



OFC PROFESSIONAL LEAGUE

CLUB LICENSE REGULATIONS

EDITION 2025

Contents

Definitions		3
Article 1	Introduction and Scope of the Application	6
Article 2	Objectives	6
Article 3	Club Licensing Criteria	7
Article 4	Licensor	7
Article 5	The Licensing Administration	7
Article 6	The OFC Licensing Committee	8
Article 7	The Decision-Making Bodies	8
Article 8	Court of Arbitration of Sport	10
Article 9	Catalogue of Sanctions	10
Article 10	The Core Process	11
Article 11	Assessment Procedures	11
Article 12	Equal Treatment and Confidentiality	11
Article 13	License Applicant	12
Article 14	Responsibilities of the License Applicant	12
Article 15	License	13
Article 16	Sporting Criteria	15
Article 17	Infrastructure Criteria	17
Article 18	Personnel and Administrative Criteria	21
Article 19	Legal Criteria	24
Article 20	Financial Criteria	28
Article 21	Social Responsibility and Marketing Criteria	29
Article 22	Final Provisions	

Definitions

Accounting Policies	The specific principles, bases, conventions, rules and practices adopted by an entity in preparing and presenting its financial statements.
Annual Financial Statements	A complete set of financial statements prepared as at the Statutory Closing Date, normally including a balance sheet, profit and loss account, a statement of cash flows and those notes, other statements and explanatory material that are an integral part of the financial statements.
Audit	<p>The objective of an audit of financial statements is to enable the auditor to express an opinion whether the financial statements are prepared, in all Material respects, in accordance with an identified financial reporting framework. The phrases used to express the auditor's opinion are "give a true and fair view" or "present fairly, in all material respects", which are equivalent terms. A similar objective applies to the audit of financial or other information prepared in accordance with appropriate criteria.</p> <p>The term "Audited" shall be interpreted accordingly.</p>
Budget	The schedules containing an entity's Future Financial Information, based on management's assumptions about events that may occur in the future and possible actions by an entity.
Club	A member of an association (that is a member association of FIFA) or a member of a league recognised by a member association that enters at least one team in a competition.
Club Licensing Criteria	The requirements applicable to the grant of Licences to Licence Applicants, as set out in these Regulations, which are divided into six categories (infrastructure, sporting, personnel and administrative, legal, financial, and social responsibility).
Comet	The IT system developed by the OFC for the purpose of gathering information from Licence Applicants/Licensees and for sharing information with Licensors concerning their affiliated clubs, within the scope of the implementation, assessment, and enforcement of these Regulations.
Consolidated Financial Statement(s)	Financial statements of a Group presented as those of a single economic entity
Control	<p>The power to govern the financial and operating policies of an entity to obtain benefits from its activities. Control may be gained by share ownership, statutes, or agreement.</p> <p>The terms "Controlled" and "Controlling" shall be interpreted accordingly</p>
Financial Year	The financial reporting period ending on the Statutory Closing Date, whether this is a year or not, and which is not an Interim Period.

Future Financial Information	Information about the prospective financial effects of future events and possible actions on the entity concerned.
General Secretariat	The administrative arm of the OFC, operating under the General Secretary and accountable to the Executive Committee.
Head Coach	The Head Coach is responsible for the following matters of the first team squad: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Players' selection ii. Tactics and training iii. Management of the players and technical staff in the dressing room and the technical area before, during and after matches; and iv. Duties regarding media matters (press conferences, interviews, etc.).
Licensee	Licence Applicant that has been granted a Licence by the Licensors.
Licensing Administration	The staff, and / or external adviser within the Licensors that deals with club licensing matters.
Lensors	The OFC operates the club licensing system and grants the Licences in accordance with these Regulations.
List of Licensing Decisions	The list submitted by the Lensors (OFC) containing, among other things, information about the Licence Applicants that have undergone the licensing process and been granted or refused a Licence by the Lensors in the format established and communicated by the OFC General Secretariat.
Material or Materiality	Materiality depends on the size and nature of the omission or misstatement judged in the surrounding circumstances or context. The size or nature of the item or information, or a combination of both, could be the determining factor.
Meeting of the Club Licensing Committee	A formally convened gathering of the Club Licensing Committee's members to discuss, evaluate, and make decisions regarding the compliance of clubs with the Club Licensing Criteria.
OFC	Oceania Football Confederation.
OFC Club Licensing Financial Handbook	The document issued by the OFC which defines the minimum requirements that the licensors must comply with in order to operate the club license system.
Parent	An entity that has one or more subsidiaries.
Registered Member	Any legal entity according to national law and/or OFC Member Association statutes, which is member of the relevant OFC Member Association and/or its affiliated league.
Reporting Entity / Entities	A Registered Member and/or football company or Group of entities or some other combination of entities which is included in the reporting perimeter, and which must provide the Lensors with information for club licensing purposes.
Significant Influence	Ability to influence but not control financial and operating policy decision making. Significant Influence may be gained by share ownership, statute or agreement. For the avoidance of doubt, a party or in aggregate parties with the same ultimate controlling

	party (excluding OFC, or an OFC Member Association) is deemed to have Significant Influence if it provides within a reporting period an amount equivalent to thirty percent (30%) or more of the Licensee's total revenue.
Stadium	<p>Any stadium at which a match is played. For the avoidance of doubt, this includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the entire premises (to the extent that a valid accreditation card or ticket is required in order to gain access) of a stadium facility inside the outer stadium perimeter fence and (on matchdays and any day on which any official training takes place within the stadium) the aerial space above such stadium premises. (ii) parking facilities. (iii) VIP and hospitality areas (including any hospitality village). (iv) concession areas. (v) commercial display areas. (vi) buildings. (vii) the field of play. (viii) the media tribune. (ix) any broadcast compound. (x) the stadium media centre. (xi) the press conference room. (xii) the mixed zone. (xiii) any stands; and (xiv) any areas beneath the stands.
Statutory Closing Date	The annual accounting reference date of the Reporting Entity
Subsidiary	An entity, including an unincorporated entity such as a partnership that is Controlled by another entity (known as the Parent).
Training Facilities	The venue(s) at which a club's registered players undertake football training and/or youth development activities on a regular basis.

