competition and its organisation.
- 39.2. OFC may grant certain exclusive rights to its Partners to commercially exploit the Marketing Rights and no entity other than those appointed by OFC are entitled to commercially exploit any Marketing Rights whatsoever.
- 39.3. At the request of the Host Association, OFC may grant certain rights to the Host Association to commercially exploit the Marketing Rights. The Host Association will not be permitted to transfer or delegate the rights to any third party and only the rights granted by OFC to the Host Association will be allowed to be exploited by the Host Association in accordance with OFC's directives.
- 39.4. All Participating Associations shall take all legal and other measures OFC deems appropriate to prevent and prohibit unauthorised use of the Marketing Rights by any parties, to ensure that all Marketing Rights are owned solely and without restrictions by OFC and can be exploited without any restrictions whatsoever.

### **40. Marketing Rights**

- 40.1. OFC owns and has the sole and exclusive right to exploit all Marketing Rights relating to the Competition in any manner at its sole discretion.
- 40.2. The Participating Associations have no Marketing Rights in connection with the Competition whatsoever. Participating Associations must not undertake any commercial activity of any nature related to the Competition without prior written approval from OFC.
- 40.3. All Participating Associations shall take all legal and other measures OFC deems appropriate to prevent and prohibit unauthorised use of the Marketing Rights by any parties, to ensure that all Marketing Rights are owned solely and without restrictions by OFC and can be exploited without any restrictions whatsoever.

### **41. Media rights**

- 41.1. OFC owns and controls all Media Rights in relation to the Competition.

- 41.2. All Participating Associations shall fully comply with these Regulations and ensure that their Delegation Members and any other persons acting on behalf of an association also comply.

## **42. Media regulations**

- 42.1. OFC owns all rights of commercial exploitation including all Media Rights, and all other rights relating to, or accruing in connection with the Competition and its organisation.
- 42.2. OFC may grant certain exclusive rights to partners to commercially exploit the Media Rights and no entity other than those appointed by OFC are entitled to commercially exploit any Broadcast Rights whatsoever.
- 42.3. All Member Associations are required to correctly refer to the OFC U-19 Competition and OFC in all media releases, including any related sponsor name(s).

## **43. Broadcast Rights**

The Participating Associations have no Broadcast Rights in connection with the Competition whatsoever.

## AWARDS

### **44. Trophies, awards and medals**

- 44.1. A representative from OFC will present the winner with the OFC U-19 Men's Championship 2024 trophy.
- 44.2. A fair play contest will be held during the Competition, for which OFC will draw up special regulations [based upon the FIFA regulations]. OFC Competitions will determine the ranking at the end of the Competition. Such decisions are final.
- 44.3. At the conclusion of the Final Competition, the following special awards will be presented by a representative from OFC:
  - 44.3.1. Fair Play Trophy  
The Fair Play trophy will be presented to the team finishing first in the fair play contest.
  - 44.3.2. Golden Boot  
The Golden Boot will be awarded to the Player who scores the most goals in the Competition.
  - 44.3.3. Golden Ball  
The Golden Ball will be awarded to the most influential Player in the Competition as determined by the OFC Technical Study Group members.
  - 44.3.4. Golden Glove  
The Golden Glove will be awarded to the best goalkeeper in the Competition as determined by the OFC Technical Study Group members.
- 44.4. There are no official awards other than those listed above unless otherwise decided by the OFC Executive Committee.

## FINAL PROVISIONS

### 45. Special circumstances

OFC Competitions shall issue any instructions necessitated by special circumstances that may arise in the host country. These instructions shall form an integral part of these Regulations.

### 46. Matters not provided for

Any matters not provided for in these Regulations shall be decided by OFC. All decisions shall be final and binding and not subject to appeal.

### 47. Languages

If any discrepancy in the interpretation of the English or French texts of these Regulations, the English text shall be authoritative.

### 48. No waiver

Any waiver by OFC of any breach of these regulations [including any document referred to in these regulations] will not operate as, or be construed to be, a waiver of any other breach of such provision or of any breach of any other provision or a waiver of any right arising out of these regulations or any other document. Any such waiver shall only be valid if given in writing. Failure by OFC to insist upon strict adherence to any provision of these regulations or any document referred to in these regulations on one or more occasions will not be considered to be a waiver of or deprive OFC of the right to subsequently insist upon strict adherence to that provision or any other provision of these regulations or any document referred to in these regulations.

### 49. Enforcement

49.1. These regulations have been approved by the OFC Executive Committee and come into force immediately.

49.2. The previous version of these Regulations shall apply mutatis mutandis to any matters that arose before these Regulations came into force.

OFC President

Lambert Maltock

OFC General Secretary

Franck Castillo

## **Oceania Football Confederation Incorporated [OFC]**

Address      P.O. Box 62-586  
  
                 Greenlane  
  
                 Auckland 1546  
  
                 New Zealand  
  
  
  
                 Ngahue Reserve  
  
                 62 – 80 College Road  
  
                 St Johns  
  
                 Auckland 1072  
  
                 New Zealand

Telephone    +64 9 531 4096

Email        [info@oceaniafootball.com](mailto:info@oceaniafootball.com)

Web          [www.oceaniafootball.com](http://www.oceaniafootball.com)

**APPENDIX A** – Official Emblem as per Article 38