Article 1: Introduction and Scope of the Application

1. These Regulations have been adopted by the OFC Executive Committee in accordance with the OFC Statutes.
2. These Regulations apply whenever they are expressly referred to in specific regulations and other rules governing the OFC Professional League club competition, which will be played under the auspices of the OFC.
3. These Regulations govern the rights, duties and responsibilities of all parties involved in the OFC club licensing system and define in particular:
 - a) the minimum requirements to be fulfilled by the OFC, as well as the minimum procedures to be followed by the OFC in the assessment of the Club Licensing Criteria.
 - b) the Club Applicant and the Licence required to enter the OFC Professional League competition; and
 - c) the minimum sporting, infrastructure, personnel and administrative, legal, financial and, social responsibility and marketing criteria to be fulfilled by a club in order to be granted a Licence by the OFC as part of the admission procedure to enter the OFC Professional League club competition.

Article 2: Objectives

These Regulations aim to:

- a) Safeguard the credibility and integrity of the OFC Professional League club football competition in Oceania.
- b) Allow the development of benchmarking of clubs in sporting, infrastructure, personnel and administrative, legal, financial and social responsibility and marketing-related criteria throughout Oceania.
- c) Continuously improve the standard of all aspects of football in Oceania and prioritise the training and care of young players in every club.
- d) Ensure that clubs have an adequate level of management.
- e) Improve the financial capability of the clubs, increasing their transparency and credibility, and place the necessary importance on the protection of creditors and to ensure that clubs settle their liabilities with employees, social/tax authorities and other clubs punctually; and
- f) Improve clubs' sporting infrastructure to provide the various stakeholders with well-equipped and safe Stadiums and facilities

Article 3: Club Licensing Criteria

1. Subject to Article 3.2, the criteria defined in Articles 16 to 21 must be fulfilled by clubs in order for them to be granted a Licence to enter the OFC Professional League club competition.
2. The criteria described in Articles 16 to 21 are graded into “A”, “B” and “C” categories.
 - a) **A – Club Licensing Criteria Gradation**

These are mandatory criteria to be fulfilled by the Licence Applicant. If the Licence Applicant does not fulfil any of the A - Club Licensing Criteria, then it shall not be granted a Licence to enter the OFC Professional League club competition.
 - b) **B – Club Licensing Criteria Gradation**

If the Licence Applicant does not fulfil any B – Club Licensing Criteria, then it shall be sanctioned as specified by the OFC for non-fulfilment of these criteria. However, the Licence Applicant may still receive a Licence to enter the OFC Professional League club competition.
 - c) **C – Club Licensing Criteria Gradation**

These Club Licensing Criteria are best practice recommendations.

Article 4: Licensor

1. The Licensor is the OFC, which governs the club licensing system in Oceania for the OFC Professional League club competition. The Licensor must use the COMET system, which is the OFC’s club license system of choice.

The OFC governs the licensing system, appoints the licensing bodies and determines the necessary processes.

Article 5: The Licensing Administration

1. The Licensor must appoint a Club License & Compliance Officer who is responsible for managing the Licensing Administration.
2. The tasks of the Licensing Administration include:
 - a) preparing, implementing and further developing the club licensing system;
 - b) accessing and administering the COMET system;
 - c) providing training and support for the Licence Applicants in using COMET;
 - d) providing administrative support to the decision-making bodies;
 - e) assisting, advising, and monitoring the Licensees during the License Season.
3. Within the Licensing Administration, at least one staff member must have a financial background and a diploma in accountancy/auditing recognised by the appropriate national body (e.g., national trade association) or several years of experience in the above matters.

Article 6: The OFC Licensing Committee

1. The OFC Licensing Committee will be comprised of wholly independent Members specifically not belonging to the OFC Executive Committee or any other OFC Judicial Body or Standing Committee.
2. All Members of the OFC Licensing Committee will be subject to the eligibility and independence criteria pursuant to the OFC Governance Regulations.
3. The OFC Licensing Committee will be responsible for the following:
 - a. Assessing all documents provided by an applicant to the Licensing Administration in accordance with the submission deadline as set by the Licensor and
 - b. After assessment, making a recommendation to the OFC Executive Committee as to whether an applicant has sufficed the criteria pursuant to these Regulations to be granted a Licence
 - c. Recommend to the OFC Executive Committee whether an existing Licence should be withdrawn upon application of the General Secretariat; and
 - d. Decide on any sanctions that are to be applied for non-compliance under these Regulations;

4. The OFC Licensing Committee may engage a third-party expert to carry out an independent assessment of an application.

Article 7: The Decision-Making Bodies

1. The OFC Executive Committee will decide on whether a License should be granted to an applicant and on whether a License should be withdrawn from an existing Licensee based on the recommendation from the OFC Licensing Committee.
2. The OFC Licensing Committee decides on sanctions to be applied for non-compliance under these Regulations.
3. The OFC Appeal Committee will decide on an appeal arising from a decision made by the OFC Executive Committee on granting or rejection of a license.
4. The OFC Appeal Committee will decide on an appeal arising from a decision made by the OFC Licensing Committee on sanctions.
5. Appeals may only be lodged by:
 - a) License Applicant who received a refusal from the OFC Executive Committee
 - b) Licensee whose License has been withdrawn by the OFC Executive Committee
 - c) The OFC General Secretariat.

Appeals Process

4. Notwithstanding the OFC Disciplinary Code, the OFC Appeals Committee will follow the process for hearing appeals specifically arising from these Regulations in accordance with the provisions as set out below.
5. The OFC Appeals Committee shall make its decision based only on the case file and evidence provided by the Licence Applicant and Licensor to the OFC Licensing Committee and the materials considered by the OFC Executive Committee.
6. A request for appeal shall be made within 10 working days of receiving notification of a decision by the OFC Executive Committee.
7. Members of the decision-making bodies shall be elected or appointed in accordance with the relevant OFC statutes and must:
 - a) Act impartially in the discharge of their duties;
 - b) Abstain if there is any doubt as to their independence from the Licence Applicant or if there is a conflict of interest. In this regard the independence

of a member may not be guaranteed if he/she or any member of his/her family (spouse, child, parent or sibling) is a member, shareholder, business partner, sponsor or consultant of the Licence Applicant.

- c) Not simultaneously be an employee of the OFC;
 - d) Not belong simultaneously to the management personnel of any club applying to join or are, participating in the OFC Professional League;
8. The quorum of the decision-making bodies will be in accordance with the OFC Statutes.
9. The decision-making bodies must operate according to the principles of natural justice and must, as a minimum, regulate the following standards:
- a) Deadlines (e.g. submission deadline, etc);
 - b) Safeguards of the principle of equal treatment.
 - c) Representation (e.g. legal representation, etc.);
 - d) The right to be heard (e.g. convocation, hearing);
 - e) Official language(s) (if applicable);
 - f) Time limit for requests (e.g. calculation, notification, compliance, interruption, extension);
 - g) Time limit for appeal;
 - h) Effects of appeal (e.g. no delaying effect);
 - i) Type of evidence requested;
 - j) Burden of proof (e.g. Licence Applicant has the burden of proof);
 - k) Decision (e.g. in writing with reasoning, etc.);
 - l) Grounds for complaints;
 - m) Content and form of pleading;
 - n) Deliberation/hearings;
 - o) Cost of procedure/administrative fee/deposit

Article 8: Court of Arbitration of Sport (CAS)

1. The Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) shall be the final appellate authority under these Regulations.
2. In this respect, particular attention must be paid to the relevant deadlines for entering the OFC Professional League club competition.

Article 9: Catalogue of Sanctions

The following sanctions may be imposed by the OFC Licensing Committee and / or Appeals Committee for breaches of OFC Professional League Club Licensing Regulations, irrespective of order:

- a) Warning
- b) Reprimand
- c) Fine
- d) Obligation to submit guarantees and undertakings
- e) Ban on participation in the OFC Professional League
- f) Withdrawal of OFC Club License
- g) Referral to the Disciplinary Committee to make a decision on one of the following, irrespective of order: i) Deduction of points. ii) Ban on taking part in any football-related activity, iii) Ban on registration new players for one transfer window.

For the sporting season 2026, the Club Licensing Regulations will be used as part of the Club Application Process to participate in the first season of the OFC Professional League. Any club wishing to participate in the OFC Professional League 2026 must meet all minimum criteria of the OFC Professional League Club License Regulations and maintain minimum criteria throughout the sporting season 2026.

For the OFC Professional League sporting season 2027, detailed sporting sanctions will be applied throughout the Core Process and sporting season.

Article 10: The Core Process

The Licensor must define the core process for the verification of the applicable criteria for issuing Licences.

1. The core process starts at a time defined by the Licensor and ends on submission of the List of Licensing Decisions to the OFC by the deadline fixed by the Licensor.
2. The core process consists of the following minimum key steps:
 - a) distribution of the licensing documentation to the Licence Applicants;
 - b) return of the licensing documentation to the Licensor;
 - c) assessment of the documentation by the Licensing Administration;
 - d) assessment and decision by the decision-making bodies;
 - e) submission of the List of Licensing Decisions to the OFC Executive Committee.
3. The deadlines for the above key process steps must be clearly defined and communicated to the clubs concerned in a timely manner by the Licensor.
4. For the sporting season 2026, the Core Process has been aligned with the Club Application Process to participate in the first season of the OFC Professional League.

Article 11: Assessment Procedures

1. The Licensor defines the assessment procedures, except those defined under these Regulations for which specific assessment processes must be followed as set out therein.
2. The OFC Licensing Committee will carry out the assessment of all applications received as defined at Article 6.

Article 12: Equal Treatment and Confidentiality

1. The Licensor shall ensure equal treatment of all Licence Applicants during the core process.
2. The Licensor shall guarantee the Licence Applicants full confidentiality with regard to all information submitted during the licensing process. Anyone involved in the

licensing process or appointed by the Licensor shall sign a confidentiality agreement before assuming their tasks.

Article 13: License Applicant

1. A Licence Applicant shall only be a professional football club, i.e. a legal entity fully responsible for a football team participating in national, confederation and international competitions which either:
 - a) is a Registered Member of an OFC Ordinary Member Association or
 - b) a professional football club registered to a FIFA Member Association and subject to the agreement from both OFC and the Confederation the Member Association belongs to for participation in the OFC Professional League.
2. Any change to the legal form, legal Group structure (including a merger with another entity or transfer of football activities to another entity) or identity (including headquarters, name or colours) of a Licence Applicant during this period to the detriment of the integrity of a competition or to facilitate the Licence Applicant's qualification for a competition on sporting merit or its receipt of a Licence is deemed as an interruption of membership or contractual relationship (if any) within the Member Association.

Article 14: Responsibilities of the License Applicant

1. The Licence Applicant must provide the Licensor with:
 - a) all necessary information and/or relevant documents to fully demonstrate that the licensing obligations are fulfilled; and
 - b) any other document relevant for decision-making by the Licensor.
2. This includes information on the Reporting Entity/Entities in respect to which sporting, infrastructure, personnel and administrative, legal, financial and social responsibility and marketing information is required to be provided.
3. Any event occurring after the submission of the licensing documentation to the Licensor representing a Material Change to the information previously submitted must be promptly notified to the Licensor, especially a change of legal form, legal Group structure or identity.

Article 15: License

1. A Licence expires without prior notice at the end of the season for which it was issued.
2. A Licence cannot be transferred.
3. A Licence may be withdrawn by the licensor if:
 - a) any of the conditions for the issuing of a Licence are not satisfied; or
 - b) the Licensee violates any of its obligations under these Regulations.
4. Any withdrawals of a Licence will follow the processes as outlined in Articles 6 and 7 of these Regulations.

Article 16: Sporting Criteria

Implementation of the Sporting Criteria is aimed at identifying and increasing the number of footballers and coaches in the region while improving the experience for youth players at club level.

S.01	2026	2027	2028
Registration of Coaches on COMET	A	A	A
All coaches attached to the Licence Applicant must be registered online and up to date in the COMET system.			

S.02	2026	2027	2028
Appoint Minimum OFC or equivalent A Licence Head Coach	B	A	A
<p>The Licence Applicant must appoint a Head Coach with a valid coaching diploma/ licence responsible for all football matters of the first team.</p> <p>The Head Coach must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) hold the Minimum Coach Education Requirement (MCER) for the OFC Professional League which is an OFC A License or equivalent; or b) hold a "recognition of competence" issued by the member association if the coach has a minimum of five years' practical experience as head coach at top division club in the association for cases where the Head Coach of the first team does not have the required certification as defined under (a) above; or 			

c) already have started the required education course, recognized by OFC, to achieve the required diploma as defined under (a) above.

d) the Head Coach must be duly registered with the OFC Member Association.

e) for points (b) and (c) the Head Coach must as a minimum hold an OFC B License or overseas equivalent.

S.03	2026	2027	2028
OFC Certificate of Goalkeeping Coach in COMET	B	A	A
<p>The Licence Applicant must have appointed a qualified Goalkeeper Coach with a valid coaching diploma/licence for the first team.</p> <p>The Goalkeeper Coach must hold at least an OFC C License or equivalent Goalkeeping Coaching.</p>			

S.04	2026	2027	2028
Registration of Support Staff in COMET	A	A	A
<p>All staff attached to the Licence Applicant must be registered online and up to date in the COMET system. These include (but not limited to) Team Managers, Assistant Coaches and Medical Trainers.</p>			

S.05	2026	2027	2028
Youth Teams	B	A	A
<p>The Licence Applicant must by 2027 the club must operate, or be linked to, an Academy (National Academy or FIFA TD Scheme).</p>			

S.06	2026	2027	2028
Registration of Players in COMET	A	A	A
<p>All the Licence Applicant's players, including youth players above the age of 10, must be registered with the OFC Member Association and/or its affiliated league in accordance with the relevant provisions of the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players.</p>			

S.07	2026	2027	2028
Medical Care of Players	A	A	A

The Licence Applicant shall provide all players registered in the club to participate in the OFC Professional League with full access to medical support services. These shall include, but not limited to the following:

- a) yearly medical examination including cardiovascular screening for all its players in its first squad i.e. ECG test;
- b) comprehensive medical insurance coverage for contracted players.

Article 17: Infrastructure Criteria

Implementation of the Infrastructure Criteria is to guarantee that clubs have adequate match venues and training facilities for all matches and training sessions, as well as informing clubs of the minimum requirements their match venues must comply with to participate in the OFC Professional League.

I.01	2026	2027	2028
Approved Stadium / Sports Ground for OFC Competition	B	B	A
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Licence Applicant must have a Stadium available to play OFC Professional League competition. 2. The Licence Applicant either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) owns the Stadium; or b) can provide a written contract with the owner of the Stadium it will use. 3. This contract must guarantee the use of the Stadium for the OFC Professional League matches for the coming season. 4. The Stadium must meet the requirements expressly referred to by the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) 'Requirements to Host OFC Competitions & Matches', and b) respective OFC Professional League club competition regulations. 			

I.02	2026	2027	2028
Emergency Exit Plan and Security Plan	B	B	A
<p>All venues must have an Emergency Exit Plan and a Security Plan. Both the Emergency Exit Plan and Security Plan must comply with national/local law as well as the applicable FIFA and/or OFC Regulations and be clearly displayed at all points of entry and exit as well as other strategic points around the venue.</p>			

I.03	2026	2027	2028
Venue Ground Rules	B	B	A
<p>The venues must issue venue ground rules and affix them to the venue in such a way that the spectators can read them. These rules must provide information on at least the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) admission rights. b) description of prohibitions and penalties, such as entering the field of play, throwing objects, use of foul or abusive language, racist behaviour, etc.; c) restrictions with regard to alcohol, fireworks, banners, etc.; and d) causes for ejection from the ground. 			

I.04	2026	2027	2028
Training Ground	A	A	A
<p>The Licence Applicant must have access to Training Facilities.</p> <p>The Licence Applicant either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) owns the Training Facilities; or b) shall provide a written contract with the owner of the Training Facilities. 			

Article 18: Personnel and Administrative Criteria

Implementation of the Personnel and Administration Criteria is aimed at encouraging clubs to appoint individuals to key administrative roles in order to increase the level of professionalism at the organisations.

The Licence Applicant must have appointed an adequate number of skilled secretarial staff according to its needs to run its daily business.

Collecting this information will also allow for the creation of a database of club administrators for which OFC development tools and programs can then be established for each functional area.

P.01	2026	2027	2028
Club Secretariat	B	A	A
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Licence Applicant must have an office space sufficiently spacious to run its administration with the required infrastructure. 2. It must ensure that its office is open to communicate with the Licensor and the public and that it is equipped, as a minimum, with phone, internet and email facilities. 			

P.02	2026	2027	2028
General Manager / Operations Manager	A	A	A
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Licence Applicant must have appointed a General Manager / Operations Manager being responsible for running its daily business (operational matters). 2. The appointment must have been done by the appropriate body (e.g. Executive Board) of the Licence Applicant. 			

P.03	2026	2027	2028
Finance Officer / Partner Organisation	A	A	A
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Licence Applicant must have appointed a qualified Finance Officer / Contracted Service Provider who is responsible for its financial matters. 2. The Finance Officer / Partner Organisation must hold as a minimum one of the following qualifications: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) a degree in accountancy, finance or related field; or b) a recognition of competence issued by an organisation recognised by the Licensor 			

P.04	2026	2027	2028
Safety and Security Officer	B	B	A
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Licence Applicant must have appointed a qualified Safety and Security Officer being responsible for safety and security matters. 			

2. The Safety and Security Officer must hold as a minimum one of the following qualifications:
 - a) a certificate as policeman or security person according to national law.
 - b) a safety and security diploma based on a specific course issued by the OFC Member Association or by a state recognised organisation; or
 - c) a recognition of competence approved by the OFC Member Association, which is based on the participation in specific safety and security course of the OFC / OFC Member Association and at least one (1) year experience in such matters.

P.05	2026	2027	2028
Communications Officer	B	A	A
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Licence Applicant must have appointed a qualified Communications Officer being responsible for media and social media matters. 2. The club must create, maintain and constantly update at least three social media channels and a club website. All club staff must have an email address which reflects the club website domain name. 3. The Communications Officer must hold as a minimum one of the following qualifications: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) diploma in a relevant subject; b) concluded a media officer education course provided by the OFC, OFC Member Association or an organisation recognised by the OFC Member Association; or c) a recognition of competence approved by the OFC Member Association, which requires at least one (1) year experience in such matters. 			

P.06	2026	2027	2028
Team Doctor / Service Provider	A	A	A
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Licence Applicant must have appointed at least one doctor / Service Provider who is responsible for medical support during matches and training as well as for doping prevention. 2. The qualification of the Medical Doctor / Service Provider must be recognised by the appropriate national health authorities. 			

3. The Medical Doctor / Service Provider must be duly registered with the OFC Member Association and/or the affiliated league.

P.07	2026	2027	2028
Physiotherapist	B	A	A
<p>1. The Licence Applicant must have appointed at least one (1) Physiotherapist responsible for medical treatment and massages for the first squad during training sessions and matches.</p> <p>2. The qualification of the Physiotherapist must be recognised by the appropriate national health authorities.</p> <p>3. The Physiotherapist must be duly registered with the OFC Member Association and/or its affiliated league.</p>			

P.08	2026	2027	2028
Marketing Officer	B	A	A
<p>The club must have appointed a Marketing Officer who is responsible for its marketing activities.</p> <p>The Marketing Officer must hold as a minimum one of the following qualifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) diploma or similar in marketing, or a professional qualification in marketing; b) concluded a training course which includes an element related to marketing provided by the OFC, OFC Member Association or an organisation recognised by the OFC Member Association; or c) a recognition of competence approved by the OFC Member Association, which requires at least one (1) year experience in such matters. 			

P.09	2026	2027	2028
Team Liaison Officer(s)	A	A	A
<p>The club must appoint a Team Liaison Officer who is responsible for coordinating all logistics for the first team to participate in the OFC Professional League, as well as day-to-day support for the players and coaches of the first team. Should the club be in a country that will host a round of the OFC Professional League Circuit Series, the Team</p>			

Liaison Officer will be responsible for supporting visiting team/s for the duration of their stay in the country in collaboration with the OFC and the host OFC Member Association.

P.10	2026	2027	2028
Safety and Security Organisation - Stewarding	B	B	A
<p>The Licence Applicant must have engaged stewards to ensure safety and security at home matches.</p> <p>For this purpose, it must:</p> <p>a) employ the stewards; or</p> <p>b) conclude a written contract with the Stadium / Sports Ground owner providing the stewards; or an external security company providing stewards.</p>			

P.11	2026	2027	2028
Rights, Responsibilities and Duties	A	A	A
<p>The rights, responsibilities and duties of the Licence Applicant's personnel mentioned in these Regulations must be defined in writing.</p>			

P.12	2026	2027	2028
Duty of Replacement During the Licensing Season	A	A	A
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If a function defined in these Regulations becomes vacant during the season, the Licensee must ensure that, within a period of a maximum of thirty (30) days, the function is taken over by someone who holds the required qualification. 2. If a function becomes vacant due to illness or accident, the Licensor may grant an extension to the thirty (30) day period only if reasonably satisfied that the person concerned is still medically unfit to resume duties. 3. The occurrence of vacancy and replacement must be notified to the Licensor within seven (7) working days of the respective event. 			

P.13	2026	2027	2028
Legal Advisor / Service Provider	B	A	A
<p>1. The Licence Applicant must appoint a qualified legal advisor who is responsible for handling all legal matters in the Licence Applicant's activities.</p> <p>2. The legal advisor shall have the necessary legal qualifications.</p>			

Article 19: Legal Criteria

Implementation of the Legal Criteria is aimed at assisting OFC and the Member Associations with protecting the integrity of club competitions, while formalising the legal structures of professional football clubs throughout the region.

L.01	2026	2027	2028
Declaration in Respect of the Participation in OFC Club Competition(s)	A	A	A
<p>The Licence Applicant must submit a legally valid declaration confirming that:</p> <p>a) it recognises as legally binding the statutes, rules and regulations and decisions of FIFA, the OFC and its OFC Member Association as well as the jurisdiction of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne as provided in the relevant articles of the OFC Statutes.</p> <p>b) it recognises the exclusive jurisdiction of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (domiciled in Lausanne, Switzerland) for any dispute of international dimension and in particular involving FIFA and/or the OFC.</p> <p>c) it recognises the prohibition on recourse to ordinary courts under the FIFA and OFC Statutes.</p> <p>d) at confederation level it will play in competitions that are recognised and endorsed by the OFC (e.g. OFC Professional League),.</p> <p>e) at international level, it will participate in competitions recognised and endorsed by the OFC and/or FIFA. To avoid any doubt, this provision does not relate to friendly matches.</p> <p>f) it will abide by and observe the provisions and conditions of the OFC Professional League Club Licensing Regulations.</p> <p>g) its reporting perimeter is defined in accordance with these Regulations, and it will be accountable for any consequences of an entity included in the reporting perimeter not abiding by and observing this declaration.</p>			

h) all submitted documents are complete and correct

i) it authorises the Licensor to examine documents and seek information and, in the event of any appeal procedure, to seek information from any relevant public authority or private body according to national law; and

j) it acknowledges that OFC reserves the right to execute compliance audits at Confederation.

This declaration must be executed by an authorised signatory no more than three (3) months prior to the corresponding deadline for its submission to the Licensor.

L.02	2026	2027	2028
Legal Documents	A	A	A
<p>The Licence Applicant must submit the following certified documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) a copy of its current company articles, constitution, statutes or similar- type governing document; b) an extract from a public register (e.g. trade register) which demonstrates that the Licence Applicant is a legal entity which contains the following minimum information; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. registered name; ii. popular name; iii. address of headquarters; iv. legal form; v. list of authorised signatories and; vi. type of signature (e.g. individual, collective). 			

L.03	2026	2027	2028
Ownership and Control of Clubs	A	A	A
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Licence Applicant must submit a legally valid declaration outlining the ownership structure and control mechanism of the club. 2. Such declaration should ensure conformity with the conditions set out below. No natural or legal person involved in the management, administration and/or sporting performance of the club, either directly or indirectly: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) holds or deals in the securities or shares that allows such person to exercise Significant Influence in the activities of any other club participating OFC Professional League; 			

- b) holds a majority of the shareholders' voting rights of any other club participating in the OFC Professional League;
 - c) has the right to appoint or remove a majority of the members of the administrative, management or supervisory body of any other club participating in the OFC Professional League;
 - d) is a shareholder and alone Controls a majority of the shareholders' voting rights of any other club participating in the same competition pursuant to an agreement entered into with other shareholders of the club in question;
 - e) is a member of any other club participating in the same competition;
 - f) is involved in any capacity whatsoever in the management, administration and/or sporting performance of any other club participating in the same competition; and
 - g) has any power whatsoever over the management, administration and/or sporting performance of any other club participating in the OFC Professional League.
3. These declarations must be executed by an authorised signatory no more than three (3) months prior to the corresponding deadline for its submission to the Licensor.

L.04	2026	2027	2028
Date of foundation listed in COMET	A	A	A
The known Date of Foundation of Licence Applicant must be listed online and up to date in the COMET system.			

L.05	2026	2027	2028
Written Contract with Players	A	A	A
The professional players of the Licence Applicant must have a written contract with the Licence Applicant in accordance with the relevant provisions of the FIFA Regulations for the Status and Transfer of Players and shall incorporate all key provisions required by the relevant national law and of FIFA, the OFC, and the OFC Member Association.			

L.06	2026	2027	2028
Disciplinary Procedure and Code of Conduct for Players and Officials	B	A	A
<p>1. The Licence Applicant shall establish a legally binding code of conduct for players and officials in compliance with the relevant national law, and the Statutes and applicable Regulations of FIFA, the OFC, and the relevant Member Association, including the FIFA and OFC Code of Ethics and Disciplinary Codes</p> <p>2. The code of conduct should be supplemented by a legally binding disciplinary regulation under which the infringement of the code of conduct, club rules, club regulations, and club decisions shall be prosecuted, and sanctions may be applied.</p>			

Article 20: Financial Criteria

Implementation of the Financial Criteria is aimed at assisting OFC and the Member Associations with an understanding the financial capabilities of the clubs in the region, while safeguarding the continuity and sustainability of the OFC Professional League club competition.

1. Reporting Entity/Entities and reporting perimeter.
 - a) The Licence Applicant determines and provides to the Licensor the reporting perimeter, i.e. the entity or combination of entities in respect of which financial information (e.g. single entity, consolidated or combined financial statements) has to be provided.
 - b) The reporting perimeter must include:
 - i. the Licence Applicant and, if different, the Registered Member of the OFC Member Association;
 - ii. any Subsidiary of the Licence Applicant and, if different, the Registered Member of the OFC Member Association;
 - iii. Any other entity included in the legal Group structure that generates revenues and/or performs services and/or incurs costs with respect to the football activities defined in paragraph c) iii. to ix. below;
 - iv. any entity, irrespective of whether it is included in the legal Group structure, which generates revenues and/or performs services and/or incurs costs in respect of football activities as defined in paragraph c) i. and ii. below.

- c) Football activities may include:
 - i. employing/engaging personnel (as defined in Criteria F.05), including payment of all forms of consideration to employees arising from contractual or legal obligations;
 - ii. acquiring/selling players' registrations (including loans);
 - iii. ticketing;
 - iv. sponsorship and advertising;
 - v. merchandising and hospitality;
 - vi. club operations (e.g. administration, matchday activities, travel, scouting, etc.);
 - vii. financing (including financing secured or pledged against the assets of the Licence Applicant);
 - viii. use and management of Stadium and Training Facilities; and
 - ix. youth sector.

- d) An entity may be excluded from the reporting perimeter only if:
 - i. its activities are entirely unrelated to the football activities defined in paragraph c) above and/or the locations, assets or brand of the football club; or
 - ii. it is immaterial compared with all the entities that form the reporting perimeter and it does not perform any of the football activities defined in paragraph c) i. and ii. above; or
 - iii. the football activities it performs are already entirely reflected in the financial statements of one of the entities included in the reporting perimeter.

- e) The Licence Applicant must submit a declaration by an authorised signatory which confirms:
 - i. that all revenues and costs related to each of the football activities indicated in paragraph c). have been included in the reporting perimeter and provide a detailed explanation should this not be the case; and
 - ii. whether any entity included in the legal Group structure has been excluded from the reporting perimeter, justifying any such exclusion with reference to paragraph d).

- 2. For further information on the mandatory reporting period, the minimum requirements on the format of reporting and accounting, and a detailed explanation of each of the criteria below, please refer to the OFC Club Licensing Financial Handbook.

F.01	2026	2027	2028
Bank Account in Name of Club	A	A	A
<p>The Licence Applicant must submit documented evidence that the club holds a dedicated bank account, in the club / organisations name. This account must be within the territory of the Member Association (MA) and must be the primary account for club financial matters. Offshore accounts are not permitted.</p>			

F.02	2026	2027	2028
Submission of Four-Year Budget – Future Financial Information	A	A	A
<p>The Licence Applicant must submit its annual Budget before the start of the season. It should state the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) projected income for the coming four Financial Years; b) projected expenditure for the coming four Financial Years; c) all the sources of revenues (including sponsorship agreements) and income projected for the coming Financial Year along with the amount; and d) all the sources of expenditures projected for the coming Financial Year along with the amount. <p>The License Applicant must provide information of income for the coming four financial years, should the Licensor request confirmation of the assumptions made in the Budget.</p>			

F.03	2026	2027	2028
Financial Statements for the Interim Period – reviewed or audited	N/A	A	A
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If the Statutory Closing Date of the Licence Applicant is more than six (6) months before the meeting of the Club Licensing Committee, then the Licence Applicant shall prepare and submit additional financial statements covering the Interim Period. 2. If the Financial Statements for the Interim Period are prepared and submitted, they should cover the interim period up to a date within six (6) months preceding the meeting of the Club Licensing Committee and must be Reviewed or Audited by an independent auditor. 3. The Interim Financial Statements shall meet the minimum disclosure requirements and accounting principles set out in the OFC Professional League Club Licensing Financial Handbook (“Handbook”). 			

F.04	2026	2027	2028
Annual Financial Statements – Audited	B	A	A
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Regardless of the legal structure of the Licence Applicant, Annual Financial Statements based on the local legislation shall be prepared and Audited by an independent auditor. 2. The Audited Annual Financial Statement shall be in respect of the Statutory Closing Date immediately prior to the deadline for submission of the List of Licensing Decisions to OFC and must consist of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) a balance sheet; b) a profit and loss account; c) a cash flow statement; d) notes, comprising a summary of significant Accounting Policies and other explanatory notes; and e) a financial Review by management. 3. The Audited Annual Financial Statements shall meet the minimum disclosure requirements and accounting principles set out in the OFC Club Licensing Financial Handbook, which will adhere to International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and International Standards on Auditing (ISA). 4. If the Audited Annual Financial Statements do not meet the minimum disclosure requirements and accounting principles set out in the OFC Club Licensing Financial Handbook, then Supplementary Information must be prepared by the Licence Applicant and assessed by the auditor. 			

F.05	2026	2027	2028
No Overdue Payables Towards Employees and Social / Tax Authorities	A	A	A
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Licence Applicant must prove that, in respect of contractual and legal obligations with its current/former employees and social/tax authorities, it has no overdue payables. 2. The term “employees” shall include but not limited to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) all professional players according to the applicable FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players; and 			

- b) the administrative, technical, medical and security staff specified in the OFC Club License Regulations; and
- c) service providers.

F.06	2026	2027	2028
Duty to Notify Subsequent Events	A	A	A
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Following the licensing decision by the decision-making body, the Licensee must within seven (7) days notify the Licensor in writing about any Subsequent Events that may cast significant doubt upon the Licensee's ability to continue as a Going Concern until at least the end of the season for which the Licence has been granted. Compliance with this criterion shall be assessed by the Licensor in respect of the following licensing cycle. 			

F.07	2026	2027	2028
Duty to Update Future Financial Information	C	A	A
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> If the Licensee is in breach of one or more of the below indicators, then the Licensee must prepare and submit an updated version of the Future Financial Information (prepared according to F.02). In addition, the prepared information shall include a comparison of Budget to actual figures including explanations of variances. The updated version of the Future Financial Information must be prepared, as a minimum, on a six (6) month basis. <p><u>Indicator 1: Going concern</u></p> <p>The auditor's report in respect of the Annual Financial Statements submitted in accordance with F.04 includes an emphasis of matter or a qualified opinion/ conclusion in respect of Going Concern.</p> <p><u>Indicator 2: Negative equity</u></p> <p>The Annual Financial Statements (including, where required, the Supplementary Information) submitted in accordance with F.04 disclose a net liabilities position that has deteriorated relative to the comparative figure contained in the previous year's Annual Financial Statements.</p> The updated Future Financial Information shall meet the minimum disclosure requirements set out in the OFC Club Licensing Financial Handbook. 			

3. Compliance with this criterion shall be assessed by the Licensor in respect of the following licensing cycle.

Article 21: Social Responsibility and Marketing Criteria

Implementation of the Social Responsibility and Marketing Criteria will be aimed at increasing the involvement and impact of clubs in their local communities, setting the foundations for the clubs to maximise revenues.

SRM.01	2026	2027	2028
Social Campaign	B	A	A
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Licence Applicant to establish strategies and implementation programmes to promote the club, the game and to address current issues in football and society. 2. Support should be provided for initiatives and campaigns to implement strategies and programmes as promulgated by either the Licence Applicant, the OFC Member Association, OFC and FIFA. 			

SRM.02	2026	2027	2028
Yearly Calendar of Events	B	A	A
The Licence Applicant must provide evidence of a Yearly Calendar of Events related to all Community Football Activities.			

SRM.03	2026	2027	2028
Safeguarding Policy	A	A	A
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Licence Applicant must establish and apply measures, in line with any relevant OFC policies and guidelines, to protect and safeguard children from potential abuses and to promote their wellbeing within football when participating in activities organised by the Licence Applicant. 2. The Licence Applicant should work with locally based child protection expertise and have a child safeguarding officer within its administration to develop and implement such measures, including having a child safeguarding policy. 			

SRM.04	2026	2027	2028
Sport Integrity Plan	A	A	A
The Licence Applicant must provide full details of the Clubs Sport Integrity Plan. These can include Anti-Corruption, Betting, Anti-Discrimination.			

SRM.05	2026	2027	2028
Marketing and Commercial Plan	B	A	A
License Applicant Club must provide a four-year plan, with clearly defined objectives and goals, that maximises revenues and exposure for the club over the coming seasons of the OFCPL.			

Article 22: Final Provisions

Authoritative text and language of correspondence

All correspondence between the OFC and the Licensor and/or the Licensee must be in the recognised languages of OFC being English or French. The OFC may ask the Licensee for a certified translation of documents at their expense.

These Regulations shall be implemented according to the OFC Statutes, OFC Disciplinary Code, OFC Code of Ethics and any other applicable OFC regulations. In case of any discrepancy between these Regulations and any applicable OFC regulations, these Regulations shall prevail.

The headings used for the various Parts, Sections, and Articles of these Regulations are for convenience only. They shall not be deemed part of the substance of these Regulations or to affect in any way the language of the provisions to which they refer.

These Regulations shall be issued in English. If these Regulations are translated into another language, the English version issued by the OFC shall prevail.

Annexes

All annexes to the present Regulations form an integral part thereof.

Compliance Audits

The OFC and/or its nominated bodies/agencies reserve the right to, at any time, conduct compliance audits of the Licence Applicant/ Licensee.

Compliance audits aim to ensure that the Licence Applicant/ Licensee have fulfilled their obligations as defined in these Regulations and that the Licence was correctly awarded at the time of the final decision of the Licensor. Non-cooperation of the Licensee shall be referred to the OFC judicial bodies for appropriate action.

Implementing Provisions

The OFC General Secretariat shall take the decisions and adopt, in the form of directives, the detailed provisions necessary for implementing these Regulations. The OFC reserves the right to make amendments to any part of these Regulations for any reason whatsoever. Such amendments shall be duly communicated in due course.

Matters Not Provided For

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

Enforcement

These Regulations were ratified by the OFC Executive Committee on 16 April 2025 and came into force immediately.

These Regulations shall be applicable for the granting of Licences to participate in the OFC Professional League 26 onwards.

For the OFC Executive Committee

President:

Lambert Maltock

General Secretary:

Franck Castillo

62-80 College Road, St Johns,
Auckland 1072, New Zealand

www.oceaniafootball.com

